

**Third meeting of the H&F Disabled People's
Commission**

**Held on 21st November 2016 in the Courtyard Room,
Hammersmith Town Hall**

Present:

Tara Flood (Chair)
Jane Wilmot
Patricia Quigley
Kate Betteridge
Victoria Brignell
Ali Buhdeima

Apologies:

Martin Doyle
David Isaac
Mike Gannon
Ramona Williams

Cllr Vivienne Lukey, Cabinet Member for Health and
Adult Social Care

Also present:

Cllr Sue Fennimore, Cabinet Member for Social
Inclusion

David Burns, Head of Housing Strategy

H&F Officer Support:

Peter Smith, Head of Policy & Strategy
Fawad Bhatti, Policy & Strategy Officer
Kevin Caulfield, Policy & Strategy Officer (Disability
Commission)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1.1 Tara welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ali Buhdeima to colleagues present.

1.2 Before reviewing the actions, Tara asked Commissioners if there were any errors or changes they would like to make. She had spoken to Cllr Lukey who had advised her that the reference on page 3 to the “Procurement Strategy” should actually be the “Carer’s Strategy”. Peter advised that there appeared to be more than one reference so the whole document will be revised.

1.3 Review of actions:

Tara and Kevin to draft and circulate survey questions

Tara informed Commissioners that this was on the agenda and will be covered later in the meeting.

Tara and Kevin to draft a short survey for councillors & senior managers

Tara advised this will also be discussed later in the meeting.

Kevin to look at results of consultation on the Procurement Strategy

As discussed earlier, this was actually the consultation on the Carer's Strategy and Kevin had made contact with the lead commissioner to progress things.

Tara & Kevin to prepare a list of proposed success measures for next meeting

Tara said she had been ill and had not been able to do this yet but will send round to Commissioners next week.

Commissioners to consider the focus of a joint meeting with the Poverty & Worklessness Commission

Tara advised that Tom Conniffe, the Council officer responsible for co-ordinating the Poverty & Worklessness Commission was happy to come along to our next meeting in December but a meeting was being organised for both sets of Commissioners in February 2017. Christina Smyth, the Chair of the Poverty & Worklessness Commission had agreed to come to our meeting in February.

Cllr Lukey to share new Cabinet Member priorities with the DPC once agreed by the Leader

Peter said that the Cabinet Member priorities are currently being finalised but should be ready to present at the January meeting. Tara asked that this action is carried forward accordingly for any update.

Peter to discuss Housing report with relevant officer and invite to next meeting and to organise pre-meeting with Tara and Mike. Cllr Lukey to discuss with Cllr De'Ath, the ERHA PAC chair

Tara mentioned that David Burns, the Head of Housing Strategy, is present and we will discuss the planned housing strategy report as it is on the agenda.

Fawad to talk to Sports Development colleagues about the Sports and Leisure Strategy

Fawad advised the draft strategy had been presented at a Policy & Accountability (PAC) meeting on 16th November. Action on Disability had commented on it at the meeting and the online consultation is open until December.

Link :

https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section_attachments/draft_cspan_strategy_update_2016_pac.docx

Cllr Fennimore said that there was a big focus on accessibility and encouraged Commissioners to respond to the consultation. Jane asked if Action on Disability had commented on the draft strategy. Fawad responded that they had and they were present at that PAC meeting.

Tara to discuss DPC relationship with Social Inclusion Forum with Cllr Fennimore

Because of busy diaries, Tara said she had not been able to organise this but would try to have a chat at the end of the meeting.

Peter to discuss Future Waste and Street Cleansing report with relevant officer

Peter had spoken to the Head of Waste Management, Kathy May, who was happy to come along to a meeting if it was thought necessary but the report that had been

picked up by the DPC at the previous meeting was a performance report that had emerged from a Futures Board meeting.

Tara's personal view was that this particular issue may not be a productive use of the Commission's time and recommended not having it on as a future agenda item.

Kate said that disabled people were not able to fully access outdoor places sometimes because of wheelie bins etc.

Peter questioned whether the responsibility for where bins are left, before and after collection, is that of residents or the contractors.

Tara then suggested if we could ask Kathy May if there was a way of raising these issues for disabled residents.

Action: Kevin to make contact with Kathy May.
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Cllr Fennimore added that there is an issue with fly-tipping in the borough and that this is a London-wide problem. Evidence pointed to turnover in the private rented sector as a key cause. Waste Management are on to the issue and Cllr Harcourt, for whom this is part of his Cabinet portfolio, is reviewing arrangements with Serco. The issues with the planning of new housing units which are going to be built also needed to be considered. Agreed with Tara that the Commission should focus on other things rather than looking at waste management in any great detail.

Tara, Kevin and Peter to meet to develop draft work plan
Tara mentioned this was also on the agenda.

Ramona to speak about the DPC at the IDDP event at the Lyric Theatre on Saturday 3rd December

Tara had an update to share with colleagues at the end of the meeting.

2. Draft Work Programme

- 2.1 Tara talked through the 6 priorities and asked Commissioners for their views. These were the activities we need to do (broken into deliverable actions) to get our final recommendations into the party manifestos for the 2018 elections. Tara asked if there was anything obvious missing.
- 2.2 Victoria thanked Tara and Kevin for their commitment to lead on many of the actions and asked if other Commissioners could help share the burden. Kevin proposed that we keep things as they are for the moment but he would be happy to share the load over time. Commissioners were reminded that Mike Gannon had come forward to lead on Housing.
- 2.3 Tara added that if anyone is passionate about any of the activities then to let her or Kevin or Peter know. She proposed that the Commission use the previously presented “key decisions” paper to help plot what areas they want to work on.

- 2.4 Jane proposed we put in an action in the Priority 5 section (Workforce/Cllr engagement) around selecting priorities for different Commissioners to focus on.
- 2.5 Tara asked Commissioners to consider who they want to invite to talk to the Commission and suggested Action on Disability, Safety Net People First and Deaf Plus to begin with. Ali raised his concerns around Deaf Plus's capacity due to a loss of funding and the closure of its local office.
- 2.6 Tara asked Kevin to talk to Safety Net People First, so we can get an accessible version of the work plan on the Council website. Kate agreed to provide support to Kevin.

Action: Kevin to contact Safety Net People First regarding work plan and to start to look at developing a Council webpage for the Commission.

- 2.7 Peter explained the Policy Development Framework diagram to Commissioners. Some commissions have a brief that aims to influence policy development at all levels: national, regional and local. The Council's Cabinet is the executive decision making body. At the borough level, policy development is also a function of the PACs (Policy and Accountability Committees), which have a role that extends beyond scrutiny.
- 2.8 The HASCSI PAC (Health, Adult Social Care & Social Inclusion PAC) is the body that this

Commission will report into before Cabinet. There are also specific task groups alongside the PACs such as the Social Inclusion Forum, chaired by Cllr Fennimore and the Health & Wellbeing Board, chaired by Cllr Lukey.

2.9 Jane asked how best to ensure that the Commission can have an influence on Cabinet Member decision making. Cllr Fennimore said that, because she has such a wide and cross-cutting brief, the Commission can use her as a conduit into the Cabinet. She advised Commissioners not to get too bogged down in the way the Council works and to focus on the development of its recommendations, rather than the process by which these will be incorporated into council policy.

2.10 Peter mentioned that there are other Commissions in development, such as the Older People's Commission and the Biodiversity Commission, which don't yet feature on this framework diagram.

3. Housing for Disabled People

3.1 Tara looked forward to this piece of work and advised she'd had a good pre-meeting with David and Kevin, talking about homelessness issues and inclusive homes. It would be good for David to hear about housing issues from disabled people.

3.2 David said the Housing for Disabled People Strategy had been on the Council's Forward Plan and it would go to the ERHA (Economic

Regeneration, Housing and Arts) PAC in 2017. The remit of the strategy is being scoped at the moment, but is expected to cover:

- Access to services including homeless prevention and advice;
- The operational service by LBHF as a landlord;
- Supply of new homes.

David is looking for advice from the Commission around access to services around the prevention of homelessness for disabled people and housing advice. The Council is a landlord to disabled people and there are many support services commissioned by the Council.

3.3 David explained that, in the development of a new strategy, normally the Council might conduct a series of workshops across different Council departments, then bring external providers of specialist housing together and then service users and councillors. The Commission can usefully support the strategy development process by providing research and information.

3.4 The first draft of the Strategy will be published and will have a related action plan.

3.5 Jane mentioned a group that looks at planning issues that she is a member of and suggested that they might like to invite David to a future meeting.

- 3.6 David said that 90% of new homes have to be built to adaptable standards and 10% of new homes must be built to accessible standards.
- 3.7 Victoria asked how many disabled people were on the waiting list for social housing and also what the Council's own targets were for this. David replied that he didn't have the information at hand but could find out. He is aware of certain quotas, e.g. for people with complex needs or for young people with learning disabilities seeking independent accommodation.
- 3.8 Patricia asked how many housing units were accessible for disabled people? David replied that there are around 800 sheltered housing properties but he would have to find out how many are accessible. The accessible housing register needs to be maintained and updated by key individuals providing information.
- 3.9 Tara asked about Disabled Facilities Grants and what the situation was regarding waiting times. Inclusion London had recommended that these grants should be increased in line with inflation. The Strategy should reflect this as well as qualitative and quantitative analysis of "DFGs".
- 3.10 David advised that Nilavra Mukerji was the responsible Director for Housing Services and will involve him in this. He will also talk to Finance colleagues. The Council new-builds will be built in line with the "Lifetime Homes" standard.

- 3.11 Tara asked if there was going to be a review of what “affordable” means. Minimum wage families would struggle with those homes defined as affordable at £450k. There is an opportunity for H&F to pioneer something. David emphasised the fact that the Council’s rents are 25% market rents, which are some of the lowest in London.
- 3.12 David mentioned that the Mayor of London has a new guidance document on affordability and there will be new grant funding for the “London Living Rent”, which would be 30% of median income in wards.
- 3.13 Patricia asked how many units were available in private and social housing to buy or rent over the next couple of years. David replied that there was data available, some local and some from the Greater London Authority (GLA) as there are records on different types of tenure. There is less information on Private Rented Sector turnover.
- 3.14 Cllr Fennimore added that it was a complex picture but roughly H&F properties are 1/3rd owned, 1/3rd private rented and 1/3rd social rented. Current developments being built are a result of the previous Administration’s planning agreements with developers. She recommended David and Commissioners talk to Lee Fitzjohn who heads the Insight & Analytics Team, who could provide valuable information on this topic.

Action: Kevin to contact Lee Fitzjohn

3.15 Tara reminded colleagues that the Commission plans to hold public consultation events next year and no doubt housing will be an issue for disabled people.

3.16 Victoria asked if there were national guidelines for a proportion of social housing for wheelchair users. David replied that, as he mentioned earlier, usually for new developments, 10% of homes must be built to fully accessible standards. Unfortunately, this doesn't look backwards.

3.17 Ali had lived in a block of housing previously and had to rely on the speaker system in lifts. This caused him major problems as a deaf person and he had unsuccessfully requested visual indicators. Jane said that all intercom systems should have visual as well as audible indicators.

3.18 Ali added that deaf people struggled to contact the Council as it was difficult for them to communicate by phone.

3.19 Tara will share the Inclusion London report she had referred to earlier as there were lots of recommendations on public housing.

Action: Tara to share Inclusion London report

3.20 Kevin stressed the impact of benefit cuts. More and more disabled people are being evicted from their

accessible homes and disabled people's income was effectively down 29% since 2008. David said the Government's Homeless Reduction Bill is likely to put additional burdens on Councils but will also be an opportunity to see where we are at.

3.21 Tara thanked David for coming to the meeting and will try and put him in touch with Mike Gannon, the Commissioner leading on Housing. Tara looked forward to disabled people feeding in to the new Strategy as it develops.

Action: Tara to put David in touch with Mike

4. Baseline Survey Questions

4.1 Tara advised that she'd had a conversation with Kevin and Peter around getting the survey questions right. She wants to be able to benchmark where disabled residents, Councillors, staff and Commissioners are at the moment but doesn't want to rush these things as she wants to ensure that the most useful information is collected. Draft questions will be shared at the December meeting.

4.2 Kevin said it would be good to involve Council staff in the design of the survey and he would be getting Lee Fitzjohn's advice.

4.3 Victoria requested that we use language people can relate too and avoid being formal.

5. DPC Webpage Content

- 5.1 Tara informed colleagues that each of the other Commissions has their own webpage on the Council website where Terms of Reference, the Work Programme and other papers can be shared with residents. Some even have photos of Commissioners, individual and group. We need to get something up quickly with our contact point being Kevin.
- 5.2 Victoria asked if there should be an online forum where people can let us know about their issues. Tara replied that we have to be careful that people don't think we can resolve their specific issues. She proposed that a group photo be taken at the December meeting for possible uploading to a webpage. Peter mentioned that the Air Quality Commission has short biographies for each Commissioner, something that could be included on a webpage for the Disabled People's Commission. Patricia felt that before the Commission meets the public, they should be able to find out who we are so they can put a face to a name.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 Tara advised that the dates of the next HASCSI PACs are 12th December and 13th January. Tara also shared information about the International Day of Disabled Person's event on Saturday 3rd December. Ramona had previously agreed to represent the Commission at the event but now

couldn't attend. Victoria agreed to talk about the Commission at the event.

- 6.2 Tara also mentioned that there was an event being organised for Council staff at midday on 5th December, where they can meet Commissioners.
- 6.3 Tara thanked colleagues that had sent her their contacts and the various networks they were part of. At the next meeting, we will invite people from disability organisations and ask them to highlight areas of good practice. A pre-meet could be arranged for 4pm to go through any questions the Commission might have for them. The focus should be on local organisations but perhaps Inclusion London could provide some strategic input. It was agreed to see who is available and possibly to split the interviews over the December and January meetings.
- 6.4 Kevin advised that Kamran Malik from Action on Disability is available for the December meeting.

Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 14 December, Dawes Road

Wednesday 1 February, Dawes Road

Monday 13 March, Small Hall, HTH

DPC/LBHF

November 2016