

TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

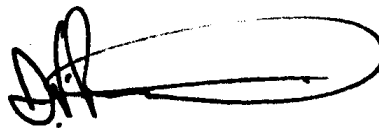
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Bromley is to be held in the Council Chamber at Bromley Civic Centre on Monday 2 December 2013 at 7.00 pm which meeting the Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend.

Prayers

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23rd September 2013 (Pages 3 - 28)
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To consider any petitions received
- 5 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given.
- 6 Oral questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.
- 7 Written questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.
- 8 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.
- 9 Beckenham Town Centre Improvements - Capital Programme (Pages 29 - 38)
- 10 Meetings of the Urgency Committee (Pages 39 - 44)
- 11 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.
- 12 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

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Chief Executive

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Agenda Item 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00pm on 23 September 2013

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Ernest Noad**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Judi Ellis**

Councillors

Reg Adams	Peter Fortune	Gordon Norrie
Graham Arthur	Julian Grainger	Tony Owen
Douglas Auld	Ellie Harmer	Tom Papworth
Kathy Bance MBE	Will Harmer	Ian F. Payne
Jane Beckley	David Hastings	Sarah Phillips
Julian Benington	Brian Humphrys	Neil Reddin FCCA
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	John Ince	Catherine Rideout
Ruth Bennett	Russell Jackson	Charles Rideout
Eric Bosshard	David Jefferys	Richard Scoates
Lydia Buttinger	Charles Joel	Colin Smith
John Canvin	Kate Lymer	Diane Smith
Stephen Carr	Paul Lynch	Tim Stevens
Roger Charsley	Mrs Anne Manning	Harry Stranger
Peter Dean	David McBride	Michael Tickner
Nicky Dykes	Russell Mellor	Pauline Tunnickliffe
Robert Evans	Alexa Michael	Michael Turner
Simon Fawthrop	Nick Milner	
Peter Fookes	Peter Morgan	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Ernest Noad

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Boughey, Getgood, Roxy Fawthrop, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher and Wells. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Canvin and Charles Rideout.

30 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 1ST JULY 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2013 were confirmed.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Nicholas Bennett and Peter Fortune declared interests in relation to the question about housing matters as members of the Affinity Sutton Regional Scrutiny Board and the Affinity Sutton Homes Board respectively.

32 PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

33 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

One question for written reply had been received from Dr John Parke – the question and reply are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

34 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Twelve oral questions were dealt with – these are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

35 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The answers to eight written questions were tabled – these are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

36 TO CONSIDER ANY STATEMENTS THAT MAY BE MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, PORTFOLIO HOLDERS OR CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

No statements were made.

37 CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Report RES13162

A motion to approve the revised code of Governance was proposed by Cllr Tony Owen, seconded by Cllr Russell Mellor and adopted.

**38 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13 AND
PERFORMANCE QUARTER 1, 2013/14**
Report RES13163

A motion to note the 2012/13 Treasury Management Annual Report and approve the actual prudential indicators in the report, and to approve changes to the Council's investment strategy, was proposed by Cllr Graham Arthur, seconded by Cllr Stephen Carr and adopted.

**39 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN
GIVEN**

Two motions were considered.

(A) Waste4Fuel Ltd Operating License

The following motion was moved by Cllr Peter Fookes and seconded by Cllr Kathy Bance MBE -

"This Council calls upon the Environment Agency to revoke the operating license of Waste4Fuel Ltd with immediate effect."

The following amendment was moved by Cllr John Ince and seconded by Cllr Peter Fortune -

"That this Council continues to encourage the Environment Agency to pressure the operators to clear the offending site in accordance with the provisions of the High Court Order, and to recommend prosecution should they fail to comply, as well as to consider their ultimate sanction, a revoking of their operating licence."

The motion as amended was carried.

(B) Safer Neighbourhood Policing

The following motion was moved by Cllr Peter Fookes and seconded by Cllr Kathy Bance MBE -

"This Council regrets the loss of Safer Neighbourhood Policing and calls on the Deputy Mayor for Policing to reintroduce it rather than the constituency based policing model."

The following amendment was moved by Cllr Tim Stevens and seconded by Cllr Kate Lymer -

"This Council regrets the loss of Safer Neighbourhood policing teams and has concerns as to how the new Borough Policing model will work and calls on the Deputy Mayor for Policing Stephen Greenhalgh to keep a close eye on its implementation over the coming months."

The motion as amended was carried.

40 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor invited all Members to attend the forthcoming event in aid of his charity, Bromley Y, at the RAF Club in Piccadilly on 30th October 2013, and personally thanked Cllr Michael Turner for proposing this event for a second year. The event at "Gingers" in Hayes was now a sell-out.

The Mayor thanked his Bowls, Cricket and Golf Teams for their efforts.

The Mayor led Councillors congratulating Councillors Nicky Dykes and Will Harmer on their recent engagement.

The Meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Mayor

COUNCIL MEETING
23rd SEPTEMBER 2013

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

From Dr John Parke to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

How much money has the Council saved by reducing benefits under the "Bedroom Tax", when the house is deemed a spare bedroom, compared with the cost of rehousing families made homeless because they could not live on the reduced benefit?

Reply:

The reduced Housing Benefit expenditure resulting from the removal of Housing Benefit Spare Room Subsidy is matched by a corresponding reduction in subsidy received from the Government. Therefore the change is cost neutral to the Authority.

The level of Government funding made available to Bromley in 2013/14 for the awarding of Discretionary Housing Payments increased to £700,174 from £226,883 in the previous year. Part of this additional funding is provided in recognition that in certain circumstances it would not be appropriate for a household to move to smaller accommodation and remaining in the existing home could result in increased financial pressure.

This legislative change brings the calculation of Housing Benefit for social sector tenants closer in line with those renting from private landlords. The private sector entitlement calculations already took into account the size of accommodation required by the household.

The Authority is not aware of any Bromley household that has been made homeless as a result of the introduction of Housing Benefit Spare Room Subsidy

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COUNCIL MEETING

23rd SEPTEMBER 2013

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

How many votes were cast on behalf of Bromley Council in the Orpington BID vote?

Reply:

There were 7.

Supplementary Question:

Given the narrowness of the vote overall, and the concerns of shopkeepers, particularly Petts Wood and Knoll, who voted predominantly against the BID what is the Portfolio Holder going to do to engage with those shopkeepers and overcome their concerns. That vote, if it had not been cast by the Council, would have meant that overall the BID would have been lost.

Reply:

I will put that right. There were 346 ballots papers issued and 165 received, 88 voted in favour and 76 against; even if the Council had not cast its votes the ballot would still have been won, both in terms of votes and rateable value. As regards putting people's minds at rest, I am hoping that the BID company, Orpington First, will engage with every trader, every business within the area and already it looks as if the BID is going to be very successful so I'm hoping that the people who in the early days thought it was a bad idea will in future think it is a very good idea.

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

In thanking and congratulating the Portfolio Holder for the provision of a working CCTV operation at the Cotmandene Crescent car park, could I ask him how many fly-tippers have been caught on camera and how many have resulted in successful prosecutions, since it commenced its operation.

Reply:

I would like to thank Cllr Ince for his question and kind comments therein. As Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety I was very happy to respond to the requests of the ward members for the installation of CCTV at Cotmandene. It was quite clear that despite the efforts of the ward councillors, who had made huge efforts in trying to deal with the issues there, and the support from my colleague the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, further action was clearly required. This I undertook with the installation of CCTV to deal with the anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping that was clearly occurring in this area. I'm glad to say this has been a huge success.

Currently, there are 158 recorded cases of fly-tipping at this site ranging from one bag to car loads and these run from 30th May until now. I myself have been to the CCTV control room and have seen literally car loads being dumped. So far, none have gone to court but it is anticipated that a number of the worst offenders will be prosecuted with some offenders having already attended interviews with Council officers at the Civic Centre. It has been decided that instead of prosecution each will be billed for clearance (depending on the amount deposited) and issued with a formal caution. This will result in London Borough of Bromley getting the money that would have otherwise been paid to the court.

There have been 29 Fixed Penalty Notices issued to date and 21 have been paid. As yet we haven't had any completed prosecutions but have 22 potential cases for people who have not replied to legal notices asking them to declare who was driving awaiting possible prosecution with a further five for fly-tipping. With regards to formal cautions we have commenced and completed 8 cases with estimated costs to be recovered and 4 people have fly-tipped twice since we started this action. Request for costs will be sent out shortly and we are looking to receive £150 to £200 per case. We have also sent out 28 warning letters for other forms of enforcement of other matters that we have come across while working with the CCTV cameras down there.

Supplementary Question:

I thank the Portfolio Holder for his response, it is nice to see it is working so well down there, although there are one or two lapses. Will the Portfolio Holder give us an assurance that when people are prosecuted that the maximum publicity can be given when people are successfully prosecuted, pour encourage les autres.

Reply:

Yes, I can reassure the ward councillors for Cray Valley West that we will be looking to get the maximum coverage out of our CCTV coverage. Last week Susie Clark our press officer sent out some coverage to the Newshopper announcing the installation of a CCTV camera there. She has promised that as soon as we get any prosecutions we will make absolutely certain that it is put out far and wide to get that message out that we are not going to tolerate that sort of behaviour down there any more. Trust me some of the behaviour has been absolutely staggering but we are sending out that message, people are getting that message, slowly things are improving, but the CCTV camera will do its job and has done its job. Yes, you'll get maximum coverage.

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Leader of the Council

Following the statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on 26th June 2013 what is the estimated further saving the Council is required to make in each of the financial years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 and what has the total reduction in expenditure already made in the past three financial years?

Reply:

Since the 2010 Spending Review there have been further grant reductions, compared with original indications and the most recent in the Spending Round statement on 26 June this year.

The overall impact of the changes in Government funding, including the Coalition reaffirming the protection of health and education, which provides a higher proportion of cuts in local government are further savings of £2.1m per annum in 2014/15, £6.6m in 2015/16, 11m in 2016/17 and £19m by 2017/18. These figures identified are the cumulative savings required, but the annual change between years would be £2.1m in 2014/15, £4.5m in 2015/16, £4.4m in 2016/17 and a further £8m in 2017/18.

I should warn that these numbers should be treated with some caution as they reflect, for example, an estimate in the changes at a national level of the Government Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits, the degree of protection remaining for other public services, the method of allocating grant reductions, reductions to meet alternative grant funding and any other top-slicing that the government chooses to do between now and then.

Supplementary Question:

Could he tell us how much has been saved already, what the percentage has been, what the percentage has been on the figures we have still got to save and what the overall percentage is likely to be for the years 2010 to 2017.

Reply:

These are helpful questions at a time when we are entering into consultation with the public. £57m has been saved in the last 3 years which equates to approximately 29% of the 2010/11 net budget requirement of £197m. Further savings of over £60m will be required over the next four years on a budget base of £209m. This is a further 29% reduction. This equates to a total saving over the seven year period of approximately 58%.

4. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

How many people who are homeless have been refused access to be able to register for Homeseekers this year?

Reply:

The legislation around housing allocations is very prescriptive and clearly sets out that homeless households must usually be given reasonable preference within any allocations scheme. Our scheme complies with this, meaning that homeless families would not normally be refused access to our housing register and Bromley Homeseekers.

However, our scheme does include a local connection criterion and an applicant who may be homeless but does not have either a local connection or an exceptional reason (as prescribed in the policy) for applying to Bromley, could be excluded.

The policy also excludes applicants with certain circumstances such as a high income level. In these circumstances though, the Department will still offer help in assisting them to secure an alternative accommodation/housing option.

It difficult to report on individual combinations of reasons for exclusion, however I can confirm that the Department have not excluded any statutory homeless applicants in the last 12 months – those applicants who have not been included on the Register have been those where officers have helped to resolve their homelessness issues.

Supplementary Question:

It would have been useful for Councillor Evans to answer the question. I asked him how many people who are homeless have been refused access to register for homelessness this year, and I did not see any answer there. The question Cllr Evans really needs to answer is, what is he doing to address the homelessness crisis affecting many residents in this borough. Thanks to the gate-keeping of this authority, many people are in desperate need of help, including a case I had recently where someone actually gave up his flat because he could not afford it in the private sector and he is now living in his van.

Reply:

The point that I made was that the Council have not excluded any statutory homeless person who has a local connection with Bromley from their registers. I think Councillor Fookes is suggesting that we offer assistance to people from well outside the Borough. I strongly believe that there must be a local connection or exceptional reasons. The Housing Department is working very hard under very difficult circumstances to ensure that the residents of Bromley are being well looked after.

5. From Councillor Tony Owen of the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Are you satisfied that our housing partners adopt a sensible pragmatic approach to the changing needs of tenants?

Reply:

Housing associations are independent bodies that have their own set of policies for managing tenancies and responding to the needs of their tenants. However, we do work closely with the associations operating in the borough to encourage the adoption of good practice models and a consistent approach to tenants. The Bromley Federation of Housing Associations coordinates the sharing of information and the setting up of discussions on specific topics.

In general terms the associations in Bromley are aware of their client's problems and engage in seeking to address the changing circumstances of their tenants, particularly in terms of the changes around welfare reform, education, employment and advice to sustain tenancies.

In terms of changing needs requiring potential move-ons to alternative housing, the associations in the Borough all provide advice about housing options including mutual exchanges and other housing moves. All associations work

through Bromley Homeseekers and the Housing register, but they also generally manage emergency transfers through their own stock.

Supplementary Question:

Will the Portfolio Holder use his and the Council's influence to assist one of my tenants who has been told by Hyde Housing that it was regrettable that since they had been affected by the welfare reform (bedroom tax) their current tenancy could only be reviewed at the end of the three year period which would be in December 2015. Apparently my constituent has the wrong kind of tenancy with Hyde Housing and they have produced this bunkum rather than assist one of their own tenants. The result is likely to be homelessness and more illness. Will the Portfolio Holder do his utmost to assist with this case?

Reply:

I and the officers in the Housing Department are very willing to listen to particular problems from residents and in this particular case I will be happy to talk to Cllr Owen about his resident.

6. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

Can the Chairman confirm that the Council's policy in relation to licensing street furniture is that new licenses cannot be issued without the consent of Ward Members. Can he confirm this was the decision of General Purposes and Licensing Committee and correctly minuted?

Reply:

Councillor Fawthrop's question refers to an item at General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 10th April 2013, "Review of Licensed Street Trading." In particular we were looking at 23 temporary pitches which were to be made permanent. The minute reads -

"In response to questions from the Committee, it was confirmed that these street trading issues were non-executive matters.

RESOLVED that, in principle, the following be approved:

(a) Amendments to locations and goods where street trading be permitted, as set out in Appendix A, to take effect from 1st October 2013, in consultation with Ward Councillors and subject to formal consultation being undertaken and a further report being submitted thereafter."

I can confirm that this minute was found to be true and accurate at the following meeting of the Committee.

Supplementary Question:

Can the Chairman confirm whether Petts Wood and Knoll Ward Members were consulted on the receipt of applications at Station Square, Petts Wood.

Reply:

We did receive an email telling us that several premises had accepted an offer of a licence, It was rather a surprise to us that they had been offered before we had been consulted, but we were consulted at that point.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Douglas Auld:

May I ask if he has any knowledge of who takes responsibility for granting the temporary licenses that were granted at the end of august?

Reply:

At our annual Council meeting we deal with a lot of delegations – on page 42 of that large document it says -

“To grant unopposed applications for full and temporary licenses and applications for renewals of such licences where the terms and conditions are unchanged.”

That is delegated to the Director of Environment and Community Services.

7. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

- i. If he will list the factors used to calculate the hourly cost of an officer in the Licensing team;
- ii. What are the money sums of each of the above?

Reply -

Factors included in calculation of hourly rates are as follows:-

Annual salary plus oncosts for NI and superannuation
HR and payroll costs
Travel expenses
Admin buildings and computer charges

The money sums are:-

Admin staff per fte	£24,517
Licensing officer per fte	£45,213
Admin building/computer costs per fte	£3,675
HR/Payroll costs per fte	£805
Travel expenses etc	£2,967

This is a complex matter and really needs to be decided corporately rather than by an individual department. I'm sure that the Chief Executive will be looking to deal with this matter shortly.

Supplementary Question:

Does this include pension costs as well?

Reply:

Yes, it includes superannuation which is pension costs.

8. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What processes are in place to enable the Council to respond to heavily used litter bins?

Reply:

The Council might increase the frequency of collection, possibly hood or introduce a larger bin or even withdraw a bin altogether for a period where it is being abused by person or persons unknown, subject to the individual circumstances of any particular bin.

Supplementary Question:

What impression do residents and visitors get when this borough regularly fails to empty bins in Crystal Palace Park, as has been happening recently, especially in the warmer weather?

Reply:

Councillor Fookes will probably realise if he looks at the blogsite again that that so-called news is four months old. The Council's position in Crystal Palace Park is quite clear - it will empty the bins as often and as regularly as resources permit, as is exactly the case in every single park in the borough, without fear or favour. Any suggestion that this Council is in some way short-changing Crystal Palace will shortly be exposed to be the disingenuous falsehood that Members on this side of the chamber have long been telling Members opposite.

9. From Councillor Tony Owen of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Can you explain why TfL removed the bus shelter outside Boots in Orpington High Street? Are you satisfied with the block paving that has replaced it?

Reply:

No I couldn't, until I asked, but TfL have advised the Council as follows:

The shelter in question is a part of TfL's landmark shelter upgrade programme. (which is great news for the burgers of Orpington who will soon be able to eat their paninis under shelter from inclement weather). However, a short hold up occurred when their contractors arrived on site and removed the old shelter they discovered some ducting that they had not anticipated which prevented them from resolving the job on the spot.

They will be back on 14th October to finish the job and remove the temporary groundwork that doesn't look as good as we would hope anywhere in the borough.

Supplementary Question:

It's more like a seascape non-shelter than a landmark shelter – I think they must have all been drunk when they put the cobbles back in. I know Councillor Smith is not responsible for TfL, but their communication is completely useless with this Council. Could I ask that Councillor Smith that he goes to TfL and express

the concern that people have when they don't know what's happening with things like this. They just disappear and they just stand in the rain or shelter in Boots.

If TfL could also decide where they are going to put the bus routes after the re-opening of the Chislehurst Road Bridge that would be helpful.

Reply:

Very happy to give that undertaking.

10. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Who authorised the licensing of street furniture at various premises in Station Square Petts Wood?

Reply:

The Director of Environment and Community Services has advised the three ward Members previously that due process has been followed in this instance and he stands behind the decision of the individual officer.

Supplementary Question:

Is the Portfolio Holder aware that there was a meeting between the ward Councillors for Petts Wood and Knoll and the Director of Environment and Community Services just after the annual Council meeting at which guarantees were given to the Members that no premises would be licensed without consulting ward Members first and is he disappointed like me that that agreement has not been kept.

Reply:

No, I am disappointed that the subject has been raised in the manner and tone that it has this evening, given the correspondence I have seen previously. We heard from Councillor Owen earlier that there is no cause not to give a temporary license unless there is real just cause. The temporary license will bring the three premises in question towards the end of October, when all the premises in question in that area of Petts Wood will be considered for licensing in consultation with the ward Members. That is very much the way it should be, in consultation with the ward Members, and you have my assurance that it will be.

11. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

If he will list all areas of the council's work which have been identified for 'channel shift' to digital communication, the potential savings in each case and the timetable for achieving the transfer?

Reply:

The key areas for channel shift to digital access are:

Registrars
Highways
Electoral

School Admissions including Free School Meals
Planning
Building Control
Property Helpdesk
Social Care
Parking
Streetscene & Greenspace including Waste Services
Environmental Health & Trading Standards
Council Tax & Benefits

We are expecting savings per annum in the order of £125-£200,000 for these service lines.

The decision by the Executive allows us to begin building a web portal to support this, pulling together those on-line options already in use such as fix my street, on-line admissions and parking. Additionally, it releases the necessary resource to formulate a clear strategy and project plan. This will include key milestones and defining reductions in service levels for traditional channels and/or closure in some elements, whilst also providing cost incentives for customers where a charge is made.

Supplementary Question:

Is he aware that in the pan London admissions process for school admissions, even if you register on-line as increasingly we encourage people to do, they get a letter by post in reply – does he agree with me that this is a nonsense when you can fly round the world without a single piece of paper except that which you print off on your computer.

Reply:

Yes, he does. On the back of the strategy which we are now evolving, officers and I visited Harrow Council which is held up as leading the way on this. We concluded from that visit that we have a long way to go. There are all sorts of areas and possibilities opening up and we are a little behind the curve on this. We very often assume that we have large numbers of residents who do not access the internet when in fact they do. Whilst we always have to allow for some not being there our main thrust will be to give access by digital means. That is what people want, what they do with banking and that is what we have to do to reflect their needs.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Tony Owen:

With these portals, to what extent will people have to fill in a tick box form and to what extent will there be flexibility for them to ask for what they really want rather than what the form tells them they must choose between?

Reply:

It is a question without a specific answer. As part of the work on the strategy that is evolving we have seen all sorts of areas where we are asking people to tick boxes, to provide evidence which is unnecessary at places that are unnecessary, asking them to come in to a central place in the middle of the borough to have documents scanned when they could be doing that at their libraries – we saw that in Harrow. Certainly we will be looking at that.

12. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What is the Council itself doing to ensure that the Docklands Light Railway comes to Bromley?

Reply:

The Council is continuing to discuss related matters at the highest level within the GLA and TfL family, who in turn continue to refine the detailed business case which contemplates several potential routes, costings and funding options.

It clearly remains very important that this work is completed at the earliest possible opportunity, to enable us to position ourselves as possible beneficiaries should HS2 be cancelled, and other major capital engineering projects be sought in its place.

As any further substantive news becomes known, I will of course update all colleagues both within this Chamber, as well through the relevant Committees.

Supplementary Question:

It strikes me as strange that this Council is calling on TfL and others to provide moneys, when we are not prepared to put our own hands in our pockets to support this particular scheme. The Portfolio holder needs to come up with another strategy, a lobbying strategy for other boroughs.

Reply:

Councillor Fookes is keen to spend this borough's money as if it grew on a tree at the bottom of the garden, which of course it clearly doesn't. You may recall a member at Westminster who said that there is no more money, and there isn't. We have to make do as best we can, wherever we can get it from. This borough is not a direct beneficiary of HS1 or Crossrail, it has had very little benefit from the Olympic legacy. I think it is absolutely right, given that none of those boroughs put their hands in their pockets, that we receive the same treatment to enable our residents to get to the City of London, Docklands and the East.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Tom Papworth:

The Portfolio Holder has told us that he is constantly campaigning for the Borough's priority of bringing the DLR to Bromley, but without prejudice to that priority which we know can he please confirm that he does fight the good fight to bring the Tramlink to Crystal Palace or if it has slipped his mind can he commit that he will do so going forward.

Reply:

I am delighted to. There is a very good case for Crystal Palace as well as the DLR. This Council sees the strategic importance of DLR, but I give you my absolute word of assurance and promise that the Tramlink to Crystal Palace remains the Council's second, but close second, choice. I will continue to press that case.

COUNCIL MEETING

23RD SEPTEMBER 2013

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will provide in table format the monthly average and annual figures for 2012-13 following information about each library (including the mobile library)

- i. Number of visitors
- ii. Number of book issues
- iii. Running costs
- iv. Cost per visitor
- v. Cost per book issue?

Reply:

See Appendix 1.

2. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

If he will in table format give the following information for the financial years 2009-10, 2010-2011, 2011-12, 2012-13 and at the latest available date for the current financial year;

The number of staff employed and salary costs in each department on a

- i. full-time basis
- ii. part-time basis

Of the above how many are:

- i. agency staff
- ii. employed on a fixed term contract?

Reply:

See Appendix 2.

We are unable to provide data for 2009/2010 as this was before the introduction of the Employee Budget Monitoring System (EBM). Any figures for 09/10 would have been misleading as they would not include agency staff.

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

If he will list by location the estimated value of each property and land holding owned by the Council and the total sum?

Reply:

The Council keeps a register of its property assets, grouped by service area. The properties are valued on a five year rolling programme in accordance with CIPFA requirements. A schedule of the properties and their values is available. The properties are valued on varying bases, depending on the asset type and whether there is an established market for the asset or whether it has a specialist use. The schedule sets out the valuation type. Those identified as OMV or MV have been valued on a market value basis. Operational properties have to be valued on the basis of their existing use - these are identified as OMVEU where there is a market for such uses, or DRC, where such properties are not usually traded on the open market and therefore a depreciated replacement cost approach has to be adopted. The OMVEU values do not necessarily represent the value that could be achieved if the property were offered for sale on an unrestricted basis, and the DRC values do not represent the sale price that would be likely to be achieved on an open market sale. Thus the values that can be provided do not represent the realisable value of the Council's portfolio.

The Council is not required to hold values for open spaces, such as parks and amenity areas, or for small, undeveloped areas such as grass verges.

4. From Councillor John Getgood of the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

How many Bromley Looked After Children, cared for in residential homes, are placed in Bromley and how many out of Bromley?

How many Bromley Looked After Children, cared for in foster care placements, are placed in Bromley and how many out of Bromley?

What is the council's policy towards caring for Bromley children within the Borough?

Reply:

Total Looked after Children in Residential – 37

Looked after Children in Residential in Borough – 1

Looked after Children in Residential out of Borough – 36

Total Fostered – 212

In Borough – 122

Out of Borough - 90

Total out of Borough Looked after Children in Residential within 20 miles – 15/36 (41.6%)

Total out of Borough Fostered within 20 miles – 57/90 (63.3%)

Bromley's policy is to place children in borough unless it is not in the child or young person's best interest e.g. gang affiliation.

All figures are a snapshot as of 18/09/2013.

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

How many tree pits in the borough are waiting for new trees?

Reply:

I refer the questioner to Appendices 3 and 4 attached for inclusion within this evening's minutes.

This Council is extremely proud to be the London Borough which hosts more street trees than any other, despite the well chronicled funding difficulties which have faced us over recent years.

As can be seen quite clearly, the previous Administration's policy of allowing the number of Borough trees to decline and empty tree pits to increase year on year, was an unhealthy trend set to undermine Bromley's renowned environmental credentials had it not been halted and reversed following their removal from office.

Although the current number of 2,494 tree planting sites is still somewhat higher than I would personally prefer to see, and indeed, a figure I remain determined to drive to a significantly lower number still over time as and when the Council's financial circumstances improve, it should be remembered that that total contains existing disused 'pits' as well as other fresh opportunity sites.

As evidenced by the figures in the appendices, it is however a significantly lower overall number than would otherwise have been the case had this Administration not immediately discontinued the previous poor practice adopted by our predecessors.

6. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

How many complaints have been received about the road closures as a result of the Bromley North Village scheme?

Reply:

I am advised that to date that there have been zero "complaints" albeit there has been the odd enquiry related to diversions, road safety and parking.

7. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

How many people have been given a Discretionary Housing Payment since April 2013?

Reply:

As at the 14th September, 321 Bromley households have received a Discretionary Housing Payment in 2013/14.

8. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Chairman of the Development Control Committee (to be asked at every 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 20 householder pre-application meetings and 16 non-householder pre-application meetings between 25th June and 6th September 2013.

As you are aware details of individual applicants and sites are exempt information and are not disclosable in response to a Council question.

Appendix 1 (Question 1)

Branch	Number of visitors		Number of book issues*		Running costs		Cost per visitor	Cost per issue
	Annual total	Monthly average	Annual total	Monthly average	Annual cost	Monthly average		
Anerley	54,107	4,509	29,492	2,458	145,140	£12,095	£2.68	£4.92
Beckenham	177,477	14,790	233,254	19,438	606,378	£50,532	£3.42	£2.60
Biggin Hill	247,462	20,622	73,311	6,109	239,357	£19,946	£0.97	£3.26
Burnt Ash	28,221	2,352	17,928	1,494	132,651	£11,054	£4.70	£7.40
Central	475,447	39,621	356,613	29,718	£1,737,661	£144,805	£3.65	£4.87
Chislehurst	88,440	7,370	91,673	7,639	£231,124	£19,260	£2.61	£2.52
Hayes	33,236	2,770	33,929	2,827	£137,956	£11,496	£4.15	£4.07
Mobile	20,561	1,713	22,046	1,837	£95,424	£7,952	£4.64	£4.33
Mottingham	41,870	3,489	28,788	2,399	£156,682	£13,057	£3.74	£5.44
Orpington	319,180	26,598	233,988	19,499	£728,554	£60,713	£2.28	£3.11
Penge	81,902	6,825	33,187	2,766	£148,624	£12,385	£1.81	£4.48
Petts Wood	102,727	8,561	102,598	8,550	£256,654	£21,388	£2.50	£2.50
Shortlands	34,706	2,892	41,196	3,433	£157,177	£13,098	£4.53	£3.82
Southborough	33,662	2,805	54,583	4,549	£188,391	£15,699	£5.60	£3.45
St Paul's Cray	44,121	3,677	29,149	2,429	£171,593	£14,299	£3.89	£5.89
West Wickham	130,344	10,862	118,671	9,889	£269,854	£22,488	£2.07	£2.27
TOTAL BOROUGH	1,913,463	159,455	1,500,406	125,034	£5,403,218	£450,268	£2.82	£3.60

*n.b. includes Books, CD, DVD and audio book issue

Appendix 2 (Question 2)

2010/11							
	Net Budgeted FTEs	Budgeted Posts	Head Count	Actual Spend £000	% Full Time Employees	% Part Time Employees	%fixed Term Employees
Adult & Comm Services	656.98	787	728	25,274	57.61	42.39	4.66
Children & Young People	781.98	993	894	31,257	51.00	49.00	25.80
Education & Care Services							
Environmental Services	295.77	321	317	11,032	83.73	16.27	10.93
Renewal & Recreation	406.72	526	488	14,707	55.31	44.69	19.70
Chief Executive	69.61	81	78	2,813	68.83	31.17	17.52
Legal & Democratic Resources	135.29	154	141	4,712	71.32	28.68	8.70
	158.73	171	162	6,467	73.82	26.18	6.38
Total	2,505.08	3,033	2,808	96,262	60.50	39.50	8.38

2011/12							
Adult & Comm Services	620.12	740	620	21,495	62.15	37.85	2.31
Children & Young People	708.26	835	708	28,449	51.27	48.73	7.61
Education & Care Services							
Environmental Services	280.89	310	287	10,270	81.47	18.53	10.84
Renewal & Recreation	370.65	463	407	13,476	57.00	43.00	3.91
Chief Executive	78.49	92	84	3,230	69.84	30.16	7.94
Legal & Democratic Resources							
	265.13	295	268	10,170	71.72	28.28	4.04
Total	2,323.54	2,735	2,374	87,090	61.79	38.21	5.68

2012/13							
	Net Budgeted FTEs	Budgeted Posts	Head Count	Actual Spend £000	% Full Time Employees	% Part Time Employees	%fixed Term Employees
Adult & Comm Services							
Children & Young People							
Education & Care Services	1,321.60	1,565	1,335	47,060	50.30	49.70	4.77
Environmental Services	264.85	285	278	10,729	80.88	19.12	9.19
Renewal & Recreation	259.39	305	286	8,022	55.29	44.71	4.78
Chief Executive	68.67	80	74	2,738	69.57	30.43	7.25
Legal & Democratic Resources	261.92	284	250	10,601	73.48	26.52	3.48
Total	2,176.43	2,519	2,223	79,150	57.01	42.99	5.16

2013/14 (To August)							
Adult & Comm Services							
Children & Young People							
Education & Care Services	1,220.15	1,443	1,278.00	18,178	50.00	50.00	4.53
Environmental Services	397.55	459	434.00	6,170	64.67	35.33	9.11
Renewal & Recreation							
Chief Executive	393.80	433	398.00	7,189	73.91	26.09	5.63
Legal & Democratic Resources							
Total	2,011.50	2,335	2,110	31,537	56.75	43.25	5.59

Notes

- FTE's relate to equivalent full time posts (36 hours) - whereas Budgeted Posts is how many people in post (part time/full time) plus vacancies
- Head Count is how many people were in post at that point in time
- The information included above is based on information extracted from the Finance "Employee Budget Monitoring System" at the end of year financial year.

Appendix 3 (Question 5)

Street Trees: planted, removed, net+/-

	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Trees Planted	0	0	0	0	700
Trees Removed		340	340	340	340
Net +/-		-340	-340	-340	360

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Trees Planted	700	500	500	500	500
Trees Removed	340	230	430	430	430
Net +/-	360	270	70	70	70

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Trees Planted	1,200	900	633	296	334
Trees Removed	430	250	455	542	408
Net +/-	570	650	178	-246	-74

London street trees by borough 2012/13

Borough	Street trees
Bromley	36094
Croydon	33000
Barnet	31000
Ealing	24000
Enfield	23500
Brent	22000
Sutton	21500
Redbridge	21300
Havering	21000
Waltham Forest	20000
Merton	18000
Newham	17800
Richmond	16000
Hillingdon	16000
Southwark	15711
Bexley	13000
Haringey	11500
Hounslow	11000
Islington	10460
Kingston upon Thames	10100
Lambeth	10000
Hackney	9500
Hammersmith & Fulham	9137
Camden	8938
Westminster	7500
Kennington and Chelsea	7000
Wandsworth	1500
City of London	479
Lewisham	unknown
Barking and Dagenham	unknown
Greenwich	unknown
Tower Hamlets	unknown
Harrow	unknown

Agenda Item 9

Report No.
RES13209

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: 2 December 2013

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

Title: BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS - CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: Clock House; Copers Cope; Kelsey and Eden Park;

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16th October 2013 the Executive approved an allocation of £726k from capital receipts and £150k from the Members Initiative earmarked reserve allocated for Beckenham Improvements for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Project. This is a match funding contribution to the overall scheme costs of £3,257k, the balance of which is subject to the success of a funding bid for £2,345k to the Transport for London (TfL) Area Based programme. A decision from TfL is expected in December 2013, and Council is requested to approve the addition of the scheme to the capital programme.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council agrees that the scheme with a total estimated cost of £3.257m be added to the capital programme.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £3,257k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: None – TfL approval is awaited
 5. Source of funding: TfL funding approval awaited; earmarked reserves for member priorities and capital receipts
-

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: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The scheme if approved will bring widespread benefits to Beckenham town centre.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillors have been involved in developing proposals through the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centres Working Group.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The report considered by the Executive on 16th October 2013 is attached as appendix 1. The minute of the Executive's meeting is set out below -

238 **BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS**
Report DRR13/126

Following feedback received after the unsuccessful 2012/13 funding application to TfL's Area Based Programme, officers amended the Beckenham Town Centre improvement scheme. A revised application was encouraged from TfL and supported by members of the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centre Working Party and local Ward Members.

In support of the revised application, and as a match funding contribution to the £3.257m overall scheme costs (28% of the total), approval was sought to set aside capital receipts of £762k along with £150k from the Members Initiative earmarked reserve for Beckenham Improvements. A funding decision on the application was due to be made by TfL in early December 2013.

Councillor Michael Tickner (Copers Cope) addressed the meeting in support of the recommendations. The Portfolio Holder for Education, as a Copers Cope ward Member, also expressed support, confirming that Councillor Russell Mellor, (Copers Cope) also supported the recommendations. The Deputy Leader commended work of the Copers Cope Ward Members concerning improvements for Beckenham town centre. The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Regeneration highlighted the opportunity presented for Beckenham. On release of £762k from capital receipts, he suggested this sum be replaced with s.106 funding from development at the former Glaxo/Welcome site. The Chairman of the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee, Councillor Ian Payne, also highlighted national initiatives concerning the renewal of high streets, including the Portas Review.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the allocation of £762k from capital receipts for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Project be approved, with release of the capital funding being subject to approval by Transport for London of the Area Based funding bid of up to £2.345m; and**
- (2) the scheme, with a total estimated cost of £3.257m, be added to the capital programme subject to the approval of full Council.**

Non-Applicable Sections:	See appended report.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None

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Decision Maker: Executive

Date: 16th October 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: **BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS**

Contact Officer: Kevin Munnely, Head of Renewal
02098 313 4582 E-mail: kevin.munnely@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Marc Hume, Director of Regeneration & Transformation

Ward: Copers Cope, Clockhouse, Kelsey & Eden Park

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 Following feedback received after the unsuccessful 2012/13 funding application to Transport for London's Area Based programme, officers have amended the Beckenham Town Centre improvement scheme. A revised application has been encouraged from TfL and supported by members of the Beckenham & West Wickham Town Centre Working Party and Local Ward Members.
 - 1.2 In support of the revised application Executive approval is sought to set aside capital receipts of £762k together with £150k from the Members Initiative earmarked reserve allocated for Beckenham Improvements, as a total match funding contribution to the overall scheme costs of £3.257m, which represents 28% of the total. A funding decision on the application is due to be made by TfL in early December 2013.
-

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members of the Executive approve the allocation of £762k from Capital Receipts for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Project. The release of the Capital funding will be subject to the approval by Transport for London of Area Based funding bid of up to £2.345m.**
- 2.2 **To add the scheme with a total estimated cost of £3.257m, to the capital programme subject to Full Council approval.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Safer Bromley Supporting Independence Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £3.257m for Beckenham Town Centre
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: None as TfL approval is awaited for the sum of £2.345m. Council match funding of £150k of unallocated balance of funding for Beckenham improvements Member Initiative. Executive approval is sought for the remaining match funding requirement of £762k from capital receipts
 5. Source of funding: TfL funding approval awaited, Earmarked Reserves for Member priorities capital receipts.
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 4
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Beckenham Town Centre
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillor's comments: .

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Beckenham and West Wickham Member Working Group have coordinated the work of Urban Designers East Architects as they have developed a public realm concept design for Beckenham Town Centre public realm improvements. These concept designs formed the basis for a Step 1 Major Scheme bid to Transport for London (TfL) Area Based Programme which was submitted in September 2012.
- 3.2 On 14th December 2012 TfL announced the Area Based Programme settlement for 2013/14. Unfortunately, due to the competitive nature of the bidding process and TfL's existing commitment to fund the Bromley North Village improvements, they did not support the Beckenham Bid at this stage. However, TfL did approve £175K under 2013/14 LiP funding for High Street/ Rectory Road junction improvements. Outline proposals for these works have already been developed as part of the original design work and officers are now proceeding with survey works to inform a detail design for implementation.
- 3.3 TfL's feedback on the previous Step 1 bid confirmed that the quality of the original bid and the competitive nature of the bidding round. TfL have confirmed that as the Bromley North Village improvement scheme has moved to full implementation and is fully funded, a Beckenham improvement proposal could now be considered for the Step 1 design phase. Officers have worked closely with TfL representatives to amend the original design proposal and have been sufficiently encouraged to resubmit a revised bid. The revised changes include making provision for traffic modelling to fully assess the impacts of the improvements on through traffic on the High Street and Rectory Road. The revised design also seek to integrate the Beckenham Junction Station better into the town centre, creating a more vibrant public space to the front of the station and improved pedestrian and cycle linkages. The Beckenham and West Wickham Member Working Group endorsed the resubmission of the Step 1 bid at its meeting on 23 May 2013. The submission of the Step 1 bid was signed off by Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation and the bid submitted in September 2012.
- 3.4 The scheme submitted is in outline form, as required by TfL's requirements and covers the Step Step 1 Design & Development costs as well as indicative build costs. If successful, as with the Bromley North Village proposal, this will require officers to translate the concept design (RIBA Workstage A/B) into an outline and then detailed technical design (RIBA Workstage C/D), in consultation with town centre stakeholders.
- 3.5 The design team led by East Architects will prepare the developed design including co-ordinating and updating proposals for structural design, utility services, site landscape, outline specifications, cost plan and project strategies. They will also prepare the technical design information to include all architectural, structural and mechanical services information and specifications. As required by TfL provision has also been made within the design and development budget for data collection to support the commissioning of a bespoke transport model for Beckenham. The estimated capital costs of the scheme include: main junctions improvement works; new lighting columns; new street furniture; new granite pavements and carriageway surface treatments. Although no match funding is required towards the design and development costs of £310k, TfL have indicated that if this bid is successful they would expect the Council to match fund 28% of the total project cost of £3.257m, which at this stage is estimated to be up to £912k.

Table 1 Estimated Design, Development and Implementation costs

	£	£
Design and Development costs		
Costs relating to data collection for transport model	45,000	
Feasibility and initial design costs	70,000	
Detailed design and consultation	195,000	
	<u>310,000</u>	
Implementation costs		
Capital costs and related fees	2,947,110	
Total estimated scheme costs	<u><u>3,257,110</u></u>	

- 3.6 Approval is sought for the allocation of the capital match funding requirement to ensure that all funding is in place should TfL approve the project and commit the resources in December 2013.
- 3.7 The overall programme for the scheme if the Step 1 bid is successful is:
- § Data Collection until April 2014
 - § Feasibility & Initial Design until Sept 2014
 - § Detailed Design & Consultation until April 2015
 - § Contract Award and Implementation Start Jan 2016
 - § Completion Nov 2016

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The development of a Major Schemes Step 1 Bid is entirely consistent with Policy Objectives set out in Building A Better Bromley and the Local Implementation Plan (2011-2014)

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A bid has been made to TfL for a contribution of £2.345m towards estimated costs of £3.257m for capital works for Beckenham Town Centre. The bid requires the Council to make a match funding contribution of 28% or £912k towards the projects total costs.
- 5.2 On 26th March 2012 the Council approved the setting aside of £2.62m in an earmarked Reserve for Member Priority Initiatives. This included a sum of £250k to support immediate Beckenham Town Centre improvements and to support a bid to Transport for London for traffic and public realm improvements.
- 5.3 To date £100k has been spent/committed leaving an uncommitted balance of £150k to act as part of the £912k of Council match funding required to support the revised Step 1 application.
- 5.4 Approval is therefore sought from the Executive for the balance of the match funding sum of £762k to be set aside from capital receipts, to ensure that all funding is in place should the overall project be approved by TfL during December 2013.

5.5 A summary of the estimated costs and proposed funding streams is shown below: -

Estimated costs	£'000
Design and development costs	310
Implementation costs incl contingency	<u>2,947</u>
Total Estimated costs	<u>3,257</u>
Proposed funding	
TfL (subject to approval)	2,345
Earmarked reserve balance for Beckenham Improvements	150
Capital Receipts (subject to approval)	<u>762</u>
Total proposed funding	<u>3,257</u>

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None for the purpose of this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None for the purpose of this report.

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

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Report No.
RES13200

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 2nd December 2013

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

Title: MEETINGS OF THE URGENCY COMMITTEE

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

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Urgency Committee deals with urgent non-executive decisions that are not of a sensitive nature where otherwise a meeting of full Council would be required. The Constitution specifies that any decisions made by the Committee should be reported to the next available meeting of the full Council. The Urgency Committee has met twice since the last report to Council on 1st July 2013 – on 21st August and 12th September 2013. The minutes of these meetings are attached for information as Appendices 1 and 2.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the decisions made by the Urgency Committee at the meetings on 21st August and 12th September 2013 be noted.

Corporate Policy

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

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £367,636
 5. Source of funding: 2013/14 Revenue budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): There are 10 posts (8.55 fte) in the Democratic Services Team
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: The report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

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

Ward Councillor Views

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Agenda and minutes of the Urgency Committee meetings on 21 st August and 12 th September 2013

URGENCY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on 21 August 2013

Present

Councillor Tony Owen (Chairman)

Councillors Graham Arthur, Stephen Carr, Judi Ellis,
Robert Evans, Peter Fookes, Russell Mellor and Tom Papworth

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Councillor Eric Bosshard and Councillor Stephen Wells. Councillor Judi Ellis as Deputy Mayor attended in place of the Mayor and Councillor Russell Mellor attended as alternate for Councillor Bosshard.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH MAY 2013

The minutes were agreed.

**4 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POSTS : SALARY PACKAGE
Report HHR 13002**

Approval was sought to urgently recruit two Interim Assistant Directors in the Education, Care and Public Health Services Department on a temporary/fixed term contract on a salary in excess of £100,000 per annum but not exceeding £110k per annum (including lease car or pay in lieu).

The current pay policy for Chief Officers (which includes deputy Chief Officers within the meaning of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) requires Members to approve large salary packages in respect of new appointments, the threshold considered by the Secretary of State being £100,000 per year. Salary packages will include salary, bonuses, fees or allowances routinely payable to the new recruit and any benefits in kind to which the officer is entitled as a result of their employment.

As the posts would be filled on a temporary/fixed term contract, the Council would need to offer a good salary package to attract quality recruits away from established and stable environments. A key challenge was to ensure that pay levels remain attractive and competitive so the Council can recruit and retain quality staff, especially staff charged with managing high profile Member priorities.

The post of Assistant Director, Adult Care Services, became vacant following the (normal) retirement of the previous post holder earlier in the year. The Director needed to secure the commitment and services of an agency staff member procured to fill the gap by offering him a temporary/fixed contract for six months initially with the L B Bromley.

The Director was also seeking a temporary replacement for the post of Assistant Director, Education, which would become vacant from 1st November 2013. In consultation with the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder, the Director, was keen to find a quality replacement immediately to ensure very little, or no, gap between the new person starting and the current post holder's departure.

In discussion and referring to the Adult Care Services post, the Executive Director, Education, Care and Health Services, referred to the suitability of the current temporary post holder. He also referred to the high financial return required from agencies.

For the post of Assistant Director, Education, it would not be possible to secure a full time appointment until January 2014. Again, there would be high costs in procuring an appointment via an employment agency. A consultant employed by the Department in the previous six to eight weeks had performed well and following initial approaches, had confirmed a willingness to work for the authority. The Executive Director was not convinced the post could be filled satisfactorily via an employment agency.

Councillor Evans supported the Director's comments on the performance of the proposed temporary post holder for the Adult Care Services post. The post was needed to oversee current work and future care proposals and how this is undertaken. For the Education post, he also commended the consultant's work in respect of the Pupil Referral Unit.

In view of the last day in post for the current Assistant Director, Education being 31st October 2013, it was explained there would be a period of about a month working in partnership with the new appointment who, it was proposed, would start on 30th September 2013. A partnership approach would be taken as a new appointment could not initially work full time and it would not be possible for the current Assistant Director, Education to continue full time during this period.

The Director HR confirmed that each appointment would be on a temporary fixed term contract which could be extended initially for a fixed period of time. This could subsequently be renewed by the Director as appropriate. The contract for both appointments would be to 31st March 2014 with an opportunity provided at the three month stage to confirm the appointment.

If appointing the temporary post holder in Adult Social Care, Councillor Mellor sought assurance that there would be no liability on the Council from the employment agency for appointing the officer. The Director, HR confirmed there would be no liabilities on the Council after 14 weeks i.e. no "poaching fee".

The recommendations were put to a vote and it was **RESOLVED that:**

(1) the proposal to appoint an Assistant Director, Adult Care Services, on a temporary/fixed term contract not exceeding £110k per annum including lease car or pay in lieu of a lease car be agreed; and

(2) the proposal to appoint an Interim Assistant Director, Education, on a temporary/fixed term contract not exceeding £110k per annum including lease car or pay in lieu of a lease car be agreed.

The Meeting ended at 6.13pm

Chairman

URGENCY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.22 pm on 12 September 2013

Present:

Councillor Peter Dean (Chairman)

Councillors Eric Bosshard and Peter Fookes

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

Councillor Peter Dean was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Owen, Stephen Carr, Ernest Noad and Tom Papworth.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST AUGUST 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2013 be confirmed.

9 REQUEST FOR A DISPENSATION FROM COUNCILLOR RUSSELL JACKSON
Report RES13175

The Committee agreed to consider an urgent request for a dispensation from Councillor Russell Jackson that would enable him to speak at the meeting of the Development Control Committee that evening on the planning application for 49 Shortlands Road, Shortlands, Bromley. Councillor Jackson owned a flat at the adjoining property (number 51) and had submitted objections to the application. Although he was a member of the Development Control Committee, because of his prejudicial interest he was not intending to take part in the debate, but he did request to be able to speak in objection to the application and elaborate on some of his concerns. The planning application also affected Councillor Lydia Buttinger – although she had not submitted an application for dispensation to speak at the meeting the Urgency Committee considered that it would be helpful to clarify that she should be allowed to remain in the room but not participate while the planning application was considered.

RESOLVED that the application for a dispensation from Councillor Russell Jackson to be allowed to speak at Development Control Committee on the planning application for 49 Shortlands Road, Shortlands, Bromley be granted unconditionally and, for the avoidance of doubt, Councillor Lydia Buttinger be permitted to remain in the room but not participate during the Development Control Committee's consideration of the planning application.

The Meeting ended at 7.24 pm

Chairman