

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

<b>SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 2015</b>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY  
19 NOVEMBER, 2015 AT 1030 HOURS IN  
COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Alex Buchanan, Barry Henley, Timothy Huxtable, Brigid Jones, Changeese Khan, Mike Leddy and Eva Phillips.

**ALSO PRESENT:-**

Karen Cheney – District Head (Selly Oak)  
Inspector Andy Hodgetts – West Midlands Police  
Louisa Nisbett – Committee Services  
Steve Nyakatawa – Education Department  
Melvin Powell – Place Directorate  
Dave Prosser – Place Directorate  
Tina Richards – Place Directorate  
Mark Rodgers – Place Manager, Housing

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

307 The Chair advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://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.

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**APOLOGIES**

308 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Susan Barnett, Phil Davis, Rob Sealy and Phil Walkling.

An apology was also submitted on behalf of Steve McCabe MP.

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**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

- The correct spelling for the name of the new Senior Service Manager was Jonathan Antill.
- Councillor Huxtable expressed his concern about the overall drop in recycling rates by Wards and handed out copies of a written question to City Council on 15 September setting out recycling rates for Birmingham City Council. The Chair confirmed that Fleet and Waste was not an agenda item and she would pick up the issue following the meeting.
- Min 295 – Social Innovation Zone in terms of Healthy Villages – Councillor Huxtable informed that Darren Share had attended the last meeting to speak to users. He was still waiting for a follow up about progress with the Healthy Village. The Chair had attended a meeting regarding Healthy Villages and was awaiting further information which would be shared with Councillors. Councillor Huxtable asked the Councillors to contact Darren Share directly.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September, 2016, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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**HOUSING REPORTS**

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**A. Update from Place Manager**

A presentation was made to the Committee by Melvin Powell, Dave Prosser and Tina Richards, Place Directorate, highlighting the successes of the programme of works undertaken by the Street Scene team. The following points were made:-

- Some trainees had been taken on for 16 – 24 weeks.
- Place Managers had been in touch with Members with regard to their priorities for the Place Actions Plan, (now called Work Programmes). Members would receive the drafts by the end of the week.
- Councillor Huxtable expressed his disappointment about the lack of consistency with personnel in Bournville Ward as they were on the 3<sup>rd</sup> appointment of a Place Manager.
- The Chair stressed that the Work Programmes should be discussed with Councillors before the District Convention.
- Tina Richards said that the Street Scene was integral to the work programmes. An analysis was being carried out of the work done. Work had been done in conjunction with the College, Fleet and Waste and Regulatory Services.

- Councillor Huxtable asked that the Skip Day funded by the HLB due to take place in December be incorporated with the Street Scene.
- Councillor Brigid Jones welcomed the involvement of Enforcement with the road shows. Tina Richards added that there was a calendar of events for every Ward.

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**B. District Environmental Capital Works Budget**

The following report was submitted:-

(See document no. 1)

- The Chair commented on the approach taken to allocate the funding to Wards on a rota basis. She was concerned about the lack of figures for some of the schemes mentioning Middleton Hall Road in particular. Councillor Huxtable queried the location of Middleton Hall and asked for some more detail about the scheme.
- Councillor Huxtable referred to the death of Douglas Bate, HLB and said that the HLB had asked for approval to buy a memorial plaque and rename the room the Douglas Bate Room. He mentioned the lack of dropped kerbing in the vicinity and requested that the raised kerbing at Browning and Selly Towers be looked at.
- Councillor Huxtable asked for an update on Kipling Road Works. He was still awaiting information on the HLB funding allocation for Cotteridge and welcomed discussions outside the meeting with officers about Pineapple Estate.
- The Chair took the points made on board. It was agreed that Chair's action could be used to make progress.
- The work included the damage at Kenton Walk. In response to a request from Councillor Barry Henley, work at no 136 Meadow Lane would be included as a proposed project for the future. The Chair welcomed ideas for projects.
- Karen Cheney asked that it be noted that there was an increased budget for Selly Oak District and undertook to confirm a meeting date with Highways with Councillor Huxtable.

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**RESOLVED:-**

- i) That the progress in connection with the projects previously initiated at Appendix 1 be noted;
- ii) That the projects outlined at Appendix 2 be approved; and
- iii) That the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3 be noted.

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- iv) That the Chair be authorised to use Chair's action to make further progress.
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### **C. Update from District Strategic Housing Panel**

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Karen Cheney, District Head, Selly Oak gave an update.

- The meeting on 4 November 2016 had identified the key areas. There would be joint working with regard to the Welfare Reforms. There had been presentations in previous meetings. The key work for the next District Panel would be an update on licensing related to housing. The District was interested in additional licensing in the Bournbrook Area.
  - The Chair added that work would include the waiting time for universal credit, mapping of food banks, the Party Wall Act.
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### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE EDUCATION INFORMATION REPORT**

Steve Nyakatawa, Education Department made a presentation to the Committee using the following document:-

(See document no. 2)

During the discussion that ensued the following points were made:-

- Karen Cheney informed that a meeting had taken place the day before with Birmingham Educational Partnership. Councillor Barry Henley wanted more details about BEP and its funding etc. He was informed that there was a £1.8M contract with BEP and the 10 Districts were covered. BEP could be penalised if the contract was not met and the outcomes were monitored through the contract.
- Councillor Huxtable found the presentation interesting. He asked about future plans and school provision referring to the impact of the numerous housing developments, also the impact on the University in the Weoley Ward. The Chair said that a cross District approach should be taken as the children would not necessarily be from the District. Councillor Huxtable queried whether schools in the locality were aware of the Section 106 funds for future additional need. The Chair undertook to set up a meeting for a discussion if necessary.
- The Chair thanked Steve Nyakatawa for his excellent presentation.

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### **RESOLVED:-**

That the presentation be noted.

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### **POLICING RESTRUCTURE**

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Inspector Hodgetts gave an update on policing matters:-

- The 3 key areas were crime, anti-social behaviour and police officers in communities. Crime figures were in line with the force. Anti-social order figures were in line with other Districts in South Birmingham. There had been an improvement to anti-social behaviour figures.
- Inspector Hodgetts did not have the data for police officers in the community to hand. Staff dealt with more issues in Selly Oak District than the other 2 Districts combined. They worked with key stakeholders on a Ward basis. Some Wards had a good relationship with schools. They had received some negative feedback from schools and this had been taken on board.
- There were continual reduced resources. Despite temporary losses to personnel they still worked to agreed service delivery levels.
- Councillor Eva Phillips was concerned about further cuts especially the impact of the cuts to PCSO's. Inspector Hodgetts clarified that the number of PCSO's would be halved during the coming 12 months depending on the demands of communities. He would report back to the District when there was further information. The Chair pointed out that the District relied heavily on PCSO's for prevention work and anti-social behaviour.
- Councillor Alex Buchanan felt that the system was not working as well as he had hoped and this was bad for the community. He had difficulties receiving a response from the police after telephoning 101 to report an incident. He was disappointed in the response he later received. Councillor Alex Buchanan felt that schools were not receiving support to address parking problems and was not happy with the lack of local policing.
- Inspector Hodgetts undertook to look into the incident and report back to Councillor Alex Buchanan. He would take back the issue of negative feedback from schools however they were engaging with schools and had had some success. The issues would be raised at the next Police Panel on 24 November, 2016.
- Councillor Alex Buchanan spoke about less police officers in the area. The priorities were Dawberry Road, Yardley Road and Bournbrook Road area.

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### **UPDATE ON DISTRICT WORK PLAN**

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Karen Cheney, District Head gave an update as follows:-

- New style Ward meetings had taken place in each Ward.
- Jobs and Skills Plans were now a requirement for the District. A Jobs and Skills Panel would be set up. A seminar had taken place for all Districts at Aston University.
- A District Convention was now also a requirement. Councillors had received information on Stirchley Baths on 28 November. The format of

the Convention had been similar to previous ones with workshops on a thematic basis to feed into work plans.

- The Neighbourhood Challenge for the District was Jobs and Skills. The first planning meeting was on 11 November to discuss the key issues of connectivity, audit the major businesses, look at the pathways of schools and talk to young people to get their views. The next meeting was on 8 December at Stirchley Baths. The Community Plan was due in the new year also an update on governance issues in the District.

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### **STIRCHLEY BATHS**

An apology was received on behalf of Kate Andrews. Karen Cheney presented the item. Copies of a document had previously been sent to Members:-

(See document no. 3)

- Karen Cheney emphasised that this had been a long term project with a lot of people involved in bringing the building back into use for the community. They had been keen to keep as much of the interior as possible. The clock and some of the stonework had been restored. Karen Cheney gave a background of the funding for the project from Heritage Lottery Funding and noted the importance of the keeping the heritage of the building.
- The first event was planned for 28 November. The role of the building was to facilitate activities and there were 2 spaces in the building for local enterprises to use. The formal opening was on 14 January 2016 by the Deputy Leader a programme would be sent out in due course.
- The Chair would pass on thanks to Kate Andrews for the work involved.
- Councillor Huxtable was impressed that contractors had learned new skills whilst involved in the project.
- Karen Cheney confirmed that residents would be able to come in and log onto the system for Neighbourhood Advice and Service. A lot of thought had been given into the pricing for the cinema.

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### **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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### **FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS: BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK**

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It was noted that the District Office would move to Stirchley Baths the following Friday.

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### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

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None raised.

**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS**

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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 1234 hours.

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CHAIRPERSON