

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 19 JANUARY 2017
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2017 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Mohammed Aikhlaq, Marje Bridle, John Cotton, Mohammed Idrees, Ansar Ali Khan, Mariam Khan, Majid Mahmood, Shafique Shah and Fiona Williams.

ALSO PRESENT:-

Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Arthur Tsang	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Louise Bessant	- Fleet and Waste Management
Darren Share	- Fleet and Waste Management
Casey Gordon	- Spurgeon's Charity
Gillian Reeves	- Spurgeon's Charity
Helen Bailey	- West Midlands Police
Marie Reynolds	- Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

361 The District Committee was 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.

APOLOGIES

362 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Diane Donaldson and Ian Ward for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

363 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2016, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

JOBS AND SKILLS - UPDATE

- 364 Mike Davis, District Lead, reported that Mark Whitehouse, Job Centre Manager although was expected to attend the meeting today had now transferred to another area. He confirmed that the Jobs and Skills Group had met in September 2016 and were expected to meet again soon. He anticipated that Jane Newman would attend the next district meeting and suggested that he would also invite the new Job Centre Manager in order to provide an update.
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CCTV CAMERAS – DELAY

- 365 In response to comments from members regarding the lengthy delay in CCTV cameras being installed across the district in order to alleviate fly tipping and other anti-social behaviour issues, Councillor Ansar Ali Khan confirmed that this particular issue had been raised with Jacqui Kennedy at the Assistant Leaders' meeting. He highlighted that the camera delays were across the whole of the city and not just in Hodge Hill District and that the issue was very serious and needed to be addressed.

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager reported that a meeting for all members, place managers and colleagues from Enforcement had been scheduled for 31 January 2017 to discuss the cameras. He confirmed that the cameras had been purchased and the reason for the delay was due to ensuring that the cameras would be used correctly and appropriately in order to comply with the guidelines set by Central Government.

In response to Councillor Aikhlaq's question relating to using the environmental budget to fund an additional camera, Arthur Tsang suggested that he would seek clarity and discuss further at the meeting scheduled for 31 January 2017.

Mike Davis confirmed that the issues raised by members were being dealt with by senior colleagues and if members were unable to attend the meeting on 31 January 2017, then Arthur would communicate outside of the meeting he added that it would be beneficial if members could attend the meeting.

In response to a further comment regarding privacy, Arthur Tsang confirmed that he was meeting with colleagues from Enforcement in order to address specific issues and was also working across a number of departments in order to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 366 Councillor Aikhlaq declared a non-pecuniary interest as a representative from Lea Trust and Councillor Idrees declared a non-pecuniary interest as a representative from West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.
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PETITIONS

367 There were no petitions submitted.

WASHWOOD HEATH PILOT

368 Louise Bessant, Fleet and Waste Management reported on the above-mentioned pilot which was part of the Wider, Cleaner and Greener Streets Initiative that was a programme of works that was taking place across the city. Washwood Heath Ward played an important part in the programme, as they were able to look at introducing a total place management system which included all the processes that were involved in providing a clean street.

She subsequently detailed how collective working together in identifying common issues and addressing them took place and with the input of the place manager, the street cleansing was redesigned whereby resources were moved to accommodate the ward based cleaning which started on 31 August 2016 through to 3 October 2016. It was noted that improvements were made across the board. In addition the group also handled the November all out day in Washwood Heath Ward and thanks to the daily contribution from elected members there was a whole week of events. She concluded by referring to the Big British Spring Clean Weekend which was taking place on 3, 4 and 5 March 2017.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan commented that it had been quite a successful pilot and it had made a huge difference in the ward especially after the activities of action week. His only concern was that if resources were moved, the area could return to how it was before and therefore sought assurance, that the level of service in the ward at the moment would continue, and that it would be beneficial for all inner city areas across the city receiving a similar level of service.

Councillor Aikhlaq referred to the excellent work achieved in Washwood Heath Ward and suggested that when the programme of works took place in other areas of the city, that there was adequate communication made to residents and partners beforehand.

Councillor Idrees referred to the lack of communication to residents from Fleet and Waste Management relating to the collections during the Christmas period and the fact that it was unacceptable that there had been no recycling collections for 4 weeks.

Councillor Bridle thanked Councillor Mariam Khan for providing the plan of action. She confirmed that with the street cleaning and waste management, all had to work together in leading the way with some of the other front line services in order to put in place more of a localised operation which would be more effective and efficient, and to also illustrate a better reputation from Birmingham City Council to residents. Reference was made to the report that was being submitted to Cabinet Committee for Local Leadership on 31 January 2017 whereby it would be helpful to highlight the good work and practices that had taken place in Washwood Heath Ward, as a result of everyone getting involved which could be replicated in other areas of the city.

Councillor Majid Mahmood highlighted that members had been made aware months ago regarding the refuse collections' times during the Christmas period and that residents had been informed so that they were able to monitor how much waste they put out during the Christmas period. Although he welcomed the work that had been undertaken in Washwood Heath Ward confirmed that further work needed to be undertaken with regard to educating children and young people in schools and colleges regarding recycling and in other areas of the district where the levels of recycling was relatively low. He added that he was more than happy to visit schools in order to teach the children about recycling. He also referred to the ongoing issues relating to refuse and the dumping of waste by traders on the Washwood Heath Road and the residents in the flats above the shops whereby more action needed to be taken by Enforcement in addressing these issues.

Councillor Mariam Khan stated that she was most pleased that Washwood Heath Ward had been chosen for the pilot as it had provided her an opportunity as well as colleagues, to be able to work with the community in making a difference together. She referred to the levels of communication that was required and especially for those people that were not familiar with social media. She highlighted the need to loudly emphasise the good work that had been achieved and detailed the various ways in which this could be communicated to residents and local communities.

Councillor Mariam Khan formally thanked officers, partners and elected members for their efforts and support in achieving such a successful action packed week. She referred to the litter picks and workshops that had taken place with children from the schools and mosque, and the fact, that it had been an excellent opportunity to involve young people and emphasised that she was looking forward to March whereby they may be able to extend the activities. She confirmed that there were a number of partners within the strategic partnership that may also be able to provide their services during the week.

Councillor Aikhlaq made reference to the meeting that was being arranged by Danny Kilbride with the head teachers in Bordesley Green Ward and Fleet and Waste Management, with regard to educating the children on recycling and agreed to advise members when this would be taking place.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan confirmed that it was an ongoing process and that they were discussing with Washwood Heath Strategic Partnership the need for work to continue and by getting the community involved, was very important, as they would then begin to take ownership of their area. He added that the city council was not in a position to make huge investments and it was therefore necessary, for all to take ownership in getting involved in cleaning their areas. He referred to the street plans that had to be submitted by each ward in order that the progress by the department could be carefully monitored.

Councillor Mariam Khan highlighted that since the action week had taken place, they were now in a position to monitor the progress in order to see what the impact had been on the ward, and if necessary, would re-submit the plan if it needed to be adjusted to reflect the up to date needs of the ward.

Darren Share, Fleet and Waste Management confirmed that they did try and communicate with residents with regard to Christmas collection times however agreed to take the points raised back to the department for consideration. He added that this year they were looking at providing a collection service the weekend before Christmas.

Darren Share referred to the benefits that had been highlighted in the Washwood Heath Pilot regarding street cleaning and confirmed that they were looking at how it could work across the whole of the city. He stated that they were currently working on work programmes across the whole of the city using local knowledge and ward plans in order to plan their service better. He added that what had really been highlighted was that when everyone worked together it made a huge difference. He confirmed that it was why the Big British Spring Clean Weekend was so important and reiterated the importance of engagement with communities and the need to interact with schools as a package rather than just waste management.

He concluded by stating that they were making changes to how they operated the cleaning service by providing resources where required, and maximising those resources by working with communities, and other agencies and any groups that would want to work with the department in making a real difference.

The Chairman thanked Louise Bessant and Darren Share for attending the meeting and presenting.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 – 2016/17

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

(See document No. 1)

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager, made introductory comments relating to the report.

In response to members' concerns and comments regarding the key performance indicators within the report, Arthur Tsang stated that the time taken to answer calls had been increased as the target set previously was unachievable for the service that they preferred to deliver. He referred to 51 seconds on East side to answer a call which believed was acceptable, adding that as yet he had not received any complaints from residents regarding the time taken in answering calls.

With regard to the response time relating to emergency repairs and the issues relating to the PDA's, he agreed to take back to Gary Nicholls as he was unsure as to whether the issue had been resolved.

With regard to several concerns and questions relating to the 'right to buy' which included delay in completions, and also the delays in the turnaround of void properties to be made fit to let, Arthur agreed to discuss with the appropriate officers and respond by e-mail to Councillor Ansar Ali Khan and Councillor Mohammed Idrees prior to the next meeting.

With regard to the repairs standard of service, Arthur believed that it had been sent out to all residents when the new contractor took over, however, agreed to investigate whether this had taken place and agreed to provide a copy to Councillor Bridle.

With regard to the scrutiny of performance, Arthur confirmed that the performance monitoring group which was chaired by the City Housing Liaison Board and attended by all of the Housing Liaison Board Representatives at their meetings did scrutinise all of the performances.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Arthur Tsang for attending the meeting and presenting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

369 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

At this juncture, the Chairman agreed to rearrange the running order of the agenda.

HODGE HILL WARD - UPDATE

370 Councillor Majid Mahmood confirmed that they were trying to work with Enforcement regarding the fly tipping issues on Washwood Heath Road and the fact that traders were abusing the system as well as the people that were living above the shops.

He confirmed that Warstone Tower was still set for demolition either this year or early next year. He added that there was a proposal for 225 homes to be built in the Bromford area and that they had managed to secure some funding from the Environmental Agency for flood defence. He referred to the funding that they were using to purchase new street columns around Bromford and the project they were looking into in Northleigh Road to construct an access way. He added that there would have to be some contribution for this from the residents and that a letter would be circulated soon to see if they would contribute towards the scheme. He confirmed that they were still undertaking normal walkabouts where they were often accompanied by the representatives from the Housing Liaison Board.

BORDESLEY GREEN WARD - UPDATE

371 Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq confirmed that fly tipping was still an issue within the ward and they were still trying to address this. He referred to the residents meetings that were now being held at the Kismet Centre in order to accommodate residents and subsequently thanked Inspector Helen Bailey for her support whilst Sergeant Ullah was away. He confirmed that drugs were still an issue within the ward and agreed to provide a further update at the next meeting.

WASHWOOD HEATH WARD - UPDATE

- 372 Councillor Mariam Khan referred to the last meeting of the strategic partnership and confirmed that they had agreed on how they were going to spend their innovation funding and that there had been a commitment from partners around the table to spend it on the Youth Service. This did not just include youth activities but also to help the youth in a positive way with regard to future employment.

She referred to the submission of a petition from residents regarding the garage in Bennetts Road which was causing issues and confirmed that to date there had been no results as yet with regard to the outcome. She referred to the issues that had arisen near Headland Road regarding anti-social behaviour caused by youths which had been discussed this week at the Washwood Heath Housing Liaison Board meeting, and it was therefore suggested, that the youth centre manager attend the next meeting to look into some outreach partnership work in order to address the issue. She confirmed that the housing liaison board would be involved in the March clean up and also involved with the Britain in Bloom. She stated that they were trying to get other groups in the ward which had been involved in the clean-up activities to enter into the competition.

SHARD END WARD - UPDATE

- 373 Councillor Marje Bridle reported that Sergeant Dan Turnbull would be working in Shard End Ward and believed was interested in reforming the relationship with the public. Reference was made to the group of young children that had been causing issues in the ward and as a result, the police had requested information on the type of activities for young people that were taking place in the area. Councillor Marje Bridle referred to the mapping information that had been collected by the city council some time ago which was under 'Our Place'. She questioned whether the information was still available which if it was, would be a good starting point for the police.
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SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

- 374 Gillian Reeves and Casey Gordon, Spurgeons provided a verbal presentation.

It was noted that Spurgeons was a children's charity situated in Bordesley Green Ward. It was reported that they were currently working on a project alongside other charities that were in partnership with the NHS that involved working with school nurses.

Gillian Reeves reported that their role was to engage with children and young people aged between 5 – 19 years that were not attending school or colleges for a number of reasons. The school nurses had a number of clinics based across the city and that Spurgeons was working in the North and East of the city.

Casey Gordon confirmed that they target the most vulnerable people which could include asylum seekers and refugees. It was noted that a large number of children were not registered with a GP and therefore the preventative approach was to try and work with families to ensure these children were being seen and not at risk. It was confirmed that referrals could be prompt with them taken by phone or e-mail.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Gillian Reeves and Casey Gordon for attending the meeting and presenting.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

375 The above item was deferred due to lack of representation.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE - UPDATE

376 Inspector Helen Bailey, West Midlands Police highlighted that Sergeant Dan Turnbull was an excellent officer and was very focused on community engagement. Since the reorganisation of the police she confirmed that the police were focusing more on intervention and prevention for young people. She stated that they wanted to make sure that the teams understood their wards and therefore any information that the city council could provide in this area would be most welcome.

Inspector Helen Bailey reported that crime across the district was reducing however the main area of police focus was in Hodge Hill Ward whereby there had a series of burglaries, however, yesterday evening there had been some positive news in relation to this issue and agreed to update at the next meeting. She referred to the work that had taken place with the young people causing anti-social behaviour which had resulted in 14 families becoming increasingly known to the police, social services and the young offenders' team. She confirmed that they had undertaken some intensive work with them and subsequently detailed the positive outcomes as a result of this work.

She referred to the intervention work that they would be undertaking with local primary schools in the area identifying young people causing concern in the schools and that they would be looking to engage with them before they came to police attention. Reference was made to the number of warrants that had been executed relating to drug offences and the other areas of work that the police had focused on relating to the Overpool Estate.

She made reference to the 2 public space protection orders that were in the district which made it easier for the police to issue fines where appropriate or pass on details to Birmingham City Council for attention.

Arthur Tsang stated that they could not ascertain whether the public space protection orders (PSPO's) were a success or failure however since they had been in place, the general feedback had been positive in reducing anti-social behaviour in those areas.

Following comments from members, Helen Bailey referred to the operation that had taken place in Ward End Park and although it had been advertised she confirmed

that the operation had been positive with 49 vehicles being seized. She referred to the issues relating to thefts from hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and confirmed that the message had been circulated to the taxi companies across the district, that they should not leave property inside their vehicles on display. She confirmed that they were visiting several offenders and monitoring closely regarding this issue.

In response to the theft of vehicle registration plates she was looking into obtaining anti fixing screws, and agreed to address the particular issue raised by Councillor Majid Mahmood regarding vehicle registration cloning.

In response to plain clothed patrols, Helen Bailey confirmed that they were very successful exercises explaining how it helped break down barriers between the police and young people.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Inspector Helen Bailey for attending the meeting and providing an update.

ASSISTANT LEADERS – UPDATE

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Councillor Marje Bridle confirmed that they were trying to localise how the city council worked and the feedback was that all wanted to work more effectively at a ward and neighbourhood level. Therefore, there have been discussions in putting in place some neighbourhood action co-ordinators that would be officers not necessarily of the city council, but from housing associations and that they would have the ability to offer leadership and entrepreneurial skills, and would be able to work closely with elected members and residents in achieving positive outcomes in local areas.

Councillor Bridle referred to the meeting this evening that was scheduled with all councillors to discuss the neighbourhood action co-ordinators, and the new ward arrangements which would be co-designed with colleagues. Reference was made to the grading of issues and where they should be dealt with either at ward or outside of the ward level.

Councillor Bridle highlighted that it was important to try and make change happen and that they were looking at how other local authorities were working and in particular Oldham was seen to be a very progressive council. Reference was made to the boundary changes that would be taking place in 2 years and the need for a collaboration of wards when this takes place. She stated that discussions had been held with the Leader and the Chief Executive and that they would be linking into what was being done with the changes that was happening through the future operating model.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan highlighted that this evening's session was very important and encouraged elected members to attend as it was important that everyone moved forward as a team. He further highlighted that it was important to pick up the right intelligence and experience from elected members in order to acknowledge good practices. He stated that they were not only having discussions within the city but also across the West Midlands and Manchester regarding how other authorities

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operated at a neighbourhood level. He referred to the neighbourhood management structure that had existed in the past and how well it had worked for the communities and reiterated the need for more co-ordinated ward based officers to work with councillors and the local community to deliver the right level of service to local people.

In response to members' comments and questions, Councillor Ansar Ali Khan stated that there would be 34 neighbourhood action co-ordinators across the city whereby each would be covering 3 or 4 councillors. He reported that Jacqui Kennedy was in discussions with housing associations and other partners to see whether their officers could work within this capacity, and they were also looking at the current structure within the city council, to see whether staff could be identified for any of these posts. He added that this issue was being discussed at the meeting this evening.

Councillor Marje Bridle added that it was considered a cost neutral exercise and that Jacqui Kennedy spoke about the repurposing of roles and that there could be capacity within the city council to accommodate some of the posts. With regard to people filling posts from outside the city council, she was unsure at present where their accountability lay.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan confirmed that the job description for the posts would remain the same for all employees.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Councillors Ansar Ali Khan and Marje Bridle for their update.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Hodge Hill District Committee Meeting – 16 March 2017

- 378 In response to a discussion with members as to whether the above-mentioned meeting should take place during the afternoon or evening, Mike Davis stated that there had been 3 responses in favour and 3 against, and therefore, suggested that members formalise their preference via e-mail in order for the Chairman to make a democratic decision.
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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 379 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 16 March 2017 in Committee Room 6, Council House.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 380 **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 1600 hours.

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CHAIRMAN