

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

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 4 February 2015

Present:

Councillor Eric Bosshard (Chairman)
Councillors Douglas Auld, Nicholas Bennett J.P.,
Mary Cooke, Ian Dunn, Ellie Harmer, Samaris Huntington-
Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Livett,
Tony Owen, Ian F. Payne, Tom Philpott,
Pauline Tunnicliffe and Angela Wilkins

Also Present:

Councillor Vanessa Allen, Councillor Graham Arthur,
Councillor Stephen Carr and Councillor Robert Evans

**106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF
SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Russell Mellor, Keith Onslow (replaced by Councillor Mary Cooke) and Kate Lymer (replaced by Councillor Tom Philpott, and from Councillor Nicholas Bennett for arriving late.

107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**108 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received.

**109 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES PDS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2015
(EXCLUDING EXEMPT ITEMS)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2015 (excluding exempt items) be confirmed.

110 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Report CSD15010

The Committee received an update on matters arising from previous meetings.

111 FORWARD PLAN OF PRIVATE AND KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Committee noted the Forward Plan of Key and Private executive decisions published on 13th January 2015.

112 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

No questions had been received.

113 RESOURCES PORTFOLIO - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

The Committee considered the following reports for pre-decision scrutiny where the Resources Portfolio Holder was minded to take decisions.

113.1 FORMER EDC CARETAKER'S HOUSE, PRINCES PLAIN, BROMLEY

The Committee considered a report proposing that the former caretaker's house at Princes Plain be declared surplus to Council requirements and marketed for sale. The property had been allocated to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people, but it required significant improvement and it was no longer financially worthwhile to use the building in this way. It was also suggested that the property might be suitable for accommodating teachers, and it was possible that it could be purchased by an Academy.

RESOLVED that the proposal to declare the caretaker's house at the former Education Development Centre at Princes Plain, Bromley, surplus to Council requirements and offer it for sale on the open market be supported.

113.2 LAND ADJACENT TO 29 CHESTERFIELD CLOSE, ORPINGTON
Report DRR15/004

The Committee considered a report seeking authority for the disposal of a parcel of land adjacent to 29 Chesterfield Road, Orpington.

RESOLVED that the proposal to declare land adjacent to 29 Chesterfield Close, Orpington surplus to Council requirements to enable its sale be supported.

113.3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE - Q3 2014/15
Report FSD15010

The Committee received a summary of treasury management activity during the quarter ended 31st December 2014, when investments totalled £262.5m

with no outstanding external borrowing. The report also updated them on the Council's investment with Heritable Bank.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

113.4 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2015/16

Report FSD15011

The Committee received the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16, which were required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services to be approved by the Council. The report also included the prudential indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16, including the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement be approved and recommended to Council for adoption.

114 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Report CSD15011

The Committee considered the following reports on the part 1 agenda for the meeting of the Executive on 11th February 2015.

(5) Budget Monitoring 2014/15

Report FSD15008

The report set out the budget monitoring position for 2014/15 based on expenditure and activity levels up to November 2014. Considerable progress had been made in reducing the projected overspend in Care Services.

A Member questioned the need for the Council to spend money on a survey relating to Biggin Hill Airport when the airport operator had already carried out an extensive consultation. It was explained that the Council as decision-maker had to carry out its own independent survey and could not rely on work initiated by an interested party.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(6) 2015/16 Council Tax

Report FSD15009

The Committee considered the draft 2015/16 revenue budget proposals. Confirmation of the GLA precept was still awaited, but it was anticipated that the 1.3% reduction proposed in the GLA's draft budget would not be changed. Notification of the final grant settlement had been received, and the Council would be getting an additional £202k. However, there was also a significant reduction in funding for discretionary housing payments from £683k to £509k.

In response to a question, the Director confirmed that the current £683k was fully utilised.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(7) Capital Programme Monitoring Q3 2014/15 and Annual Capital Review 2015 to 2019
Report FSD15014

The report summarised the current position on capital expenditure and receipts and presented new capital schemes proposed by Directors through the annual capital review process. The main focus was on the continuation of existing schemes, with only two new schemes being put forward.

Post-completion reports were due to go to Portfolio Holders before the end of the financial year for four schemes. A Member queried the use of capital to fund the relocation of exhibitions from the current Bromley Museum at The Priory to the Central Library – it was confirmed that the expenditure was treated as capital due to the capital receipt that could be received through disposal of the Priory as part of the project.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(8) Community Services Integration
Report CS14075

The Care Services PDS Committee had held a meeting with the Health and Wellbeing Board on 29th January 2015 to examine the options for progressing integration of adult social care assessment and care management functions with community health services commissioned by Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It was proposed that the Executive authorise a steering group to explore the options further with the CCG and with the existing provider, Bromley Health Care.

The Committee was informed that the Executive had already set aside a budget of £250k should external advice be required.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(9) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
Report CS14107

The report analysed the implications of the recent Supreme Court judgement relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and sought approval for additional funding of £163,345 in 2014/15 and provision of £628,040 in the 2015/16 budget.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(10) Commissioning of Speech and Language Therapy

Report ED15039

Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy for children and young people was currently commissioned from Bromley Healthcare through two separate contracts let by the Council and the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). In line with the Children and Families Act 2014, it was proposed to develop robust joint commissioning arrangements via a section 75 agreement with Bromley CCG, with the CCG being lead commissioner.

The proposals had been supported by Education PDS Committee

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(11) Long Term Care for Older People – Extra Care Housing Supply and Demand

Report CS1424

The Committee received a report on supply and demand for extra care housing in the borough. Affinity Sutton had identified that Lubbock House, which provided 30 beds, was not viable in the long term due to its poor condition and the need for significant investment. As a result it was proposed to begin formal consultation on the decommissioning of Lubbock House.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(Councillor William Huntington-Thresher declared an interest during consideration of this item as a member of the Affinity Sutton Regional Scrutiny Board.)

(12) Gateway Report on Tenancy Sustainment Services for Young People

Report CS14118

The Committee received a report reviewing the provision of tenancy sustainment services to young people and making recommendations for commissioning when the current contracts ended on 30th August 2015. The Care Services PDS Committee had supported the recommendations at its meeting on 21st January 2015 but it had also noted that some of the accommodation was quite poor and the number of incidents appeared to be high – the Chairman had requested more detail.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(13) Refurbishment of Beacon House

Report ED15055

The report updated Members on the feasibility study at Beacon House and proposals for its refurbishment to enable it to open as Burwood School's alternate KS4 and KS5 provision. It was noted that the proposed use of £3m

Dedicated Schools Grant to provide a substantial part of the funding for the project was subject to Department for Education approval.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(14) Havelock Road Recreation Ground, Bromley – La Fontaine Free School
Report DR15/102

Report withdrawn.

(15) Gateway Review 01,1 & 2 Approval of 2015/16 Operational Building Maintenance Budgets, Planned Maintenance Programmes and Preferred Procurement Option
Report DRR15001

The report set out proposals for the 2015/16 Building Maintenance programme, including the budget, the criteria used to assemble the programme and the preferred procurement option.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(16) The Future of Anerley Town Hall
Report DRR15/002

The Committee considered a report setting out options for the future of Anerley Town Hall, and also viewed a video commissioned by the Crystal Palace Community Development Trust showing the activities carried out in the building.

At its meeting on 29th February 2015 the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee had considered the same report and had recommended that the Executive approve option B, which was to grant a 40 year lease to the Crystal Palace Community Development Trust on full repairing terms at a peppercorn rent, but excluding the overflow car park at the rear which could be sold. This would allow the Trust to lever in external funding to maintain the building, but the Trust had indicated that they would require the Council to resolve the subsidence issue and upgrade the business centre IT. The Committee also suggested investigating whether mobile phones could replace the telephone system which was reaching the end of its life.

As the Council's Heritage Champion, Councillor Nicholas Bennett stated that it was important to retain the building which was the only heritage building in the area.

RESOLVED that Option B be supported.

(17) A New Approach for Bromley Museum

Report DRR14/116

The report set out proposals to close the Council's existing museum service, based at The Priory in Orpington, and relocate its exhibitions to the Central Library as part of the Council's programme to achieve substantial savings. The proposals had been considered by the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee at its meeting on 29th January 2015, which had supported the proposals but added that a working group comprising the Council and volunteers from local history associations should be set up to assist with setting up new displays and exhibitions.

A number of Members commented that although the building was the oldest in the borough, and the Lubbock Collection it housed was of national importance, the existing museum was poor and shabby and that the opportunity should be taken to provide improved displays at a venue that would attract more visitors. The building itself could support a number of alternative uses.

Some Members commented that Orpington was not vibrant and was being drained of assets. They felt that more investment was needed, including retaining facilities such as the Museum. However, other Members pointed to the new BID and substantial investment in recent years including the High Street improvements, the re-located Library and the cinema development.

The Committee was concerned that the building should not be neglected or allowed to deteriorate if the museum was moved. A Member also suggested further examination of the costs of moving the Museum.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported and the report on options for The Priory prepared in July 2014 should be re-circulated to the Executive for their meeting.

(18) Closure of Beckenham, Bromley and West Wickham Public Toilets

Report ES14094

The Committee considered a proposal to save £67k from the closure of the Beckenham, Bromley and West Wickham public toilets, declare the Beckenham property surplus to requirements and confirm the arrangements for community toilets in these town centres.

A petition from local residents and business people containing more than 250 valid signatures had been received urging the Council to keep the Beckenham toilets open and complaining that the alternative provision was inadequate, being too distant or having irregular opening hours. The lead petitioner, Pam Notcutt, Co-Chairman of the Beckenham Society, attended the meeting and spoke in support of the petition. She argued that as the figures for running costs of the facilities were uncertain it would be wrong to close the toilets to achieve savings. She pointed out that there were no usage figures and the hours of opening of the alternative facilities quoted in the report were

incorrect. She referred to a previous attempt to close the Beckenham toilets in 2010, since when a community toilet had operated in parallel with the public toilets, which she argued was a waste of money, and she queried why the Council had not used the intervening time to seek an alternative operator. She added that the proposals to add three new premises to the existing three community toilets in Beckenham were totally inadequate. She felt that the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee would support the retention of the toilets because of their positive impact on footfall in the high street. Overall, she contended that Beckenham was a special case, as it did not have the large business premises of other centres, the cost of running the alternative provision would exceed that of keeping the toilets open. She urged the Council to invest in the toilets, possibly by creating a small café on the site alongside slightly smaller toilets, rather than demolish them.

Members discussed the proposals and made a number of comments as follows –

- footfall had actually increased at Bexleyheath when the toilets there had been closed;
- food outlets had to provide better quality toilet facilities;
- in Orpington, local businesses in the Business Improvement District (BID) had decided that public toilets were a priority and had decided to invest in refurbishing them;
- there was no information on usage;
- all residents associations in Beckenham were strongly opposed to the closure there;
- the toilets should be retained as part of the Beckenham High Street improvement scheme;
- the larger shops in Beckenham should be asked to sponsor the existing toilets.

Members also stated that directions to the community toilets needed to be improved and Officers confirmed that there were proposals to improve the signage on-street. It was suggested that this should also include smarter on-line apps (Richmond was suggested as a good example.) It was noted that the building had just been registered as an asset of community value, preventing its immediate disposal. Overall, the Committee concluded that in the light of the Council's severe budget pressures the recommendation to close the toilets should be supported, but there were also comments that more imaginative thought should be given to these sorts of facilities.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported, and that the executive should ensure that improved directions to the community toilets be provided both on-street and on the Council website.

115 REVENUES SERVICE MONITORING REPORT
Report FSD14080

The Committee received a report on the performance of the Revenue Services contract provided by Liberata during the period April to December 2014. The report included a letter from Charlie Bruin, Liberata's Executive Director, BPO Services, providing an update on each service and statistical data, and representatives from Liberata attended the meeting to answer questions from the Committee.

The Chairman asked for an update on Business Rates collection. The in-year collection rate was 83.86% as at 31 December 2014, compared to 87.78% at the end of 2013. At the end of January 2015 the proportion had risen to 91.77%, and Liberata were confident of matching or improving the 2013/14 figure. The slow collection was largely due to the switch from payment in ten to twelve instalments.

It was confirmed that collection of Business Improvement District (BID) money in Orpington was carried out in two instalments, so in-year collection rates could be misleading.

116 BENEFITS SERVICE MONITORING REPORT
Report FSD14079

The Committee received a report on the performance of the benefits service provided by Liberata during the period from 1st April to 31 December 2014, including a letter from Charlie Bruin, Executive Director, BPO Services giving Liberata's perspective and an update on initiatives to be introduced in the coming months.

In response to a question about the Right Time Indicator, it was confirmed that this was the time taken to process a change or a new claim, and that the measure was calendar days, not working days. The Council checked a random sample of 10% of cases for accuracy. These were biased towards more complex cases, and if the simpler automated cases were included the error rate would be reduced. Errors usually related to factors such as inaccurate earnings calculations and taking wrong periods into account. Where there was claimant error any overpaid sums could be recovered from the individual concerned.

It was explained that the practice of "call-snatching" involved offering customers the alternative of ringing them back rather than waiting. In general, customers preferred to wait, so the practice had been discontinued.

A Member commented that customers often claimed to be treated badly once they entered the complaints regime, and that analysis was needed to understand the nature of fault calls – whether calls were customers chasing action or complaining about errors. Liberata would consider this. Liberata

confirmed that they did record calls and that they had used mystery shoppers for quality control.

A Member complained that she had recently dealt with a number of cases where there had been errors and delays, leading in one case to eviction and the person concerned spending three nights on the street. Information as to the number of payments on account was requested from Liberata - this could not be provided at the meeting, but Liberata representatives offered to report back on this.

117 UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN

Updates were received from PDS Chairmen regarding the Environment PDS Committee on 20th January 2015, the Care Services PDS Committee on 21st January 2015 and the Education PDS Committee on 27th January 2015. These are attached as appendix 1.

118 WORK PROGRAMME

Report CSD15013

The Committee considered its work programme. The chairman hoped that the Chief Executive would be able to attend the next meeting.

The Leader confirmed that the exclusivity period with ZhongRong for their Crystal Palace development had now expired. Consideration was being given to a short extension.

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

RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**The following summaries
refer to matters
involving exempt information**

**120 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH
JANUARY 2015**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2015 were confirmed.

121 RESOURCES PORTFOLIO - PRE DECISION SCRUTINY (PART 2)

The Committee scrutinised the following proposed decision by the Resources Portfolio Holder.

121.1 PROVISION OF INSURANCE SERVICE - ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

The Committee supported a proposal to continue the shared services agreement for provision of insurance services with Royal Borough of Greenwich.

122 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Committee scrutinised reports on the Executive's part 2 agenda for the meeting on 11th February 2015 concerning the Future of Anerley Town Hall, Havelock Road Recreation Ground, Bromley – La Fontaine Free School, Direct Care Update, Award of Contract for Capital Works at Glebe School and Capital Receipts, Appendix E.

The Meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Chairman

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EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES PDS COMMITTEE 4TH FEBRUARY 2015

UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN

Environment PDS Committee

20th January 2015

Budget Monitoring

The environment budget (at November 2014) was predicted to be underspent for the year; however higher than predicted spend on the winter service (salt, snow clearance, flooding etc.) would change the predicted outcome.

Parking Charges

Parking charges last increased in March 2012. The increase in March 2012 was considered with regard to the weak national economic circumstances at the time. The Council's Parking Strategy sets out a series of objectives to cover issues such as: safety; turnover of spaces; reduced congestion; sufficient available spaces to support the local economy; etc. The committee supported the proposed increase in parking charges. The committee considered the charges in the context of the Parking Strategy, the current low rate of inflation and the current, considerably stronger economic growth rate predictions. It was suggested that the new charges should apply for the next 4 years.

Public Toilets

Subject to no new issues arising through the ongoing consultation (to 31st January 2015); the committee supported the proposal to close the remaining public toilets in the borough (Beckenham, West Wickham, Bromley) and move those locations on to the community toilet and open London schemes operating in the rest of the borough. At the date of the PDS consultation had resulted in a considerable number of (net) objections, the majority regarding the Beckenham toilets but a few objections regarding West Wickham and Bromley. The background to the recommendation was the proposed 2015/16 budget.

Metropolitan Police Road Traffic

As part of the committee's partner scrutiny, the PDS had a presentation from the Met Police Safer Transport Command followed by a question and answer session. The committee was advised that the safer transport and road traffic commands had merged. The session covered a range of road safety related issues. There is coordination between the Council's Road Safety duty and the Police's role.

Draft Budget

The committee considered the proposed Environment budget for 2015/16. The savings measured proposed in the budget were not without concerns. The savings measured were considered in the overall financial context facing the Council. A

number of the items had been considered by the committee earlier in the Council year. The summary of the discussions are contained in a separate report to the Executive.

Cllr William Huntington-Thresher
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee

Care Services PDS Committee

21st January 2015

The Committee discussed the draft budget for 2015/2016 and the difficult decisions that were having to be considered. Comments were made regarding the possible impact of cuts to some vulnerable groups which will be reported to the next Executive meeting on 11th February.

It was acknowledged that there are still outstanding issues and areas of uncertainty remain due partly to new responsibilities placed on the Authority by Central Government.

Progress has been made in the last quarter reducing the projected overspend in Care Services to £1,270,000 (full year effect £3,022,000) from £4.182,000

The committee noted changes to the Capital Programme.

The Contract for Healthwatch Bromley was discussed. It is now operating independently from Community Links and the value of the contract is reducing over 3 years. It is hoped that these savings can be brought forward to year two.

Changes to the Non Residential Charging Policy and Deferred Payments Scheme due to the impact of the Care Act 2014 were considered.

The proposal to award the Citizens Advice Bureau Contract for one year from 1st April 2015 was noted.

The Annual Quality Monitoring Report was presented. This covers domiciliary, care homes, extra care and supported living schemes and children's services. A new programme of visits for 2015/16 was scheduled.

Our Children's Social Care Recruitment & Retention Strategy was debated. This has been very successful. It was recommended that the current scheme be extended for 2015/16 and 2016/17. There is £597k remaining from the original budget to cover this. Further enhancements on the current packages are also proposed.

The Gateway Report on Tenancy Sustainment Services for Young People was reported on. This offers two services one for Floating Support, the outcomes of this service were questioned and the other for accommodation provision.

An update was given on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Dols).

The Committee's Information Briefings were:

Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2013/14
Extra Care Housing Contract Activity Update 2014/15

PART 2

The Contract for Supported Living Learning Disability Arrangements at 26 Devonshire Road was debated.

A Gateway Review on Procurement Strategy for Supported Living Learning Disability Schemes was debated. This presents an opportunity for tendering which should result in lower bids more efficient use of Council resource and tenders that are more attractive to providers.

The Committee were presented with an update on Direct Care

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee

Education PDS Committee

27th January 2015

1. Portfolio Holder update

1.1 The rising demand for primary-level pupil places means that a significant increase in secondary provision, equal to four new schools, will be required across the Borough in future years. A second planning application for Harris Primary Academy Beckenham was considered at Plans Sub-Committee No.4 on 8th January 2015, and had been deferred. The initial planning application for Harris Primary Academy Beckenham was the subject of an appeal and would be considered by the Planning Inspector in February 2015. (**The appeal has been allowed*).

1.2 The Portfolio Holder for Education reported that he would be meeting the Secretary of State for Education to discuss the potential for more flexible use of the Dedicated Schools Grant in certain areas such as funding for early years provision and Education Psychology.

1.3 A significant issue has been identified with the Adult Education service which is currently showing a predicted overspend of £264k for 2014/15 as a result in reduced

grant levels from the Skills Funding Agency and, despite work taken to reduce this, was unlikely to drop below an overspend of £220k. Because of the overspend a report proposing one of two options to bring the budget back on target had been tabled. Option One proposed a radical restructure and reduction of the Adult Education service under which the Local Authority would cease delivery of all provision funded under the Adult Skills grant at the end of the 2014/15 academic year and Option Two proposed the withdrawal of the Local Authority from all involvement in the delivery of adult education, with the Skills Funding Agency responsible for reallocating grants to an alternate provider under both options.

With the agreement of the Committee, I and Vice Chairman had withdrawn the report as Members were concerned at the lack of consultation with the Bromley Adult Education College Governing Body and staff and students on the proposals. We were also concerned about major changes to the Adult Education service whilst the market testing process is taking place and there were also concerns about the future of provision in Orpington and the northern part of the Borough.

The process under the European rules for 'market testing' a service was outlined by officers. During the first stage, providers have been invited to submit *Expressions of Interest* and a pre-qualification questionnaire, which is a confidential process for reasons of commercial sensitivity and to avoid collaboration between providers. The evaluation against the criteria will be completed early in February. Those providers which met the set criteria will progress to the second stage of the market testing process where they will be invited to participate in a competitive dialogue process to develop bids which is expected to be completed in autumn 2015. It was established that in order for this second stage to take place there had to be three providers. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that it was possible for Bromley Adult Education service staff to submit their own proposals to deliver services but the Assistant Director: Education advised Members that they had not done so.

2. Draft Portfolio Plan

The Plan which includes the Council's 17 education commitments was supported.

3. Education Budget 2015-16

The budget, which had been scrutinised by the Education Budget Sub-Committee, recommended approximately £1.1m savings in; essential car users' allowances, the redesign or reorganisation the Youth Service and Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance Service, the reorganisation of contracts related to some services, and a reduction of 10% in the budget of Children and Family Centres.

4. School Performance

Since October 2014, there have been Ofsted Inspections of Blenheim Primary School, The Glebe School and Riverside School. Blenheim Primary has been rated as 'Good' and The Glebe School has been rated as 'Outstanding'. The result of the Ofsted Inspection of Riverside School has not yet been published.

5. Primary and Secondary School Development Plan

For the 2014/15 academic year, applicants for reception class places exceed previous forecasts and it has been necessary to supplement the agreed changes by 225 places to ensure that every on-time applicant received a valid offer. The total number of places originally available for 2014/15 had been 4023. This has subsequently increased to 4204 places by the addition of eight bulge classes, with 76% of on-time applicants securing their first preference of school in Bromley, which is unchanged from the previous year.

Increased demand for primary places is expected to continue in the long term, with the Greater London Authority forecast projecting a rise of the total number of places in the Borough to 4041 by 2018, and remaining at that level to 2031. This is due to a higher level of birth rate than expected, as well as migration to the Borough and increased occupancy levels of existing homes. In response to this, it was recommended that a margin of 5% be agreed above the Greater London Authority projection for primary place planning to provide for local variations in need and to meet parental preferences. To support the expected increase in demand for pupil places, the overall strategy is to meet forecast growth through a combination of existing surplus capacity, permanent expansion of existing provision, new schools and bulge classes. Work is also being undertaken around secondary place planning to ensure that there are sufficient secondary places across the Borough as the increasing number of pupils at Bromley primary schools reaches 11.

Legal advice to clarify the position with regard to conditions being placed on the number of classes or pupils at a school for any future school planning applications has been requested.

6. Basic Need Programme

The Committee supported a recommendation for the allocation of money under the Basic Need Programme to help schools with increases in pupil numbers.

7. SEN Transport

The committee supported a recommendation that a trial scheme whereby pupils at two SEN schools be picked up from a street 'muster' point rather than from their home address. Apart from the financial saving it would give suitable older SEN pupils the chance to prepare for adult life by being more independent.

8. Beacon House

The committee received an update on the feasibility work undertaken at Beacon House to identify the range of works required to deliver the proposed Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 alternative provision, and outlining the timetable for refurbishment. It was reported that the Schools' Forum has agreed, subject to the approval of the

DfE, that a proportion of unspent Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) should be used for the purchase and refurbishment of Beacon House.

9. Children Missing Education

The Committee had commissioned a report on children who have gone 'missing' from the education system as it felt that this was a serious safeguarding matter.

Children missing education is defined as all children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise, and who have been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time. When undertaking inspection of local authorities, Ofsted has broadened this definition to include those young people who are attending alternative provision, been permanently excluded, in receipt of home tuition due to medical needs, receiving elective home education or are looked after by the Local Authority. In Bromley there are currently 74 children and young people accessing alternative provision, 40 permanently excluded, 59 receiving home tuition, 111 receiving elective home education, and 197 looked after children.

Families and children who cannot be traced are placed on a national database which is used by other local authorities to confirm if children reported missing have been identified within their authority.

Anonymised details of all pupils who have 'disappeared' and the steps taken to ascertain their whereabouts was given in the report. An updated report giving details of those who are reported as having left the country is to be included in the evidence to the joint Education and Care Services PDS 'Select Committee' hearing on Child Safeguarding on February 25th.

Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Chairman Education PDS Committee

Care Services PDS Committee
29th January 2015
(Special joint meeting with Health & Wellbeing Board)

The Community Services Integration report was debated by both bodies. Three options were debated before being presented to the Executive to explore the various options with the borough's existing community health service provider, Bromley Health Care and their commissioners Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee