

Ladywood District Committee –
25 July, 2017
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE – 25 JULY 2017

**MINUTES OF THE LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 25
JULY 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Muhammad Afzal, Sir Albert Bore, Kath Hartley, Ziaul Islam, Chaman Lal, Chauhdry Rashid.

ALSO PRESENT: Lesley Poulton, Head of Ladywood District
Kate Foley, Acting Senior Service Manager
Louisa Nisbett, Area Democratic Services Officer

NOTICE OF RECORDINGS

- 354 The Chairman advised that the meeting would 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 were confidential or exempt items.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LADYWOOD DISTRICT

355 **RESOLVED:-**

- a) That Councillor Ziaul Islam be appointed as the Executive Member for Ladywood District for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in 2018/19.
- b) That Councillor Nagina Kauser be elected as the Vice-Chair for Ladywood District for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in 2018/19.

APOLOGIES

- 356 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Nagina Kauser, Carl Rice and Sybil Spence also from and David Newman, West Midlands Fire Service.

MINUTES

- 357 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

358 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows;

Aston Ward - Councillors Muhammad Afzal, Ziaul Islam, Nagina Kauser
Ladywood Ward - Councillors Sir Albert Bore, Kath Hartley, Carl Rice
Nechells Ward - Councillors Tahir Ali, Yvonne Mosquito, Chaudhry Rashid
Soho Ward – Councillors Chaman Lal, Sybil Spence, Sharon Thompson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

359 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 was 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 made.

CODE OF CONDUCT

360 The Code of Conduct was submitted and noted;

(See Document No 1)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

361 The following District Committee terms of reference were submitted and noted;

(See Document No 2)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The following schedule of appointments was submitted;

(See Document No 3)

- Lesley Poulton informed that in light of recent discussions, the instruction was for the District Committee to continue as normal therefore the appointments should be made.
- Councillor Bore said that the Committee should go ahead and make the appointments for 2017/2018 despite there being concerns that some of the organisations on the list were not acting on information supplied by officers from Birmingham City Council. He had been appointed to West Side Partnership Ltd BID for 2016/2017 however had not been invited to any Board meetings during the last 18 months also the annual appointments paper for Cabinet did not have any name identified for the appointment.
- There had also been a major problem about Councillor Kath Hartley's appointment to the Jewellery Quarter BID and Jewellery Quarter Development

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Trust. Councillor Bore explained that a report due to be signed off a month ago making it clear that there should be representation of a local Councillor on the Jewellery Quarter BID had still not been signed off. Councillor Bore was concerned about the governance arrangements of some of the organisations.

- Councillor Muhammad Afzal's view was that an investigation should be carried out into what went wrong to ensure that it did not happen again in the future. He continued that some organisations received funding from BCC but were not inviting Members to meetings. They should also have their accounts audited.
- Councillor Bore pointed out that there were inaccuracies in reports and differences in the appointments required. Councillor Kath Hartley had tried to get clarification for the last 12 months.
- Councillor Rashid informed that he was currently a member on Golden Hillock Community Care Centre and St Anne's Accommodation however there had been a lack of communication since new managers had taken over and he had not received any information for over 6 months. He was however prepared to be re-appointed to the organisations,
- The Committee were happy for Councillor Victoria Quinn to continue to be representative on Southside Business Limited, BID and she had been attending meetings.
- There was still confusion about the appointment to the Jewellery Quarter Trust Councillor Kath Hartley had served on the Development Trust for a number of years. It was requested that a note be sent to the organisation to seek clarification of the appointment.
- Councillor Kath Hartley requested and it was agreed that she be appointed as Mental Health Champion and removed as the appointee for Environmental Champion.
- West and Central Community Safety Partnership - If no representative was identified from Nechells Ward, Councillor Kath Hartley was willing to be representative as she regularly attended the meetings.
- In response to Councillor Lal's query whether the appointments would be valid if District Committees were dissolved, Lesley Poulton informed that they would be dealt with as part of the process to dissolve the Committees.

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RESOLVED:-

That the following appointments be made to the organisations listed below for the 2017/18 Municipal Year;

APPOINTMENTS REFFERED FROM CABINET

- a) Golden Hillock Community Care Centre (**Councillor Chauhdry Rashid**)
- b) St Anne's Accommodation (**Councillor Chauhdry Rashid**)
- c) West Side Partnership Ltd (Business Improvement District) (**Councillor Bore**)

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- d) Colmore Business District Ltd (Business Improvement District) - **Cllr Bore**
- e) Southside Business Ltd (Business Improvement District) - **Councillor Victoria Quinn**
- f) Soho Road (Business Improvement District) - **Councillor Chaman Lal**
- g) Jewellery Quarter (Business Improvement District) - **Councillor Hartley (To be confirmed).**
- h) Jewellery Quarter Development Trust - **Councillor Hartley (To be confirmed).**

1. **CHAMPION/ LEAD MEMBER ROLES**

- a) Corporate Parenting – Councillor Champion - **Councillor Sharon Thompson**
- b) Environmental Champion **(No appointment made)**
- c) Mental Health Champion - **Councillor Kath Hartley**
- d) Health & Wellbeing Champion - **Councillor Sybil Spence**
- e) West and Central Community Safety Partnership) - **Councillors Kauser, Thompson and Hartley**
- f) Youth Champion - **Councillor Nagina Kauser**
- g) District Jobs and Skills Panel Champion **(No appointment made)**
- h) Housing Champion **(No appointment made)**
- i) Heritage Champion **(1 Member to be nominated)**

HOUSING LIAISON BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 4 2016-17

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

(See document No. 4)

Kate Foley explained that the HLB report was in a different format to the Housing Transformation Board report usually received. Copies of the Housing Transformation Board report will be circulated to Members following the meeting. Kate Foley gave a summary of the report outlining some of the information:-

- **High and low rise blocks** – 81.9% and 100%
- **Void – Average day turnaround** – 30.4%
- **Average days to let a void property** – 17.2% - A lot of focussed work had been done on turnaround times.

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- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – 155 cases had been closed in total. Anti-social behaviour was being managed in a smarter way. Cases were being responded to on time.
- **Right to repair jobs completed on time** – 88.5%
- **Gas servicing completed against period profile** – 100%
- **Emergency repairs within 2 hours** – 95.5% - this was challenging
- **Routine repairs within 30 days** – 96.5%
- **Customer Satisfaction** – 99.85%

During the discussion the following points were made:-

- Councillor Bore commented on the figures related to emergency repairs for the Ladywood District and said that the matter should be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet Member. The figures as they related to Ladywood District were alarming different to figures for other contractors providing emergency repairs in the City.
- Councillor Islam added that there had been a constant problem with boiler repairs in the City and he had spoken to a number of occupiers whose boilers were not working.

363 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

REGULATION 33 VISITS TO ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS.

364 The following report was submitted for information:-

(See document no. 5)

- Lesley Poulton informed that there were 9 establishments in the Ladywood District. No visits had been undertaken the last municipal year.
- Councillor Kath Hartley had spent a morning at Summerfield Place but was not sure if that was counted as a visit.
- Councillor Rashid had undertaken visits 18 months ago and had expressed an interest in doing more visits accompanied by an officer.
- Councillor Lal also expressed an interest in visiting some of the establishments. In response to a query from Councillor Lal whether there was an exit strategy for the future of the District Committees, Lesley Poulton replied that the subject was part of the next agenda item. He was also prepared to visit the adult establishments.

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During the discussion the following points were made:-

CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP

- Copies of the report to the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership dated 19 July 2017 was circulated to Members for information. Councillor Islam had attended the meeting. Ward Plans should be in place by September.
- Members were informed that the recommendations in the report had been agreed subject to a report to Council Business Management Committee and approval at September full council meeting.
- The purpose was to abolish District Committees and put a Ward Plan in Place. A job description was included for the post of Ward Action Co-ordinator. It was noted that the number of Councillors would change in 2018 with the boundary changes. They would be able to take the work plan with them. A lot of interest had been expressed in the Ward Tracker and the officers involved were thanked for their work.
- Lesley Poulton referred to Councillor Lal's comment that an exit plan needed to be worked on and highlighted that the decision was to be taken in September. She said that a number of processes needed to be undertaken including consultation with staff previously involved with Districts and a look at the transition. A note will be made of any issues identified for the exit plan.
- Councillor Sir Albert Bore said that the plans were unrealistic. He did not believe that the Ward Development Plans would be completed by December. The report did not provide any information or give assurance that the Relationship Manager and Ward Action Co-ordinator would serve the purpose. The report also made no reference to the new Wards. Councillor Sir Albert Bore felt that the report was totally and wholly unrealistic.
- Councillor Islam agreed with the comments. He said that a number of Members had expressed concern. He pointed out that it had been recommended that more than one Ward could work together in future..
- Councillor Afzal Bore agreed with Councillor Bore. There were no clear guidelines for local leadership. During the last few months nothing had happened. He did not know when the plans would be implemented but could not see any positive progress so far.
- Councillor Afzal suggested that the Assistant Leaders should be requested to attend a future meeting. Councillor Bore pointed out that the next District meeting was after the Council Business Management meeting.
- Councillor Chaman Lal said that the report would be agreed regardless so did not see the point. He felt that the proposals would cause more problems than they solved.
- Councillor Kath Hartley added that the report had been discussed and a lot a comments made by Members none of which were included in the report. .

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- Councillor Islam suggested that issues could be raised with the Leader or the Assistant Leaders could be invited to a future meeting.
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WARD UPDATES

366 A representative from each of the Wards gave an update as follows:-

Aston

- Councillor Afzal informed that the Ward had not had a meeting since April. Some proposals for the LIF had been received and would be discussed at a meeting.

Ladywood

- Councillor Kath Hartley reported that they had met throughout the year. They were progressing with the LIF – which had been impacted on by developments in BCC. They were not sure where the extra activity was focussed on in the City but they needed to sort out the LIF by September to be allocated by December 2017. She anticipated a discussion on the Edgbaston Master Plan.

Nechells Ward

- Councillor Rashid said that a meeting would be held in September however he would not be available. The allocation of the LIF was in hand.

Soho Ward

- Councillor Lal informed that the Ward had met to deal with the LIF and had set up a Task Force. They had received a lot of complaints about missed collections.
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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

367 A schedule of dates for future meetings of Ladywood District Committee at the Council House at 1400 hours were noted as follows:-

2017

19 September
28 November

2018

23 January
20 March

Councillor Rashid gave his apologies for the meeting on 19 September, 2017.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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Waste Collection

- Councillor Afzal made reference to the backlog in the waste collection service. He commented that Councillors were being told as soon as possible however the situation seemed to be getting worse with some bins not being collected for 3 to 4 weeks. Councillor Islam said that he had been informed that agency staff would be engaged to help to clear the backlog. Councillor Afzal added that areas should be treated fairly across the City and he suggested that a message be sent to Jacqui Kennedy stating that Aston residents feel that they had been treated more poorly than other areas.
- Councillor Islam had contacted officers for an update and had been informed that an agency had been engaged to clear up the backlog, however there were still complaints.
- Lesley Poulton said that the District Committee had noted Councillor Afzal's comments. The Teams were trying to deal with the backlog as soon as possible. They were managing the situation and had prioritised the collection taking into account Health and Safety.
- Councillor Sir Albert Bore informed that the matter was being discussed at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee that afternoon.
- Councillor Rashid informed that the South Yardley side of the road had been cleared in his area but not the Nechells side. People were angry and upset. Officers should have attended the district meeting to explain. The state of the Roads were making him ashamed of where he lived, it was embarrassing and upsetting.
- Councillor Afzal had received calls from upset residents who had not had a collection for 3 weeks and another for 7 weeks. He stated that staff were picking and choosing which roads to clear.

AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

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RESOLVED:-

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 1507 hours.

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Chairman