

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EDGBASTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2017
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDGBASTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 20
JUNE 2017 AT 1900 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor John Alden in the Chair;

Councillors Deirdre Alden, Kate Booth, Des Flood, Jayne Francis,
James McKay and Fergus Robinson.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Councillor Marje Bridle – Assistant Leader
Councillor Tony Kennedy – Assistant Leader
PC Roy Mall – West Midlands Police
Oliver Humpidge – Place Manager, ASB Partnership Manager
PC Steve Rice – West Midlands Police
Lucy O’Grady – Amey
Eddie Fellows – Amey
Kevin Hicks – Assistant Director, Economy
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

RESOLVED: -

- a) That Councillor John Alden be re-elected Executive Member for the Edgbaston District Committee for 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year;
- b) That Councillor Bruce Lines be re-appointed Vice-Chairman for the Edgbaston District Committee 2017/2018 ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

(Councillor John Alden in the Chair)

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 334 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

- 335 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Matt Bennett, John Clancy and Matthew Gregson and Keith Dugmore, Edgbaston District Lead for their inability to attend the meeting.
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MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- 336 Membership of the Edgbaston District Committee was noted as follows: -
- Councillors Des Flood, Bruce Lines and John Lines (Bartley Green Ward).
- Councillors Deirdre Alden, Matt Bennett and Fergus Robinson (Edgbaston Ward).
- Councillors John Alden, Jayne Francis and James McKay (Harborne Ward).
- Councillors Kate Booth, John Clancy and Matthew Gregson (Quinton Ward).
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MINUTES

- 337 **RESOLVED:-**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 March 2017, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 338 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

No declarations of interest were raised by Members.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

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

(See Document No. 1)

CODE OF CONDUCT

340 The following Code of Conduct for District Committees was noted:-

(See Document No. 2)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

(a) West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service

341 **RESOLVED:-**

That the West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service not be co-opted onto the District Committee as they will attend the District Committee meetings as and when required.

(b) Councillor Champions

(i) Corporate Parenting Champion

342 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Matt Bennett be re-appointed as Councillor Champion for Corporate Parenting for the Edgbaston District.

(ii) Edgbaston District Champions

343 **RESOLVED: -**

That the Committee re-appoints the following Members as “District Champions” to oversee issues across the Edgbaston District for the 2017/2018 Municipal Year:

Councillor Deirdre Alden - Environmental and Green Issues
Councillor Kate Booth - Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Councillor Jayne Francis - Children and Young People’s Issues
Councillor Bruce Lines - Transportation and Parking Issues
Councillor Des Flood – Crime and Community Safety.

(iii) Cultural Heritage Champion

344

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor John Lines be re-appointed Cultural and Heritage Champion for Edgbaston District.

(iv) Jobs and Skills Champion

345

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Fergus Robinson be re-appointed Jobs and Skills Champion for Edgbaston District.

ASSISTANT LEADERS REPORT

Assistant Leaders Councillors Marje Bridle and Tony Kennedy were in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Marje Bridle gave the following verbal report:

- Assistant Leaders have been working hard over the last 12 months to achieve devolution in Birmingham – services will be better suited to the area concerned and more efficient. Officers will work for the locality first and not their service or directorate. Local Councillors will have more influence on services and residents will have more control of their services and their local area.
- ‘Every place matters’ – the level of the Ward is the place to work. Need to improve the machinery for what is to be done at Ward level. Councillors will work with active Ward residents to improve the area in which they live and work.
- Assistant Leaders have challenged the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Committee to facilitate change and overcome resistance. A paper will be submitted to the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership at the end of July 2017 outlining the proposals for change and how that change can be implemented.
- There is a need to define what is going to be put in place in order to establish Ward governance and reinvestigate all previous failed attempts to ensure that it will be a success and work effectively.
- The idea of Community Councils/Neighbourhood Councils has been discussed with Ward Councillors and an interest has been expressed. Sutton Coldfield is leading in the way in Birmingham as they have formed a Town Council.
- Have investigated other Councils such as Leeds who have formed a charter to offer a devolution package to a Community Council or a Community Development Trust (CDT) as some Wards in Birmingham do have a strong CDT in existence and set up a deal with those legal entities to enable those bodies to take over the responsibility for service maintenance and delivery.
- Revisiting current active Ward Plans as they can prove to be a useful way of identifying best practice in the perspective Wards and can identify the needs of that Ward. What is not wanted is a ‘one size fits all policy’ across all Wards in the City. Will work with residents and local Councillors to put the Wards main priorities at the forefront of their Ward Plan. It was envisaged that this system can then be transferred and will work well when the new Wards following the boundary changes are put in place.

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- Locality commissioning such as local clean street plans and the idea that local residents can put together a plan to improve their local area.
- Every Ward to have a Ward Asset list. External funding to be investigated and to learn how to draw upon this funding to supplement Council funding.
- Recognise that not every issue that is important to residents can be dealt with at Ward level. Some issues such as Jobs and Skills will have to be dealt with at a higher level. Working with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills to share Ward Youth Unemployment Initiative clusters in order to look at how the Council can be more proactive on the jobs and skills front.

Councillor Tony Kennedy made the following comments:

- He stated that it was undesirable that full details of the report be disclosed to District Committee's prior to the report being submitted to Cabinet Committee in July 2017.
- The Council had been working on its Future Operating Model (FOM) and the Assistant Leaders had been working on the Neighbourhood Operating Model (NOM) which had to work on behalf of local residents and local Councillors. Both Operating Models had to work alongside each other. Named Council officers will be identified to work within a specific Neighbourhood location.
- The desire was to have more active local residents taking an interest and becoming involved in the management of their local neighbourhood and its environment.
- Encourage local communities to establish, develop and become actively involved in their Community Council/Neighbourhood Council.

In response to questions raised by Members the Assistant Leaders made the following points:

- The Devolution package will not involve taking on new staff, extra resources and additional bureaucracy. Trying as far as is practicable to be revenue neutral.
- Within the role of being an Assistant Leader the biggest success has been the report to be forwarded to the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership Committee which will have approval to the recommendations proposed. Working with and alongside the highest officers available in the Council and Cabinet Members to achieve the report outcome has possibly been the greatest challenge.
- The Kerslake report had identified that there was a lack of community engagement in Birmingham and it was the role of local Councillors to get their community to be more actively engaged. The City Council has not in the past supported their citizens to be more proactive. Community participation needed to be supported by the Council. Councillors need to have a community leadership role and assist in guiding residents to enable their community infrastructure. Local Innovation Fund – encouraging people to be more creative on how the budget is used. Creative proposals need to be encouraged.

The Chairman thanked the District Leaders for their comprehensive verbal report and it was -

346

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on the Assistant Leader's Work Programme and the proposed transitioning of District Committee's be noted and that the District

Leaders present be invited to attend a future meeting of this District Committee to discuss proposals following submission of the Assistant Leaders report to Cabinet Committee.

**EDGBASTON DISTRICT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER
CONSULTATION**

PC Roy Mall and PC Steve Rice, West Midlands Police and Oliver Humpidge, Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Manager, Birmingham City Council attended the meeting and together, made the following particular points:

- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) is a piece of legislation that sits within the Anti-Social Behaviour Police and Crime Act 2014. They are an order that is designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in public spaces. They are a power that the City Council has and they are designed to restrict behaviour that is having or likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of residents living within the locality – unreasonable behaviour that is persistent or continual in nature. The Order gives Police and City Council officers the power to restrict behaviours as set out within the Order by way of breaching individual's behaviour with a warning letter, a fixed penalty notice or a Court appearance. A breach of the Order is a criminal offence. Current outcomes of Orders that have been previously served have been a success and given members of the public additional confidence in dealing with incidences of anti-social behaviour in public spaces.
- PSPO's covers the top part of Edgbaston Ward and touches on Harborne bordering Ladywood West as well as some of the City Centre. Work in conjunction with Police Neighbourhood teams to ensure that the nuisance, when tackled is not moved on to a neighbouring area. Prohibitions investigate incidences such as begging, community sex workers, kerb crawlers, windscreen washer beggars, street drinking/alcohol related incidences illegal drugs and vehicles causing anti-social behaviour such as playing loud music in a public space. The Orders can assist in the prevention of crime, protect the public and assist individuals who are in need.
- Work in conjunction with other multi agencies such as Environmental Health and Housing, as well as local businesses and local residents. Outcomes to be achieved are reducing the level of Police service and also improving the life of local residents affected.
- If the PSPO order is breached it will trigger a series of support measures and officers will engage with the offender to offer support services as well as tackling their behaviour. Offenders are required to work with support groups and attend regular meetings as part of their rehabilitation.

Members welcomed the verbal update but requested further evidence on the type of crimes committed and the success figures in relation to outcomes. It was also noted that when offenders had been convicted in Court they were normally given minimal fines and sentences which was not considered an incentive to be a deterrent to crime.

Members thanked Police Officers and Council Officers for their hard work in working together to prevent crime and support individuals that are involved in crime by re-directing them to the appropriate support group.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal discussion on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) be noted.

At 2030 hours Councillor James McKay left the meeting.

GRASS VERGES

Lucy O'Grady and Eddie Fellows, Amey and Kevin Hicks Assistant Director of Economy were in attendance at the meeting. The following presentation entitled 'Parking on Grass Verges' was submitted:-

(See Document No. 3)

Kevin Hicks introduced the presentation and highlighted the salient points.

Councillor Deirdre Alden expressed concern that the pilot scheme undertaken in Brownfield Road was originally promised to be a pilot scheme that was to be undertaken in the Edgbaston Ward and she requested why the original intended plan had been changed to a different location.

Kevin Hicks advised that the finances available was not sufficient to cover all five Districts identified and therefore it was agreed that the pilot should be concentrated in one particular District which was agreed will be Shard End Ward, Hodge Hill District. He confirmed that finance was now available to offer similar schemes to the remaining nine Districts.

In response to a question raised concerning what enforcement action had taken place to prevent parking on grass verges Eddie Fellows, Amey stated that hundreds of pre-enforcement actions notifying residents that it is illegal to drive over a kerbed footway or a kerbed verge and recommends that if they wish to gain access to park near or on their property then they need to apply to the City Council for a properly constructed dropped kerb and pathway. He stated that many residents often ignore the warning and it was then up to the City Council's priorities as to where the action is enforced and Court action will be taken. There are powers to formally enforce within the Highways Act to take habitual offenders to Court.

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report grass verges in the Edgbaston District be noted.

In order for the meeting to remain quorate the Chairman agreed to rearrange the order of the agenda to consider agenda item 14.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2017/2018

It was -

349

RESOLVED: -

The Edgbaston District Committee noted the schedule of meetings for 2017/18 as follows: -

2017

19 September
14 November

2018

16 January
13 March

All meetings will be held at 1900 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4 at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham.

Councillor Jayne Francis submitted her apologies in advance for the meeting to be held on 19 September 2017.

At 1945 Councillor Jayne Francis left the meeting.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM EMERGING URBAN STREET GANGS

350

The following information entitled 'Operation Sora – South Birmingham Emerging Urban Street Gangs' was noted:-

(See Document No. 3)

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

351

No items of other urgent business were raised.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

352

RESOLVED:-

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

The meeting ended at 2055 hours.

CHAIRMAN