

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

## MINUTES

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

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor Douglas Auld**

**The Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Gordon Norrie**

### Councillors

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

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

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

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair  
The Mayor  
Councillor Douglas Auld

### 55 APOLOGIES

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

## **56 MINUTES**

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

## **57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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

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

## **58 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

## **59 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

These are attached at Appendices A and B.

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

Two statements were made as follows -

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

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

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

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

### **(1) 2010 Council Tax**

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

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

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

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

“The proposed budget be amended as follows:

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

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

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

#### Recommendation (2)

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

#### Recommendation (15)

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

#### Recommendation (8)

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

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

**On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST.**

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

“The proposed budget be amended as follows:

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

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

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

Recommendation (2)

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

Recommendation (15)

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

Recommendation (8)

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

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

**On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST**

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

**Recommendation (2)**

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

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

#### Recommendation (4)

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

#### Recommendation (7)

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

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

#### Recommendation (8)

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

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

#### Recommendation (15)

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

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

**(2) Capital Programme - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Monitoring 2010/11**

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

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**(3) Capital Programme Review 2009 and the Prudential Code**

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

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

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

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

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**62 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE MAY BE GIVEN**

There were no Motions.

**63 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

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

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**64 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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



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

Mayor

The meeting ended at 10.33 pm.