



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY AND PLACE SHAPING
POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2018
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Economic Development, Education, Community and Place Shaping Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held on Monday 19 November 2018 at 6.30pm at **Westminster City Hall, 5 Strand, London WC2 5HR.**

Members Present: Councillors Karen Scarborough (Chairman), Geoff Barraclough, Danny Chalkley, Christabel Flight, Elizabeth Hitchcock, Andrea Mann, Eoghain Murphy and Tim Roca.

Co-opted Members: Rebecca Carrigan, Ryan Nichol, Simon Atkinson, Marie Holmes and Miles Ridley.

Also present: Councillor David Harvey (Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Community) and Councillor Richard Beddoe (Cabinet Member for Place Shaping and Planning)

Apologises: Sian Maddrell.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 It was noted that Marie Holmes had substituted for Sian Maddrell.
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Councillor David Harvey (Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Community) and Councillor Richard Beddoe (Cabinet Member for Place Shaping and Planning) to the meeting.
- 1.3 The Chairman advised that the Cabinet Members would be attending the meeting until 7pm tonight in order to attend Cabinet Briefing. Any questions that Members had regarding their portfolio would be placed on the Committee's Action Tracker.
- 1.4 The Chairman welcomed John Trow-Smith, London Early Years Foundation, Elizabeth Hillyard, Tachbrook Nursery School and Marie Holmes, The Grey Coat Hospital School who took part in the discussion on the School Organisation and Investment Strategy.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 No further declarations of interests in respect of items to be discussed were made, other than those noted in the circulated schedule as set out below in paragraph 2.2.

2.2 Table of Member's interests tabled at the Committee Meeting was as follows:

Councillor/Member of the Economic Development, Education, Community and Place Shaping P&S Committee	Organisation	Nature of Interest
Simon Atkinson	St Stephen's Primary School	Headteacher
Geoff Barraclough	Dorothy Gardner Centre	Partner is a Governor at the school
Rebecca Carrigan	All Souls Primary School	Parent Governor
Danny Chalkley	Burdett Coutts School Foundation	Trustee
Elizabeth Hitchcock	St Andrew's Club	Trustee
Marie Holmes	The Grey Coat Hospital School	Bursar
Miles Ridley	St Peter's Eaton Square School	Headteacher
Ryan Nichol	St Gabriel's Primary School	Parent Governor
Tim Roca	Paddington Academy	Governor
Karen Scarborough	St Vincent's School	Governor
	St Mary of Angels	Governor
	Young Westminster Foundation	Trustee
	St Marylebone Almshouses	Trustee

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

- 4.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member who responded to questions on the following topics:

- the consultation on the Markets Strategy which aimed to help markets thrive and the proposed changes to street trading licence fees and charges.
- the ActiveWestminster Strategy and the plans to build on existing work around 'ActiveStreets with it becoming a key #MyWestminster project.
- the future SEND pupil projections and capacity within Westminster schools.
- the importance of tackling isolation and loneliness through the Family and Community Learning Partnership.
- the opportunities for including financial data in reports.

4.2 ACTIONS

1. The Committee requested a briefing note on the Active Streets Pilot.
2. The Committee requested a briefing note on whether 'Active Minutes' in Westminster's schools had increased in the past year.
3. The Committee requested a briefing note on the next steps for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Westminster.
4. Councillor Harvey to arrange a meeting with Councillor Barraclough to discuss the data/financial implications for particular services.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE SHAPING AND PLANNING

- 5.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member who responded to questions on the following topics:

- the parking facilities available in the Oxford Street Delivery Plan.
- the benefits of the Government's recently published proposals to remove permitted development rights for new phone boxes.
- the allocation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for projects.

- the City Plan, the Mayfair Neighbourhood Plan and Park Lane.
- the commencement of the Berkeley Square project.

5.2 ACTION

1. The Committee requested an update on the Berkeley Square project.

6. SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2018

- 6.1 The Committee received a report on the School Organisation and Investment Strategy 2018, which provided details on place planning, projected pupil numbers, spare capacity and opportunities for providing new school places.
- 6.2 The Committee heard that the data used to obtain the information for the Strategy was collected from the 2011 Census and from the GLA School Roll Projection Service. The Committee heard there was still currently a small surplus of primary school places and that the Council was in discussion with all schools to identify opportunities to develop a collaborative approach to ensure future viability. The Committee noted that the Strategy anticipated the increasing need for additional secondary school pupil places and the flexible approach Westminster was taking to provide these places in the future.
- 6.3 The Committee discussed the following issues:
 - the creative ways and principals that would guide Westminster in providing more secondary school places within Westminster.
 - the opportunities to work with academy sponsors to assist in delivering additional secondary school places.
 - the additional secondary school places that had already been created at St George's school and Westminster City and the expansion projects at King Solomon Academy and Pimlico Academy.
 - the work carried out by the Admissions Team on encouraging parents to make realistic preference choices on their school admission form
 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision and the possibility of SEND units being located in Westminster's mainstream schools.
 - the secondary population trends and cross border movement and the popularity of Westminster's Outstanding Secondary schools,
 - the capacity and admissions criteria of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation UTC.
 - the financial issues facing Primary schools that were exacerbated when a school was not at full capacity and the creative ways to use school resources.
 - the impact of Regeneration Schemes, Universal Credit and Brexit on school places across London.

6.4 **ACTIONS:**

1. The Committee requested that they receive regular updates regarding the potential expansion of Pimlico Academy (particularly Professor Ryan and Councillor Andrea Mann).
2. The Committee requested a briefing note on the capacity/admission criteria of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation UTC.
3. The Committee requested to see the report commissioned on staff turnover in Westminster's schools.

6.5 **RESOLVED:** The Committee concluded with the following comments, which would be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education, and Community:

1. The Committee welcomed the work that had already been undertaken to provide additional secondary school places and noted that further consideration still needed to be carried out on the different options of how to provide the necessary school places in the future.
2. The Committee encouraged that, due to the small surplus of places in primary schools in Westminster and financial issues being exacerbated when a school is not at full capacity, primary schools be encouraged to be creative when meeting these financial challenges. This can include solutions such as letting or renting school spaces to external organisations and sharing resources amongst schools, including headteachers/teachers/equipment.
3. The Committee highlighted the need for the Admissions Team to continue sharing knowledge and supporting schools regarding encouraging parents to make realistic preference choices on their school admissions form
4. The Committee suggested that carrying out comparisons with other local boroughs to learn from their strategies and improve existing practices could be useful.

7. **EARLY YEARS**

- 7.1 The Committee received a report providing information on Early Years Funding and the Government's Free Early Years Education Entitlement, both nationally and in the context of Westminster City Council.
- 7.2 The Committee welcomed witnesses from London Early Years Foundation (LEYF) and Tachbrook Nursery School who outlined the work of their organisations. The Committee heard that there were four maintained nursery

schools in Westminster and that LEYF was a charity and social enterprise operating 37 nurseries across 10 London Boroughs.

7.3 The Committee then discussed the following issues with the witnesses:

- the work of the Quality Assurance Team and how they supported and assured good quality Early Years Provision within Westminster.
- the scope for sharing knowledge from outstanding maintained nursery schools to other providers in the sector.
- the current funding allocations to providers delivering universal and additional entitlements for 3-4 year olds and disadvantaged 2 year olds.
- the importance of regular and continuous Early Years education for all children and especially for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- the reasons why the take up of the 30 hour a week extended entitlement may be significantly lower than initially anticipated (benefit reforms and restricted mid-term starts at provision).
- the importance of providing good quality flexible childcare/childminders for parents.
- the high proportion of SEND children that attended maintained nursery and the support and balance that needed to be achieved between maintained and private provision so children could attend their local provision.

7.4 The Chairman thanked everyone who had given up their time to attend the meeting and contribute to the discussion

7.5 **ACTION:**

1. The Committee requested a briefing note outlining how the Early Years Team would be updating their operational procedures.

7.6 **RESOLVED:** The Committee concluded with the following comments, which would be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education, and Community:

1. That a review of data around eligibility to the free entitlement to nursery provision be carried out and reported back to the Committee.
2. That the Committee receive the updated childcare sufficiency data once available in Spring 2019.
3. That outstanding nursery schools within the City share knowledge or lessons learnt with other nursery providers, especially around provision for nursery pupils with SEND.

4. That the Committee endorsed the importance of early intervention in a child's development and that lobbying for the continuation of funding for this important area was essential to maintain good Early Years provision.

8. ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKERS AND COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKERS

- 8.1.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Action and Recommendation Trackers be noted.

8.2 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

8.2.1 RESOLVED:

1. That the Work Programme be noted.
2. That a Working Group be established to investigate Access to Culture within the City.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

- 9.1 The meeting ended at 8:38pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____