

Ladywood District Committee –
20 September, 2016
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE – 20 SEPTEMBER, 2016

**MINUTES OF THE LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY,
20 SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3 & 4, COUNCIL
HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Ziaul Islam in the Chair;

Councillors Tahir Ali, Sir Albert Bore, Kath Hartley, Nagina Kauser,
Chaman Lal, Yvonne Mosquito, Sharon Thompson and Sybil Spence

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

NOTICE OF RECORDINGS

318 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.

APOLOGIES

319 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Afzal, Carl Rice and Chauhdry Rashid also from David Newman, West Midlands Fire Service.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - LADYWOOD

320 **RESOLVED:-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July, 2016 having been previously circulated, be agreed and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The following appointments were made:-

West Side Partnership Ltd (Business Improvement District) - Councillor Albert Bore

South Side Partnership Ltd (Business Improvement District) – Councillor Victoria Quinn.

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RESOLVED:-

That the following appointments be confirmed to the organisations listed below for the 2016/17 Municipal Year;

1. Corporate Parenting - Councillor Champion – **Councillor Sharon Thompson**
2. **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**
 - d) Retail Birmingham Ltd (Business Improvement District) – **Councillor Kath Hartley**
 - e) Colmore Business District Ltd (Business Improvement District) – **Cllr Bore**
 - f) Southside Business Ltd (Business Improvement District) – **Councillor Victoria Quinn**
 - g) Soho Road (Business Improvement District) – **Councillor Chaman Lal**
 - h) Jewellery Quarter (Business Improvement District) – **Councillor Hartley**
3. **CHAMPION/ LEAD MEMBER ROLES**
 - a) Environmental Champion – **Councillor Kath Hartley**
 - b) Health & Wellbeing – **Councillor Sybil Spence**
 - c) West and Central Community Safety Partnership – **Cllr Kauser, Cllr Thompson and Cllr Hartley** as equal Members. (Suggested that consideration be given to a representative being appointed from the Nechells Ward)
 - d) Youth Champion – **Councillor Nagina Kauser**
 - e) District Jobs and Skills Panel – **2015/16** representative Councillor Yvonne Mosquito
 - f) Housing Champion – **2015/16** representative Councillor Carl Rice

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1 2016-2017

The following report was submitted:-

(See document no. 1)

The following narrative was submitted:-

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(See document no. 2)

Kate Foley presented the report and reported that the performance targets had all been met. During the discussion and in response to questions the following points were made:-

- Management of ASB – There had been 153 new cases received, 2 hate crimes. Both had been resolved. 99% of cases had been met on time the target was 100%. People could opt to use the self service and sometimes the information was not included. 162 cases had been closed successfully.
- Percentage of high and low-rise blocks rated good or better – 82 of high rise blocks were good or better, 99 of low rise were satisfactory
- 'Lodgers in Occupation' for more than 12 weeks – There were 9 cases over 12 weeks old.
- Introductory tenancies over 12 months not made secure – This was 2.1% and all were owing to rent difficulties. There was the option to extend the introductory period.
- Conditions of estates – This was an average of 26.7.
- Voids – Kate Foley was no longer responsible for this. Ladywood had an average days turnaround of 23.2.
- Repairs – No District breakdown of the new contract period was available at present.
- Councillor Bore noted that gas services were below profile and pointed out that gas services were a critical issue from a safety prospective. The aim should be to achieve 99% of the target.
- High rise blocks and block cleansing - Councillor Bore asked why 82% for Ladywood District was lower than most other Districts and requested that an explanation of the 82% be emailed to all the Councillors. There were 12 high rise blocks in Ladywood District and there were significant challenges in managing a big estate. There were issues around design and cleaning. The day the inspection took place made a big difference to the figures. Kate Foley and staff were involved with residents with regard to standards. This took time to implement and was a challenge for Ladywood. Councillor Bore felt that it could be that insufficient resources were directed at Ladywood.
- Kate Foley informed that she was in contact with colleagues from the Asset Management Team and each quadrant had a single supplier to deal with all gas repairs. Officers from the Asset Management Team had indicated that they were happy to attend a future District Committee.
- Councillor Lal referred to page 52 of the report. There were concerns about gas repairs. He had received complaints from residents that they were not given sufficient time to answer the door and by the time they got to the door the

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gas personnel had left. Tenants should be given a telephone contact for gas personnel and the time of expected arrival.

- Kate Foley advised that the team had taken up the issue of residents receiving notification from the Gas Safety Team. There had been difficulties with the system and letters had been automatically generated.
- Councillor Tahir Ali asked the current position with the new contractors and asked whether there were minimum standards for the availability of hot water eg a resident had no hot water for 3 days. Kate Foley replied that she could send the schedule to the Committee. She could not comment on the individual case however it appeared to be a service failure.
- Councillor Islam added that Contractors had been awarded a contract for specific areas.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

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Tony Quigley, Head of Waste Management attended the meeting to explain the work being undertaken by his Service. During the discussion the following points were made:-

- The Waste Enforcement Unit is part of Environmental Health and they worked closely with partners. They did proactive work to engage local residents and educate them how to deal with waste.
- An eye witness was required for them to take enforcement action and they could not bring action against a household. The cost of carrying out an investigation was just under £500. Cases could go to the Magistrate Court or Crown Court. There was a case in Aston where one family had flytipped 42 tons of waste. Despite some difficulties there had been an increase in investigations. People sometimes reported offences but were reluctant to give evidence in court for fear of reprisals.
- Other work included dealing with issues in gardens and rogue traders. They had powers to cease vehicles but they could not issue fixed penalty notices.
- Councillor Lal thanked officers for attending a college to deal with flytipping during the last few months.
- In reply to a comment Tony Quigley said the problem with skips was a Highway Department issue.
- A registration scheme relating to waste was being developed for Landlords. They could ask a Landlord to clear away rubbish on their land. Dumped rubbish acted as a magnet for more rubbish.

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- Councillor Spence felt that the landlord should be held responsible when a tenant left a property leaving rubbish behind and added that whoever lived in a household was responsible for rubbish from that household. Councillor Spence said that when areas were cleared of flytipping, rubbish was dumped again on the same day. If a camera was placed at that location people tended to dump the rubbish elsewhere.
- Tony Quigley replied that the inadequacies in the legislation was frustrating but they did their best taking a holistic approach, educating residents and businesses to work together to improve their area. Businesses were checked to ensure they had the correct contract for their trade waste.
- Councillor Lal thanked Tony Quigley for the briefing. He said that the 16 cameras in the neighbourhood were inadequate and asked whether there were any more available. Councillor Lal suggested that the cameras be moved to the hotspots accordingly. He referred to people scavenging other peoples refuse bags then dumping them. A targeted approach was needed in particular for clothes banks.
- Tony Quigley informed that it was a policy decision to remove glass bottles banks. Clothing and textile banks were under contract with the City. There had been some negotiation about removing clothes banks on the highway. Further information should be available in November.
- There was legislation related to human rights and cameras. There was a significant cost and burden related to installing a camera and the cost for a camera was about £12,000 each plus running costs, licence fee and updates. The amount of cameras in the location was about right. Additional cameras were not feasible owing to lack of resources.
- Councillor Tahir Ali said that the role of officers in different Departments in the District could be broadened to pick up the issues, mentioning Enforcement, Highways and Housing officers. He stated that there were many officers that wanted to take action but were prevented from doing so. Tony Quigley answered that there was some training taking place for different services for officers. They had also looked at cross delegations. Enforcement training was lengthy and not as simple as it seemed as there were implications when dealing with enforcement issues from a criminal point of view. Officers in Regulatory Services had undertaken years of training. The majority of residents in the city wanted to comply however there was lack of knowledge. The Officers knocked on doors to speak to residents and resolve problems.
- Councillor Sharon Thompson asked that the positive effect the use of enforcement had achieved in the Soho Ward be placed on record. Residents wanted to get involved. She queried how many of the 500 investigations undertaken were from Ladywood District. Councillor Sharon Thompson also asked how Councillors and the community could engage with the Council and also queried the legislation related to metal collectors.
- Tony Quigley undertook to circulate the enforcement figures for Ladywood. The Licensing and Public Protection Committee report included figures broken down to Ward level.

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- Metal Collectors were now required to be registered and to dispose of materials correctly. Households could take items to the recycling centre free of charge, a bulky waste collection could be arranged for up to 6 items for a charge of £25. The cost could be shared with Neighbours if they had something to be collected. Some streets regularly arranged bulky waste collections.
- A newsletter had been produced for waste prevention. It was in different languages and it used pictures to show the correct way to deal with waste.
- Councillor Kauser welcomed the report and queried what measures were in place if no evidence could be found of who had dumped rubbish. Tony Quigley replied that rubbish on the public Highway was cleared by the service. They had received a number of complaints where it was on private land and in alleyways etc. During a recent search of rubbish an address of an individual had been found and it emerged that they had paid someone to remove the rubbish, however they had dumped it instead. Commercial businesses will be taken to court. It was the responsibility of landowners to clear rubbish from their land.
- Councillor Hartley had written to a number of residents new to Ladywood District, she was also attending a meeting the following Friday. She asked that an information card or flyer be provided as useful tools for Councillors to include with their casework information to residents. This could include the day of waste collection. Councillor Hartley noted that some dumping was done by professional tippers clearing out houses however there was still a domestic issue. Councillor Hartley asked if any comparator figures were available for people who had arranged bulk collections before and after the charges had been introduced in order to assess the impact the charges had made. Tony Quigley requested that Councillor Hartley send an email setting out the questions for him to forward to the Waste Prevention Team for a response.
- The Cleaner Streets Campaign have a project board looking at Logos etc to use for a voluntary scheme that people could join. They had considered ways to encourage businesses who were disposing of their waste correctly. Communication was key and they would be sending out newsletters etc.
- Councillor Islam said that residents in Aston Ward were happy with the services provided which were much improved. Councillor Islam thanked Tony Quigley for attending the meeting.

CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP

324 A meeting of the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership had been arranged for today, however a lot of apologies had been received. The Local Innovation Fund (LIF) had been introduced. The Chairman will give regular updates from the Committee.

Councillor Lal questioned why another layer of Councillors had been appointed to deal with the fund, without consulting all the Councillors as it could have been done within the current structure. He questioned the added value of the appointments. Councillor Spence agreed with Councillor Lal and the Chairman said that he could ask the question on behalf of the Committee.

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WARD UPDATES

325 The following updates were noted:-

- The Chairman for Aston Ward had not been well but had requested that the work programme be sorted out.
- Councillor Lal reported that Soho Ward had held a successful multi-agency action day together with Soho Bid, Enforcement, West Midlands Police etc. in attendance to engage with residents and involve them in tackling local issues. Councillor Thompson added that they had discussed issues on the day and the Cabinet Member had attended as well as a number of officers. They were pleased that partnership and engagement had started and residents were involved and keen to lead on issues.
- Ladywood Ward were considering the 4 October, 2016 as the date for the Ward Forum meeting. They could meet informally to discuss the Ward Boundaries, as they felt they were losing a lot of the large neighbourhoods and give an update.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

326 The following schedule of future meetings were received and noted:-

Tuesdays at 1400 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House:

22 November, 2016
24 January, 2017
21 March, 2017

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

327 It was noted that Superintendent Andy Beard was no longer the representative from West Midlands Police on the Ladywood District or Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership.

AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

328 **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 1530 hours.

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Chairman