

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018 starting at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Colin Smith (Chairman)
Councillors Graham Arthur, Peter Fortune,
William Huntington-Thresher, Kate Lymer, Peter Morgan
and Diane Smith

Also Present:

Councillor Simon Fawthrop and Councillor Angela Wilkins

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

42 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2018 Report CSD18118

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2018 (excluding exempt items) be confirmed.

43 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

Four questions for written reply had been received - the questions and replies are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

44 CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENTS

The Director of Children's Services gave an update on progress in improving Children's Services. Over the summer there had been three more visits, which had all been very constructive and confirmed the positive direction of travel -

- the seventh and final Ofsted visit on 12th June, which had focussed on vulnerable adolescents;
- a visit by Mark Riddell MBE, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, on 7th/8th June; and

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- a light touch visit by the Department for Education (DfE) Local Authority Interventions Unit on 3rd July.

In addition, the Director reported that thirty newly qualified social workers had recently joined the Council and were currently undergoing an intensive induction programme.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Director and her Team for the substantial improvements being made to children's services, and read the following passage from the letter received from the DfE following their visit on 3rd July -

"It is clear that the political leadership were accepting of Ofsted's original judgement and, in doing so, have taken ownership of improvement work - reaffirming their corporate parenting responsibilities and placing children's services at the heart of the Council's wider mission statement. This engagement has helped foster an environment in which children's services has been prioritised, allowing the corporate leadership to drive forward positive and sustained change."

He added that he had addressed the newly qualified social workers, and he thanked those Members who had attended the Corporate Parenting Fun day on 29th July.

In response to questions, the Director confirmed that the number of children and young people in care had dropped to just under 300, from a high point of about 315 a couple of months previously; she expected the numbers to remain at about 300. She confirmed that some children did leave care and return to their families before they were 18, and the Council did make every effort to remain in touch with young people leaving care until they reached 25. However, in some cases these young people did not want to engage, and it was not possible to guarantee that contact was maintained with some who might remain vulnerable.

The Leader thanked the Director and her Team for the progress being made, and urged them to continue with their hard work.

45 BROMLEY PRIVATE SECTOR LEASING SCHEME AND COUNCIL OWNED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES - CONTRACT EXTENSION

Bromley's formal contract for the procurement and management of private sector leased properties and management of Council owned temporary accommodation, which formed an important part of the Council temporary accommodation portfolio, was due to expire on 31st March 2019. The contract allowed for a two year extension and permission was sought to utilise this extension, which would be cost neutral.

The report had been scrutinised by Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee at its meeting on 5th September 2018; the PDS Committee had been concerned that there had been no opportunity for the report to be

considered at a meeting of the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee. The Leader reported that he had since seen correspondence between with the Chairman of the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee and officers, accepting the explanation on grounds of urgency, as to why scrutiny at Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee, followed by the Executive, could suffice on this occasion.

Members raised concerns that the Council was too reliant on one provider of temporary accommodation. Officers reported that the private sector leasing market was small, but that Orchard and Shipman were now A rated, and there was an indemnity in place which helped to insure the Council against any potential financial loss.

RESOLVED that

(1) The contents of the report and the current action being taken to reduce the overall costs and improve the supply of Temporary Accommodation be noted.

(2) The proposal to utilise the extension option in the existing contract with Orchard and Shipman from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2021 at an estimated gross value of £2.2m per annum be agreed; of this sum approximately £1m relates to the management fees for accommodation with the remainder passed directly to private landlords for the private rental charges.

(3) The Housing Division utilises the extension period to review the market in order to undertake a robust tendering process prior to the extension period expiring.

(4) It is noted that the Housing Division will continue to pursue cost effective block contracts for temporary accommodation both in private sector leasing and nightly paid accommodation (NPA).

(5) Authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Education, Care and Health Services in consultation with Director of Commissioning, Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Services and the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder to enter into block booking contracts and lease arrangements where offered to the Council where such arrangements provide a saving against current nightly paid rates.

**46 CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER ISSUES REFERRED FROM
THE EXECUTIVE, RESOURCES & CONTRACTS POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no additional items to report from the Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee.

47 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**

48 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2018

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2018 were confirmed.

49 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WORKS AT OAKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL (PHASE 1)

The Executive awarded a contract for construction works at Oaklands Primary School.

50 GATEWAY 1 - SOCIAL CARE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Executive considered the procurement options for a replacement social care case management system.

51 GATEWAY REPORT: ONE OFF FUNDING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

The Executive agreed additional funding for speech and language therapy services for the 2018/19 academic year.

The Meeting ended at 7.46 pm

Chairman

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Colin Willetts to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

We have received complaints from Poverest Primary School parents that the rear lower play area KS 1&2 is flooded by an ongoing water leak, could the Council ascertain the source and whose responsibility to repair the leak?

Reply:

The Council has received complaints of a water leak and these have been assessed by both the school and the Council's facilities management provider. The leaks appear to be from the ground water drainage system as opposed to the water supply. However, to date although drains have been cleared and localised surveys carried out the source of issue has not been identified. The Council has therefore commissioned a comprehensive drain survey for the whole of the school and adult education site. The survey of the adult education site has been completed and the school survey is currently underway. Once the findings of the surveys are known and the source has been identified action to resolve the leak and responsibility will be agreed.

2. From Colin Willetts to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Following your comments to the News Shopper (25/7/18) you stated 'it would not have effected any result across the Borough', however, (i) would you have proceeded with the scheme if the Council had to bear the £200,000 cost? (ii) does the Council intend to repeat this trial in 2022?

Reply:

(i) The Cabinet Office made it clear from the start of the process that it would pay the additional costs of the Voter ID Pilots, so the question is academic.

(ii) It is too early to speculate on what the Council may or may not chose to do in 2022, and we do not know what election rules will be in force at that time.

3. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Please will the Council publish in separate tables by all the polling districts in each ward the number of postal votes cast in the May 2018 local elections and the local elections in 2014?

Reply:

This information falls within the remit of the General Purposes and Licencing Committee which will be considering a report on the on the 2018 Elections at Bromley at their next meeting later this month. I understand this will include information we can lawfully share on postal votes.

4. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

How many residents in the borough currently claim universal credit and how many will be in receipt of universal credit when the roll out of universal credit is completed and when is the roll out due to be completed?

Reply:

Universal Credit is administered by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP); it is therefore only possible to provide information that is in the public domain.

DWP figures advise that in July 2018 the provisional number of people receiving Universal Credit in the Bromley postcode area was 720.

It is also not possible to advise as to the number of people who will be in receipt of Universal Credit once the roll-out is completed. The number is dependent on several factors, including changes to the economic climate and the Authority's demographics.

The transfer of claimants from "legacy benefits" to Universal Credit is currently due to be completed by March 2023.