

## **DISCLAIMER**

**The attached minutes are DRAFT minutes. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.**



## AGENDA ITEM 4

# Bristol City Council

## Minutes of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

17<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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**Councillors:** Denyer, Fodor, Harvey, Hickman, Lovell, G Morris, Milestone, Negus, Tincknell

**Officers in Attendance:-**

Claudette Campbell - Democratic Services Officer, Alison Comley - Strategic Director Neighbourhoods, Richard Fletcher - Area Manager Parks, Romaine de Fonseca – Policy Officer (Scrutiny), Jane Houben – Investment and Grants Manager, Pam Jones – Service Manager Environment , Kate Murray – Head of Libraries , Di Robinson, Service Director – Neighbourhoods and Communities

**1. Confirmation of Chair for municipal year 2015/16**

The Commission noted that at its meeting on 26th May 2015, Full Council appointed Councillor Anthony Negus as Chair of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

**2. Election of Commission Vice Chair**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Councillor Lovell be Vice Chair of the Commission for 2015/16

**3. Membership of the Commission**

The Membership of the Commission was noted as listed on the Agenda.

**4. Apologies for Absence, Substitutions and Introductions**

None

**5. Terms of Reference**

The Commission noted the Terms of Reference agreed by Full Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## **6. Public Forum**

The following Statements were received and are held as a public record on the Minute Book.

### **Questions:**

### **Statements:**

- 1. Gary Hopkins – Agenda 16 – Getting to Grips with Waste**
- 2. Mark Revill – Agenda 12, 14 & 16 Closure of Libraries and Services**
- 3. Eileen Morris – Agenda 12 – Wick Rod Library and proposed Community Resource, Brislington**
- 4. Rob Telford – Agenda 12 – Bristol Waste Company**
- 5. Jacky Payne – Agenda 12 – Save Westbury Library Action Group**
- 6. Alan Preece – Agenda 12 – Closure of Westbury Library**
- 7. Rosanne Carwardine – Agenda 12 – Wick Road Library**

**RESOLVED – The statements were noted.**

## **7. Declarations of Interest.**

**None**

## **8. Minutes of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the commission held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

## **9. Action Sheet 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

The commission noted and reviewed the action sheet relating to the 26<sup>th</sup> April meeting.

**RESOLVED – that the Action Sheet be noted.**

## **10. Whipping.**

None reported.

## **11. Chair's Business.**

- Chair asked that everyone adopt first name when addressing those present.
- The assumption would be that reports have been read by Members and the officers will then move into questioning and scrutinising.
- Members to address matters citywide rather than on local ward issues to bring balance for those wards not represented on the table.

## **12. Libraries of the Future**

The Commission was joined by Mayor George Ferguson to hear the public forum statements. The statements were received prior to the presentation of the report.

The commission then received a presentation from Alison Comley, Strategic Director Neighbourhoods and Di Robinson Service Director for Neighbourhoods.

A copy of the presentation is included on the Minute Book.

The Chair Cllr Negus, expressed his disappointed that the report was in presentation format and not in written format for scrutinising and felt that it did not give an opportunity for proper scrutiny.

The Chair, invited the Mayor to address the Commission prior to the presentation. He explained that the presentation was preferred to a written report in order to give an opportunity for comment before formalising matters in a report. He reminded those present that due to budget pressure a change must happen and that currently the ration of libraries to population is higher than average. He expressed concern for the staff members who were subject to an extend period of uncertainty because of the delay in the final decision. He confirmed that he was prepared to agree the move of the report from August Cabinet to September/December.

The following issues were highlighted during the presentation:

Di Robinson spoke to the presentation to be circulated to the Commission.

The following revised proposal was noted from the presentation:

The revised Proposal for the Library Service:

- Retain the majority of the libraries in the current settings and build improved, relevant, innovative services onto a strong base
- Close one library building and seek to move that provision to a more suitable location to service community needs
- Make equitable reductions in opening hours across all libraries to deliver the savings whilst maintaining a strong base of a minimum of 20 hours opening per week to build on

- To deliver the above a reduced level of savings is required from the Library Service
- No library should fall beneath a 20 hour baseline provision
- Propose closure of Eastville Library and its relocation to the Lockleaze area to explore the potential of being a community hub
- The options for reductions;
  - Option 1: 30% reduction in opening hours for all those above 21 hours
  - Option 2: 25% reduction for all those above 21 hours
  - All 28 libraries are open for 20 hours per week; Central library reduced by 1 day; Lockleaze provision likely to be provided outside of the traditional library building; Avonmouth increase in opening hours from 13 to 20.
- Opportunity to increase access and extend opening hours with swipe card technology
- Savings will be reflected in the reduction of staff.
- Work being done to strengthen the future service
  - Develop volunteer programme
  - Developing community models of service delivery
  - Technology upgrades
  - Building improvements

In response to the members' questions the following was noted.

- a. The rationale behind the closure of Eastville Library was based on;
  - It not being in a good location with little or no passing footfall and very difficult parking
  - Very little 'local ownership'
  - No potential for BCC or Partner service provision to use it due to the poor location and access
  - With the expansion of housing in Lockleaze and surrounding areas an opportunity to develop community hob
  - Working towards the closure by 1<sup>st</sup> April
- b. The Capital Budget spend is to be divided amongst all libraries. Many library proposals would consume the available fund on one library therefore match funding would need to be sought to meet development needs.
- c. The Mayor and Officers confirmed that the budget savings not realised from the library service would impact across all other directorates.
- d. Members agreed that a decision on the two options could not be made during the current meeting in a rational manner and a further meeting was required to consider the Libraries involved. Also to study the responses to the consultation.
- e. Officers confirmed that full proposal for development of each library is an ongoing discussion and would not be available in the coming weeks. A

decision on the baseline position is required at Cabinet to give assurance to staff of their future options.

- f. Members acknowledged the hard work done during the consultation period by staff, thanking staff and all those who took the time to input. They viewed the consultation as being extensive and well executed.

**Resolved:**

- **That it be noted that, with the agreement of the Mayor, the Cabinet Report on this issue will be moved to the Cabinet meeting in September**
- **That it is agreed that a Special meeting of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission meets in August 2015 to fully discuss the proposal**

**13. Introduction to Neighbourhoods**

The Commission received an Introductory presentation from the Strategic Director and Service Directors of the Neighbourhoods Directorate for the benefit of the new members of the commission.

**14. Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Prospectus – Vision and Principles**

Members were asked to comment on the vision and principles.

Joanne Holmes from the Barton Hill Settlement addressed the Commission commenting on the consultation process. She expressed that the general view from the sector was that they felt they were 'listen to' by the city council. The way forward demonstrates a genuine sharing of risk between the VS and the city council with the provision in the new vision and principles for working allowing both parties to be jointly responsible for the outcomes and impact on the City. She particularly commended the work done with the University on the principles of 'co-design' and officers willingness to re-think issues and situations in line with this principle.

The following issues were highlighted:

- A Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Grants Prospectus Working Group has been established with members from the VCS and the Council, to co-design a new strategic 'prospectus' approach to VCS grant funding

- Work to date has focussed on the development of the vision and principles for this approach. The Working Group wants the draft vision and principles to be shared with a wider audience (the VCS, council and with other organisations, including equalities voice & influence) in order to extend the conversation. This is not a formal consultation but it is intended to reflect on any feedback from this 'testing point' and further develop the prospectus approach before opening it up to a full consultation in November 2015.

Set out below is a summary of the main points raised/noted from the discussion that followed:

- a. Members noted the reference in the report to reputation risk. The report was viewed as 'refreshing and thought provoking'.
- b. Members requested the sharing of the proposal to a wider group than those who normally engage in funding applications to allow wider participation.
- c. Members sought further assurances that local community groups would be involved as the proposal allowed for 'a level playing field'. Suggesting that the proposal is presented Neighbourhood Partnerships. **(Action – DR)**
- d. Members further requested that the proposal document be revised into plainer English to aid understanding as it was felt to be complex in certain sections. **(Action – DR)**

**Resolved: that the report be noted.**

## **15. Tackling ASB in Parks and Green Spaces**

The Commission considered the progress and outstanding issues regarding the adoption of new byelaws for Bristol's parks and green spaces.

The following issues were highlighted:

- The Bye-laws report will go to Full Council in September
- More time is required to consider how bye-laws will be enforced and what resources both the Council and the Police will have to do this.
- More time is required to ensure that the communications plan helps and supports the public to understand the impact and application of byelaws.

Set out below is a summary of the main points raised/noted by the Commission:

- a. Members directed that local park groups would be involved in the continued discussion about parks and green space creative usage.

- b. Members also sought clarity on the issues being addressed and the position with regards enforcement.

**Resolved: that the report be noted.**

## **16. Waste – Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Commission was asked to consider the following aspects of waste that need to be considered as part of the work programme and agree the appropriate methodologies to deliver the right outcomes :

- Follow through on the recommendations of the 2 waste Enquiry Days held by Neighbourhoods and Place in the last municipal year
- Scrutiny of the performance of the newly established Bristol Waste Company
- Development and consideration of the models of future service delivery for the waste collection contract
- Reconsideration of the current waste strategy and how as a city we improve performance
- Scrutiny of the procurement content for waste disposal contracts

Pam Jones, Service Manager attended to address the procurement of the waste disposal contracts.

- 105,000 tonnes of residual waste (pa) collected and not recycled.
- 53,600 tonnes (pa) to Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant with New Earth Solutions (NES) until 2020
- 52,000 tonnes to landfill
- 40,000 of this is managed by Boomeco under a one year contract and the remainder of 12,000 to landfill via SITA due to expire in May 2016
- Arrangements need to put in place for when one year Boomeco agreement ends
- Procurement contract needs to begin for dispose of around 52,000 tonnes of waste (currently 40,000 Boomeco and 12,000 Landfill)
- The NES contract ends in 2020 the aim to implement a short term contract to align with an end date of 2020. To allow a longer term contract for the whole amount of tonnage. Work needs to commence on the procurement preferences
- The immediate decision is to procure the interim provision for when the contract ceases in May 2016.

Set out below is a summary of the main points raised/noted from the discussion that followed:

- a. The Chair proposed that the four leads meet to discuss the four recommendations contained in the report which would then inform the need to procure the interim waste disposal contract. **Action: RdF/PJ**
- b. Officers were working on a time line of just under 9 months and would require Member input in the coming weeks.



**Resolved:**

- i. **That the 4 Leads meet and discuss the recommendations contained in the report with Officers to inform the process.**
- ii. **That the item be scheduled for a further meeting.**

**17. Work Programme**

The Policy Officer highlighted the schedule detailing the forward plan for scrutiny meetings. The lead members at future planning meetings will agree adjustments to the plan.

**Resolved: That an Additional Meeting be set up in August 2015 for Libraries of the Future**

**18. Date of Future Meetings**

**The following dates were noted (all with a start time of 10.00am)**

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	

**The meeting ended at 12:50**

**Chair**