

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 20 JULY 2017

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 20 JULY 2017 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, John Cotton, Diane Donaldson, Mohammed Idrees, Ansar Ali Khan, Majid Mahmood and Fiona Williams

ALSO PRESENT:-

Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Mike Hinton	- District Parks Manager
Sarah Feeley	- Commissioning Officer
Lindsey Trivett	- Head of Service
Jonathan Davies	- Youth Promise Plus Contractor, Pioneer Group
David Bromley	- West Midlands Fire Service
Helen Bailey	- West Midlands Police
Marie Reynolds	- Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

399 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

At this juncture the Chairman handed over the Chair to Mike Davis, Hodge Hill District Head for the Committee to elect an Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Hodge Hill District for the 2017/2018 municipal Year.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

400 **RESOLVED: -**

- a) That Councillor Uzma Ahmed be elected Executive Member for Hodge Hill District for 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Fiona Williams be appointed Deputy Executive Member for the 2017/2018 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Uzma Ahmed in the Chair)

APOLOGIES

401 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Marje Bridle, Mariam Khan, Mohammed Aikhlaq, Shafique Shah and Ian Ward for their inability to attend the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

402 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows: -

Councillors :- Uzma Ahmed, Mohammed Aikhlaq and Shafique Shah (Bordesley Green Ward)

Councillors :- Diane Donaldson, Majid Mahmood, and Fiona Williams (Hodge Hill Ward)

Councillors :- Marje Bridle, John Cotton and Ian Ward (Shard End Ward)

Councillors :- Mohammed Idrees, Ansar Ali Khan and Mariam Khan (Washwood Heath Ward).

Co-opted Members

David Bromley, Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service
Helen Bailey, West Midlands Police

LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS

403 The Lead Officer arrangements were noted as follows:-

Mike Davis – Lead Officer
Marie Reynolds – Committee Clerk

MINUTES

- 404 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2017, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record.
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CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for District Committees was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

- 405 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct for meetings of the District Committee be noted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following schedule of District Committee Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

- 406 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Functions and Guidelines be noted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2017/2018

- 407 The following appointments were noted:-

Corporate Parent Champion (re-appointed Councillor U Ahmed)
Youth Champion (re-appointed Councillor U Ahmed)
Cultural Heritage Champion (re-appointed Councillor M Khan)
Employment, Jobs and Skills Champion (re-appointed Councillor M Khan)

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 408 The following appointments were noted:-

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust (re-appointed Councillors John Cotton and Diane Donaldson)
CTC Kingshurst Academy (re-appointed Councillor Mariam Khan)
Regulations 33 Inspections (re-appointed Councillors Mohammed Idrees and Mohammed Aikhlaq)

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2017/2018

409 The following schedule of meetings for 2017/18 was noted: -

2017

Thursday 21 September (2)
Thursday 23 November (2)

2018

Thursday 18 January (2)
Thursday 22 March (3 & 4)

All meetings will be held on Thursdays at 1400 hours at the Council House, Victoria Square.

BCC PARKS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE - UPDATE

410 Mike Hinton, District Parks Manager reported on the budget cutbacks which had resulted in staffing levels and service delivery reducing. He highlighted that there were now a reduced number of park keepers that worked across the city and the park keeper located in Hodge Hill district looked after Norman Chamberlain Park and Ward End Park.

He further highlighted that due to the reduction in the grounds maintenance budget, this had impacted on the service with ornamental grass cutting reducing from 21 cuts to 12 over a 12 month period, and a reduction in the provision of a number of flower and shrub beds in parks and highways, as well as a reduction in the provision of planters and baskets in various districts across the city. He added that the half mooning work related to edging along all parks, highways and pathways had now ceased.

As a result of several comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Mike Hinton referred to where grass cutting had reduced, there was no longer the budget to provide a more regular service and therefore highlighted that they were looking as to whether they could provide an additional cut at the end of the season. He added that there were still large areas in the parks that were being cut at the original frequency.

Mike Hinton reported that funding had been secured by colleagues in order that work could progress in Ward End Park relating to the pool and was of the opinion, that it would commence sometime in late October early November 2017.

Mike Hinton referred to Adderley Park and confirmed that the local community had requested that they would like to set up a 'Friends Group'. He suggested that once the group had been set up they could move ahead with plans of what the local community would like to do in the park. He added that if members were aware of any other local residents and communities across the district that had expressed an

interest in setting up a 'Friends Group', to provide him with the relevant contact details and he would assist in getting the groups constituted.

In response to an enquiry as to whether injunctions could be extended to other areas in the district, Mike Hinton confirmed that given the successful results of the injunctions that had been put in place, believed that they could be rolled out to other sites in the city. He agreed to take up with the respective environmental teams within the district to see what could be done in pushing this item forward.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mike Hinton for the work he had carried out in Hodge Hill District and for attending the meeting.

BCC EARLY YEARS SERVICE REDESIGN CONSULTATION

411

Ms Sarah Feeley, Commissioning Officer presented the following information:-

(See document No. 3)

She provided a brief overview highlighting that the contract for the new Early Years Health and Wellbeing Service through Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust in partnership with; Barnardo's, Spurgeons, The Springfield Project and St Paul's Community Development Trust had been approved in April 2017. She referred to the set of proposals regarding locations of children's centres and venues that were being considered for delivery of the service in the future which was out for consultation at the moment.

She reported that Hodge Hill District presently had two centres running as Children's Centres which were proposed to close and therefore they were looking at opening up community venues thereby delivering services back into the community. It was highlighted that they were looking at community venues that were already being used and where people could access the services at the time when they were required.

She referred to the consultation that was commencing until 17 August 2017 and the various ways in which all could submit their views and also the assistance that was available, if members of the public required this, in order to participate in the consultation.

She highlighted that they had delivered an event in the district last Wednesday where concerns had been raised by parents regarding the closure of the centre in Washwood Heath Ward. She confirmed that there had been lots of dialogue taking place with parents, families and professionals, adding that it was important that everybody took part in the consultation, as it was an opportunity to let the department know if the proposals reflected the requirements of the people in the district and across the city.

She further highlighted that the initial proposals came from the provider as part of the bid and that they were seeking to consider whether there were other venues, community locations, or churches where services should be delivered in the future.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Sarah Feeley and Lindsey Trivett for attending the meeting and presenting.

HODGE HILL MENTAL HEALTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE - UPDATE

Mike Davis, District Lead presented the following report:-

(See document No. 4)

Mike Davis provided a brief overview of the previous Neighbourhood Challenge and referred to the recommendations and the update report that was brought to the district committee meeting in March 2017.

He reported on the second Neighbourhood Challenge which was Mental Health related issues and subsequently made frequent reference to the report highlighting that mental health issues was clearly a problem within the district. He referred to the impact this had on shorter life expectancy and how it led to other associated health issues as a result of the illness. He referred to the attempt in bringing together some of the issues nationally, and locally, and highlighted the action plan that could be reasonably progressed within the resources available to district committee.

As a result of several comments from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

It was highlighted that dementia cafes were being set up in all of the wards across the district and that training should be rolled out across the whole of the City Council in order that all were aware of dementia and how it could affect people of all ages.

It was suggested that due to the huge demographic shift in the city, it would be useful to have more up to date information relating to the different mental health problems and the ideal opportunity to roll out training for members was when the re-organisation took place which would be in 2018.

It was suggested the need to create more awareness in ethnic minority communities relating to mental health issues in order that the signs could be depicted earlier by families in order that help and advice could be sought at an earlier stage.

Mike Davis stated that he had noted members' comments and highlighted that there was possibly scope to add another couple of actions to the report which would include more up to date statistics, the need for some kind of communication strategy and to promote better awareness regarding mental health amongst the district's communities. Mike whilst including himself referred to Councillors Williams and Cotton as relevant points of contact dealing with the aspects of mental health and invited members to consider whether they wished to provide any contribution towards this area of work.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

RESOLVED:-

The Committee:-

Noted the report;

Approved the specific action plan contained within the report and/or propose any additional actions desired;

Agreed to receive updates at six monthly intervals.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 – 2016/17

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Kate Foley, Acting Senior Manager gave a brief overview of the report and the narrative.

In response to comments from members, the following points were made:-

Kate Foley referred to the repairs contractors that covered eastside of the city and stated that at present there was no level of concern regarding their performance adding that with any new contractor, there would always be an element of a settling down period. With regard to the capital works that was proposed, she agreed to obtain the relevant information and circulate to all members in due course.

Kate Foley provided a breakdown of emergency repairs which included; gas, sewage, door entry systems that would always require an immediate response.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Kate Foley for attending the meeting and presenting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2017/2018**

The following information was tabled at the meeting by Phil Grainger, Place Manager, Shard End Ward:-

(See document No. 6)

Following a discussion relating to the following proposals, Phil Grainger confirmed that approval was being sought at this meeting for projects pertaining to Shard End and Washwood Heath Wards:-

Shard End Ward - £50,476.80

Funding to install 2 door entry systems (93 and 95 Thistledown Road) to low rise blocks. Each block would cost £15,000 totalling to £30,000 following the success of last year's environmental spend at Heath Way.

Provision of netting to the front of a tower block (Banbury House) cost £12,000 – the block was infested with pigeons which was causing nuisance and health and safety issues.

This leaves a balance of £8,476.80 from the Environmental Budget towards a door entry system at Sheldon Hall Avenue with match funding from HLB of £6,523.20 totalling - £15,000.

It was noted that the 3 Shard End Ward Councillors supported the above-mentioned proposal.

Approval of £50,476.80

Washwood Heath Ward – 14,614.84

Cotterills Lane access road on Housing Land – due to level of funding for the scheme, it was agreed the project was undertaken in 2 phases.

Looking to secure funding for Phase 2 to complete the site. Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be completed together in the autumn 2017. Owners occupiers benefiting from the scheme have contributed £1,000 each towards the capital cost of the scheme. Additional highways works such as bollards and trip rails will also be installed. The scheme will provide access to much needed parking on their drives and eliminate the need to park on the grass embankment.

Approval of £14,614.84

Following a discussion relating to the above-mentioned proposal, Councillor Ansar Ali Khan confirmed that he had requested that the proposals be tabled at this meeting, as he was mindful of timescales and also due to the unknown future of district meetings, considered that it was better for approval to be sought sooner rather than later.

He confirmed that Phase 1 of the above-mentioned project had commenced under last year's budget and Phase 2 would be funded by this year's budget. He confirmed that there would be no overlap with the project and it would not be affected by next year's boundary changes.

He further confirmed that it was only one or two owner occupiers that had contributed to the scheme.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan confirmed that the 3 Washwood Ward Councillors supported the above-mentioned proposal.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

414 **RESOLVED:-**

That Hodge Hill District Committee approved the above-mentioned projects for Shard End Ward and Washwood Heath Ward.

JOBS AND SKILLS ON THE EAST - UPDATE

415 Mr J Davies, Youth Promise Plus Contractor, Pioneer Group – Compass Support provided an update.

Mr Davies confirmed that Compass was part of the Pioneer Group and had been successful in winning the East Locality Youth Promise which covered Hodge Hill, Yardley and Hall Green Districts.

He reported that the specification for the Youth Promise was for youths between 15 - 29 year olds that were unemployed or not in receipt of any training. He confirmed that the scheme had commenced in April 2017 and was due to run for a period of 15 months. He highlighted that there were 34 workers in place and reported on the stages that they would be taking young people through the scheme which included mentoring support, work experience and a range of group interventions.

He confirmed that they were mandated to work in job centres and subsequently detailed the 3 job centres across the districts that they worked within. He further confirmed that up until the end of June, they had engaged with a number of young people, highlighting that they were ahead of their profile target, and that they were focusing on moving people through to outcomes.

He referred to the contracts manager that was in place to manage the day to day running of the programme, which enabled him to explore other areas with regard to sustainability development whereby linking into other areas to provide employment outcomes for the young people.

In response to comments from members, the following points were highlighted:-

Mr Davies reported that in order to obtain an achieved outcome with regard to education for a young person, highlighted that it needed to be a long-term programme rather than short-term. He confirmed that there were no safe-guards built into the programme in terms of monitoring what happened after 26 weeks and how outcomes would be tracked. He added that they were hoping to look at a longer term plan, together with other partners and the City Council, regarding a way forward in being able to continue to provide support over a longer period.

Mr Davies highlighted that it was not just about getting 44% into sustainable employment and meeting the contractual target, the commitment was working to

over-achieve on target, albeit that 44% was higher than some of the national programmes the focus was on getting more young people into sustainable employment. He confirmed that although they were not currently paying into the Apprenticeship Levy expected that this would happen next year and had therefore entered into discussions on how best to drawdown some of the funding in order to benefit from this source. With regard to High Speed 2 (HS2), he confirmed that there was funding available and they were looking into tapping into this source in order to support some development work relating to the scheme.

He added that although he had not yet received approval was involved in discussions around social regeneration through building businesses and enterprise development, highlighting the importance of joined up working and the drawing from all of these resources in a more holistic way.

Mr Davies concluded by referring to the providers in Washwood Heath highlighting that they were focusing on the general population. He agreed to take back the concern regarding the need for a mechanism to be in place to evaluate companies in order to ensure they were not abusing the system with regard to apprenticeships.

The Chair thanked Mr Davies for attending the meeting and presenting.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE - UPDATE

416 Sergeant Helen Bailey provided a brief overview on the huge demand that had been required from the Police Force in June and July 2017 and with the high visibility patrols required following the events of London and Manchester, this had impacted on local policing.

She highlighted that crime relating to burglaries for all the districts across the city was at a similar level and under control. She further confirmed that there had been a real push around intervention with regard to various individuals. She referred to the robberies in Washwood Heath Ward and Shard End Ward and confirmed that they were in the process of identifying the various patterns in these areas.

She reported that they focused their resources where demand was most required which included Tesco, the Fox and Goose Shopping Parade and surrounding areas relating to beggars and drug dealers. Further reference was made to the slight increase in crime and anti-social behaviour relating to Washwood Heath Road.

She highlighted the partnership working that was being undertaken with the police and the local primary schools with regard to working with specific families and young people. She further highlighted the community engagement event that was scheduled to take place on 9 September 2017 at St Peter's College and confirmed that all would have received an email regarding this event.

In response to comments from Councillor Majid Mahmood, Sergeant Helen Bailey agreed that she was happy to discuss the speeding issues, and confirmed that she was only made aware of the proposed transit site for travellers on Bromford recycling site when reading about it in the press.

The Chair concluded by thanking Sergeant Helen Bailey for attending the meeting and providing an update.

At this juncture, Councillor Mohammed Idrees declared a non-pecuniary interest as Vice Chair of West Midlands Fire Authority.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

417 David Bromley, Station Commander, Ward End Fire Station provided an update.

He reported that they continued to strive for an average 5 minutes attendance standard to all category 1 life risk emergencies as part of the Service Delivery Model. He highlighted they were currently at 4 minutes 32 seconds for Ward End Station, which had improved from the previous year by 21 seconds. They were continuing to look into ways of reducing this further as he believed that every second counts in a fire situation to the survivability of a person, and with the procedures already efficient, it was very hard to make further improvements.

In terms of performance within the district, arson continued to be a challenge, in particular arson vehicle, arson rubbish and arson derelict buildings. Last quarter there were 25 vehicle fires, 31 rubbish fires and 4 dwelling fires which were all arson related. It was confirmed that he was continuing to work closely with the police and various council departments by reporting void premises, vehicles and fly tipping. He added that they were working with rangers to see whether there could be tighter security in parks to prevent cars being driven on them but also allow free access to the public and for the fire service to gain access if required.

He confirmed that there had been 13 accidental fires in dwellings which was one more than the previous quarter and was pleased to report that there had been no fire deaths or injuries during this quarter. He further confirmed that the fire service had attended 24 road accidents and there had been 3 reports of verbal abuse to crews at Ward End.

It was noted that there had been 317 safe and well visits which included; health, alcohol consumption, vehicle safety, pedestrian safety, substance misuse and other general safety and wellbeing checks.

David Bromley confirmed that they continued to fit smoke alarms as well as provide other resources such as hearing impaired alarms, fire retardant bedding, letter box protectors etc when required, and that firefighters were able to provide advice, or where appropriate, refer on to other agencies for additional support which including the service's own vulnerable person's officers.

He confirmed that they continued to work closely with partners such as BCC Housing Officers, Social Landlords, Adult Social Care to ensure that referrals focus were targeted on the most vulnerable, and were also keen to hear from any groups/agencies that worked with vulnerable people to look at creating good quality referral pathways that helped the service reach the most vulnerable in local communities.

He confirmed that the Open Day was scheduled for Saturday, 29th July 2017 and requested that members promote the event (Tweet/Facebook/face2face) in the area to encourage community engagement. During the event there would be business safety advice together with fire service recruitment, diversity and inclusion officers. It was noted that the day would be a chance for local community groups to have some space or provide some entertainment.

He referred to the Ward End Mela event and confirmed that there would be representation from the service whereupon they would be providing safety messages and demonstrations during the day.

In relation to road traffic accidents with people seriously injured and fatalities, the service delivered their safety message at the screening of the Fast and Furious film, together with the Virtual Reality goggles and an advert during the film around speed. This was supported by local advertising boards to educate the local community of the dangers of excessive speed.

It was highlighted that they had met with Councillor Donaldson and had addressed the issue of parking and access with Heathlands Primary Academy.

He concluded by confirming that they had attended various careers days to encourage people from the local community to consider the fire service as a career.

The Chairman concluded by thanking David Bromley for attending the meeting and providing an update.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

IDENTIFICATION OF A TRANSIT SITE FOR TRAVELLERS – BROMFORD RECYCLING SITE – LACK OF CONSULTATION

418 Councillor Majid Mahmood referred to the above-mentioned site and expressed deep concern that there had been no consultation with residents, elected members and partners regarding the identification of this site. He highlighted that there was only one access point into the site and referred to health and safety aspect of this. He confirmed that he had only been made aware of the identification by reading about it in the local press.

He therefore requested, that the Chair on behalf of Hodge Hill District Committee, write to the department expressing disappointment due to the fact that there had been no consultation with local residents, elected members and partners in this regard.

CABINET COMMITTEE – LOCAL LEADERSHIP – 19 JULY 2017

419 Councillor Fiona Williams provided a brief overview of the above-mentioned meeting that had taken place yesterday.

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She confirmed that approval had been sought for the pilot ward arrangements of ward plans and the focus was on devolving more influence down to a more local level. She detailed the 3 significant improvements and subsequently highlighted the ward tracker database which was a tool to provide more information on issues in wards and across districts and a more flexible way of working.

At this juncture, Mike Davies reported on the other significant discussion that had taken place at the meeting relating to the uncertain future of district committees. He confirmed that there was a proposal for them to be discontinued adding that there would have to be changes made to the City Council's Constitution and therefore a timeline was yet to be finalised. He further added that it could likely be submitted to the September meeting of City Council with the recommendation that district committees be discontinued.

Councillor Fiona Williams reiterated that approval for the discontinuation of district committees could be sought at the full City Council in September 2017.

DATE OF NEXT HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

420 The next meeting of the Hodge Hill District Committee will be held on Thursday, 21 September 2017 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 2, Council House.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

421 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 16:00 hours.

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CHAIRMAN