

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE –

PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Thursday 17 June 2021
Main Hall, Birmingham & Midland Institute

Present:

Councillor Penny Holbrook (Chair)

Councillors Deirdre Alden, Marje Bridle, Roger Harmer, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke and Mike Sharpe

Also Present:

Karen Cheney, Head of Service – Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit

Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Ken Wood.

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE, CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2022:

Labour (5): Cllrs Penny Holbrook (Chair), Marje Bridle, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke and Mike Sharpe

Conservative (2): Cllrs Deirdre Alden and Ken Wood
Liberal Democrat (1): Cllr Roger Harmer

- (ii) To elect Cllr Marje Bridle as Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair, if absent, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2022.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

5. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Noted.

6. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents 1 and 2)

Councillor Bridle requested that the follow-up on the LAMS data sharing session be added to the action tracker.

RESOLVED:

- The action notes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021 were agreed.
- The action tracker was noted.

7. LOCALISATION UPDATE

(See document 3)

Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, highlighted the key points in the slides which had been circulated with the agenda. Karen Cheney, Head of Service – Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit, then added some further detail. The following were amongst the main points made:

- Between June 2020 and end of March 2021, 109 virtual ward meetings were held, with a total live attendance figure of 2,462 plus an additional 2,752 viewings of the NDSU YouTube recordings;
- In general, numbers have been higher for virtual meetings so this is a viable option going forward, perhaps with a combination of virtual and face-to-face meetings;
- There are now 52 completed ward plans and an interim priorities template has been produced for wards with no ward plan done, principally for the CWG Celebrating Communities Fund, as they have to align with ward priorities and plans;
- The 10 Pioneer Places across the city have continued virtually since lockdown;

- There are two short films on Pioneer Places to show to members, however due to technical issues these will be circulated after the meeting;
- The films celebrate good practice in pioneer wards and feature North Edgbaston Alliance and Moseley Together;
- Some of the things they have been able to do include offering training opportunities and also grants of £1000 have been made available and in the film Moseley talk about how they used their grant.

In the course of the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were amongst the main points raised:

- In terms of functionality, Localisation sits within the newly created City Operations under Rob James, however where things will ultimately sit is still being considered;
- Members acknowledged that the NDSU has done some good work and progress had been made on engagement, training and support, however what is lacking is directorate engagement ;
- The opportunity now exists to take this forward through the Localisation Star Chamber , with Cabinet Members and Directors invited to meetings with Cllr Thompson;
- A paper has been written and sent out to all Directors and officers will ask if this can be shared with committee members;
- Members stressed that it is not just about devolved pots of money, it is about transformational change;
- The CWG money is welcome and, as with other money made available in the past gets people interested in ward forum meetings, however the real issue is that the council as a whole has looked at occasional pilots but needs to be looking at these as a core part of shaping local services;
- It would be interesting to know what the stats are on the number of bids to see what the level of engagement is;
- Members queried whether each goal in the ward plans has a responsible directorate alongside it and were told that the NDSU has gone through all the priorities for each ward and put against them whether they are council priorities and the cabinet portfolio, so that if and when money is available to go out locally, what is needed begins to emerge;
- From members' point of view, it is about bending policy to the will of local communities – we are already spending on core services but it needs to be about local priorities;
- The purpose of the ward plans is to progress priorities throughout the year and it is good practice where they are reviewed to have a report back from the person noted against the action;
- A view was expressed that local councillors have local knowledge which is not tapped into;
- The three areas looking to have parish councils are in Perry Barr, Balsall Heath and the Jewellery Quarter;
- Stockland Green are looking for a Neighbourhood Plan (neighbourhood planning policy);
- Members felt that it was not always clear how to contact Relationship Managers;

- The Chair asked for the graduate placement report on Relationship Managers to be shared with committee members;
- The Chair will have a conversation with Cllr Thompson about calling Directors to O&S and the suggestion was perhaps this should be two months after their attendance at Star Chamber.

RESOLVED:

- The two short films about Pioneer Places to be sent to committee members;
- The graduate placement report on Relationship Managers to be shared with committee members;
- Officers to ask the Cabinet Member whether the Star Chamber paper sent to all directorates can be shared with committee members;
- Chair to have a conversation with the Cabinet Member about inviting Directors to O&S after they have been to Star Chamber;
- The report was noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document 4)

The Chair confirmed that regular sessions on Localisation would be included on the work programme so that the Committee could monitor and influence progress.

RESOLVED:

The work programme was noted.

9. DATES OF MEETINGS 2021/2022

The dates of meetings for the 2021/2022 municipal year were noted and agreed.

10. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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 1525 hours.