

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 26
JANUARY 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Josh Jones in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp, Mick Brown, Lynda Clinton, Des Hughes, Mick Finnegan, Gareth Moore, Gary Sambrook, Mike Sharpe and Ron Storer.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
Richard Smith – Fleet and Waste Management
Andrew Pepper – Assistant Director, Children in Care
Daniel Grealey – Project Manager, Birmingham Cycle Revolution North East
Andrew Middleton - Project Manager, Birmingham Cycle Revolution North East
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

309 The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance and advised that this was the second session of District Neighbourhood Challenge and that the issue to be discussed at the meeting was 'Clean and Green' as was previously agreed at an all Members meeting.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

310 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.

APOLOGY

311 An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Penny Holbrook for her inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

312

RESOLVED:-

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 November 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE

Refuse Collection and Recycling

Richard Smith, Fleet and Waste Management gave a verbal presentation and made the following points:

- Standards of cleansing from November 2015:
- Average City wide across all Wards, calculated using Equality Survey statistics:
 - 6.2% for litter (target 5%)
 - 14.16% for detritus (target 8.35%)
 - 2.07% for fly posting (target 1%)
 - 5.2% for graffiti (target 7%)
- Standard of cleansing in Erdington District:
 - 9.47% for litter
 - 11.01% for detritus
 - 1.43% for flyposting
 - 3.75% for graffiti
- Stockland Green Ward – recycling bank removed as was attracting dumping. Enforcement team investigating and will issue penalty notices to perpetrators.
- Street cleansing financial implications – current expenditure is approximately £9.6million on fleet and waste issues, excludes transport and overheads. Equates to £8.96m per District. Erdington District has financed - 3 new beat sweepers purchased to service Slade Road, Station Road and Sutton New Road and other local roads. 5 Beat sweepers in total covering the High Street and Kingstanding Ward.
- Continuously reviewing services and targeting areas of need. Rely upon local information and District Team leaders to highlight frequent hot spots.
- 4 Ward crews on street cleansing in the Erdington Ward consisting of a 3 man team per crew. Cleansing 5 days a week within the Ward. Small mechanical sweepers that clean footpaths and other small areas. Beat sweepers operate on Erdington High Street every weekend.
- One crew maintain the cleanliness in all the main shopping areas which consists of a 2 man team operating 6 days a week excluding Saturday in Slade Road, Kingstanding Circle and Hawthorn Road Shopping Centres.
- One large mechanical sweeper maintains the cleanliness of all major roads in the District at least once a week.
- Resourcing equipment as one size does not fit all. Areas of high footfall require a lot of street cleansing. Liaising with work teams to prioritise workloads. Educating local people, schools and the community to take ownership of their streets and keep them clean and tidy. Volunteer teams

from the community working with street scene co-ordinators, anti-social behaviour team and waste enforcement unit to tackle hot spot areas. Officers attending local schools, educating pupils and relaying the message forward.

- Current recycling rates in Erdington District:
 - The difference in statistics between the period June – September 2014 and June - September 2015 statistics show a multi material increase of 82 tonnes of residual waste and an increase of 67 tonnes for paper recycling waste. No figures available for green waste but in 2014 the City Council collected 3462 tonnes and in 2015 collected 4666 tonnes.
 - Residual waste – June to September 2014 collected 1526 tonnes. June to September 2015 – 1249 tonnes which shows a reduction of 277 tonnes of waste throughout the District. A reduction of 18% of residual waste. The City was continuing to send than 6% of its waste to landfill which was encouraging.
- Each District is allocated £1.6million each to ensure that waste is collected and disposed of in the correct manner. Waste collections are timetabled in the Erdington District on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Current levels of customer satisfaction - Erdington District is currently 5th in the table for customer levels of satisfaction (out of a possible 10 Districts).
- How to improve customer satisfaction – issues exist around contamination – crews will advise residents on what can and cannot be placed in each relevant wheelie bin. The waste prevention team will visit persistent offenders and also visit schools and residents to educate them on what waste can be recycled and provide leaflets and letters through resident's doors to reiterate the message. Since June 2015 2,787 letters had been delivered to residents homes. 130 Section 46 notices had been endorsed to residents who failed to follow the recycling advice leaflets and information.
- The Department has been engaged in a door knocking exercise in various locations throughout the Erdington District. During this exercise all visible fly tipping has been removed on the same day. Hope to increase customer satisfaction levels. Will look at new builds and those estates that are increasing the number of residential properties in the District.
- Flats above the shops on Erdington High Street – working with waste prevention team to ensure that trade waste and household waste is not being collected together.
- Leaf fall – a number of roads and locations in the Erdington District that have a lot of trees have been assessed and the leaves have been removed.

In response to questions raised by Members, the officer gave the following responses (for ease of reference the response given will immediately follow the question/concern raised):

- Environmental Equality Survey scores – the lower the percentage figure the better for the District. The survey team will take a random section of the road and will inspect that transect (approx. 50 metres) for litter, detritus and fly posting. The aim is to achieve as low a score as possible.
- High Streets – the main High Street in Erdington is the Erdington High Street. He endeavoured to clarify how a High Street is designated and respond to all Members giving a comprehensive list of all named High Street areas in the Erdington District.
- Door knocking exercises – generally carried out at random but also act upon depot/crew sightings and local knowledge. The waste prevention team will

visit offenders and advise on how to rid or recycle their waste in the correct manner.

- Clinical/surgical waste – if incontinence materials can be put into the residual/normal waste as treated in the same manner as children's nappies. Will provide a larger wheelie bin upon request due to the space that this waste occupied in the bin. Hazardous waste will go through the clinical waste collection which is dealt with at Redfern Road, Tyseley.
- Contaminated waste – crews do look for contaminated waste. Usually it is placed near the top of the wheelie bin and crew members can identify that it has been incorrectly disposed of. A crew member will place a tag on the bin which is recorded onto a tagging sheet which is then returned to the depot. The depot will send out a letter to the resident concerned.
- Members requested that all statistical information mentioned in the presentation be forwarded to all Members in the form of an information note so that Members are able to scrutinise the figures and determine achievement figures.
- Large wagons and alley cat routes – when the vehicles were purchased they were brand new and at that time some software and technological problems were encountered. Some of the vehicles were larger than those previously used by the City Council and the turning circles were more difficult for drivers to negotiate. Greswolde Drive, off Holly Lane was a location that had encountered problems with vehicle size and he advised that in future the location will be transferred onto an alley cat route.
- Wheelie bins not delivered on time to block of flats at Derbridge Court, 47 Sutton Road – the officer stated that he would investigate and take appropriate action.
- New build estates and occupied housing not allocated to a collection schedule and refuse not being collected. Member's continuously flagging up new estates, such as the Abbeyfields Estate and fleet and waste officers not acting upon information provided – the officer stated that new builds were being added to existing routes and that he would investigate and take appropriate action. He admitted that stabilisation was taking longer than anticipated and that existing problems had been addressed and resolved.
- Trade waste and High Street enforcement – what is the Council's performance on collecting trade waste on time and what enforcement measures are taken to deter the dumping of trade waste – the officer advised that he would liaise with the enforcement team and visit businesses on the High Street and check trade waste licenses, determine where trade waste was being dumped and take appropriate enforcement action against those irresponsible traders.
- Christmas collection service very poor. Over 1,000 properties in the Kingstanding Ward did not have a refuse collection service. Collection services on Bank Holidays and the Christmas period should be looked at and improvements should be made. The officer admitted that problems did occur with refuse collections over the Christmas period. However, much of the problems were created by residents themselves placing the wrong bins out for collection on the wrong week.
- Flats above shops – Slade Road in Stockland Green Ward. Residents leaving black bags outside their properties but no collection service. Often leads to people dumping more rubbish in top of the rubbish left behind by the refuse crew. The officer advised that he was aware of this problem and that measures had been put in place to ensure that residents living above shop premises will have a dedicated refuse collection service.

Erdington District Committee – 26 January 2016

- Drug and alcohol checks for wagon drivers – how many drivers did this effect over the Christmas period? Are crew staffs redeployed if a driver is deemed unfit for active duty? The officer replied that random drug and alcohol testing was carried out in three of the four depots. Crews were redeployed to collect on a different route if a wagon driver was deemed unfit to drive the vehicle.
- A trend for customer satisfaction should be provided for all Erdington District Members. A customer tracker survey should be undertaken. Erdington District was the only District Citywide that is scrutinising the fleet and waste management service. It was suggested that the evidence currently in existence be reviewed and that a progress report on suggestions for the way forward be implemented.

The Chairman thanked Mr Smith, Fleet and Waste Management for his verbal presentation.

313

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the discussion on Neighbourhood Challenge, refuse collection and recycling be noted and that all statistical information mentioned in the verbal presentation be broken down on a Ward basis, details of current and previous locations in relation to alley cat routes and a list of all named High Street areas in the Erdington District be forwarded to all Members of the Erdington District Committee in the form of an information briefing note;
- (ii) That Senior Fleet and Waste officers be requested to attend a future meeting of this District Committee to give details on all progress made.

DISTRICT MEETINGS – CORPORATE PARENTING

A presentation from the Assistant Director Children in Care Provider Services was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

Andrew Pepper, Assistant Director, Children in Care introduced the presentation and responded appropriately to questions raised by Members.

He advised that under new regulations the Regulation 44 visits form gave elected Members visitation rights and access to both private homes and children's residential homes at an unannounced random date to be determined by the elected Member.

It was –

314

RESOLVED:-

That the presentation on Corporate Parenting be noted.

**BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION PHASES 2 AND 3 CONSULTATION -
ERDINGTON**

A presentation from the Project Manager, Birmingham Cycle Revolution North East was submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

Daniel Grealey and Andrew Middleton, Project Managers, Birmingham Cycle Revolution North East gave a verbal report and responded to questions raised by Members.

Members generally opposed the recommendations outlined in the verbal presentation and felt that implementing a cycle route alongside locations such as Tyburn Road, Salford Circus and Chester Road was not a safe route for cyclists.

It was suggested by the majority of Members that funding would be better utilised concentrating on creating a cycle route network in areas of public open spaces and green areas.

Daniel Grealey stated that the draft proposals will be submitted for discussion at a full public consultation exercise in the near future.

The Chairman suggested that the issue be further discussed at the March all Members meeting and requested that officers provide him with all the relevant information and maps required for discussion.

315

RESOLVED:-

That the presentation and verbal report on the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phases 2 and 3 be noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

316

No items of other urgent business were raised.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

317

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 1620 hours.

CHAIRMAN