

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Minutes of a meeting held on 21st November 2007
Starting at 6 pm

Present:

Councillor Colin Bloom (Portfolio Holder)

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

There were no public questions.

33 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Reference was made to Minute 29 'Youth Divert Fund - Applications' and the Portfolio Holder reported the following action in respect of the two applications deferred consideration of at the last meeting:

Kelsey Park Sports College – Creating Cohesion, Challenging Conflict: a further review of this application had taken place and the Portfolio Holder was satisfied that it met the approved criteria and the grant of £5000 was therefore approved.

Bromley Somali Community Association – Youth Outreach application for grant of £4,360. This was considered to be more related to the work of the Children & Young People services and would be referred to the CYP Portfolio Holder for consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Holder meeting held on 26th September 2007 be confirmed.

34 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PORTFOLIO PLAN UPDATE Report ACS07194

At the Portfolio Holder's meeting on 27th March 2007 (Minute 58 refers) the Portfolio Plan for 2007-08 had been adopted. The Plan built on the policy and financial priorities outlined in "Building a Better Bromley" with particular emphasis on 'Safer Communities'. It contained a series of 10 Key Outcomes each area of which included a further set of aims and objectives with associated targets.

The Portfolio Holder received an updating report showing the progress made during the past six months against each of the 10 Outcomes and also highlighting areas for further action.

RESOLVED that the activity identified within the report and progress made so far be noted.

**35 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PORTFOLIO BUDGET UPDATE
Report ACS07193**

Further to Minute 7 (30th May 2007) when the Portfolio budget allocations for 2007/08 had been agreed, the Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report setting out the latest budget position. This included the initiatives funded, the funding allocation, predicted spend and predicted variance at this stage of the year. In the majority of cases full spend was expected but a total variance of £45,000 was predicted by the end of the financial year. The specific areas showing a variance mainly related to budgets where grants were made based on applications for funding. The Portfolio Holder commented on the reduced number of applications so far this year and supported the proposal to invite applications from interested groups.

RESOLVED that

1) the proposed expenditure identified within the budget for 2007 – 2008 and associated new initiatives agreed in the year, be noted;

2) the predicted variance in the allocated budget heads be noted;

3) the following actions proposed to address the predicted variance in budget be approved:

i) the Portfolio Holder to write to all Chairman of Safer Neighbourhood Panels and other interested groups to promote the availability of Youth Divert Funding and Safer Neighbourhood Development Grant;

ii) the prioritisation of projects to promote reassurance and improved communication will be considered when allocating the identified variance; and

iii) ‘one off’ capital expenditure projects be identified that further the aims and objectives of the Portfolio Plan in order to ensure the most relevant use of unallocated funds.

**36 UPDATE ON BROMLEY ‘PROOF OF AGE’ IDENTITY CARD SCHEME
Report ACS07190**

The Portfolio Holder received a report on the progress with the Bromley Proof of Age identity card. This scheme would provide retailers with a means of identification which they could be confident was entirely legitimate.

Retailers could accept the card in the knowledge that it had been properly produced and issued to the majority of 16-18 year olds in education in Bromley.

The project was being Managed by Trading Standards who would liaise with other departments and agencies. At this stage the contractor, Euclid Ltd, had been selected and all schools in the Borough were being contacted about its implementation with the intention to launch the initiative in the Spring of 2008. Discussions were also being held with Libraries and Leisure Services to include membership data so that the card could be used as a Library card. This could also, subject to discussion with Bromley Mytime, allow discounts on entry fees to leisure establishments for card holders similar to those currently available to Library card holders.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the project and looked forward to its roll out across the Borough next year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**37 LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT 2007 S.75 – REGISTRATION OF MAIL FORWARDING BUSINESSES
Report ACS07191**

Following the Royal Assent given on 19th July 2007 to the London Local Authorities Act 2007 new controls on mail forwarding businesses had been introduced. Mail forwarding business were required to register with the Council and keep records of persons using mail forwarding and holding services for the appropriate time and have them available for inspection. The new legislation would assist Trading Standards Officers in their pursuit of investigations into rogue traders.

This report would also be submitted to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee at its next meeting in December who would be asked to formally adopt the provisions on behalf of the Council for implementation in January next year. The Portfolio Holder fully supported the adoption of these new provisions to assist in the key aim of reducing the level of acquisitive crime including business crime.

RESOLVED that the General Purposes & Licensing Committee on behalf of the Council be requested to adopt the provisions controlling mail forwarding businesses under Section 75 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007.

**38 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY 1ST APRIL – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2007
Report ACS07189**

The Portfolio Holder received a report, which has also been addressed to the Public Protection and Safety (PP&S) Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committee, on the range of enforcement and regulatory functions carried out by the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division. The report

covered the first six months of the council year. The PDS Committee had made no specific comments for the Portfolio Holder but had asked to receive further reports every six months and requested the officers to include certain additional information.

The Portfolio Holder commented on the excellence of the work being done by the Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and further reports be submitted every six months.

**39 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY
Report ACS07181**

Consideration was given to a report summarising the latest budget position for 2007/08 based on expenditure and activity levels up to September 2007. The report had been submitted to the Public Protection & Safety Policy Development & Scrutiny (PDS) Committee at its earlier meeting who had made no specific comments for consideration by the Portfolio Holder. At this stage it was noted that a small underspend of £25,000 was projected in connection with Licensing.

RESOLVED that the latest budget projections indicating a small underspend be noted.

**40 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRANT - APPLICATIONS
Report ACS07197**

At the Portfolio Holder's meeting on 30th May 2007, it had been agreed that a Safer Neighbourhood Development Grant of £100,000 be made available for the purpose of making Bromley a safer place. In addition to this agreement the Terms and Conditions of Grant had been approved.

The Portfolio Holder considered one application that had recently been received from Cray Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Panel seeking a grant of £2,800. This was in respect of an Accountable Alcohol Sellers Pilot project to help reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the Ward. The aim was to identify the source of the alcohol from which premises it was being purchased in the Ward. The Portfolio Holder expressed his full support for the project.

It was noted that the unallocated budget in 2007/08 for Safer Neighbourhood Development, minus the above amount, was £78,000 and as discussed in Minute 35 above the opportunity to submit applications for this grant would be promoted.

RESOLVED that funding for the above application as detailed in the report, be agreed.

**50 YOUTH DIVERT FUND - APPLICATION
Report ACS07196**

The Portfolio Holder at his meeting on 30th May 2007 had agreed that a Youth Divert Fund of £50,000 be made available for the purpose of making Bromley a safer place. The core focus of this fund was the provision of diversionary activities for young people designed to prevent the onset of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

The Portfolio Holder had received an application for grant funding from the Bromley Common and Keston Safer Neighbourhood Panel in respect of a grant for the M2 Youth Club for a sum of £4,500. It was hoped to increase the range of activities at the Club to attract more young people. Councillor Bloom advised that he intended to defer consideration of this application to enable him to visit the Club before coming to any decision.

RESOLVED that consideration of the above application for funding be deferred.

**60 CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PDS
COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS – BOROUGH BEAT**

There were no specific comments forwarded from the PDS Committee meeting and the Portfolio Holder had been in attendance during the discussions. However, the PDS Committee had received a very interesting presentation on the possible introduction of a Borough Beat Scheme which members from all parties present had unanimously supported and recommended to the Portfolio Holder. Whilst it was not on the agenda for this meeting the Portfolio Holder requested officers to prepare a report for future consideration of the practicalities of introducing a scheme in Bromley, which as it had implications for all service departments might more appropriately be submitted to the Executive for deliberation.

The meeting finished at 6.04 pm.

Councillor Colin Bloom
Executive Portfolio Holder for
Public Protection & Safety