

TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Bromley is to be held in the Council Chamber at Bromley Civic Centre on Monday 29th March 2010 at 7.30 pm which meeting the Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend.

Prayers

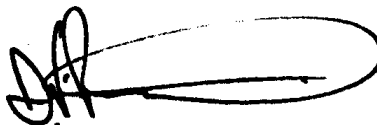
A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th February 2010 (Pages 3 - 36)
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given.
- 5 Oral questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.
- 6 Written questions from Members of the Council
- 7 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.
- 8 Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 (Pages 37 - 46)
- 9 Standards Committee - Appointment of Independent Members (Pages 47 - 52)
- 10 Report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee 16th February 2010 (Pages 53 - 60)
 - i) Members Allowances Scheme 2010/11
 - ii) Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges
- 11 Minor Constitutional Changes (Pages 61 - 68)
- 12 Annual Policy Development and Scrutiny Report 2009/10 (Pages 69 - 110)
- 13 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.
- 14 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

To consider an item in respect of which resolutions have been passed under the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order 2006) and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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Chief Executive

**BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE
BROMLEY BR1 3UH
Thursday 18 March 2010
Vol.46 No.4**

Agenda Item 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held on Monday 15th February 2010

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Douglas Auld**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Gordon Norrie**

Councillors

Reg Adams
Graham Arthur
Julian Benington
Nicholas Bennett J.P.
Ruth Bennett
Colin Bloom
Peter Bloomfield
John Canvin
Stephen Carr
Roger Charsley
Martin A Curry
Peter Dean
Judi Ellis
Robert Evans
Simon Fawthrop JP
Peter Fookes
John Getgood

Rebekah Gilbert
Julian Grainger
David Hastings
Carole Hubbard
Brian Humphrys
S. Huntington-Thresher
W. Huntington-Thresher
Charles Joel
Mrs Anne Manning
David McBride
Alexa Michael
Peter Morgan
Ernest Noad
Tony Owen
Tom Papworth
Chris Phillips
Sarah Phillips

Denise Reddin
Neil Reddin
Catherine Rideout
Charles Rideout CVO QPM
Colin Smith
Tim Stevens J.P.
Harry Stranger
George Taylor
Brenda Thompson
Michael Tickner
Brian Toms
Pauline Tunnicliffe
Michael Turner
Stephen Wells
Colin Willetts

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Douglas Auld

55 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Katy Boughey, Mrs Hillier, Peter Hobbins and Karen Roberts. Apologies for lateness were reported for Councillor Fawthrop.

56 MINUTES

The Minutes of the special meeting, followed by the ordinary meeting held on 15th December 2009 were confirmed.

57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were advised that under the Code of Conduct they would not have a prejudicial interest in setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government and Finance Act 1992.

Those members who were appointed by the Council as Governors of local schools and members of the local government pension scheme declared interests.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP declared an interest as a member of Bromley Mytime Board which was in receipt of financial support from the Council. Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest as he had children at school in Bromley and his wife worked for the CYP Department. Councillor Joel declared an interest as a patron of Bromley Sparks and Bexley and Bromley Advocacy which organisations also received funds from the Council. Councillor Carole Hubbard declared an interest as a Trustee of Age Concern Bromley. Councillor Mrs Manning declared an interest as Ex-officio Chairman of the Carers' Organisations Group which received Carer's Grant via Carers Bromley. Councillor Morgan declared an interest as a Trustee of Bromley and Downham Youth Club, an organisation that received funding from the Council, and Councillor Turner also declared an interest as a Trustee of the same Youth Club.

58 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

59 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

These are attached at Appendices A and B.

60 STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, PORTFOLIO HOLDERS OR CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Two statements were made as follows -

Councillor Colin Bloom, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety, stated his deep concerns that recently another patient had gone missing from Bethlem Hospital whilst on escorted leave. The patient, who was considered by the Trust to be of low risk, had since been returned to the Hospital. Councillor Bloom urged the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Trust to attend the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee meeting on 17th March 2010 to outline the steps being taken by the Trust to ensure this situation was resolved satisfactorily. The Council would maintain pressure on

the Trust until their procedures and protocols, as well as their management supervision and controls were significantly improved. The Portfolio Holder also responded to various questions put by members.

Councillor Colin Smith, Portfolio Holder for the Environment, outlined the actions taken by the Council in purchasing additional supplies of salt following the heavy snows in February 2009 to be prepared for bad weather this winter. The Council was therefore in a very good position to deal with the snow before Christmas 2009 and he praised the work of the Environment Officers and contractors in dealing with the bad weather conditions. However, he considered that a far more reaching review should be carried out this year to ensure local authorities were making sufficient provision. The Portfolio Holder also responded to various questions put by members.

61 BUDGET (REVENUE AND CAPITAL) AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING - REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE 3RD FEBRUARY 2010

(1) 2010 Council Tax

A report of the Director of Resources amending the recommendations of the Executive concerning the Council Tax 2010/11 had been circulated which included the final position on levies as follows:

	£'000
London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA)	507
London Boroughs Grant Committee	1,046
Environment Agency (Flood Defence etc.)	219
Lee Valley Regional Park	405
Total	2,177

A motion to receive and adopt the recommendations, including revised recommendations (2), (4), (7) and (8), together with an additional recommendation (15) was proposed by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Arthur.

The following amendment to the recommendations of the Executive (as amended by the Director of Resources) was proposed by Councillor McBride and seconded by Councillor Adams-

“The proposed budget be amended as follows:

- (a) A saving of £105,000 be made in the cost of Members Allowances by the following measures:
- › Agree a 0% increase in members allowances;
 - › Scrap Executive Assistants;
 - › Cut the Leaders allowance by 10%;
 - › Cut the Portfolio Holders allowance by 10%; and
 - › Cap all other SRAs at £2,000.

- (b) By embracing modern media and the use of the internet for both general and recruitment advertising reduce the advertising expenditure by £100,000;
- (c) Reduce the Council's expenditure on drink and refreshments by £100,000;
- (d) As the first stage in a move towards the minimisation of the Council's use of paper in the committee system reduce member deliveries to 1 per week with a saving of £40,000;
- (e) An amount of £300,000, equivalent to part of the underspend in 2010/11, be set aside to reduce the council tax increase;
- (f) That a reduction of £100,000 be made in revenue expenditure on consultants;
- (g) In recognition of the short term nature of problem elements of the budget which are driven by the recession, such as loss of rental and parking income and low interest rates, £881,000 be taken from general reserves to support the budget in anticipation of future economic improvement.

As a result of these amendments, after allowing for the report of Director of Resources re item 8, the existing recommendations be amended as follows:

Recommendation (2)

A reduction of £1,626,000 is made in the proposed budget to reflect recommendations (a) to (g) above;

Recommendation (15)

A budgeted withdrawal of £1,181,000 from the General Fund Balances be approved for 2010/11 to support the 2010/11 revenue budget;

Recommendation (8)

That there is no increase in the "Bromley element" council tax for 2010/11 which, together with a nil increase in the GLA precept, results in no increase in Council Tax as follows:

Property	Split of Council Tax		Council Tax
	Bromley	GLA	
	£.p	£.p	£.p
Band 'A'	652.77	206.55	859.32
Band 'B'	761.57	240.97	1,002.54
Band 'C'	870.36	275.40	1,145.76
Band 'D'	979.16	309.82	1,288.98
Band 'E'	1,196.75	378.67	1,575.42
Band 'F'	1,414.34	447.52	1,861.86
Band 'G'	1,631.93	516.37	2,148.30
Band 'H'	1,958.32	619.64	2,577.96

On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST.

The following amendment to the recommendations of the Executive (as amended by the Director of Resources) was proposed by Councillor Getgood and seconded by Councillor Fookes -

“The proposed budget be amended as follows:

It is proposed that the following changes are made to the proposed revenue budget in 2010/11:

- (h) As an alternative to full funding from the revenue budget, a sum of £625,000 from general reserves be utilised to partly fund the provision for recession costs for 2010/11 only;
- (i) A sum of £500,000 be utilised from general reserves to meet the planned cost of elections of £500,000 (undertaken every 4 years) currently included in the draft 2010/11 Budget;
- (j) Cash limit Member allowances with no annual increase in 2010/11 resulting in savings of £16,000 in 2010/11;
- (k) A reduction in the number of councillors receiving SRAs resulting in savings of £18,000 in 2010/11;
- (l) That a sum of £200,000 from potential income arising from the recovery of VAT in previous years be set aside to reduce the council tax increase. If the VAT income is not forthcoming an equivalent amount be met from General Fund Balances;
- (m) That a sum of £267,000, equivalent to part of the underspend in 2010/11, be set aside to reduce the council tax increase;

As a consequence of the changes above the existing recommendations, after allowing for the report of Director of Resources re item 8, be amended as follows:

Recommendation (2)

That the draft revenue budget be reduced by £1,626,000 to reflect proposals (a) to (f) above;

Recommendation (15)

A budgeted withdrawal of £1,592,000 from the General Fund Balances be approved for 2010/11 to support the 2010/11 revenue budget

Recommendation (8)

That there is no increase in the “Bromley element” council tax for 2010/11 which, together with a nil increase in GLA precept, results in a nil overall increase in Council Tax as follows:

Property	Split of Council Tax		Council Tax £.p
	Bromley	GLA	
	£.p	£.p	
Band ‘A’	652.77	206.55	859.32
Band ‘B’	761.57	240.97	1,002.54
Band ‘C’	870.36	275.40	1,145.76
Band ‘D’	979.16	309.82	1,288.98
Band ‘E’	1,196.75	378.67	1,575.42
Band ‘F’	1,414.34	447.52	1,861.86
Band ‘G’	1,631.93	516.37	2,148.30
Band ‘H’	1,958.32	619.64	2,577.96

On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST

The recommendations of the Executive (as amended) were, after debate, put to the vote and CARRIED as follows:-

Recommendation (2)

The following further amendments be included within the 2010/11 Budget:

(v) a sum of £27,000 be added as a further contribution towards the additional costs of Freedom Passes;

Recommendation (4)

The draft revenue budgets be revised to reflect the amendments to recommendations (2) and (7);

Recommendation (7)

The following provisions for levies be included in the budget for 2010/11:

	£'000
London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA)	507
London Boroughs Grant Committee	1,046
Environment Agency (Flood Defence etc.)	219
Lee Valley Regional Park	405
Total	2,177

Recommendation (8)

An overall increase in Bromley's Council Tax of 0.94% be set which consists of approving a 1.24% increase for the "Bromley element" and a nil increase in the GLA precept as follows:

Property	Split of Council Tax		Council Tax £.p
	Bromley	GLA	
	£.p	£.p	
Band 'A'	660.87	206.55	867.42
Band 'B'	771.02	240.97	1,011.99
Band 'C'	881.16	275.40	1,156.56
Band 'D'	991.31	309.82	1,301.13
Band 'E'	1,211.60	378.67	1,590.27
Band 'F'	1,431.89	447.52	1,879.41
Band 'G'	1,652.18	516.37	2,168.55
Band 'H'	1,982.62	619.64	2,602.26

Recommendation (15)

A sum of £1.5m to be set aside as an earmarked reserve funded from the provision in the 2009/10 Revenue Budget for capital and one off initiatives for the following:

- (a) £1m for general member priorities relating to environmental initiatives;
- (b) £250,000 for remedial measures to deal with the problems created by adverse winter weather; and
- (c) £250,000 for a community fund providing investment to the community and voluntary sector as determined by Members.

(2) Capital Programme - 3rd Quarter Monitoring 2010/11

A Motion to approve the recommendations on the Capital Programme was duly proposed and seconded.

The Motion was CARRIED.

(3) Capital Programme Review 2009 and the Prudential Code

A motion to approve the recommendations on the Capital Programme Review and the Prudential code was duly proposed and seconded.

The Motion was CARRIED.

**62 REPORT OF THE RESOURCES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
TREASURY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT AND ANNUAL
INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2010/11**

A Motion to approve the recommendation on the Treasure Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy was duly proposed and seconded.

The Motion was CARRIED.

62 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE MAY BE GIVEN

There were no Motions.

63 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

A Motion approving the appointment of members to fill the vacancies on the Public Protection and Safety and Renewal and Recreation PDS Committees was moved, seconded and adopted.

The Motion was CARRIED.

64 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor thanked the Councillors and Officers who had attended or supported the Burns Night on 23rd January 2010 when a total of over £2,300 was raised.

He drew attention to three further Mayoral Charity events which were due to take place in aid of The Kent Association for the Blind. A Quiz Evening would be held in the Great Hall on Friday 19th March 2010. A Dinner Dance would take place at the Bromley Court Hotel on Saturday 24th April and a final Dinner at Trencherman's Restaurant on Wednesday 12th May 2010.

Mayor

The meeting ended at 10.33 pm.

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COUNCIL MEETING

15th February 2010

ORAL QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Willetts of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Having directly overseen LBB ownership arrangements in Longbury Close (on site -17 years ago) with Mr Eric Lett former Head of Committee Services I am perfectly aware of the ownership responsibilities without the aid of the diagram (received on the 27/10/09), since the Director of Environment stated (16/7/09) that I had approached weed control contractors to carry out weed spraying on a private road, followed by an apology at Full Council 29/6/09 by Cllr Carr ' there had been a typing error & it should have referred to a private area & not a private road which sat immediately "adjacent" to Longbury Drive'. i) Why couldn't you pinpoint on the diagram where I requested weed spraying to be carried out and forwarded this to me prior to the 15/12/09 so I could refer to it in my supplementary question at FC 15/12/09? ii) could you supply this information for FC 15/2/2010?

Reply:

The Portfolio Holder replied:

i/ Officers advise that the weed spraying sub-contractor for Kier (ESS) made contact with the weed spraying operative who worked around Longbury Close on the 30th June 2009 for the second application. Unfortunately the operative could not remember this particular incident or the specific location several months after the event.

ii/ No

Supplementary question:

Councillor Willetts said he was referring to an email sent by the Director of Environment and bearing in mind the Portfolio Holder's last response to Council which was negative, he suggested that the car park area in question did belong to LBB and was not a private road as indicated by the Director. Therefore he felt his original request for weed spraying was legitimate and asked if Councillor Smith was covering up for the Director's incompetence regarding the original email on this matter.

Reply:

Councillor Smith considered that it was a silly question and the answer was no.

2. From Councillor Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

How many police officers will be lost in Bromley as a result of the budget of the Mayor of London?

Reply:

The Portfolio Holder stated that he recognised the importance of Policing numbers to members and welcomed the robust scrutiny of both his Portfolio and the Safer Bromley Partnership. He asked for it to be noted that under Mayor Livingstone Bromley had just 467 Police Officers on its payroll whereas today under Mayor Johnson there were 510, an increase of nearly 10%. This was in no small part due to the intensive work done by this administration to secure more resources for our Borough. We want more and we think we deserve more, but although a lot had been achieved and there was still a lot more to do. However, when the polling data tells us that the fear of crime is falling and that our residents' confidence in Bromley being a safe place to be is rising, Members on this side of the chamber will take no lessons from members on that side about Police numbers.

Councillor Bloom reiterated Councillor Fookes' question and commented that it did not come as a surprise as it was exactly the same question that had been asked of colleagues in Bexley, Croydon, Wandsworth, Barnet, Ealing, Havering and in fact every other Conservative controlled London Borough by a Labour Member.

He explained that it was not a straightforward answer – it was complicated. At best we would either have more police officers on the street and perhaps at the worse it would be the same.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Fookes asserted that across London the actual loss would be 455 police officers. He asked whether the Portfolio Holder did not feel let down by Mayor Johnson over this matter because only a few years ago you were all out there petitioning in Bromley for an increase in police numbers.

Reply:

Councillor Bloom felt it was a pity that Councillor Fookes had tried to trip us up, rather than take the time to congratulate all the good work that had happened in his own ward of Penge. He had all the details to hand such as a 31% drop in certain crimes but would not go into detail as he was conscious of the time.

The Mayor of London's budget was approved, without amendment, by the London Assembly on Wednesday 27 the January. Over 70% of the £0.9 billion raised by the precept will go to the Metropolitan Police Service. Alongside that the Police Authority's budget requirement for 2010-11 is £2,673.3m, some £33m higher than that for 2009-10. There was no evidence to suggest that if Mayor Livingstone was still in City Hall, that he would have provided more money than that.

However, tough decisions have needed to be made across all public services resulting from the recession which would mean the loss of some 14 police officers over the coming three year period in our Borough. However, at the same time, and this was why it was complicated, the local service would drive forward a policy to provide more effective and efficient custody suite staffing regimes. The effect of this action would mean that more than 33 non uniformed staff members would be performing back office type functions which would release uniformed police officers to patrol the streets.

Therefore, as a result of these budget decisions and the management actions that have been made, it was possible that there might be more Police on the streets in Bromley than previously.

He commented that perhaps the member would like to take the opportunity to join in thanking Boris Johnson for the 10% increase in Police that we have had already; acknowledge the amazing work done by the Safer Bromley Partnership and his own Safer Neighbourhood Team in Penge, and congratulate the Borough Police Commander for reorganising his back-office functions to free up even more police to get out onto the front line.

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What is the result of his investigations into the possibility of providing 'continental' style dog waste litter bins which have a lid to prevent the escape of noxious smells?

Reply:

Research had indicated that there were a number of manufacturers that supplied dog waste litter bins with either a chute depositing system or a basic lid operation that allowed the user to deposit waste easily and cleanly. It was claimed that the chute operating system also minimised odours from inside the bin escaping into the air outside.

Whilst provision was made within the Borough's parks and amenity areas for dog waste bins, it was not current policy to install such bins on the highway for general use. In moving forward, a Member Working Party would be established to review the provision of the street cleansing contract and consideration would also be given to the feasibility of installing dog waste bins on the highway. It would need to take into account the expense of additional emptying, the provision of new bins and the associated environmental hazards as well as the views of residents.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett indicated he did not have a supplementary question.

4. From Councillor Willetts of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Could you tell me why Affinity Sutton/BHA operatives are removing fly tipped rubbish from LBB footways/highways on the Leeson Estate- Robin Way, Hawkinge Walk, Farrington Avenue, Wynford Grove & Selwyn Place?

Reply:

Councillor Smith advised that he could not tell the member why Affinity Sutton may have been removing fly tipped rubbish. Officers had spoken to Affinity Sutton and they agreed that their operatives should not be removing fly-tipped rubbish from LBB footways or highways, also that they had not been doing so (nor were they placing it there awaiting collection if that was the suggestion).

The Portfolio Holder said he would be extremely interested in seeing any evidence which the member or anyone else might have to support what was being suggested.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Willetts said he was surprised to be told by a Keir operative not to remove dumped rubbish on Council footways on the estate. He commented that tenants were being 'double whammied' by being charged by Broomleigh for the removal and also paying for it in their Council tax. He asked what advice Councillor Smith would give to those tenants and residents.

Reply:

Councillor Smith responded that the advice he would give to both the member and his local residents was to follow the excellent example set in Cray Valley East where community leaders were undertaking a huge programme around civic pride and self help that was an inspiration to other parts of the Borough. He encouraged 'taking pride in your area and not being afraid of getting "stuck in" and help' which he felt was very much the future way forward.

5. From Councillor Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

When will ward statistics be available for street cleanliness?

Reply:

The Portfolio Holder reminded the member that as mentioned in January 2009, when he asked a very similar question, there were no plans to do so at present. The software research and officer time it would take to manage in such micro level of detail being loosely estimated to cost somewhere in the region of £30,000 - £40,000 to set up and maintain.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Fookes said he was disappointed with the response because as the Portfolio Holder was aware ward members in Penge did regularly receive complaints about the level of street cleanliness. He noticed that new websites were being set up - which would hopefully address some of these issues and asked whether Bromley might consider joining that particular scheme.

Reply:

Councillor Smith drew attention to Bromley's street cleansing record which was going from strength to strength as assessed through official inspections. The records spoke for themselves streets were getting cleaner and as he had previously said that areas such as the member's ward with a higher proportion of tightly parked streets received a higher proportion of available cleansing costs than other areas with less parking. Rather than complaining he urged moving forward together with the new contract due to be signed in the next few months.

6. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Which body is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of drains and gullies and the road surface of Rays Road, West Wickham and what action is being taken to deal with the regular flooding in the road particularly in the vicinity of the 'down' side entrance to the railway station?

Reply:

Councillor Smith explained that Rays Road was owned by LBB but on a 99 year lease to Wolseley Centers Limited (WCL) for a term of 99 years from 1st February 1979.

Responsibility for maintenance rested with Wolseley Centers Limited (WCL). The Road was not an adopted LBB highway.

The flooding had been brought to the company's attention and we (Robert Norris, V&E) had been advised that remedial action was in hand.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Bennett noted that there was no mention of gullies and drains and assumed they were also the responsibility of the Company referred to. He asked if the Portfolio Holder agreed that this had been a serious problem in this road which had been going on for many years and the Residents Association had made many protests. Would Councillor Smith redouble his efforts to ensure the company who were responsible for this actually carried out the work because the road was still in a very bad state.

Reply:

Councillor Smith said he would have a fresh look at the situation.

7. From Councillor Willetts of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

With regard to the ladies public toilets adjacent Sainsburys in Orpington, following a complaint(s) from Mrs Mason of St Pauls Wood Hill (amongst others) that on Saturday 6/2/2010 at approx 1pm states the ladies toilets were in a filthy & disgusting state i.e. 2 toilet bowls full of faeces- are the flushes working?, floor swimming with water, no toilet rolls & no drying facilities- are hand dryers working? & why no hand towels?, concluding, can you include both these toilets (as it appears that the gents was in the same state) as part of the Orpington High Street Public Realm Improvements to include a 'good' standard of daily cleansing throughout the week?

Reply:

Yes.

Yes.

Because a person or persons unknown appears to be either stealing them or using them in great quantities to block the otherwise functioning toilets.

No these toilets would not be added to the Orpington High Street Public Realm Improvement works as there was nothing wrong with them.

In an effort to maintain the already satisfactory level of the cleansing schedule at these facilities (providing they were not routinely abused) a female attendant had been allocated to them for a trial period in an effort to address the problem.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Willetts replied that it was the best answer he had ever heard from the Portfolio Holder.

8. From Councillor Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Why have we only got one operational town centre manager at present in the borough?

Reply:

The current establishment for Town Centre Managers was four. At present one was in post, one was on maternity leave (to return by July 2010), one was on long term sickness and one post was vacant (recruitment to this post was currently taking place). Due to these temporary staffing difficulties other staff within the Department, headed by Mr Colin Brand, had been involved in

supporting town centre initiatives to ensure continuity of support and assistance.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Fookes asked whether it would be possible to use peripatetic staff to cover some of these posts because he felt the Borough's economy was suffering as a result of having only one TC Manager.

Reply:

Councillor Benington did not agree the Borough was suffering particularly although there were obvious difficulties. However, in respect of Town Centre Managers part of the difficulty was that you could not easily ring up an Agency and ask to recruit such staff on a short term basis – they were trained professionals. He also advised that there had been a review of the responsibilities of the Town Centre Managers and the funding for Town Centres which had been considered at the last meeting of the R&R PDS Committee as a result of which the advertisement was now being placed. He hoped there would be a fuller complement of such staff in the near future.

9. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

What is the number and percentage of the total school population in each year since 1998 who do not have English as their first language?

Reply:

The Portfolio Holder advised that all primary, secondary and special schools were required to undertake a pupil census in January of each academic year. Part of this census included the identification of whether a pupil's first language was English or not. Between the academic years 1998/1999 and 2008/2009 the number of pupils whose first language has been identified as other than English has increased from 1,234 (2.8% of the school population) in 1999 to 3172 (6.8% of the school population) in 2009. This represented an increase of more than 150% in the number of pupils whose first language was not English over the last 10 years. It should also be noted that a number of these children were from outside of the Borough. A separate table had been circulated which set out the increases year by year (attached as an appendix to these Minutes).

Supplementary question:

Councillor Bennett asked whether the grants the Council received from central government reflected the pressure these figures showed were being exerted on our schools (with a 150% increase). Also was he aware that this raised wider issues about the 2001 Census on which the Government based its grants allocation when quite clearly there had been a big demographic change in the population in this Borough.

Reply:

Councillor Noad confirmed that Bromley received £640,000 through Standards Funds for ethnic minority achievement grant which was aimed at ethnic and black pupils to fund additional support to meet a specific need for bilingual learners. In addition to this schools received funding in their schools budget although it was not specifically identified in the DSG. There was about £184,000 delegated to primary and £55,000 to secondary schools to assist pupils with English as an additional language and for refugees as identified with English as an additional language. Whether this was sufficient funding for over 3000 young people in this Borough he doubted given the increase in numbers and certainly he was of the view that the 2001 Census could not be accurate given the bulge in demand and obvious change in demographics.

Appendix

(Background information to Question 9)

The total number and equivalent percentages of pupils recorded as having a first language other than English from 1999 to 2009 are as follows:

Year	Number of pupils having a first language other than English in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools	% pupils having a first language other than English in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools
1999	1234	2.8%
2000	1458	3.5%
2001	1773	3.8%
2002	1933	4.1%
2003	2748	5.9%
2004	2545	5.4%
2005	2459	5.2%
2006	2558	5.5%
2007	2708	5.9%
2008	2965	6.4%
2009	3172	6.8%

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COUNCIL MEETING

15th February 2010

WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (*Revised*)

1. From Councillor Willetts of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

With regard to Kier, having made two attempts (the last swept to a good standard) in LBB car park in Longbury Close on Friday morning 29/1/2010, i) can you tell me why it has taken from the 20/12/09 to 29/1/2010 to remove items of fly tipped rubbish & removal of heavy insitu rotting leaf debris reported on 9 separate occasions to CSC(CC Chief Executive & Director of Environment) ?, ii) can you tell me why dumped suitcase on amenity green adj 59 Broomwood Road is still insitu despite reporting this on 6 separate occasions to CSC(cc Chief Executive & Director of Environment) 12/1/- 4/2/2010, iii) can you tell me why (reported) dumped wooden pallets on amenity green outside 39 Longbury Drive insitu since 14/1/2010 have not been removed?, iv) can you tell me why (reported) fly tipped wood obstructing highway (unconed) Farrington Avenue opposite entrance to Hawkinge Walk insitu since the 1/2/2010 has not been removed as of the 8/2/2010?, v) following a complaint from Mr Mannering of Batchwood Green, can you tell me why rotting slimy leaf debris covering alley steps Batchwood Green through to Leasons Hill has been insitu for 8 weeks?

Reply:

Members will be aware of the significant disruption to services caused by the extended period of snow during December and January.

All backlogs of work accumulated during this period should now have been resolved, including all the issues raised by Councillor Willetts.

There are one or two aspects of this particular complaint that I have not received a completely satisfactory explanation to at this stage which I need further time to complete my investigations on.

As soon as I have, I will append them to this answer.

(Councillor Willetts asked at the meeting when he could expect to receive the answers to his questions as indicated above. The Portfolio Holder advised that it should take only a few days and certainly by Monday the following week.)

Following discussions after the meeting it was agreed to add the information set out below:

- i) *There are 16 reports from Councillor Willetts forwarded from the CSC Agent to the EAL Special email box regarding this matter. The 1st email from Councillor Willetts was on 20/12, then 25/12, 28/12, 29/12, 2/1, 5/1, 8/1, 12/1, 15/1, 17/1, 19/1, 20/1, 21/1, 22/1, 25/1 & 29/1 relating to various issues (fly tipped water pump, leaves, fly tipped fridge freezer, freezer drawers) in the 1st car parking area. Between the 15/12 & 18/1 no action was taken due to regular cleansing duties being suspended due to the pre-salting of footways ahead of the snow event on the 17th December, the Christmas and New Year period and further snow events in the first week of 2010. With full scheduled cleansing duties resuming on Monday 18th January the 1st scheduled clean of Longbury Close was not due until 29/1. The parking area was inspected by the area inspector and a photograph taken of the fly tip on 26/1 and the area manager agreed that this should be cleared on the next scheduled cleanse (29/1) due to the backlog of work and other higher priorities.*

- ii) *There are 6 reports from Councillor Willetts forwarded from the CSC Agent to the EAL Special email box regarding this matter. The 1st email from Cllr Willetts was on 12/1, then 15/1, 17/1, 23/1, 31/1 & 4/2. Between the 15/12 & 18/1 no action was taken due to regular cleansing duties being suspended due to the pre-salting of footways ahead of the snow event on the 17th December, the Christmas and New Year period and further snow events in the first week of 2010. With full scheduled cleansing duties resuming on Monday 18th January the first scheduled clean of Broomwood Road was due on 20/1. The omission of removal on the scheduled day of cleaning will be raised with the contractor.*

- iii) *There is 1 report from Councillor Willetts forwarded from the CSC Agent to the EAL Special email box regarding this matter. The email from Cllr Willetts was on 4/2 stating that the pallets had been insitu for the last 3 weeks however Kier stated that fly tipped pallets have been removed on a number of occasions from this location. Pallets were last removed on 11/2/10.*

- iv) *There is 1 report from Councillor Willetts forwarded from the CSC Agent to the EAL Special email box regarding this matter. The email from the Councillor was on 4/2 and the scheduled cleanse of Farrington Avenue was due on 3/2 and again on 10/2 (weekly Wednesday's) when the wood was removed by the scheduled crew. The alleged failure to remove the material on the scheduled date (03/2) of cleansing will be raised with the contractor.*

- v) *There is 1 report from Councillor Willetts in the EAL Special inbox which was sent to the area inspector on 7/2 for action. The*

following scheduled cleanse for Batchwood Green was due on 12/2 however following a request from the area manager Kier's supervisor carried out an inspection on 11/2/10 and found that leaf debris was still evident and the scheduled crew had not cleaned to the required standards. This was brought to the required standard on 12/2.

2. From Councillor Willetts of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Why do the following grit bins remain empty i) Rushet Rd jcn Cotmandene Crescent shops (not numbered) & ii) outside Taniqs tanning salon (marked nos135) Cotmandene Crescent having reported these on 6 occasions from the 6/1/2010 to 9/2/2010 to the Communications Advisor Strategy & Service Division, Director of Environmental Services & the Chief Executive?

Reply:

According to Council records all of the grit bins in Cotmandene Crescent were filled between 13th and 23rd January. The un-numbered grit bin in Rushet Rd has only recently been added to the inventory, and was filled on 5th February.

Many bins across the Borough were being emptied within hours of being filled during the recent cold snaps, and it is likely that this happened here given the busy nature of this location. There is also some evidence to suggest that salt bins were/are being systematically stolen from (Bexley ceased refilling their bins such were the extent of their concerns on this point).

Routine restocking of these bins with salt has now ceased given the need to manage dwindling stocks in line with the Government's advice but will be filled pro-actively with grit immediately upon receipt of a weather forecast, were same to be received, of an impending heavy snow event.

3. From Councillor Willetts of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services

Could the Portfolio Holder furnish me with the report following the inspection of St Vincent's after school club (Bromley Mytime) made by Catherine Price, Childcare Development Officer on the 21/1/2010?

Reply:

The role of the CYP Department Childcare Development Officer is to ensure that the Borough's schools and early years settings provide sufficient, accessible and sustainable out of school provision and childcare within each community area. A wide variety of schools, early years providers and private and voluntary enterprises deliver this provision within the London Borough of Bromley. The Childcare Development Officer

regularly liaises with and visits providers in order to offer support and advice related to business development and sustainability, service quality requirements and staff training.

In line with her routine support and monitoring visits to settings, the Childcare Development Officer visited St Vincent's After School Club (provided to the school by Bromley Mytime) on the 21 January 2010. These visits focus upon advice and guidance, and do not lead to formal reports.

Following the visit, the Childcare Development Officer provided a verbal report to the relevant Head Teacher.

4. From Councillor Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What is the policy on replacing pedestrian facilities when traffic lights are temporarily out of action?

Reply:

This will vary from location to location dependent on the site specific circumstances. Could I ask that if Cllr Fookes has a specific location in mind he will please let me know.

(The Portfolio Holder reported at the meeting that he had further text to add to the response as he understood the member was referring to a specific set of traffic lights in Penge.)

Following discussions after the meeting it was agreed to add the information set out below:

'When road works are programmed, be they undertaken by statutory undertakers or by LB Bromley, a plan to manage vehicle and pedestrian traffic is put in place. If traffic lights are used to manage vehicles through the road works, then any nearby crossing may need to be closed, as if it is left in operation considerable congestion and confusion may arise.

Good practice guidance suggests that any alternative crossing place left in operation should be at least 120m from the site of the road works, if it is not to interfere with the traffic lights at the road works. Also to be considered is that if pedestrians are guided to cross very far from their desired line, they will not normally do so.

In the case of the ongoing gas-related road works in Penge High Street, the Council was informed in March 2009 of the timescale and magnitude of the project. In October more detail of the project was decided, and it was agreed that the pelican crossing near Oakfield Road would need to be closed when the nearby section of the High Street was being excavated. The refuge to the north of this crossing is about 170m away. To the south there is a zebra crossing on Penge High Street, some 250m from the

closed crossing. The road works will be moving southward on Penge High Street and are expected to be completed in late May 2010.

There is currently no automated crossing that can be installed on a temporary basis. If a temporary school crossing patrol was deemed to be helpful where road works are in operation, there would be issues with finding and risk assessing a suitable site. Although a detailed assessment has not been made, officers advise me that there does not appear to be a suitable site in Penge High Street between the closed crossing and the zebra crossing for such a patrol.'

5. From Councillor Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What is the latest position with regard to bringing the Lodge at Penge Recreation Ground back into use?

Reply:

The above property was sold by the Council some years ago and has been empty for quite a while. The property was inspected by one of the Council's Environmental Health Officers in September last year accompanied by the current owner. Whilst from the outside the property appears to look as if it has been abandoned this is not the case. Behind the boarding a considerable amount of refurbishment work has been done to the inside of the premises. The owner is refurbishing this property for his son and the quality of the works undertaken so far reflects his commitment to achieving a high quality end project.

The boards will remain in place until the project is complete. Officers are arranging another viewing date to see the extent of the additional works that have taken place. The officers are satisfied that the owner intends to complete this project and that it will be occupied in the not too distant future.'

6. From Councillor Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What action is being taken against those small number of persistent offenders who abuse the planning system?

Reply:

Breaches of planning control are recommended for action when it is expedient that remedial action is taken. That is the authority a local planning authority is given by planning legislation. Therefore the emphasis is on the significance of the breach rather than the identity of those responsible.

Members are actively involved both at Committee and as Ward Members in bringing breaches of planning control to the Council's attention.

7. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

If he will list the total expenditure, excluding that for clients and service users, in table format for each department the following information for the past three financial years including for the year to date;

- i. The amount spent on taxi and car hire ;
- ii. The amount spent on car loans;
- iii. The amount spent on reimbursing use of cars;
- iv. The amount spent on car loans;
- v. The cost of pool cars and the recharge to each department;
- vi. The cost of reimbursing public transport fares;
- vii. Loans for season tickets?

Reply:

[See attached spread sheets.](#)

8. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What is the cost of purchasing and installing a 7 foot 6 inch cylindrical column of the sort used to display waiting times?

Reply:

[£121.00](#)

9. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

If he will list, in table format, the road engineering schemes undertaken in each of the past three years including the year to date including the following information;

- i. cost
- ii. purpose
- iii. whether TfL or LBB expenditure?

Reply:

[A partial response is given in the attached spread sheet – full details will be supplied after the meeting.](#)

(The Portfolio Holder reported at the meeting in respect of the above question relating to costs for the past 3 years that there had been a recent Freedom of Information request on a related matter. This had resulted in information on costs being available for 2008/9 only but had taken considerable Officer time over several weeks to produce

and he would ask the Officers to obtain the figures for 2007/8 and 2008/9 to give to the Councillor Bennett after the meeting. Councillor Bennett indicated he was happy with that response.)

10. From Councillor Fawthrop of the Chairman of the Development Control Committee (to be asked at each subsequent Council Meeting)

What pre-application meetings have taken place since the last full Council Meeting between Council Officers and potential planning applicants? Can these be listed as follows:-

The name of the potential applicant, the site address being considered.

Reply:

There have been 42 pre-application meetings between 15th December 2009 and 10th February 2010. 27 of those concerned residential proposals for either new units or extensions and alterations to existing properties. The remainder concerned development for non-residential proposals for various types of commercial or public facilities. Details of the individual applicants and sites at present is exempt information and not disclosable in response to a council question.

11. From Councillor Grainger of the Leader of the Council (to be asked at each subsequent Council Meeting)

In respect of each of the oral and written questions submitted to this Council Meeting, please can the Leader state:

- a) when each question was received by the responding officer? *(to the approx. 1/2 hour)*
- b) How long did it take the responding officer to gather the information for the answer *(approx. working hours)*
- c) How long did it take for the responding officer to complete his draft for the responding Member *(to the approx. 1/4 hour)*

Reply:

Within the time available it has not been possible to collate the replies. This information will be circulated after the meeting.

Response to Question 7 – from Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP

Financial Year 2007/08

Department spend is as per the current departmental hierarchy and does not take into account restructures

			ACS	CYP	Corporate	ES	R&R	Various schemes across all depts	Member Usage	Total
	Sub Code	Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£	LPSA	£	£
(i)	0242	* Travel & Subsistence	70	753	2,084	4,838	4,722	0	0	12,466
(vi)	1321	* Public Transport (Staff Travel)	21,252	62,297	11,900	8,613	12,027	2,309	0	118,398
(iii)	1331	Car Allowances (relates to essential users only)	364,568	298,341	70,208	236,892	67,564	6,610	0	1,044,184
		Sub total	385,890	361,391	84,192	250,343	84,313	8,919	0	1,175,048
(v)		Pooled Cars	533	0	144	2,000	0	0	0	2,677
(ii) & (iv) (vii)		Car Loans (net cost to council)								6,839
		Season Ticket Loans (net cost to council)								3,795
										10,634
		Total Travel Expenditure 2007/08	386,423	361,391	84,336	252,343	84,313	8,919	0	1,188,359

(i) * (taxi and car hire cannot be identified separately but would be of minimal cost as this type of travel is not usually authorised)

Financial Year 2008/09

Department spend is as per the current departmental hierarchy and does not take into account restructures

			ACS	CYP	Corporate	ES	R&R	Various schemes across all depts	Member Usage	Total
	Sub Code	Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£	LPSA	£	£
(i)	0242	* Travel & Subsistence	354	102	2,026	4,876	1,589	0	0	8,948
(vi)	1321	* Public Transport (Staff Travel)	26,293	70,566	15,023	9,652	5,665	2,450	0	129,648
(iii)	1331	Car Allowances (relates to essential users only)	377,259	306,229	75,326	236,386	54,891	5,173	0	1,055,264
Sub total			403,906	376,898	92,374	250,915	62,145	7,623	0	1,193,860
(v)		Pooled Cars	1,119	0	303	4,166	0	0	34	5,622
(ii) & (iv)		Car Loans (net cost to council)								-20,647
(vii)		Season Ticket Loans (net cost to council)								4,172
										-16,474
Total Travel Expenditure 2008/09			405,025	376,898	92,677	255,081	62,145	7,623	34	1,183,008

(i) * (taxi and car hire cannot be identified separately but would be of minimal cost as this type of travel is not usually authorised)

Financial Year 2009/10 year to date

Department spend is as per the current departmental hierarchy and does not take into account restructures

			ACS	CYP	Corporate	ES	R&R	Various schemes across all depts	Member Usage	Total
	Sub Code	Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£	LPSA	£	£
(i)	0242	* Travel & Subsistence	398	8	1,141	5,803	602	0	0	7,952
(vi)	1321	* Public Transport (Staff Travel)	16,784	46,890	9,014	6,200	4,200	29	0	83,117
(iii)	1331	Car Allowances (relates to essential users only)	294,368	250,579	52,386	190,367	38,706	2,254	0	828,659
Sub total			311,551	297,476	62,542	202,369	43,508	2,283	0	919,729
(v)		Pooled Cars	888	0	621	3,198	0	0	338	5,045
(ii) & (iv)		Car Loans (net cost to council)								-529
(vii)		Season Ticket Loans (net cost to council)								-10,043
										(Cr £13k relates to advances from previous years)
Total Travel Expenditure 2009/10			312,439	297,476	63,163	205,567	43,508	2,283	338	914,202

(i) * (taxi and car hire cannot be identified separately but would be of minimal cost as this type of travel is not usually authorised)

Response to Question 9 from Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP - Road Engineering Schemes in LB Bromley

Scheme	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 to date		
Local Safety Schemes	690,000	725,000	604,000	A range of small and large schemes involving changes to the design of roads in order to reduce injury accidents at identified cluster sites, where cost effective solutions have been found.	TfL
Cycling on Greenways	-	47,000	61,000	Developing appealing routes for cycling and walking, largely off-highway, for commuting, play and leisure.	TfL
Bus Stop Accessibility	54,325	88,560	65,000	Improving access for users to bus stops, particularly the elderly and disabled.	TfL
20 mph Zones	-	395,000	400,000	Area-wide safety schemes, to reduce numbers of casualties and improve quality of life for residents.	TfL
Walking	42,130	118,000	98,000	To improve footway provision.	TfL
Local Area Accessibility		-	20,000	Improvements to parking for people with disability.	TfL
Parallel Initiatives	50,000	-	50,000	Schemes to reduce traffic congestion.	TfL
Controlled Parking Zones	-	60,000	50,000	Large parking schemes.	TfL
Principal Roads Maintenance	1,380,490	830,500	660,000	Principal roads maintenance.	TfL
London Bus Priority Network	1,195,370	1,169,625	683,000	Improving bus routes to reduce journey time for buses and, where possible, for all traffic.	TfL
London Cycle Network	452,760	624,550	495,000	To link cycle routes through the Borough to other routes in surrounding areas.	TfL
Bridge Strengthening	155,000	296,000	263,000	An ongoing programme of bridge maintenance and improvement.	TfL
Minor Traffic Schemes	59,127.45	91,443.78	72,442.22	A plethora of minor works, including small parking schemes, disabled bays and general signage. Of which £65k was funded from Section 106 and other contributions in 2008/9 and £49k in 2009/10.	LBB
Planned carriageway maintenance	1,467,530	1,504,680	1,535,560	Resurfacing and reconstruction of non-principal roads	LBB
Planned footway maintenance	2,344,890	2,395,210	2,408,400	Resurfacing and reconstruction of footways	LBB
Environmental fund	0	500,000	800,000	Environmental improvement schemes to improve footway areas	LBB

	Cllr	Issue (Question headline)	Passed To	Date Passed DD:MM:YYY Y	Time Passed to DeptHH:MM (24Hr)	Time to gather info HH:MM:S S	Time to draft response HH:MM:S S	Total Time for response HH:MM:S S
Oral								
1	Cllr Colin Willetts	Longbury Drive	Env Services	09/02/2010	17:33	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
2	Cllr Peter Fookes	Number of Police Officers	PP&S PH	09/02/2010	16:10	0:30:00	0:30:00	1:00:00
3	Cllr Nicholas Bennett	Continental style dog waste bins	Env Services	09/02/2010	16:38	0:15:00	0:15:00	0:30:00
4	Cllr Colin Willetts	Affinity Sutton - rubbish clearance	Env Services	09/02/2010	17:47	0:15:00	0:15:00	0:30:00
5	Cllr Peter Fookes	Ward statistics - street cleanliness	Env Services	09/02/2010	16:13	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
6	Cllr Nicholas Bennett	Rays Road, West Wickham Ladies toilet - adjacent Sainsburys,	Env Services	09/02/2010	16:38	0:15:00	0:15:00	0:30:00
7	Cllr Colin Willetts	Orpington	Env Services	09/02/2010	17:33	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
8	Cllr Peter Fookes	Town Centre Managers	R&R	09/02/2010	16:16	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
9	Cllr Nicholas Bennett	Foreign languages spoken in schools	Env CYP	09/02/2010	16:42	1:45:00	0:30:00	2:15:00
					Totals HH:MM	3:40:00	2:05:00	5:45:00

Cllr	Issue (Question headline)	Passed To	Date Passed DD:MM:YY	Time Passed to Dept HH:MM (24Hr)	Time to gather info HH:M M:SS	Time to draft response HH:MM: SS	Total Time for response HH:MM: SS	
Written								
1	Cllr Colin Willetts	Sweeping away of leaves/cleaning of rubbish	Env Services	09/02/2010	17:47	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
2	Cllr Colin Willetts	Refilling of grit bins- Cotmandene Crescent	Env Services	09/02/2010	17:47	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
3	Cllr Colin Willetts	St Vincent's After School Club	CYP	09/02/2010	17:38	0:30:00	0:30:00	1:00:00
4	Cllr Peter Fookes	Traffic lights	Env Services	09/02/2010	14:56	0:15:00	0:15:00	0:30:00
5	Cllr Peter Fookes	Lodge at Penge Recreation Ground	Resources	09/02/2010	15:15	0:25:00	0:05:00	0:30:00
6	Cllr Peter Fookes	Abuse of planning system	R&R	09/02/2010	15:20	0:25:00	0:05:00	0:30:00
7	Cllr Nicholas Bennett	Cost of taxi/car hire/car loans/season tickets	Resources	09/02/2010	16:52	1:30:00	0:30:00	2:00:00
8	Cllr Nicholas Bennett	Cost of installing column	Env Services	09/02/2010	16:59	0:10:00	0:05:00	0:15:00
9	Cllr Nicholas Bennett	Cost of road engineering schemes	Env Services	09/02/2010	16:59	0:30:00	0:30:00	1:00:00
10	Cllr Simon Fawthrop	Pre-application meetings	R&R	10/02/2010	10:06	1:00:00	0:30:00	1:30:00
11	Cllr Julian Grainger	Time taken for response to questions	LD&C Services	10/02/2010	17:00	4:00:00	1:00:00	5:00:00
					Totals HH:MM	5:05:00	2:40:00	12:45:00

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Agenda Item 8

Report No.
LDCS10055

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 29th March 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: STANDARDS COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that an annual report is made by the Standards Committee. The Committee has requested that its independent Chairman, Mr Jonathan Prince, be permitted to attend the Council meeting and present their report.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **That the report of the Standards Committee be accepted.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. The Standards Committee and the standards system are requirements of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by subsequent legislation, most recently the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. The report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All residents and visitors to the borough.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting high standards of conduct by Councillors, hearing cases of complaint against Councillors and promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical governance within the Council. The Committee reports to full Council on its work at the end of each Council year.
- 3.2 As in previous years, the Committee has requested that its independent Chairman, Mr Jonathan Prince, be permitted to attend the Council meeting to present the Committee's report.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09 (as submitted to Council on 27 th April 2010.)

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

“From my viewpoint as a Chief Executive, I’d say that high standards of ethical behaviours in local government are more important now than ever before. We wanted to increase the emphasis and impact of the work we did on this. The Standards Committee at Bromley has evolved to the point where it makes a tremendous contribution to maintaining and developing those standards in the broadest sense. I enjoy my dialogue with the committee on my regular visits and the independent members bring a fresh perspective to our thinking.”

Role and membership of the Committee

1. The Standards Committee is the Council body responsible for promoting high standards of conduct by Councillors, hearing cases of complaint against councillors and promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical governance within the Council.
2. During the year, the membership of the Committee was increased by adding an additional Independent Member, and two additional councillors. Membership is as follows:

Independent Members

Mr Jonathan Prince (Chairman) (to 2012)
Dr Simon Davey (Vice-Chairman) (to 2012)
Mr David Barnett (resigned 2009)
Mr Nicholas Marcar (to 2013)
Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild (to 2010)

Councillors

Martin Curry
Peter Dean
Peter Fookes
Michael Tickner
Stephen Wells

I would like to record the Committee’s thanks to Mr Barnett and Rabbi Rothschild for their valuable periods of service on the Committee, and welcome Mr Marcar as our newest independent member.

3. During the year the Committee held a series of scheduled meetings, on June 10th, October 5th, December 8th and March 9th. We received no public questions at these meetings.
4. I attended Full Council in June 2009 as Chairman to present this Committee’s second formal Annual Report to the Council, in order to ensure that the scope and impact of our work could be fully understood by councillors, staff and the wider Bromley public. I was pleased and encouraged to note the interest taken in our deliberations.

Hearing complaints

5. From May 2008 all complaints about Bromley councillors have been considered by the Bromley Standards Committee in the first instance rather than at national level. We decide if the complaint is, first of all, worthy of investigation and then whether there has been a breach of the Code. Ultimately we can hold a hearing and, if necessary, apply a penalty.
6. The Committee has established structures and procedures for local filtering and hearing of complaints. In-house training is provided for all Standards Committee members to ensure that they can carry out their new duties effectively when called on – this draws on general material provided by the Standards Board for England and also includes frequent informal tailored and specific briefings for Standards Committee members on different types of hearing. Independent members of the Standards Committee have also undertaken visits to a variety of Council meetings to observe proceedings, to assist them in making informed judgements on issues that the Standards Committee might wish to discuss or undertake further work on in the future, and are looking for further ways to develop their role, both collectively and as individuals.
7. We publicise our arrangements widely through both internal and external channels, and make information and complaints forms available both in hard copy and through the Council's website.
8. We monitor the conduct of councillors against their compliance with the Code of Conduct, and any complaints received against them. Over the year, three formal complaints were received, relating to three specific incidents. These were filtered by Initial Assessment Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee. In two cases the Initial Assessment Sub-Committee decided to take no further action; the third was in the process of being considered after this report had gone to publication. We also await the outcome of one case which was referred for further detailed investigation by the Standards Board in December 2008 and which has been passed on to the Adjudication Panel (now the First-Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards, England)) for determination in early April. In all cases we have achieved and published our decision well within the 20 day national target timescale.
9. We have received relatively few complaints that have required local filtering; we believe that this is a positive situation, and we do not wish to have to exercise this power more than we need to. As such, we look to our councillors to maintain their excellent record of responsible behaviour.

"We have an Independent members' group which meets quarterly and feeds back with ideas and recommendations for action. We see ourselves as "guide dogs" rather than "watchdogs", supporting the improvement (and recognition) of ethical behaviour in the round. As a Standards Committee we work with officers and Members as a partnership, holding each other to account.

We are committed to development, undergoing training ourselves as well as promoting it within the wider authority. We have allocated key responsibilities and accountabilities between us and have opportunities to discuss issues and concerns outside the Standards Committee meetings to keep our work plan on track. Above all we are here to support the ethical conscience of Bromley and the limited number of complaints and efficient way they are resolved is one of the key indicators of our success"

A wider role in promoting ethical governance issues

10. This year reflected the increasing emphasis placed on ethical governance issues by key decision-makers in Bromley. This Committee has not only had a discussion with the Leader of the Council on his role and commitment to maintaining high ethical standards in all aspects of Council work, but also the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council, the Chief Executive, the Council's Chief Planner, the Assistant Chief Executive responsible for Human Resources, and one of the Assistant Directors from Adult and Community Services Department responsible for commissioning social care services. In some cases, for example during discussions on issues arising from planning processes, the Committee has put forward ideas or suggestions which have been taken away for further consideration by the Development Control Committee. The Committee has also considered and discussed some challenging issues, such as the political dimensions of decision-making.

"Previously the Standards Committee was viewed by officers (if they were aware of it at all) as a forum to monitor Councillor compliance with the Code of Conduct and other rather dry "legal" issues.

The Committee is now being seen as an important forum for considering ethical issues in their widest sense in respect of the Council's core service delivery.

I found it especially useful to discuss them in respect of the Council's social care contracts...not just standards and compliance with regulations but also how the delivery of services contributes to dignity and independence for individuals and the role of the wider community"

11. The Committee will be taking an active role in new councillor induction in May 2010, ensuring that potential candidates have their attention drawn to the obligations placed on them by the Code of Conduct before they stand; and that, once elected, they are aware of the role the Standards Committee plays in working with them to reinforce positive behaviour at all levels across the Council, and where they can seek guidance if they feel it would be useful. In addition to a

general session there will be specific practical sessions covering areas such as Development Control where ethical dilemmas can easily arise. The Committee has been encouraged to see the personal interest, lead and commitment demonstrated by senior figures on ethical issues, and will be interested in following up how they promote and develop the ethical governance agenda further with their colleagues at all levels.

"The Standards Committee showed a real grasp and interest in the issues of ethics and probity that Councillors involved in development control decisions face. They made some very practical suggestions about ways in which our processes might be changed to overcome some of these dilemmas which will be considered by Development Control Committee in the new Municipal Year."

12. Over the past 12 months we have monitored the operation of the Council as a whole against a variety of ethical governance indicators, including Audit Commission public interest reports, objections to the Council's accounts on ethical grounds, whistle-blowing issues, employment issues and complaints. We were pleased to note that these showed a relatively small number of issues raised, and no major ethical issues arising from them that required further investigation by the Committee.

Other business of the Committee

13. Having built sound foundations, the Committee has focussed during the year on promoting its work with a variety of different audiences; for example by developing the standards of conduct pages more fully on the Council's website, pulling together standards and governance issues to create a more rounded presentation of ethical governance issues; and by promoting our ethical governance approaches at various opportunities, e.g. at a Community Links Bromley conference, at gatherings of senior managers, and at meetings with local groups. We have used the opportunities presented by undertaking recruitment for independent members in both summer 2009 and in spring 2010 to promote the role and work of the Standards Committee to a wide range of local people and groups (e.g. business, voluntary sector, the local bench, youth organisations, etc). We were delighted to see when the Place Survey results were published that the percentage of local residents responding positively to the statement that the Council was trustworthy had risen to 73% from the 63% recorded in a comparable survey in the previous year.
14. The Committee seeks to benchmark its approach and work against best practice nationally, and uses attendance at the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees to identify areas where it might undertake further work in the future. We are always looking for ways to develop what we do for the benefit of the Council and local residents. However, this year we were encouraged by what we were told was best practice elsewhere to feel that in certain areas (such as our efforts to widen the scope of the Committee's work, our trail-blazing work in developing a diverse range of ethical indicators and our advance in public perception of the Council's trustworthiness) we were in advance of others.

15. We therefore decided to enter the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards, in the Standards and Ethics category, to measure ourselves against the best elsewhere. We were delighted to be one of the six authorities shortlisted in December (alongside Kent CC, South Cambridgeshire DC, Waveney DC, Leeds City Council and West Somerset DC), and following rigorous questioning by the judging panel in January await the final results in late March 2010.

“There have been few complaints against members at Bromley...in such circumstances some Standards Committees might have decided to “go through the motions”.

I have not found this to be the case with this Committee.

They have decided that what is being done well can always be done better. They have sought to inform themselves about the Authority’s activities, prepare a work plan and take this forward, with the aim of putting high ethical behaviour at the top of its agenda. I am encouraged by the approach of the Committee and as its newest independent member am pleased that I have the opportunity to influence its progress.”

Future work

16. There is a lot of work ahead for the Standards Committee in 2010/11, especially in continuing to tackle the practical challenges of handling local complaints filtering and hearings. The Committee hopes to continue its record of undertaking any deliberations within the 20 day recommended timescales, and to ensure that both parties receive full and prompt notifications of decisions taken.
17. The Committee has so far highlighted the following new areas for further development over the year ahead, and included them within its forward programme of work; namely:
- Licensing and ethical issues
 - Ethical governance framework
 - Ethical dimensions of the Local Compact – discussion with Chief Executive, Community Links Bromley
 - Ethical Audit 2008 – Progress report on follow-up actions
18. Finally, I would like to thank my colleague independent Members and Councillors who served on the Standards Committee in 2009/10, consolidating the considerable changes in the standards regime introduced during the previous year, and building on the wider perspective of standards and ethical governance. I am especially pleased that our hard work has gained national recognition this year. I look forward to working with them in 2010/11 in taking forward the next stages of work on these critical issues.

Jonathan Prince,
Chairman, Standards Committee 2009/10
March 2010

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Report No.
LDCS100058

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 29th March 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of two new independent members to the Standards Committee for the four year period of the next Council.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Council is recommended to agree the appointment of Mr George Kidd and Mr Richard Allen as independent members of the Standards Committee for the four year period of the next Council, commencing in May 2010.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost - allowances are not paid to independent members
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: There is not a seaprate budget head for the work of the standards committee.
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. The Standards Committee and the standards system are requirements of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by subsequent legislation, most recently the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. The proposed decision is not an executive matter.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All residents and visitors to the borough.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Since 2009, there have been five independent member positions on the Council's Standards Committee. Two vacancies have arisen following (i) the resignation of Mr David Barnett at the end of 2009 and (ii) the end of Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild's term of office at the conclusion of this Council year.
- 3.2 An Appointment Panel met on 8th March 2010 to recommend replacements for these two positions. The Panel chairman was Mr Jonathan Prince, Chairman of the Standards Committee, and the Panel also included Councillors Stephen Carr, Martin Curry, Peter Dean, Peter Fookes and Michael Tickner. A number of candidates for the two vacancies were interviewed against the job description and person specification (attached as Appendix 1). Arising from this it was agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr George Kidd and Mr Richard Allen as independent members of the Standards Committee for the four year period of the next Council, commencing in May 2010.
- 3.3. Both Mr Allen and Mr Kidd are local residents, with extensive experience of handling sensitive ethical issues in a work context. Mr Allen has experience of setting up and operating corporate governance systems and processes in his previous employment at director level in a number of central government departments. Mr Kidd has relevant experience as a senior civil servant, his previous role as Chief Executive and Board member on a national regulatory body, and his current role as a Board member of the Direct Marketing Commission. Both demonstrated a strong commitment to contributing to the local community through assisting the Standards Committee in promoting and ensuring high ethical standards in the way the Council goes about its business.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A Committee comprising 5 independent and 5 elected members is within the rules governing the composition of Standards Committees set out in the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The rules on political balance do not apply to Standards committees.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial/Policy
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report to Council on 29 th June 2009 – "Standards Committee – Appointment of Additional Independent Members"

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Person Specification

Persons who serve on the Standards Committee should meet the 4 criteria in section A of our person specification and the majority of the criteria in section B:

Section A

- Have no current active involvement with a political party;
- Not have been a member or officer of the London Borough of Bromley in the previous eight years;
- Not be a close friend or relative of a member or officer of the London Borough of Bromley;
- Neither at appointment, or during their term of office, be in a position where they have a material conflict of interest involving their relationship with the Council which could have (or could be perceived by others as having) a detrimental effect on their capacity to carry out their standards role in an independent and impartial way.

Section B

- Possess tact and interpersonal skills in creating effective working relationships;
- Show commitment to the effective provision of public services;
- Have proven experience of dealing with people and matters where conduct and actions should be of the highest standard;
- Have proven experience of providing advice/support on issues of conduct and probity;
- Possess an understanding of issues of ethics and probity;
- Have the analytical ability to weigh up/sort evidence and reach rational conclusions;
- Possess decision-making skills involving sensitive issues;
- Have an understanding of, or the ability to understand, the issues surrounding standards and ethics in public life;
- Possess awareness of the rôle of a Council and its Councillors or have awareness of corporate governance.

Job Description

The successful candidate will be required:

- To help promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors;
- To evaluate and hear complaints made against Councillors;
- To champion the ethical agenda within the Council and, where appropriate, with Partner Organisations;
- To assist Councillors to observe the Code of Conduct;
- As a member of the Standards Committee, to provide occasional training *and* support for Councillors in ethical conduct;
- To advise the authority on revision of the Code of Conduct and monitor its operation;
- To observe confidentiality at all times.

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2010

Present:

Councillor Tony Owen (Chairman)
Councillor Brian Toms (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Nicholas Bennett JP, John Canvin,
Roger Charsley, John Getgood, Julian Grainger,
Mrs Carole Hubbard, Mrs Denise Reddin,
Charles Rideout, Tim Stevens JP, Mrs Brenda Thompson,
Michael Turner and Stephen Wells

Councillor George Taylor also attended

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2010/11 Report DR10023

The Regulations governing Members' allowances required that, before the beginning of each financial year, the Council should make a scheme of allowances for that year. Paragraph 16 of the existing scheme provided for annual indexation of allowances every year by the same percentage increase as the market movement change for (managerial) officers under the PE Inbucon scheme. This indexation had been agreed in respect of the current scheme for 2009/10. An independent remuneration review had recently been concluded but its report was not yet available.

In the light of the current economic circumstances, the Committee was of the opinion that the current allowances should be frozen for 2010/11. In this connection, a Member also felt that too many Councillors received Special Responsibility Allowances. Therefore (with a view to reducing costs), he moved a motion "that, in future, the annual indexation of allowances be linked to the National Joint Council percentage increase for non-managerial staff rather than to the Inbucon scheme". However, this motion was not seconded.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the current allowances be frozen and no other changes be made to the existing scheme; and

(2) the Council on 29th March 2010 approves the Members' Allowances Scheme 2010/11 based on the current allowances for 2009/10 (attached Appendix 1).

2. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2009, EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Minutes of the above meeting were received. Reference was made to the following Minute:

Minute 35 – Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges Report DR09136

The Sub-Committee had been informed that the current Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges had been revised and been issued to schools and colleges for comment in July 2009. Following consultation, feedback on the draft regulations had been considered and the final version of the Regulations would be circulated to schools and colleges for implementation following approval. Details of the amendments had been considered by the Sub-Committee. A copy of the Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges had been placed in the Members' Room and could also be accessed on the Council's website.

Members considered the Sub-Committee's recommendation on this matter and

RECOMMENDED that the proposed revised Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges (referred to in the report of the Director of Resources to the Audit Sub-Committee on 8th December 2009) be approved and adopted by the Council with effect from April 2010.

DECISION REQUIRED OF COUNCIL

Council to approve the above recommendations

London Borough of Bromley

Members Allowances Scheme

From 1st April 2010, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (2003 No. 1021) [as amended by SI 2003 No. 1692], the London Borough of Bromley will operate the following Members Allowances Scheme.

1. This Scheme is known as the London Borough of Bromley Members Allowances Scheme and will operate from 1st April 2010 until amended.
2. In this Scheme:
 - “Councillor” means a member of the London Borough of Bromley who is an elected Member;
 - “Member” for the purposes of this Scheme shall mean elected Councillors;
 - “year” means the 12 months ending 31st March.
3. The Council in agreeing this Scheme also considered the recommendations of the Independent Panel commissioned by the Association of London Government on the remuneration of Councillors in London entitled “The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2010 Review” report published February 2010.

Basic Allowance

4. Subject to inflation increases (calculated in accordance with paragraph 16) a basic annual allowance of £10,872.02 shall be paid to each Councillor.

Special Responsibility Allowances

5. (1) An annual Special Responsibility Allowance will be paid to those Members who hold special responsibilities. The special responsibilities are specified in Schedule 1 (attached).
- (2) During periods after an election when any position of special responsibility is unfilled, the relevant Special Responsibility Allowance shall be payable to the new holder of the position from the day after the previous holder ceases to be responsible.

- (3) The amount of each Special Responsibility Allowance is specified against that special responsibility in Schedule 1. The conditions set out in paragraphs 5(2), 5(4) and 14 apply.
- (4) Where a Member holds more than one position of special responsibility then only one Special Responsibility Allowance will be paid. Subject to sub-paragraph (5), Members may be paid quasi-judicial allowances in addition to a Special Responsibility Allowance.
- (5) All Members of the Plans Sub-Committees, Adoption Panel and Licensing Sub-Committee will be paid a quasi-judicial allowance at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance. For 2010/11 this will be £638.34 per annum, subject to inflation increases (calculated in accordance with paragraph 16). Where a Member has membership of only one Plans Sub-Committee, the allowance will be set at half that amount, (1.25%) £319.18.

Childcare and Dependent Carers Allowance

6. The Council has agreed that no allowance will be paid for childcare or dependent carers.

Co-optees Allowance

7. The Council has agreed that no allowance will be paid for co-optees.

Pensions

8. All Councillors under the age of 75 are entitled to apply for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Both Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance, including quasi-judicial allowances, will be treated as amounts in respect of which pensions are payable.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

9. The Basic Allowance covers all intra-Borough travel costs and subsistence. All other necessarily incurred travel and subsistence expenses for approved duties as set out in the Regulations (Regulation 8(a) to (h)) will be reimbursed under the same rules and entitlement as applies to staff. Travel by bicycle will also be paid at the same rates as applies to staff. Claims for reimbursement are to be made within one month of when the costs were incurred.

Ability to Decline An Allowance

10. A Member may, by writing to the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services, decide not to accept any part of his entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

Withholding of Allowances

11. The Standards Committee may withhold all or part of any allowances due to a Member who has been suspended or partially suspended from his/her responsibilities or duties as a Member of the Authority. Any travelling or subsistence allowance payable to him/her for responsibilities or duties from which they are suspended or partially suspended may also be withheld.
12. Where the payment of an allowance has already been made in respect of a period in which a Member has been suspended or partially suspended, the Council may require the allowance that relates to that period of suspension to be repaid.

Members of more than one Authority

13. Where a Member is also a member of another authority, that Member may not receive allowances from more than one authority for the same duties.

Part-year Entitlements

14. If during the course of a year:
 - (a) there are any changes in the Basic and/or Special Responsibility Allowances,
 - (b) a new Member is elected,
 - (c) any Member ceases to be a Member,
 - (d) any Member accepts or relinquishes a post in respect of which a Special Responsibility Allowance is payable, or
 - (e) the Standards Committee resolves to withhold any allowances during the suspension of a Member,

the allowance payable in respect of the relevant periods shall be adjusted pro rata to the number of days.

Payments

15. Payments shall so far as is reasonably practicable normally be made for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme.

Inflation Increase

16. The allowances set out in this Scheme shall be increased annually by the same percentage increase as the market movement change for officers under

the PE Inbucon scheme, such increase to take effect from the start of the Municipal Year. This inflation index will apply until further notice unless the Scheme is revised after consideration of any new Independent Panel report. Where the only change to the Scheme in any year is that effected by such an annual adjustment in accordance with this index, the new uprated allowance rates will apply without further consideration by an Independent Panel.

Notification Fee to Information Commissioner

17. The Council shall reimburse, or pay on their behalf, the annual fee payable by all Councillors to the Information Commissioner.

Schedule 1

Special Responsibility Allowances for the year ending 31st March 2010

Posts of Special Responsibility Allowance	
	£
Leader of the Council	30,600.00
Portfolio Holders (x6)	20,400.00
Executive Assistants (x5)	3,573.22
Executive Members without Portfolio (x2)	3,573.22
Chairman of Portfolio PDS Committees (x6)	7,410.00
Chairman of Development Control Committee	9,179.61
Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee	1,971.47
Chairman of Plans Sub-Committees (x4)	2,772.35
Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee	9,179.61
Vice-Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee	1,971.47
Chairman of Audit Sub-Committee	1,971.47
Chairman of Investment Sub-Committee	1,971.47
Leader of Main Opposition Party	7,577.78
Leader of Minority Opposition Party	3,673.53
Quasi-Judicial Allowances:-	
Members of two Plans Sub-Committees	669.99
Members of one Plans Sub-Committee	335.00
Members of Adoption Panel	669.99
Members of Fostering Panel	669.99
Members of Licensing Sub-Committee	669.99

Note: the Basic Allowance is currently set at £10,872.02

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Report No.
LDCS10059

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 29th March 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: MINOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Constitution Improvement Working Group met on 1st February 2010 to consider some minor changes to the Constitution. These were endorsed by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 16th February 2010 and are presented to Council for approval.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The following minor changes to the Constitution (as set out in Appendix 1) be approved to take effect in the next Council year -

Appointment of an Urgency Committee.

Extension of the provisions for statements to be made at Council meetings.

Addition of wording to clarify the postponement or cancellation of meetings in exceptional circumstances.

- 2.2 That the monitoring officer be authorised to inset the amendments detailed in Appendix 1 into the Constitution.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council. however will enhance contitutional arrangements
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): None
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. The Local Government Act 2000, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. This report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 In the last year, the Constitution Improvement Working Group has delivered three reports proposing changes to the Council's Constitution. Although the Working Group's main task of updating the Constitution ready for the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act after the 2010 local elections was accomplished with the agreement of new executive arrangements agreed by the Council on 15th December 2009, a number of minor matters still needed to be addressed.
- 3.2 The Working Group therefore held an additional meeting on 1st February 2010 to consider these matters. The Working Group's proposals were subsequently considered and endorsed, with one amendment, by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 16th February 2010. Copies of the minutes from these meetings are attached as Appendices 2 and 3.
- 3.3 The changes to the Constitution proposed by the Working Group are set out in Appendix 1. These are –

Appointment of an Urgency Committee

The Working Group noted that although most urgent decisions could be dealt with by calling an urgent meeting of the relevant decision-making body, there were some decisions which did not fit in with the existing provisions. It was proposed that an Urgency Committee be established which could deal with urgent non-executive decisions. The Committee would be required to report to the next full Council meeting whenever it made a decision.

Statements

The Council has previously agreed provisions in the Constitution to enable the Leader, Portfolio Holders and committee Chairmen to make statements at full Council meetings if they wished. The Working Group proposed that there should also be provision for statements to be requested *from* these Members. This was supported by General Purposes and Licensing Committee, with the amendment that there be an overall time limit of 30 minutes for statements, allowing time to deal with more Council questions.

Cancellation of Meetings

It is proposed to add wording to clarify the postponement or cancellation of meetings in exceptional circumstances. Although it is doubtful whether a meeting may legally be cancelled once it has been called and an agenda issued, in practice it is very occasionally necessary to cancel meetings, such as during the recent severe weather conditions. The Working Group considered that it would be useful to insert some wording into the Constitution to remove some of the uncertainty.

- 3.4 The Working Group also considered two other matters. The first of these was the preparation of a Petition Scheme, and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee noted that the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services was preparing a scheme for consideration by Members at a later date as soon as final guidance on the implementation of the legislation was available. The other issue concerned changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers – these changes are currently being considered by Committees prior to adoption by the Council and the Leader at the start of the 2010/11 Council year.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

CHANGES TO THE WORDING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Part 3: Responsibility for Functions

Delete paragraph 2.10 (relating to the now defunct School Organisation Committee) and replace with

“2.10 Urgency Committee (Five Members, comprising the Mayor, the Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee and the Leaders of the three largest party groups).

To deal with urgent non-executive decisions that are not of a sensitive nature – any such decisions made shall be reported to the next available meeting of the full Council. “

Part 4: Council Procedure Rules

Amend the following paragraph to read –

“2. ORDINARY MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of the Council will take place in accordance with a programme and normally commence at 7.30pm. Ordinary meetings will:

(vii) receive statements, if any, from the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders and Chairmen of all Committees, and receive questions and answers arising from those questions. A statement may arise in two ways –

- (a) the Leader, a Portfolio Holder or a Chairman may decide to make a statement by noon, three working days before the meeting of the Council; or
- (b) a PDS Chairman and one other Member, a Group Leader and one other Member or any five Members may request that a statement be made by the Leader, a Portfolio Holder or a Chairman.

Statements must be requested by noon, three working days before the meeting (i.e. on the previous Thursday for a Monday meeting); requests for statements on matters of urgency may be allowed at the discretion of the Mayor.

Notice of the intended statement will be circulated by email as soon as possible after notification to the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services.

Statements will be limited to five minutes each, with an overall time limit of thirty minutes to ensure that more time is available for Council questions, subject to the Mayor having discretion to ask the meeting whether the session can be extended.”

Add the following paragraph –

“7.2 Cancellation or postponement of meetings

A meeting may be postponed or cancelled in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances by the Chief Executive at the request of a Committee or Sub-Committee Chairman (or by the Leader or a Portfolio Holder in the case of an executive meeting.) “

**CONSTITUTION IMPROVEMENT
WORKING GROUP**

Notes of the meeting held at 12.30pm on Monday 1st February 2010

Present

Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP (Chairman)
Councillor John Canvin
Councillor Peter Fookes
Councillor Julian Grainger
Sheila Bennett
Mark Bowen
Chris Curran
Graham Walton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Evans
Russell Mellor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2009

The notes of the meeting held on 20th October 2009 were confirmed.

4. MODERN.GOV IT SYSTEM: PRESENTATION

Members received a presentation from Chris Curran, Management Trainee, on the Modern.gov IT system. Modern.gov was in use by around 120 local authorities, including 21 in London. It was a database system that linked information and offered enhanced public accessibility. The Democratic Services Team was already using the system to produce agendas; it was intended that the public-facing website would be launched on 29th March and there would be further features introduced later in the year.

The presentation illustrated changes to the appearance of committee papers and to information presented on the website.

AGREED that a presentation be made to the next General Purposes and Licensing Committee meeting on 16th February 2010.

5. MINOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

(A) Cancellation of meetings

The Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services explained that once a meeting had been called and an agenda issued it was doubtful that it could legally be cancelled. Although, in practice, common sense had prevailed in the recent bad weather and some meetings had not taken place, it would be preferable to insert some wording into the Constitution to remove some of the uncertainty.

AGREED that provision be made in the Constitution for meetings to be postponed or cancelled in exceptional circumstances by the Leader or Portfolio Holders in the case of executive meetings, or by the Chief Executive at the request of a Committee or Sub-Committee Chairman.

(B) Urgency

The Working Group had previously considered the need to make provision in the Constitution for urgent but not particularly sensitive decisions to be made, such as minor variations to Committee memberships.

AGREED that

(1) a Sub-Committee be established to deal with urgent non-Executive decisions comprising the mayor, the Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee and the Leaders of the three party Groups.

(2) any decisions made should be reported to the next Council meeting and the next appropriate Committee meeting.

(C) Portfolio Holder Statements

The General Purposes and Licensing Committee had asked the Working Group to consider concerns about the length of answers to Council questions and the potential need for a mechanism to require Portfolio Holders and Committee Chairmen to make statements at full Council meetings.

AGREED that provisions for requiring a statement to be made to full Council by a Portfolio Holder or a Committee Chairman be drawn up as follows -

A statement could arise in two ways -

(i) the PH, Leader or PDS Chairman could decide to make a statement by noon three working days before the meeting of the Council (ie for a Monday meeting the previous Thursday);

(ii) A PDS Chairman and one other member, a Group Leader and one other or 5 members could request a statement by noon, three working days before the meeting of the Council (ie for a Monday meeting the previous Thursday)

Statements or requests for statements on matters of urgency (ie where the matter has arisen since the deadline above) would be allowed at the discretion of the Mayor.

Notice of the intended statement would be circulated to all Members by email as soon as possible after notification to the Director of Democratic and Legal Services.

Statements would be limited to 5 minutes each with an overall time limit of 30 minutes (subject to the Mayor having the discretion to ask the meeting whether the session could be extended).

(D) Membership of Adjourned Meetings

Councillor Grainger suggested that, where a meeting was adjourned to a different date, it should be possible to allow different memberships for the two parts of the meeting, through substitutions. It was confirmed that this would not be possible, as this would still be one meeting.

It was suggested that one way to avoid this issue would be for a new meeting to be started; however, this would require a new agenda to be issued with sufficient public notice.

6. THE DUTY TO ESTABLISH A SCHEME FOR PETITIONS

The Working Group considered a draft petitions scheme which would comply with the requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, and noted that this included e-petitions. Councillor Grainger suggested that fewer signatures should be required for petitions on very local issues.

The Government had published a consultation document before bringing the provisions in the Act relating to petitions into effect. The Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services informed Members that one issue where it would be useful to respond would be to propose that petitions are excluded from the restrictions on political publicity under the Local Government Act 1986.

AGREED that

- (1) a petition scheme be drawn up for consideration by General Purposes and Licensing Committee;**
- (2) petitions concerning local matters which only affect a small number of residents should not be required to have the same number of signatories as those where the matter was of general interest – it could be a proportion of those estimated to be affected;**
- (3) paper petitions may have a lower threshold for action than on-line petitions.**
- (4) the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services should respond to the Government's consultation suggesting that an amendment be made to the Local Government Act 1986 to exclude petitions from the restrictions on political publicity.**

7. SCHEDULE OF DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS

The Schedule of Delegations to Officers had been updated in the light of changes to executive arrangements coming into effect after the local elections in May 2010. Under the new Constitution, any executive functions delegated to officers would need to be delegated by the Leader, and not full Council. Rather than produce two separate schemes, an extra column had been added to the existing document to indicate whether the delegation was from Council or the Leader. The document needed some further work to ensure that it was up to date.

RESOLVED that the approach taken to modifying the Schedule of Delegations is supported, and the revised scheme be submitted to PDS Committees, the Development Control Committee and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, prior to approval by Council and the Leader.

The meeting ended at 2.16pm.

**General Purposes and Licensing Committee -
Extract from the draft minutes of the meeting on 16th March 2010**

**106. CONSTITUTION IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP:
MINOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES
Report LDCS10031**

Over the past year, the Constitutional Improvement Working Group had produced three reports which had proposed changes to the Council's Constitution in line with the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 after the 2010 local elections. The Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services reported that, since the last meeting of this Committee, a further meeting of the Working Group had addressed additional minor constitutional changes and that actions were proposed as set out in the notes of the Working Group's meeting held on 1st February 2010.

The Chairman of the Working Group spoke in support of the proposed changes and outlined the reasons for these having been put forward. In welcoming the proposed mechanism enabling statements to be made at full Council meetings by Portfolio Holders and Committee Chairmen, a Member felt that the overall time limit of 30 minutes for this purpose should also be used for dealing with more Council questions and, to this end, suggested that the words "to be utilised for dealing with more Council questions" should be inserted after the words "30 minutes" in the second line of the final paragraph under "(C) Portfolio Holder Statements". This amendment was agreed by the Committee. In relation to paragraph 7 (Schedule of Delegations to Officers) of the Working Group's notes, another Member considered that the relevant Committees should seek clarification of the precise functions that were to be delegated.

The Committee supported the proposed actions submitted by the Working Group. In relation to the proposals affecting the "Cancellation of meetings", the creation of an "Urgency Committee" and the provision of a mechanism for "Portfolio Holder Statements" at full Council meetings, the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services was to prepare suitable, detailed wording to provide for the changes which had been put forward by the Working Group for insertion in the Constitution by the full Council at its meeting to be held on 29th March 2010. The Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services was also to prepare a "Petition Scheme" for consideration at a future meeting of this Committee as soon as final guidance on the implementation of the legislation was available.

RESOLVED that

(1) subject to the amended wording indicated above in relation to "Portfolio Holder Statements", the views of the Constitution Improvement Working Group and the actions proposed to make minor changes to the Council's Constitution be endorsed; and

(2) the revised Scheme of Delegation be considered by PDS Committees, the Development Control Committee and this Committee prior to approval by the Council and the Leader at the start of the next Council year.

Agenda Item 12

Report No.
LDCS10056

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 29th March 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: ANNUAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY REPORT
2009/10

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that a report is made each year to full Council summarising the work carried out by PDS Committees and a report for 2009/10 is attached for approval.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Annual Policy Development and Scrutiny Report 2009/10 be accepted.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. Section 6.03 (d) at Article 6 of the Constitution sets out the requirement for an Annual PDS report.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A The cost of writing and reproducing the report is met from within existing budgets.
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring cost.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £504,736
 5. Source of funding: Democratic Services budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 11.89fte
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. The report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All Members of the Council, interested members of the public.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Article 6, Section 6.03 (d) of the Constitution requires that an Annual Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) report be submitted to Full Council on PDS functions, PDS budget and amended working methods where appropriate.
- 3.2 The attached Annual PDS Report for 2009/10 includes contributions from all PDS Chairmen on the work of their Committees during the year. The report also includes a foreword by the Chairman of the Executive and Resources PDS Committee.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Constitution of the London Borough of Bromley, Article 6, Section 6.03 and previous PDS Annual Reports

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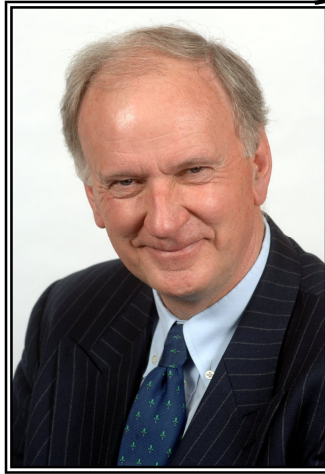
THE LONDON BOROUGH

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10

For submission to Full Council on

Monday 29th March 2010

Policy Development and Scrutiny Chairmen 2009/10



Cllr. Peter Morgan
Executive and Resources



Cllr. Robert Evans
Children and Young People



Cllr. Judi Ellis
Adult and Community



Cllr. Tim Stevens JP
Public Protection and Safety

Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher
Environment

Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe
Renewal and Recreation



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1. Foreword by the Chairman of Executive & Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Committee, Cllr. Peter Morgan

- 1.1 On behalf of all my colleagues who sit on Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in Bromley, I welcome you to our Annual Report for 2009/10. This report summarises for the Council meeting on 29th March 2010 the work that has been carried by our Committees during the Council year.
- 1.2 Since overview and scrutiny was introduced in 2002, each year has seen developments in our capacity to undertake this vital role on behalf of the residents of Bromley. In our last annual report I commented that there had been a growing appreciation of the importance of pre-decision scrutiny: the new executive decision-making arrangements that were introduced in May 2009 cement this in place. As a result, we have given closer scrutiny to the decisions being made by the Executive and by Portfolio Holders, and we have been in a position to ensure that better decisions are made.
- 1.3 As we approach the end of this Council, we have a proven record of developing our overview and scrutiny process. Now is the time to appreciate the improvements we have made, but also to look ahead to a new Council, and consider how we can refine our scrutiny work even further.
- 1.4 This has been the first year of the new arrangements whereby there are usually no Portfolio Holder meetings but the appropriate PDS committee discusses the proposed decisions of the Portfolio Holder (PH) and makes recommendations to the PH. He then states whether he is minded to follow the recommendations and a few days later makes a decision in that way without the need for a separate meeting. Members will recall that if the PH does not agree with the recommendation he will hold a meeting open to the public. This new system seems to have worked well and has certainly cut the number of meetings which would otherwise have been held.

Cllr Peter Morgan

**Chairman, Executive & Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Committee,
March 2010**

2. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley

- 2.1 Six Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committees at Bromley discharge the overview and scrutiny functions conferred by sections 21 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Executive and Resources PDS Committee has an over-arching, co-ordinating role on behalf of the other five PDS Committees and is required by the Council's Constitution to present Full Council with an Annual Report "on the Policy Development and Scrutiny functions and PDS budget, and amended working methods if appropriate" (Article 6, Section 6.03 (d) of the Constitution).
- 2.2 The PDS Committees mirror the Council's executive portfolios:
1. Executive and Resources (covering both the Resources Portfolio and the Executive)
 2. Adult and Community
 3. Children and Young People
 4. Environment
 5. Public Protection and Safety
 6. Renewal and Recreation
- 2.3 Although they have no decision-making powers, PDS Committees have key roles in contributing to policy development and scrutinising the decisions of the Executive and individual Portfolio Holders.

Policy Reviews

- 2.4 PDS Committees advise Portfolio Holders, the Executive and Full Council on policies, budget and service delivery. PDS Committees can commission groups of Councillors to review an issue or policy so assisting a Portfolio Holder or the Executive to improve a service or function affecting local people. This can be linked to a forthcoming decision by a Portfolio Holder or the Executive or to assist in formulating fresh, new policy. In each case detailed, evidence-based assessments are carried out and recommendations made in a report. In the process, Councillors can speak to a broad range of people to help gather information for their evidence-based reports.

One-Off Reviews

- 2.5 In addition to in-depth policy reviews, PDS Committees can also review a topical issue at Committee with comments and recommendations referred on to the Portfolio Holder. These reviews are often based around a presentation or an evidence-giving session with expert witnesses.

Performance and Budget Monitoring

- 2.6 PDS Committees monitor the performance of services and functions within their remit, assessing performance against Key Performance Indicators and policy objectives. Concerns are reported to a Portfolio Holder who can then, if necessary, be called to a PDS Committee meeting to account for the performance of his or her Portfolio.
- 2.7 PDS Committees are also involved in the budget setting process and provide considered comment and recommendations for the Executive to take account of when formulating the Council's annual budget. Similarly, PDS Committees also monitor in-year spend of budgets and raise concerns where there is any possibility of overspend or other issues affecting spending priorities.

Call-in

- 2.8 The call-in process is a key means by which PDS Committees can hold the Executive to account. Any five Councillors can call in a decision and prevent it from taking immediate effect until it has been considered by a PDS Committee. The Committee can then interview the Portfolio Holder and officers and consider whether the decision was appropriate, within the Council's policy framework and whether it should be reconsidered. If the Committee feels that the decision should be reversed or altered, it can make a recommendation to the Executive, which then has to reconsider the matter.
- 2.9 At the time of writing, one call-in has been made during 2009/10, concerning the appointment by the Executive in May 2009 of Executive Assistants. After consideration by this Committee, we decided to take no further action. This continued low level of call-in reflects the emphasis we give to pre-scrutiny, which leads to better and more robust decisions which do not need to be challenged. The fact that there has only been this one call-in is perhaps an indication that the new system of having the PH at PDS meetings ready and willing to debate his decisions at that PDS meeting, is working well.

3. Reports from PDS Committees

Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Peter Morgan

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Robert Evans

Introduction

- 3.1 2009/10 has been a very busy year for the Executive and Resources PDS Committee, with sixteen meetings scheduled, as well as numerous Working Group meetings. Our meetings are usually tied to the Executive's meetings, so that we can pre-scrutinise their decisions, but five of our meetings have been devoted to our own policy development work.

Pre-decision scrutiny

- 3.2 The pre-decision scrutiny role has been dominant over this last year, and the Committee has worked hard to ensure that every decision made by the Executive and by the Resources Portfolio Holder is properly scrutinised. In tandem with the Council's new Contracts Regulations, we have raised the profile of the Corporate Contracts Register so that Members now have earlier input into decisions about the renewal or re-tendering of Council contracts.
- 3.3 We have also scrutinised the agendas of the Local Strategic Partnership Executive (LSP) and at one meeting had a question and answer session with the Police, the PCT, Community Links and Affinity Sutton. In future this part of our scrutiny work will become increasingly important. Cost pressures will mean that we will be under pressure to work with these partners and share costs. This is a developing part of Local Authority business and, as the only democratically elected body operating in the Borough it is our duty to scrutinise these other parts of the public sector. Certainly the Government is expecting us to do this and will be looking closely to ensure that we are doing it effectively.
- 3.4 As well as looking at proposed decisions, we have invited the Leader of the Council, the Resources Portfolio Holder, the Chief Executive, the Director of Resources and other senior officers to attend our meetings to answer questions on their areas of responsibility. I am grateful that the Leader of the Council and the Resources Portfolio Holder usually attend our meetings and are on hand to be questioned on issues as they arise.

Policy Development and Working Groups

- 3.5 The necessary emphasis on pre-scrutiny of executive decisions has meant that we have had to work hard to ensure that the Committee's policy development role is not neglected. Policy Development issues are on the agendas for all our meetings, but we have held five meetings this year which are not dominated by pre-decision scrutiny so that we can focus on policy development. We have used our policy development meetings to focus on the Council's website, mobile and flexible working, the Council's Foundation Strategy Reviews, the lease for Biggin Hill Airport, the Local Strategic Partnership and considering reports from our Working

Groups. We have also received an update on the Emergency Planning arrangements for the Borough.

- 3.6 Several Working Groups have been in action over the last year looking at important issues for the Council. These Working Groups have all reported in the last few months, and their recommendations are being considered by the Executive – Data, Section 106, Property and Communications. Many recommendations have been made and we have insisted that the appropriate department reports back, after a suitable interval, to tell us how they have implemented the recommendations. This follow-up is vital, if the time and effort of these Working Groups is not to be wasted.

Conclusions

- 3.7 Over the course of the last year the Committee has worked hard to ensure that it has fully scrutinised all the Council's corporate activities. We have looked at a variety of issues, including budgets, the capital programme, value for money, property disposals, the Liberata contracts for housing benefit, revenues and IS support, various human resources issues, flexible working and section 106 agreements. This has been a year when we have continued to work hard on the immediate decisions before the Council, but we have also established a clear vision for the future of PDS work, making a clearer distinction between our scrutiny and policy development roles, and finding structures that can accommodate both.
- 3.8 This has been a very demanding workload, but I believe that our vigilance and our suggestions have resulted in sound decisions being taken on major issues for the borough.
- 3.9 Next year and for the next few years the Council is certainly to be faced with cuts in the grants we receive from the National Taxpayer and pressures to spend more in certain service areas. It is my hope and expectation that the Scrutiny committees, Portfolio Holders and Officers will work together to find ways of delivering all Council Services in a more efficient and cheaper manner. There will not be a choice about this – we have to do it.

Cllr. Peter Morgan
Chairman, Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Adult & Community PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Judi Ellis

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Roger Charsley

Introduction

- 3.10 This PDS Committee has had a challenging year, with changes in both adult care and Learning disabilities engaging us in both scrutiny and long term policy development. There are challenging budget pressures and this has required the Council to look at preventative measures to enable more residents to continue to manage in their own home or supported accommodation. This has been through contracts with partners as well as fresh in-house initiatives.
- 3.11 My thanks go to all Councillor Members and Co-opted Members for their dedication and commitment in the last year. A special thanks to Barbara Langridge who chaired the Mental Health Forum who retired from this position this year. The Committee has benefited from the attendance of the Portfolio Holder at all the meetings and his willingness to share his thoughts on the issues under discussion and listen to the views of the Committee.

Work of the Committee

- 3.12 The Quality of services provided by Partners, private providers and directly by the Council has been closely scrutinised by both the Committee and the Care Quality Commission who have now completed their first year.
- 3.13 We have had presentations from the Age Concern Brokerage scheme, the Mencap Brokerage Scheme, Bromley Community Links, The Link, the PCT including dentistry and The Beckenham Beacon and The South London Healthcare NHS Trust with specific reference to changes following a 'Picture of Health'.
- 3.14 The Committee is particularly concerned to ensure the voice of the user is heard and have scrutinised the collection of information and how it is included in policy development. We also have the responsibility of scrutinising the services provided by the South London Healthcare NHS Trust, the Primary Care Trust and Oxleas. This is both a full Committee responsibility and the particular role of the Health Check Working Group.
- 3.15 This is a Service with increasing demands and highly successful partnership working. We have looked at the following in terms of scrutiny and policy development:
- Security at Bethlam Royal Hospital;
 - Supporting Independence in Bromley – regular updates;
 - Progress Report on Green Parks House;
 - Portfolio Plan;
 - Learning Disability Strategy;
 - Mortgage Rescue Scheme;
 - Settled Homes Initiative;
 - Empty Property Strategy;
 - Freedom Pass Update;
 - Thyme Out Update;

- Regular Updates from Bromley PCT;
- Safeguarding Adults Annual Report;
- Contract Reviews;
- Regular Budget Monitoring Reports.

The Committee has held six scheduled meetings including one special meeting and a joint meeting with Public Protection and Safety PDS on security at the Bethlem Hospital.

- 3.16 The Committee has reviewed the Budget with regular quarterly updates. There has been an increased demand for services and there has been considerable pressure on the budget.
- 3.17 Members of the Committee have visited supported living accommodation , day provision and service partners to both increase their knowledge and monitor standards and quality issues. Members have also participated in a number of working groups and meetings with partnership organisations including The Stroke and Trauma London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Care Homes Reference Group, the Learning Disability Partnership Board, the Health, Social Care and Housing Partnership Board, Community Links, the LINK, the Health Check Working Group and the Safeguarding Panel. They have also participated in forums and user groups.
- 3.18 We have also held a Working Group on Transport to coincide with an officer lead review.

Public Questions

- 3.19 We have had a large number of questions from the public this year and would like to thank the questioners for their continued interest in and support for the work of the Committee.

Conclusion

- 3.20 The Committee is directly supported by Anne Watts, Assistant Director, Strategic Development and Philippa Stone, Scrutiny Coordinator. This year has seen an improvement in the quality and timeliness of reports and this has been appreciated by the Members of the Committee. Our thanks go to Anne and Philippa and to all the officers who write the reports and attend the meetings.
- 3.21 Adult and Community Services probably affect every family in the Borough. We have recognised the pressures in the Borough and the demand for high quality services. There is a commitment from both Officers and Members to deliver on these expectations and to do so within budget.

Cllr. Judi Ellis
Chairman, Adult & Community PDS Committee

Children and Young People PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Robert Evans

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Stephen Wells

Introduction

- 3.22 The membership of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny (CYP PDS) Committee represents wide community interests. In addition to Elected Members, there are co-opted representatives from the Anglican Diocesan Board and the Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Board, Parent Governors, independent schools, teachers and young people. There is also a representative for Looked After Children. This broad representation provides a strong knowledge and experience base on which to influence policy development and undertake the scrutiny functions for the Portfolio.
- 3.23 The Committee will have met formally eleven times during 2009/10 and considered key matters in depth, including the pre-scrutiny of reports for the Portfolio Holder. Members of the Committee take part in the Council's termly visits to education and other establishments. The priorities for the Portfolio are defined in a work programme, which is kept under review by the Committee and the Portfolio Holder.
- 3.24 Under the Children and Young People Trust arrangements established in May 2006, the focus for the Committee includes the development of integrated services for children, young people and families, working in partnership with health authorities and the private, voluntary and independent sectors. Under recent legislation (Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009), the statutory nature of the Trust will be strengthened with effect from April 2010. To enable the Committee to review and provide advice on key policy and strategic issues, formal meetings continue to precede those of the Portfolio Holder. Under revised arrangements for the scrutiny of partnerships, the CYP PDS will be able to comment on Trust Board papers before each meeting.
- 3.25 The CYP PDS established the following two Member Working Parties:
- The School Improvement Working Party received the outcomes from an external review of the LA's school improvement strategy commissioned by the Director CYP. In addition, evidence was provided by officers within CYP Learning and Achievement Services and Primary and Secondary Head Teachers about performance of schools, quality of provision and challenges they faced. Members scrutinised and approved a new policy and strategy for challenge, support and intervention of primary schools which categorises schools based on risk of not sustaining expected performance.
 - The Primary School Development Plan Working Party oversaw a strategic review of school place planning and related school organisation. Recommendations were reported back to the CYP PDS and approved by the CYP Portfolio Holder on 14 October 2010 and recommended that three primary schools Bickley, Unicorn and Churchfields should increase by two forms of entry and Princes Plain by half a form of entry. The proposals are currently out for consultation.

Reviews

The Bromley Strategy for School Improvement

- 3.26 Following an independent review commissioned by the Director CYP of the Borough's Primary School Improvement Strategy, and consideration by the CYP PDS Committee's School Improvement Working Party of this review, a revised policy and strategy was proposed for implementation from September 2009. The Committee acknowledged that, while the overall performance of the Borough's schools was high, in the current cycle of Ofsted inspections (since 2005), four schools had been judged to require special measures and three had received a notice to improve. Whilst the achievements of children and young people remained high overall, the pattern of improvement in standards at some schools was not secure. The revised policy took account of the need for a more tailored approach to individual schools, inversely proportional to the success, and where triggers of concern identified the need for robust intervention before a school failed to meet satisfactory or better quality of provision. The policy also made explicit the action to be taken by the Authority where a school was a serious cause for concern, reflecting the new statutory guidance on schools causing concern (October 2008). With regard to school leadership, the performance management procedures for underperforming Head Teachers were noted.

Review of the Primary Schools Development Plan

- 3.27 This review provided details of the outcomes and recommendations of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Member/Officer Working Party for the strategic planning of primary school provision. Proposals were made in respect of each of the nine planning areas, including increases in capacity where appropriate. It was noted that the proposals for expansion by 3.5 forms of entry in parts of the Borough would need to be delivered within the budget of £9 million held for primary capital funding. Detailed reports were provided to the Portfolio Holder and the Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee demonstrating how the capital grant would meet priorities of the Borough.

Annual Report on Adoption Activity 2008/09

- 3.28 Members considered the annual report on Adoption Activity 2008/09, setting out the key functions of the Bromley Adoption Agency, the previous year's activity and key objectives for 2009/10. The Committee also considered the Agency's updated Statement of Purpose. Members considered the planned amalgamation of the Fostering and Adoption teams and the importance of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in meeting the therapeutic needs of young people. Members also noted that CAMHS' capacity issues affected fostering services.

Bromley Youth Music Trust

- 3.29 The Principal of the Bromley Youth Music Trust, provided a briefing on the work of the Trust. The Committee noted that the Bromley Youth Music Trust reached approximately 15,000 children and young people of different ages through its various activities. The Trust operated a 100% inclusiveness policy when delivering instrumental and vocal tuition in Borough schools, including those with special units. The Trust was available to provide tuition at special schools, depending on the requirements and the scope to provide a suitable teacher with a viable timetable. The Wider Opportunities scheme was operating in all maintained primary schools,

and was able to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs. The Committee congratulated the Trust on the quality of the services which it provided.

Support to Governors at Bromley Schools

3.30 Following the outcome of a review in 2008 of Governor Services support to schools, an update was provided to the Committee on progress made with the action plan to address the review's recommendations. The main focus was on re-shaping the framework of training for Governors to support their role in school improvement and raising standards and effective governance, including:

- the purpose and function of Governors in relation to school improvement;
- strategic leadership for Governors;
- supporting Governing Bodies to become more effective and efficient and to evaluate their own effectiveness; and
- strengthening communication between the Local Authority and LA governor representatives on governing bodies.

The Committee noted that, within the new Ofsted Inspection framework from September 2009, there was increased emphasis on the role that Governors play in improving the school and ensuring compliance with statutory duties.

Early Years Foundation Stage: Provision, Quality and Outcomes

3.31 An update was provided on the Early Years Foundation Stage, with background to recent changes in statutory duties; a description of Early Years provision in Bromley; the quality of private, voluntary, and independent settings as judged by Ofsted, and outcomes from the recently introduced Foundation stage assessments. A new statutory framework (May 2008) aspired to set the standards for providers, develop equality of opportunity, support partnership working, improve quality and consistency, and secure a foundation for future learning as children progressed into formal education. The Authority was also required to secure the provision of information, advice and training, to meet the needs of local providers and support sufficiency of childcare provision.

Teenage Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

3.32 The Committee commented on the disappointing overall lack of progress towards reducing teenage pregnancy and the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, although it was noted that under 16 teenage pregnancies have reduced but over 16 teenage pregnancies have increased. Despite the investment in reducing teenage pregnancies, the number in the Borough had not significantly reduced since 2000. In particular, abortion figures continued to be high. The Committee noted also that girls who became pregnant were often in stable, long-term relationships. It was agreed that the Committee should focus on pregnancy in the under-16 age group, as there could be safeguarding issues involved. The Committee discussed the importance of promoting abstinence from sexual activity during teenage years, as well as better strengthening the relationship aspect of sex and relationship education.

Dependency on Government Grant Funding

3.33 The Executive and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee had requested that individual Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees look at Government Grants received

and consider the dependency on this funding, what services were funded through the grants, and options for the future, particularly reflecting the likely reductions in Government funding due to the economic climate. The Committee noted that Children and Young People Services were highly reliant on Government funding and received a total of £249 million in grant funding for the current year. Overall, 44% of staff were grant funded and therefore employed on a fixed-term basis. The funding supported 339 full-time equivalent posts, 220 of which were in the Schools' Budget, and 119 of which were in Council Tax funded budget. Within the £14 million of grants which supported the Council Tax funded services; the SureStart grant represented almost half the total. These proportions were due to increase further in 2010/11, as the service expanded. The SureStart grant supports the Government initiatives on childcare, including the start-up and running costs of Children and Family Centres. The report also set out exit strategies in place, or proposed, to deal with the eventual withdrawal or reduction of the grant funding. Two aspects of the exit strategies were particularly important: the potential impact on staff supported by the grant, and contractual obligations to third parties which delivered services on the Council's behalf.

Policy Development

Financial Contributions to Partners

3.34 The Executive and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee had considered reports summarising the financial contributions made by the Council to various partner organisations, and requested that respective Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees use the information to scrutinise contracts and agreements within their own portfolios.

Information was provided as follows:

- (i) Voluntary Sector groups providing services without which more people would apply to the Council for services directly;
- (ii) statutory, private and community sector organisations which provided services that had been outsourced by a tendering process, and without which services would have to be provided by another organisation; and
- (iii) voluntary and other organisations that the Council did not fund.

Short Break Services for Disabled Children

3.35 The Committee considered proposals for the Short Breaks Transformation programme during 2009/10, which would increase and enhance the service for disabled children and their carers, in line with "Aiming Higher for Disabled Children". It was noted that the Council had to demonstrate how they met the criteria to access the grant. The Department for Children, Schools and Families had allocated £367,900 revenue and £184,800 capital in 2009/10 to develop short break services for disabled children. In 2010/11, this allocation would increase significantly to £1,188,600 revenue and £431,300 capital, provided that services developed satisfactory. Consultation had been undertaken with disabled children and their carers on how short-term break services could be extended and improved. Claims for spending in 2009/10 included: an increase in holiday schemes; Borough-wide weekend clubs and activities; a buddying scheme; additional homebased support for severely disabled children; small grants to

increase leisure provision for children with Autism and a review of how Hollybank could meet the needs of a wider range of children.

Riverside School Expansion Scheme to Develop Autistic Specific Provision

- 3.36 The Committee supported proposals to create a centre for Autistic pupils at the former Woodbrook Special School site in Beckenham. The proposals were to make provision suitable for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The centre would also make provision beyond the normal school day, at weekends and during holiday periods, to provide the offer of respite care for parents. The Committee supported the view that the development of this high quality autistic specific provision would enable more children to be educated within the Borough and reduce high cost out of borough placements.

Special Educational Needs Transport

- 3.37 Proposals were considered for the future commissioning and contractual arrangements for SEN Transport. This included Phase 1 (the retendering of the SEN Transport contracts) and Phase 2 (the review of Transport Policy). Current contracts expired in March 2010 and it had originally been intended to commence new contracts from April 2010. However, for operational and procurement reasons, beginning the new contract in September 2010 would be less disruptive for children and families who might experience a change in driver, escort or pick-up time. The new contracts would be issued without change to the SEN Transport policy, but would be sufficiently flexible to accommodate policy changes where necessary. The Committee supported the proposals.

Capital Fund for Kitchens and Dining Areas

- 3.38 The Committee supported the allocation of grant funding of £628,514 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to improve school kitchen and dining facilities. The scheme was intended to address one or more of the following key areas:
- improving food quality;
 - increasing the seating capacity of dining areas;
 - improving the dining environment;
 - decreasing queuing times for meals.

Commissioning: Reporting and Intentions for 2010/11

- 3.39 An operational timeline for Commissioning has been developed, which requires planning for commissioning to commence much earlier than current practice, for example, needs analysis, resource mapping, and the identification of services to be commissioned should be concluded at least 12 months before the beginning of the financial year in which the service is expected to commence. The timeline enables commissioning intentions to be scrutinised, an effective procurement strategy to be developed, and for the procurement process to be concluded at least three months before the contract start. The Committee supported proposals for an annual report on commissioning intentions to be submitted to Members each May, followed by an annual report on contract awards in the period November to January of each year. It was

proposed that the two annual reports covered all contracts with a whole-life value of £50,000 or higher.

Playbuilder Grant

- 3.40 Playbuilder is a specific grant allocated by DCSF to Bromley to develop 22 new or existing play facilities for young people within the Borough. This grant comprises £1,123,274 capital and £44,903 revenue for 2009-11. Implementation has begun and work will be phased over two years with the development of 11 sites in each year. A range of consultees (including Elected Members and Friends of Parks groups) have been involved in consultation on the developments prior to the drafting of plans and the commissioning of suppliers and site workers. Despite a later than anticipated start and unfavourable weather conditions, all 11 schemes in Phase 1 (2009/10) are on target for completion. In some instances, partnership arrangements have generated additional funding to develop individual sites. Phase 2, 2010-2011, is under development and will commence when Phase 2 completes from April 2010. Press media opportunities are being planned around the completion and opening of the schemes; the earliest of which will be the Biggin Hill Recreation Ground in early March 2010.

Early Years Capital Funding: Prioritisation

- 3.41 The Committee reviewed a report setting out proposals for how the Early Years capital funding would be allocated to providers (£4,091,853 in capital for 2008-11). The funding allowed investment for improved facilities for young people with disabilities. It would be utilised for two main priorities: access for young people with mobility problems; and improvement in toilet facilities for young people with disabilities. The Committee endorsed proposals for the priority ranking of schemes and noted the wide consultation that had been undertaken, and the detailed criteria applied in the process of prioritisation.

Children and Family Centres

- 3.42 A report was considered on the implementation of Phases 1 and 2 of the Children and Family Centre programme and Phase 3 feasibility. The need to ensure that resources were reaching vulnerable families was highlighted, as was the importance of evidence to support reported levels of demand. Quantitative and qualitative evidence was required to measure the value-added achieved, and a management information system would be used to support this. It was noted that the total cost for the scheme in the current financial year was £4,842,000 and of this, £1.6 million would be held in the Council's contingency fund. The three year grant would end on 31 March 2011 and the precarious nature of grant funding was noted and consideration given to how this initiative would be sustained where possible.

Performance Monitoring

CYP Portfolio Performance Monitoring Reports

- 3.43 Members were provided with an overview of the performance of the Children and Young People Portfolio against a set of agreed key actions and indicators. The latter included local

indicators selected by Members, as well as a national set. Indicators are monitored on a quarterly basis through the Children and Young People PDS, Portfolio Holder and Trust Board, and contribute to the Council's Performance Management Framework through the Executive and, with partners, through the Local Strategic Partnership. Progress against performance indicators for the Portfolio were considered, including those relating to the Local Area agreement. Members raised questions about a number of matters, including under-18 conceptions, the education attainment of Looked After Children and, the Post-16 average points score.

Final Accounts 2008/09

- 3.44 The final outturn for Children and Young People Services including schools for 2008/09 was considered, including an underspend against the Non-Schools' Budget of £920,000. £500,000 of this had been earmarked as a reserve for potential redundancy costs arising in the event of Government Grant ceasing or reducing. The Committee considered the changes within Children and Young People budgets which might occur in-year, including new service pressure where management action might be necessary to ensure that budget spend can be kept overall within the approved limit. In these cases, savings would need to be achieved elsewhere to fund additional expenditure. Management action to secure improvements in the Youth Offending Service was an example of this.

Budget Monitoring

- 3.45 Members received periodic budget monitoring reports for Children and Young People Services, including, where appropriate, variations in both the Schools' Budget and the Non-Schools' Budget, and the reasons for these. The reports are used to inform future years' budgets and ensure that funding is aligned with the approved policy and strategy. Members also considered information on schools with deficits and the status of their deficit recovery plans. The latest of these reports is elsewhere on this agenda.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services: Strategy Action Plan

- 3.46 The Committee considered a report outlining progress in addressing the recommendations of the CAMHS review of July 2008. It noted the range of actions in place to reduce waiting times for services and increase the efficiency of the service. The position of the Local Authority had been strengthened with regard to influencing decisions taken by the PCT contracted provider organisation. Broader discussions concerning strategic commissioning were taking place within the Local Strategic Partnership arena and this could potentially further influence the role of the Council in commissioning of such services. The proposal to combine Tiers 2 and 3 support and intervention services was endorsed.

Pupil Attendance in Bromley Schools

- 3.47 A report provided an update on the progress made on the development of a Bromley Pupil Attendance Strategy. Members noted particularly that the 'Spike' initiative to promote improved attendance at primary schools was working well and that the young people involved appeared to be very enthusiastic about the scheme. Early indications suggested that attendance was improving, with seven schools showing that an additional 229 pupils achieved 100% attendance over the period concerned.

Youth Provision in Bromley

- 3.48 A report was considered on the implementation of recommendations of the 2006 review of youth provision conducted through a Children and Young People PDS working party. Members noted the good progress made by the Integrated Youth Support Service since it was established in April 2008 and incorporated the work of the youth service in promoting positive activities for young people. Members stressed the importance of partnership with uniformed groups and noted that additional units for the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards scheme had recently been set up in Penge, Mottingham and the Crays. They stressed the importance of the continued engagement of young people in positive activities across the Borough. In this connection, Members should make themselves accessible to young people, as it was important to engage them in the democratic process.

Improvement, Efficiency and Effectiveness Plans

- 3.49 At the request of the Chairman of the Committee, the Director, Children and Young People Services submitted Improvement, Efficiency and Effectiveness plans for scrutiny. A report presented a summary of the plans for 12 performance centres and gave an early indication of how the plans for 2010/11 would address the Council's future financial forecast. Taken together, the plans formed the service's business plan for the delivery of priorities within the

Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011 and "Building a Better Bromley: 2020 Vision". The total budget for plans detailed in the report was £67.6 million and full details of budgets were contained within the plans themselves.

External Inspections of CYP Services

Ofsted Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements

- 3.50 In June 2009, Ofsted introduced a new (annual) two-day unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements within Local Authority Children Social Care Services. Bromley was in the first cohort of LAs to be inspected on 24 and 25 June 2009. Six areas were recorded where contact, referral and assessment services were being carried out satisfactorily and in accordance with national guidance; four areas of strength and six areas for development. There were no areas identified as being of serious concern for priority action. The inspection endorsed the progress achieved, the effectiveness of practice and the management action taken to further strengthen safeguarding arrangements. An action plan outlined the key tasks to address areas for development, together with progress to date.

Ofsted Unannounced Three Year Inspection of the Bromley Adoption Agency

- 3.51 The Committee was pleased with the excellent inspection outcome and noted the improvement within the service that had been recorded. The outcomes were conveyed from the Ofsted Inspection report and an action plan considered to address areas for development. It was agreed that Adoption Panel members, as well as officers, should undergo training in safeguarding.

Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment Rating of Bromley Children's Services 2009

- 3.52 On 9 December 2009, Ofsted published the outcome of the 2009 APA of the borough's Children and Young People Services. The overall assessment was that the Council "performs well" and is "an organisation that exceeds minimum requirements". The rating contributed significantly to the "Managing Performance" element of the Area Assessment.

Inspection of Youth Offending Team

- 3.53 This matter was considered jointly with the Public Protection and Safety Committee. The initial inspection of Bromley Youth Offending team in 2006/07 had identified a range of weaknesses across the service. The report of a re-inspection in January 2008 was presented to a joint CYP PDS and PPS PDS Committee in June 2008. A progress report to the Joint Committees in 2009 identified areas of focus for the service, as well as noting the impact of changes in legislation for youth justice. Additional funding of £200,000 per annum had been agreed for a two year period from 2008 to meet the additional needs of the service and funding from April 2010 would be considered early in 2010, when indicative cost pressures would be considered by the Executive. It was noted that the Police were making a significant contribution to the service through a full-time equivalent member of staff.

Additional Strategic Reports

3.54 There have also been three key additional reports which have addressed areas of strategic importance for the CYP Portfolio. For reasons of timing and the need for referral to the Council's Executive for a decision, these reports were presented by the Director CYP to the Portfolio Holder at special meetings to which the CYP PDS Chairman and Committee Members were invited to attend. When referred on by the Portfolio Holder CYP to the Council's Executive for decision, these reports were also given full scrutiny by Executive and Resources PDS Committee. The reports in question were:

- (i) Children and Young People Services, Staffing, Business Functions and Funding. A report which detailed to the progress made in service provision since CYP Department was established in May 2006 and focused on: staffing numbers, funding framework, performance management arrangements, Value for Money statistics in the form of Audit Commission comparative data on Local Authority spend, external inspection outcomes.
- (ii) CYP Key Budget Pressures 2010/11. A report which summarised the budget planning assumptions for 2010/11, together with the budget savings targets to be achieved. The report also identified the need for additional resources to address significant service pressures in relation to three areas: recruitment and retention of children's social care staff; children's placements; Youth Offending Team.
- (iii) Recruitment and Retention of Children's Social Work Staff. A detailed report which set out proposed measures to enable Bromley to secure a stable children's care workforce and reduce reliance on agency locum support, together with measures to increase the capacity within the service to manage the significant increase in volumes of referrals and caseloads. This report also highlighted the related service implications for the Council's Legal and Democratic Services in undertaking the legal functions to support these caseloads.

Members of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend the Portfolio Holder meetings where these issues were discussed.

Pre-Scrutiny of Reports to the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder

3.55 The Committee undertook pre-scrutiny of a number of other reports to the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder. Topics included:

- the outcome of the annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment;
- the report of the Director of Children and Young People Services on business functions, staffing and funding of the department;
- proposals for recruitment and retention of children's social care staff within the department;
- 14-19 reform and the transfer responsibilities for commissioning Post-16 education and training from the Learning and Skills Council;
- management of the Building Schools for the Future Programme in Bromley;
- the Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011;
- the strategy for capital investment in secondary schools and the primary capital programme;
- proposals for pocket of deprivation funding in 2009/10;

- Children Social Care Charging Policy;
- the Dedicated Schools' Grant: 2010/11 Consultation;
- Special Educational Needs/Additional Educational Needs Funding Review.

Cllr. Robert Evans
Chairman, Children and Young People PDS Committee

Environment PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Julian Grainger

Introduction

- 3.56 The services provided within the Environment Portfolio affect every resident of Bromley, as well as those who visit the borough or travel through it. For some years, the regular General Satisfaction Survey – now renamed the Place Survey - has consistently shown how significant these services are to residents. When asked in the survey, “What things would you say are most important in making somewhere a good place to live”, matters such as clean streets, traffic congestion, the condition of highways and pavements, and parks, are all rated highly. This wide ranging impact means that scrutiny is particularly important.
- 3.57 By their nature many of the issues considered by the Committee are long-term. Measures to increase recycling for example, or to reduce energy consumption, can only take effect over time. However the Committee has continued to build on work carried out in the past and has kept major issues under review.
- 3.58 The Committee has sought to focus its efforts, directly or through Working Groups, on issues of real concern to the public such as parking, waste and recycling, public toilet provision, and road safety.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and Executive

- 3.59 The Committee seeks to fulfil this role by:
- Early consideration of priorities and action points to be included in the Environment Portfolio Plan, followed by a half yearly review in November each year of progress against the Plan.
 - Monitoring of key performance indicators and budgets.
 - Pre-decision scrutiny of relevant Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions
- 3.60 In March 2009, the Council agreed changes to Executive decision making arrangements which have had a major impact on the agendas of PDS Committee meetings during 2009-10.
- 3.61 The new arrangements have meant that all reports on proposed decisions are presented at PDS meetings for pre-scrutiny, with the Portfolio Holder attending to contribute to discussion, answer questions and receive comments. The Portfolio Holder has then made decisions separately, in the days following the meeting.
- 3.62 This has led to a significant re-emphasis being given by the Committee to pre-decision scrutiny of Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions. This is reflected in the priorities which the Committee addressed during the year, and which are set out below. A particular focus for the Committee this year has been pre-decision scrutiny of a wide range of traffic management and road safety schemes.

Working Groups

- 3.63 Three Working Groups were constituted for at least part of 2009-10:

Parking

Councillors: Samaris Huntington–Thresher (Chairman), William Huntington–Thresher, Sarah Phillips, Brian Toms, and Michael Turner

- 3.64 The Council’s parking service makes an important contribution to the management of highways and traffic, and is a vital component in supporting the borough’s economy. The service faces unique challenges in balancing the interests of residents, motorists and businesses.
- 3.65 The Parking Working Group was established in November 2008 and completed its work in June 2009. The Group considered the future direction of parking strategy, a reform of borough-wide charging policy, and a range of policy challenges for both on- and off-street parking management. The review was conducted against a challenging financial background, posing complex questions on the future of the borough’s parking service and the contribution it could make to the health of the local economy.
- 3.66 At the PDS meeting in June 2009, the Working Group’s Chairman, Councillor Samaris Huntington-Thresher, presented a final report containing eleven recommendations, including the creation of a refreshed Bromley Parking Strategy and revision of borough-wide charging policy.

Waste Minimisation

Councillors: William Huntington–Thresher (Chairman), Nicholas Bennett, Sarah Phillips and Samaris Huntington–Thresher

- 3.67 Waste collection and disposal is one of the major items of expenditure for the Portfolio and the expansion of recycling is important for the well-being of the Borough. This is an issue that affects every household. It is important financially and environmentally.
- 3.68 The Working Group was established by the PDS Committee in the previous year and was reconvened for 2009-10. Following the expansion of the Composting for All trial across a further 22,000 properties, the Working Group has been regularly updated on the public reaction to the scheme, to ensure lessons are learnt with regard to communications and promotional activities.
- 3.69 The Working Group has also enjoyed interactive presentations regarding the impact on tonnages of both waste and recyclables, and the potential impact this would have on future budgets. This work has included the development of a costed model for the potential roll-out of the service borough-wide. With eight months feedback from the trial area now available, this

analysis will be reviewed during the next quarter to form the basis of a report to Members regarding the future of the trial.

- 3.70 The Packaging Recycling Action Group (PRAG) is an industry led body, with membership from packaging manufacturers, packers, retailers and the recycling industry, as well as local authorities. This group is exploring options for reducing packaging and increasing its recyclability. However, it also acts as an opportunity for the industry to explain advances in reduced, light-weight and stronger packaging, which informs the potential for further improvements. Regular feedback on this information to the Working Group ensures Bromley's views and concerns are incorporated at a national level.
- 3.71 The Working Group also considered the potential benefits which would arise through appointing a dedicated schools recycling officer. With an officer now in post, the Working Group will be asked to explore the potential synergies between the range of school educational activities carried out by Environmental Services, with the aim of ensuring a consistent set of messages are promoted.
- 3.72 The Working Group was encouraged by the roll out of a battery collection scheme in advance of the legal requirement to do so, and the involvement of schools in the scheme.
- 3.73 The Waste Review home page on One Bromley, available to Members and officers, ensures that appropriate information, data, statistical information and 'useful' reading enables the Working Group to keep up to date on progress without the need for paper copies of documentation.

Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

Councillors: William Huntington-Thresher, Julian Grainger, and Samaris Huntington- Thresher

- 3.74 It was intended that this Working Group would follow up the work of the former Energy Efficiency and Carbon Management Working Group which was established in the previous year. The priorities established last year were:
- Review performance against the two LAA targets relating to energy efficiency and carbon reduction;
 - Energy saving through changes in street lighting;
 - Visits to demonstration sites to identify good practice;
 - Development of Council "demonstration projects" that can be used as models for other private and public sector organisations in the Borough;
 - Energy use in schools – schools account for over 40% of the Council's carbon footprint and a correspondingly high energy consumption;
 - Domestic energy consumption;
 - Publicity.

Bromley Area Action Plan Park and Ride

Councillors: William Huntington-Thresher and Peter Morgan

- 3.75 A single meeting was held to review the Park and Ride aspects of the Bromley Area Action Plan in advance of submission. The Working Group supported the development of Park and Ride facilities linked to the rail network, to provide car parks distributed across the borough with

less impact on the road network. Whilst supporting the need for an interim Saturday-only Park and Ride scheme, it was considered possible to work with partners to reduce the impact on Norman Park.

Other major topics covered during the year

Road Safety and Traffic Management Schemes

- 3.76 As outlined above, the committee has this year placed significant emphasis on pre-decision scrutiny, and this has been a particular priority in the case of proposed road safety and traffic management schemes. A large number of schemes have been brought forward for decision this year. The Committee has given detailed scrutiny to each of the reports brought forward during the year, and has advised the Environment Portfolio Holder accordingly on whether schemes should be accepted or referred back for further consideration.

Community Toilet Scheme

- 3.77 In June 2009 and again in January 2010, the Committee reviewed the provision of Public Conveniences in the Borough and considered options for the future. The Committee reiterated its support for the Community Toilet scheme, whereby the Council supports local businesses to make toilet facilities on their premises available to the general public. This was already delivering enhanced public toilet provision. The Committee endorsed the progress which had been made in introducing schemes in Hayes, Biggin Hill, Beckenham and Petts Wood.
- 3.78 The Committee was not convinced that sufficient alternative provision was yet available in Beckenham and Petts Wood, and advised against closure of the public conveniences in these two areas. This position was confirmed by the Portfolio Holder. The Committee will give further consideration to the impact of the scheme, and the potential expansion to additional businesses or areas at a meeting early in the new Council year. In the longer term there is potential for further service enhancement at reduced cost to the Council through this method of provision.

Friends of Parks and Street Friends

- 3.79 In February 2010 the Committee received the annual review of the borough's two Friends schemes, for Parks and Streets. The number of Parks Friends groups has increased from 38 to 45, representing almost 25,000 hours of voluntary work contributed to Bromley's parks. The additional funding raised in partnership with Friends Groups has doubled to almost £300,000. Finally there are now over 700 Street Friends helping to improve the borough's street scene. The Friends schemes and additional funding are resulting in significant improvements to the environment in the borough and enhanced community spirit.

Street Lighting and Highway Maintenance

- 3.80 Maintenance of the highway is of major importance to residents and maintenance of good communications is essential for economic well-being of the Borough. Any failure to maintain the infrastructure adequately will have long-term implications for the level of expenditure needed in future years. Reflecting the importance of these issues, detailed consideration was given by the Committee in July 2009 to pre-decision scrutiny of the Highway Maintenance

programme, the Environmental Improvement programme and the Street Lighting Replacement programme. The Committee continues to monitor Highway Maintenance trials following the recommendations of an earlier Working Group.

Winter Maintenance

- 3.81 Following the snow event in February 2009, the Committee received two reports for pre-decision scrutiny on the performance of the Council's winter maintenance services. In June 2009 an overview of the service's performance was taken including an assessment of the impact on highway surfacing of the bad weather, and the likely financial consequences e.g. an increased number of pot holes. A further report was considered in October 2009 focusing on footways clearance. Several refinements to the boroughs operations have been introduced, leading to performance improvements during the snow events of December 2009 and January 2010. The embryonic extension of the Street Friends programme, to include supporting resident self-help schemes during snow events, is an encouraging addition to the salt bins strategically placed around the borough. The PDS committee has congratulated staff and contractors on their efforts keeping Bromley's roads and footways clear this winter.

Contract review

- 3.82 Changes in Standing Orders which came into effect in April 2009 have meant that the Committee now regularly considers work packaging and tendering issues. In addition, at each meeting of the Committee a digest of the Council's Contracts register is presented focusing on contracts within the remit of the Environment Portfolio. This has assisted the Committee in planning its input into the contracts process.
- 3.83 The Committee has continued to carry out detailed reviews of contracts which are approaching the date when they would need to be re-tendered or extended, as well as careful pre-decision scrutiny of contract award recommendations. The contracts examined during the course of the year were:
- Coney Hill Landfill Site Monitoring (Gateway review – July 2009)
 - Parks and Depot security (contract award – November 2009)
 - Vehicle Maintenance (packaging report - June 2009; contract award January 2010)
 - Inspection of Street Works (contract award – January 2010)
 - Street Lighting (contract extension – January 2010)
 - Street Cleansing (contract extension – January 2010)
 - Highways Maintenance (contract award – February 2010)

Public Transport Liaison Forum

- 3.84 Public transport liaison meetings were held in June and November 2009. Meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Environment PDS Committee and are attended by representatives of TfL and transport operators. Meetings of the Forum are open to all Members. Presentations were received during the year from SELTRANS on workplace travel plans, from the police on Safer Neighbourhoods, on Biggin Hill airport including the air show, and on the new TfL funding arrangements for boroughs. The Forum is currently the main route for dialogue with the Council's key partner in the field of transport, TfL.

Portfolio Plan and Budget Monitoring

- 3.85 Throughout the year, the Committee scrutinised the service and financial performance of the Environmental Services Department against the commitments made in the Portfolio Plan. The Committee remains concerned at the impact of the recession on parking, and is encouraged by the performance improvements in recycling and waste diversion. The Committee scrutinised the proposals for the Environment Fund, as well as the draft Environment Portfolio Plan for 2010/11.

Monitoring progress with the Local Area Agreement

- 3.86 Under the current Local Area Agreement, the PDS Committee is responsible for monitoring progress on those parts of the Agreement which relate to the Environment Portfolio. The stretch targets in the Agreement, if fully met, will entitle the Council to reward grant of the order of £1.35 million, £1 million of which relates to the achievement of recycling targets in 2009/10. Monitoring of progress has therefore been a significant responsibility. The Committee has received progress reports for each quarter, and will be given a further report in June 2010 once end of year monitoring is complete.
- 3.87 In addition, the Committee received a mid-year progress report on the implementation of the 2009/10 Environment Portfolio Plan, including all LAA targets set in the context of the Portfolio's wider commitments. Action was subsequently taken to improve performance on graffiti removal, addressing an LAA reward target.

Looking to the future

- 3.88 The work programme for 2010/11 will be agreed by the Environment PDS Committee following the May election of a new Council. It is intended that the new Committee will continue to follow up long term issues protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment in Bromley. In particular the current PDS Committee has recommended that the new PDS Committee in 2010/11 consider forming a working group to consider policy development activity in respect of street cleansing, prior to the service being re-tendered in 2011.
- 3.89 The current PDS Committee has also recommended that the performance of the Winter Maintenance Service should be reviewed following a second winter with significant snowfall in two years, with self-help schemes being an important element of the review.
- 3.90 New powers for scrutiny of partner bodies were contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Developments in this direction are anticipated following consultation on Central Government's Strengthening Local Democracy paper, along with further legislative change. This is likely to impact on the work of the Committee following the election of a new Council in May 2010.

Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee

Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. George Taylor

Introduction

- 3.90 The Committee has met five times this year. Each meeting has scrutinised the reports for decision by the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder and considered policy development of key areas of the portfolio. Monitoring performance against the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Plan and Council key priorities has been central to the committee's work. There have been two working groups which have enabled a thorough investigation of key issues and formed robust recommendations.

Working Groups

- 3.91 The main focus this year has been the Beckenham and West Wickham Working Group and the conclusion of the Recreation Working Group.

Beckenham and West Wickham Working Group

- 3.92 Outcomes of the Member working Group on Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centres were reported to the Committee at its meeting in October 2009. Following this Committee a further meeting was convened of the Working Group to review the recommendations and to allow Ward Members the opportunity to fully participate in the final report. This report was considered by the Committee at its November meeting. Given that a significant number of recommendations affected the work of other Portfolio Holders a further report will be presented to the Committee feeding back on comments received from other Portfolios.

Penge Town Centre Working Group

- 3.93 Outcomes from the PDS Working Group review on 'Measures to Assist the Regeneration of Penge Town Centre' were reported to the Committee at its meeting on 9th July 2008, and to the Portfolio Holder on 15th July 2008. On the 26th January 2009 the Working Group re-convened for a one-off meeting to assess progress in implementing the review recommendations. These recommendations included the possible provision of sites for market stalls, lamp-post banners, footfall monitoring, possible hard landscaping schemes for the town centre and High Street parking. It was reported that the majority of recommendations had now been implemented and that the Town Centre management team would continue to identify relevant opportunities that met the agreed recommendations.

Recreation Working Group

- 3.94 The Recreation Working Group was established in Autumn 2008 to review the recreation services provided across Bromley for young people, with special provision for those considered 'hard to reach'. Evidence has been heard from a range of key partners including services across the Council, Bromley MyTime, Bromley Youth Councillors and the Metropolitan Police Service. Outcomes from this review were reported in July 2009 with a range of recommendations. A further report was considered at the November 2009 meeting where progress was reported on implementing the agreed recommendations. Out of the 7 recommendations, all but one, the

creation of a dedicated Grants post, were reported as being either achieved or in the process of being achieved.

Economic Recession

- 3.95 The year has seen the continued economic decline, nationally and locally. The Committee has actively kept abreast of the impact on the Borough and the support and help that the Council and its partners can provide to its communities, in particular to local businesses.
- 3.96 Regular economic updates have provided evidence to the Committee of the economic position and helped in its scrutiny of policy and projects.
- 3.97 The Committee has supported several measures to support businesses through the recession. The Committee has challenged officers to increase wherever possible the use of local business and welcomed the extension of the 'Boost Your Business' events. The committee received a presentation from the Lewisham Plus Credit Union manager regarding its role in supporting residents' financial independence and its plans for expansion across Bromley. The Committee recommended that the Portfolio Holder support the expansion with the requirement that a Bromley branding was developed.

Performance Monitoring and Budget Monitoring Reports

- 3.98 The Committee has received regular performance monitoring and budget monitoring reports. The delivery of the Local Area Agreement employment target was the subject of a specific report. The Committee received a detailed report and regular updates on 'The People into Employment' project which is delivering this LAA target. The Committee have encouraged the development of legacy plans to ensure good practise and experience is incorporated in the Council and partners work. The debate concerning the need for more robust indicators, specifically for town centres, has continued and the Committee will need to maintain its scrutiny in this area.
- 3.99 Budget monitoring has highlighted the substantial negative effect of the recession on the portfolio.

Bromley and Orpington Town Centres

- 3.100 The Committee has continued its review of the major proposals for Bromley and Orpington Town Centres. In July 2008 the Committee received a presentation and update on plans for Supplementary Planning Guidance and environmental improvements for Orpington Town Centre. Members of the Committee asked questions and made comments and suggestions. These included detailed comments regarding the design of proposed improvements, and the importance of ensuring that the momentum for development continues, with the promotion of sites and helping local businesses and residents to respond positively to the new Tesco development.
- 3.101 The Committee received a number of progress reports on the Area Action Plan for Bromley Town Centre. Members stressed that every opportunity to involve the public in further consultation

leading up to the Examination in Public should be made. The Committee emphasised the need to promote a vibrant and thriving community. Members emphasised their concern for parking and the importance of receiving regular progress reports.

- 3.102 The Committee considered a report at its October meeting to extend the current contract with the Ambassadors Theatre Group for a year until April 2011 in order to allow further investigatory work into the electrical systems in the Theatre.

Recreation

- 3.103 The Committee scrutinised the work of Bromley MyTime with the Chief Executive and Chairman attending the January meeting. The Committee agreed that value for money for the community was a priority and that the Leisure and Culture Division should work more closely with Bromley Mytime in future to ensure optimisation of resources. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Government-led initiative to fund free swimming for over 60's and under 16's provided limited funding for two years, but the initiative was under-funded, which is why it was not available in Bromley.
- 3.104 The Committee supported the designation of two Local Nature Reserves, Darrick and Newstead Woods and Hayes, Keston, Ravensbourne and Padmall Wood as a mechanism to protect and promote the natural environment as well providing excellent facilities for local residents and communities.

Adult Education

- 3.105 As Chairman, I am the Council's representative on the Bromley Adult Education Board of Governors and I have attended several meetings. The Committee has reviewed the progress made by the College. Members of the Committee noted that despite having to increase fees to counteract the reduction in government financial support for some courses, College enrolments have remained more or less steady; and this is a tribute to both the loyalty of our students and the quality of the tuition that they receive. Surveys undertaken during the past year show a high level of student satisfaction indicating 'excellence in the eyes of local people'. A total of 89% of students rated the College 'very good' or 'good' in both quality of teaching and overall facilities provided; only 1% expressed any degree of dissatisfaction in both areas as against 4% last year.

Policy Development

- 3.106 The Committee has contributed to the discussion and development of an Economic Development Framework for the Borough. The Committee has emphasised the importance of ensuring that partners such as Business Link and Job Centre Plus positively meet the needs of businesses in the Borough. Looking to the future the Committee is concerned to ensure that the budgets and resources of these and other business support organisations are fully optimised.
- 3.107 It has been an interesting and exciting year for the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee and I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their input and support. I would also like to thank all Officers in the Renewal and Recreation Department who I have enjoyed working with.

Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe
Chairman, Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Public Protection & Safety PDS

Chairman: Cllr. Tim Stevens JP

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. David Hastings

- 3.108 During 2009/10 the Public Protection and Safety (PPS) Committee met seven times and had two joint meetings; one with the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee to discuss the Youth Offending Team and the other with the Adult and Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee to consider security at the Bethlem Royal hospital.
- 3.109 The PPS Portfolio is truly cross-cutting both in terms of the Council wide input to its objectives and the contribution made by external partners. In line with this the PDS Committee has scrutinised and contributed to a diverse range of activity including plans for Environmental Health and Trading Standards, the Council's anti-social behaviour strategy priorities, the work of the Drug Action and Youth Offending teams, the noise strategy and the use of the substance misuse grant. Many of these areas cross both adults and childrens' services, and cover the key themes of prevention, enforcement and reassurance about public safety.
- 3.110 The fourth key theme for the Committee is engagement and once again this year the PDS co-opted representatives come from a number of local organisations including for the first time the Bromley Community Engagement Forum. I would like thank those concerned for their contributions throughout the year :
- Bromley Neighbourhood Watch;
 - Bromley Victim Support ;
 - Bromley Youth Council;
 - Bromley Federation of Residence Associations;
 - Bromley Community Engagement Forum.
- 3.111 The Committee has always supported the Neighbourhood Watch Organisation and the report of the Working Party which the Committee received resulted in recommendations which have benefited the scheme going forward. I have underlined the commitment of PDS Members by becoming the Council Champion for Neighbourhood Watch.

- 3.112 The PDS Committee has implemented a programme of presentations and “Witness Sessions” where we invite representatives of partner organisations (including those represented on the Committee) to explain how their activities are contributing to the Portfolio objectives and to provide an opportunity for the Committee to raise concerns about issues on behalf of the Borough. During 2009/10 these have included the London Assembly Member (James Cleverly) who briefed the Committee on London wide community safety issues, the London Ambulance Service and Victim Support.
- 3.113 The local police are in regular attendance and the Borough Commander Charles Griggs and his staff provide regular updates to the Committee on policing matters and crime in the borough.
- 3.114 The PDS has regularly scrutinised the decisions of the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder and we have worked together in a spirit of close and productive co-operation.
- 3.115 This year the PDS will have a special meeting in July in conjunction with the Bromley Community Engagement Forum to scrutinise the Safer Bromley Partnership.
- 3.116 I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and Committee Members and Officers for their hard work and commitment over the last year.

Cllr. Tim Stevens JP
Chairman, Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee

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