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## **EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8 January 2014**

### **15 UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN**

Updates from the following meetings are attached –

- Environment PDS Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013
- Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013

*Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from*  
[www.bromley.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/meetings)

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Environmental Services PDS Report: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

The November ES PDS meeting considered a number of items:

The main aspect of the budget report was the increased costs due to Environment Agency's (EA) new advice that all leaf material from the road & pavement should be considered as contaminated and could not be composted. The cost of disposal into incineration or landfill was an additional £140K, it was not possible to absorb this within the department's budget. Whilst there is a central contingency for street cleaning (of £200K), that was intended to cover necessary additional street cleaning (such as extra deep cleans) rather than changes due to regulatory advice. The PDS's view was the £140K should be drawn from the general corporate contingency rather than the specific central street cleaning contingency (there was no presumption that the specific central street cleaning contingency would be required in 2013/14). The PDS asked the department to explore other disposal routes (such as composting in parks, to avoid the food chain) and whether the EA would accept a risk based approach based on street hierarchy.

The PDS supported the transfer of the Waste & Recycling Centres' site supervisor function (2 posts) to Veolia to allow efficiencies at those sites and achieve the 2013/14 budget savings.

The Street Enforcement Contract currently runs at a small net cost to the Council (a loss). Whilst the service is valued, it cannot continue to run at a loss long term. An extension of the project was supported (to May 2014) which was projected to run at a smaller net loss. In this time the service model would be reviewed and negotiations held to design an appropriate service to operate from June 2014 at no net loss to the Council. For example some Councils achieve a higher collection rate than Bromley.

The PDS considered a traffic scheme on the A224 that continues the PDS's priority of reducing congestion across the borough.

The PDS reviewed the shared parking service progress report. Based on the first 6 months operation the move to the shared service was projected to save £20K more than originally projected p.a. (£114K from £94K).

The PDS meeting then scrutinised the progress of the Portfolio Plan & Portfolio Holder. The main items of discussion were waste, street works, street cleaning (mainly leaf collection), issues with the street lighting replacement contract and parking. It was noted that the street cleaning contractor had completed their first satisfaction survey under the new contract and returned a 75% resident satisfaction service. This represented an improvement over the typical results from the previous council wide 'place' surveys, despite the new service operating at reduced cost.

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**The Renewal and Recreation Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee Report to E&R**  
**Last meeting 26 November 2013.**

**Cotmandene and Mottingham Learning Shops**

Members were informed that agreement had been reached for the Council to continue funding both Learning shops for the next financial year. Long-term funding would be considered at some point in the future.

**Business Plan 2013/14 monitoring Report for Quarter 2.** The report outlined progress made towards the delivery of actions agreed in the Plan and identified actions as priorities for delivery in Quarter 2.

The development proposals for **Bromley Valley Gymnastics and Cotmandene sites** was designated amber because officers had been looking at the broader range of Council services and those of Council partners ie. GP surgeries etc. in the area, to ascertain whether or not a multi-hub was required. This had had caused delays in the process. Members would receive an update in the New Year.

**Invest Bromley event,** the Head of Renewal reported that a workshop had been organised which highlighted the lack of office space within Borough. An Article 4 Direction restricting the change of use from office to residential use was authorised by the Development Control Committee at its meeting in October. There were current proposals to expand office policies to encourage further development of sites for office use. Councillor Tickner stated that the office rental market was decreasing and due to a variety of reasons including staff hot-desking and working from home, there would not be a great demand for take-up of offices. The Chairman suggested that this was something which could be monitored. Councillor Morgan disagreed and referred to Bromley as a first class location for office development, in particular, around the area of Bromley South railway station. Councillor Dykes had been approached by residents asking where they could acquire office accommodation. Councillor Michael stated that the recession was coming to an end and there would be a demand for office space once the economy improved.

**BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT STRATEGY FOR TOWN CENTRES** Following the successful Business Improvement District (BID) ballot leading to the establishment of the Orpington 1st BID, Members considered the feasibility of extending the BID approach to other town centres in the borough - specifically the potential for implementing BIDs in Bromley and Beckenham town centres.

The Chairman commented that the proposal was an 'invest to save' opportunity and was the way forward for town centres. However, there were issues for smaller town centres where the costs associated with collecting money would counteract the costs coming in. Members agreed that traders were more likely to be interested in establishing BIDs once the Council had proved its commitment to traders by completing its own programme of improvement works.

**TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT NOVEMBER 2013** Members received an update on activities undertaken by the Council's Town Centre Management and Business Support Team since September 2013. The report also summarised priorities to the end of January 2014. Martin Pinnell, Head of Town Centre Management and Business Support reported on the success of the Penge pop-up market in Maple Road, Penge. A further pop-up market was planned for December 2013.

Referring to the Business Support Programme (page 81), the Chairman congratulated Mr Pinnell on the success of the workshops and seminars which were attended by over 80 local business people (which exceeded the proposed attendance target of 50).

Councillor Morgan reported that following completion of the programmed work in East Street, a couple of shops had unexpectedly been let.

**TOWN CENTRES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members considered the progress achieved in delivering the Town Centres Development Programme. With regard to **Site F: Civic Centre**, Members were informed that a report on options for the short term use of Anne

Springman and Joseph Lancaster blocks was being prepared and would be considered by Cabinet before submission to the Executive Committee.

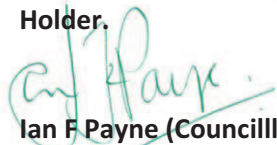
Planning permission for **Site L: Former DHSS site**, was granted on 6 October 2013. Subsequent to this, the Council was informed that the site had been sold to the Education Funding Agency and it was anticipated that a bi-lingual school would be located into the current buildings. Stage One of the Bromley Bilingual School consultation will last for six weeks and will run from 21 November 2013 until 3 January 2014 and asks for opinions on a range of features of the school including its proposed location, curriculum, size and admission criteria. A public information meeting will be held on Saturday 23 November 2013 from 14:30 to 15:30 in the Chapel Room at Bromley United Reformed Church, 20 Widmore Road. As a Free School, planning permission for change of use would not be required to occupy the site for the first year. If the use continued for longer than one year, then a light touch 'prior approval' regime would operate where the local planning authority could only consider noise and traffic impacts. To date no prior approval application had been received in respect to the Free School on the site. The Chairman commented that the Council had a duty of care to ensure children were safe and would welcome a traffic assessment in this respect. A briefing paper on the outcome of this would be provided in due course along with a paper to the Portfolio Holder which would form the basis for a Council response to the Stage One consultation.

**Referring to Site G: West of High Street**, discussions were still taking place with Muse Developments. Once concluded, the development programme could progress. The Chairman suggested that a presentation on the proposals could be given to Members by Muse Developments in April 2014. It was anticipated that the Crest Nicholson site would go ahead and the scheme would be completed in 18 months' time. Issues surrounding affordable housing were currently being negotiated.

#### **RENEWAL AND RECREATION PDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (NOVEMBER 2013-APRIL 2014)**

With regard to a future report on the proposed regeneration of Crystal Palace, The Assistant Director reported that Arup had been retained by Mr Ni. An event to work on development of the scheme was scheduled for 10 December 2013. The Leader of the Council was holding various meetings with the four other London Boroughs and further information would be available to Members in January 2014. It was generally felt that Arup had been slow to engage in local discussions and needed to recognise the vast diversity of local communities. The Director of Recreation and Renewal had written with his concerns on this issue. A two-page engagement strategy had been received from Arup and the first round of consultations would continue until February 2014. The first drop-in consultation session would be held in the café in the triangle area followed by sessions in Penge, Anerley and Sydenham.

**Members considered Mytime Active's Annual Report for 2012/13 and made recommendations to the Portfolio Holder.**



**Ian F Payne (Councillor)**

**Chairman**

**Renewal & Recreation PDS Committee**