



THE LONDON BOROUGH

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/13

For submission to Full Council on 1st July 2013

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1. Foreword

- 1.1 On behalf of all my colleagues who are engaged in Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in the London Borough of Bromley, I have pleasure in presenting our Annual Report 2012/13, which summarises the work that has been carried out by the Committees during the Council year.
- 1.2 We have again conducted a most challenging budget process this year against the backdrop of a reducing local government settlement. The task of finding the significant budget savings demanded by the Government has been the dominant activity this year. It is very pleasing to report that the necessary cost savings for 2012/2013 have been achieved and that the 2013/2014 budget is broadly neutral, without significantly impairing the delivery of frontline services.
- 1.3 We continue to face important changes in the Council's finances dictated by the Local Government Finance Act 2012, welfare reforms and changes in education, health and social care. We are experiencing unprecedented financial volatility, uncertainty and risk in the financial markets, which are exacerbating the Council's task to deliver a balanced budget over the coming years. This is a serious challenge as there are not many further efficiency savings, which can be made, having rigorously streamlined the Council's services over the past two years. Painful changes will now need to be made to the quantum and delivery of Council services.
- 1.4 Considerable changes to the Council's organization have become inevitable. The Council will emerge as a different organization in the medium term, moving from an authority whose primary purpose is the delivery of services to the local community to a commissioning authority, which maintains democratic accountability and responsibility for which local services it will retain and how they will be delivered to the local community. This will require the streamlining of the organization, the retention of skilled staff, coupled with the ongoing drive to optimize the use of assets, delivering value for money and safeguarding essential services.
- 1.5 The role of the PDS Committees has become critical for contributing to the shape and changes required of the Council's organization in order to ensure we continue to deliver the best possible services to the residents of Bromley whilst retaining one of the lowest Council Tax levels.
- 1.6 All PDS Committees deserve praise for having grasped the challenges presented to them and I would like to thank all committee chairmen and members and the Council's officers for their diligence and hard work in devising solutions, which will ensure that Bromley Council can continue to provide the essential services, which are so important to our community

Cllr. Eric Bosshard
Chairman, Executive and Resources PDS Committee

2. Policy Development and Scrutiny Chairmen 2012/13



Cllr Eric Bosshard
Executive & Resources



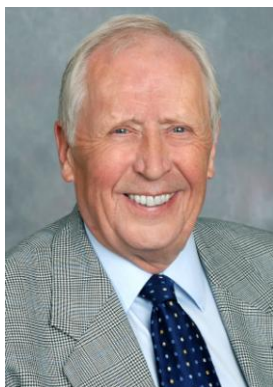
Cllr Judi Ellis
Care Services



Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Education



Cllr William Huntington-Thresher
Environment



Cllr Douglas Auld
Public Protection and Safety



Cllr Sarah Phillips
Renewal & Recreation

3. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley

3.1 Six Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committees at Bromley discharge the overview and scrutiny functions conferred by sections 21 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2000 and successive legislation. The Executive and Resources PDS Committee has an over-arching, co-ordinating role on behalf of the other five PDS Committees and is required by the Council's Constitution to present Full Council with an Annual Report "on the Policy Development and Scrutiny functions and PDS budget, and amended working methods if appropriate" (Article 6, Section 6.03 (d) of the Constitution).

3.2 The PDS Committees mirror the Council's executive portfolios:

- Executive and Resources
(covering both the Resources Portfolio and the Executive)
- Care Services
- Education
- Environment
- Public Protection and Safety
- Renewal and Recreation

3.3 In addition to these Committees there are two PDS Sub-Committees:

- Education Budget Sub-Committee
- Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Although they have no decision-making powers, PDS Committees and Sub-Committees have key roles in contributing to policy development and scrutinising the decisions of the Executive and individual Portfolio Holders.

Policy Reviews

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

One-Off Reviews

3.5 In addition to in-depth policy reviews, PDS Committees can also review a topical issue at Committee with comments and recommendations referred on to the Portfolio

Holder. These reviews are often based around a presentation or an evidence-giving session with expert witnesses.

Performance and Budget Monitoring

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

Call-in

- 3.8 The call-in process is a key means by which PDS Committees can hold the Executive to account. Any five Councillors can call in a decision and prevent it from taking immediate effect until it has been considered by a PDS Committee. The Committee can then interview the Portfolio Holder and officers and consider whether the decision was appropriate, within the Council's policy framework, and whether it should be reconsidered. If the Committee feels that the decision should be reversed or altered, it can make a recommendation to the Executive, which then has to reconsider the matter.
- 3.9 At the time of writing, no call-ins have been made during 2012/13. This continued low level of call-in reflects an emphasis given to pre-decision scrutiny leading to better and more robust decisions which are less likely to be challenged.

4. Report from Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Eric Bosshard

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Russell Mellor

Introduction

- 4.1 2012/13 has been a busy year with nine scheduled meetings and additional work group meetings. Our regular meetings were timed to precede the Executive's meetings so that its decisions could be scrutinized. We dedicated one policy development meeting to a Financial Seminar by the Chief Financial Officer to keep members informed of the general financial situation affecting the Council and the changes in local government finance and health provision introduced by the central Government.

Scrutiny of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder

- 4.2 The Committee's principal role is to pre-scrutinize the decisions of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder. This Committee has worked diligently to discharge its obligations and the workload of some meetings has been very heavy indeed.
- 4.3 During the year the Committee reviewed various care services contracts and gateway reviews, studied proposals for development sites in Bromley, the purchase of investment properties, the provision of environmental and building services, the replacement of Penge & Anerley library and acknowledged the successful completion of the Chislehurst Road Bridge reconstruction. It scrutinized the activities of the HR department, plans for the implementation of the Council Tax support scheme, the Council's insurances, the housing and Council tax benefit service and monitored Liberata and the operation of section 106 agreements. It received reports from the Constitution working group and the Active Citizens working group, a progress report from the New Technology Working Group and an update on the developments in Public Health.
- 4.4 The Committee invited the Leader of the Council, the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive to report on their activities and to answer questions. These bi-annual meetings are very valuable for keeping members of the Committee up to date with recent developments affecting the Council and I would like to thank the speakers for having made the effort to come and exchange their views with our Committee.
- 4.5 The Leader of the Council and the Resources Portfolio Holder have attended all our meetings and senior officers have been in attendance to answer questions on matters in their areas of responsibility. I would like to thank them all for their valuable contributions.

Policy Development and Working Groups

- 4.6 We held again a Finance Seminar this year to update members on the issues, which affect the Council's finances and its ability to continue to fund essential activities and services. This seminar was presented by the Chief Financial Officer and was very successful.
- 4.7 The Committee scrutinized many reports concerning the care services, including SEN provision, care for autistic children, contracts for learning disability support, children's social care provision, mental health support and contracts for residential and nursing care and domiciliary care. In addition the Committee reviewed street works contracts, the carbon reduction programme, the office accommodation strategy, various invest-to-save initiatives and the Bromley Local Plan.
- 4.8 The Committee set up a working group to review the changes to Local Government Finance and their implications for the Council and to explore business opportunities in Bromley in general. The working group reported on 27th March 2013.

Conclusions

- 4.9 Over the past year this Committee has scrutinized the Executive's and Resources Portfolio Holder's decisions and reviewed many aspects of the Council's business. The difficult economic background and parlous government finances have continued to impact on the Council. The task to find the significant budget savings demanded by the Government has again been the dominant challenge this year. It is very pleasing to report that the necessary cost savings for 2012/2013 have been achieved and that the 2013/2014 budget is broadly neutral, without significantly impairing the delivery of frontline services.
- 4.10 Looking ahead, the continuing reduction in financial settlement from the Government increases the pressure on the Council to achieve very significant additional savings in the next four years. This is a serious challenge as there are not many further efficiency savings, which can be made, having rigorously streamlined the Council's services over the past two years, Painful changes will now need to be made to the quantum and delivery of Council services to achieve these necessary savings.
- 4.11 In the light of the Government's gradual phasing out of the council tax freeze grant and the Council's funding gap it was decided to bite the bullet and increase council tax in 2013/14 within government limits. The rise remains below current consumer price inflation and means a cut in real terms in the Council's budget, exacerbating the task of trying to balance the budget in the next three to four years. Even so, the Council is determined to make every effort to safeguard essential services.

Cllr. Eric Bosshard
Chairman, Executive & Resources PDS Committee

5. Report from Care Services PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Judi Ellis
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Catherine Rideout

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meetings of the Care Services PDS Committee

- 5.1 Changes to both management and location of health care provision in Bromley have again dominated the agenda, with the Primary Care Trust being replaced by the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Health and Wellbeing Board emerging from Shadow status and the Local Authority taking on the responsibility for Public Health.
- 5.2 There has also been a full public consultation on the future provision of health services identified in the Orpington needs assessment, and on the need for a new Health and Wellbeing centre.
- 5.3 The appointment, in July, of a Trust special Administrator to look at securing sustainable NHS services in SE London has been a key focus of the Committee. The Administrator published his draft recommendations on 29 October and consulted locally on them from 2 November to 13 December. This is a 3 year transition and will continue to be closely monitored by the Committee.
- 5.4 The first meeting on 11th July 2012 looked at the provision of intermediate care beds, the London Ambulance Service, the NHS Quality, innovation, productivity and prevention programme and an update from the South London Health Trust.
- 5.5 The second meeting in February 2013 received an update from the Chairman of the King College Hospital Foundation Trust on their plans for the Princess Royal University Hospital to join their Foundation Trust. The outcomes from the consultation on Orpington health care and a presentation from EMDOC on the introduction of the 111 health telephone number for urgent, if not emergency, health assistance.

Care Services PDS Committee

- 5.6 We held five meetings throughout the year looking at -

Housing issues –

- The Annual and mid year Housing and Residential Services Report on Social Housing;
- Homelessness/Housing Need;
- Private rental sector;
- Temporary accommodation;
- Allocation of payments in lieu of affordable housing;
- Strategy for future Tenancy changes.

Contracts –

- Care Home and respite for older people;

- Framework contract for domiciliary care and specialist dementia services;
- Specialist Information advise and guidance;
- Learning disability care and support service;
- Bromley Healthwatch and NHS independent complaints advocacy service;
- Older peoples commissioning strategy (respite and daytime opportunities);
- Citizens Advice Bureau.

Care Services –

- Annual report of the Bromley Adoption Agency and the annual fostering service report;
- Annual update on the Bromley Youth Offending Partnership;
- Annual report of the Safeguarding Adults Board;
- Outcomes of the Ofsted thematic inspection of safeguarding disabled children;
- Outcomes of the unannounced Ofsted inspection of the Local Authorities arrangements for the protection of children;
- Integrated transition strategy;
- Mental Wellbeing strategy and review of services for children with mental health needs.

Budget Issues

- 5.7 The Budget has been at the centre of all the debates, it has been the key driver in policy development with the committee, officers and portfolio holder looking to deliver quality services that meet the needs of the user. This has lead to contracts being closely scrutinised to ensure they meet present needs, are realistically costed and are delivering the Councils statutory responsibility.

Complaints

- 5.8 This is an important report as it is an excellent scrutiny indicator.

Questions from the Public

- 5.9 We continue to receive a range of questions from the public and the Committee values this additional level of scrutiny.

Briefing papers

- 5.10 These have replaced Items for Information and are to help Members increase their background knowledge of items on the agenda or to update Members following a report redrafted to reflect their comments.

Conclusion

- 5.11 My thanks go to all Elected and Co-opted Members for their dedication and commitment to Bromley Care Services in the last year. The pace of change and the increased responsibilities has meant a heavy workload for members and officers. My thanks go to

Helen Long for the agenda and minute preparation and Angela Buchanan for supporting the committee and ensuring we have good quality timely reports and the right person in attendance. Our thanks also go to the supporting officers and to all the officers/NHS staff who write the reports and attend the meetings.

Cllr. Judi Ellis
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee

6. Report from Education PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Nicholas Bennett JP

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Lydia Buttinger

- 6.1 2012 saw the establishment of a newly merged Education and Care Services Department, new Portfolio and in consequence a new PDS Committee.
- 6.2 It has been a busy and exciting year.
- 6.3 In line with our belief in a Member led Authority, the full Council, in January 2013, approved our Education Commitments. These set out the council's education philosophy and included 17 commitments to the people of Bromley.
- 6.4 As more and more schools become independent publically financed academies, the role of the Department and the focus of the Committee is changing and the Committee therefore commissioned a report on the future role of the Local Authority. As part of the review and arising out of our Education Commitments a new Education Covenant has been produced. This sets out for the first time the respective rights and duties of the Council, schools, parents, local businesses, pupils and the community at large.
- 6.5 At the inaugural meeting of the Committee it was decided that the objective for the year would be to work with the Portfolio Holder and Department to improve school, pupil and governance performance. A central principal of improvement is the provision of performance data. In the past this has been anonymised and confidential. In a new spirit of transparency and accountability the information is now publically available for all schools in the Borough. The Committee has warmly welcomed the new approach and asked that the information be circulated for consideration by all school governing bodies.
- 6.6 Cllr Stephen Wells, the Portfolio Holder, has been assiduous in keeping the committee informed of his reform agenda and his Executive Assistant Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe has also reported on a regular basis on her work as the Children's Champion.
- 6.7 The newly merged Education and Care Services Department is led by Terry Parkin who joined the Council in October. Dr Tessa Moore has rejoined Bromley as the Assistant Director in charge of the education side of the department. We are grateful for their leadership of the new Department and support to the committee particularly in responding to our requests for detailed statistical information which has been of great benefit in formulating our policy proposals.
- 6.8 The Committee also introduced a number of administrative reforms to ensure efficient use of the Committee's time. Information items are only discussed if 24 hour notice is given; officers no longer give oral introductions to reports. Agenda setting meetings are held at the beginning of the committee cycle and the draft agenda is then circulated to the committee and members of the committee are invited to contribute questions and

information they wish to see included by the author in the report. Much of the detailed work is undertaken in advance by sub-committees or working groups. During the year the Budget Sub-committee under Cllr Neil Reddin has not only scrutinised the budget for the coming year but undertaken a series of efficiency reviews of different parts of the budget. The PDS Vice Chairman, Cllr Lydia Buttinger chaired the Primary Places Working Party which has identified schools which can be expanded to meet the increase in primary aged children in the Borough. I thank both for their work and support. As Chairman I have chaired two working groups looking at Behaviour Services and School Governance. I am confident that we can create a new Pupil Referral academy run by a school consortia and ensure that we have in place a fit for purpose behaviour policy. The Governance Working Group conducted a survey of LA governors and has made a number of recommendations for improving their role in school governance.

- 6.9 In July 2012, the Committee held a one off select committee hearing on the future of sold services. The committee report made recommendations for outsourcing the services and for the way further hearings should be organised.
- 6.10 In the autumn an education seminar was held for all members of the council, attendance was disappointing but it is proposed to hold a further one in the coming municipal year.
- 6.11 Child Protection is a major duty of the Council and responsibility for the scrutiny of the way it is conducted is shared between the Education and Care Services PDS committees. A joint session of the committees is to be held on May 7th to examine the arrangements in place by the Council and its principal partners in this area – the police and the NHS. The review will cover both organisation and more importantly practice.
- 6.12 Finally I thank all members of the PDS. Attendance at meetings has been excellent and colleagues have worked well together and co-operated in ensuring meetings have finished at a reasonable hour without compromising proper debate and scrutiny. It has been a pleasure and an honour to chair the new committee in its first year.

Cllr. Nicholas Bennett JP
Chairman, Education PDS Committee

7. Report from Environment PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Ellie Harmer

Introduction

7.1 The services provided within the Environment Portfolio affect every resident of Bromley. Clean streets, traffic congestion, the condition of highways and pavements, and parks provision, are all considered important by residents.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and Executive

7.2 The Committee seeks to fulfil this role by:

- Early consideration of the draft Environment Portfolio Plan, followed by a mid-year review of progress each November.
- Monitoring of service performance.
- Pre-decision scrutiny of relevant Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions.
- Budget monitoring and scrutiny of budget proposals.

Environment Portfolio Plan Mid-Year Review

7.3 Mid-way through the year the Committee considered progress in implementing the Portfolio Plan and service performance. Specific questions referred to the Environment Portfolio Holder covered:

- Progress in introducing a textile recycling service
- Continued high performance in inspecting utilities' street works
- The successful School Crossing Patrol partnership with schools
- Action taken where residents have not taken the opportunity to recycle

2013/14 Budget

7.4 In considering the 2013/14 budget proposals, the Committee focussed on:

- Achieving a balance between planned and reactive road maintenance
- Implications of reducing the resource devoted to energy management
- Ensuring an adequate budget remained available for tree maintenance
- Potential for resale of felled timber
- Increasing take-up of the Green Garden Waste Collection Service

Major topics addressed by the Committee during the year

7.5 The Committee devoted significant time to pre-decision scrutiny, including proposals on Bromley Town Centre Parking Capacity; and the TfL Funded Work programme for

2013/14. Two reports in particular were carefully scrutinised: On-Street Enforcement; and the Parking Shared Service.

On-Street Enforcement

7.6 The Committee examined proposals for the appointment of a street enforcement contractor, XFOR, to tackle litter and dog fouling in town centres. The Committee emphasised that:

- Enforcement actions taken against under-18s would be within the law, with an emphasis on deterring future offences
- Effective liaison should be in place with the police, town centre management and shopping centres such as The Glades

7.7 At a subsequent meeting, the Committee reviewed the performance of XFOR after six months experience of the service. Issues raised included:

- Lessons learnt from taking enforcement action with under-18s
- Littering with cigarette butts had been the main issue tackled
- The importance of local intelligence in tackling persistent dog fouling
- Consideration should be given to covert surveillance for dog fouling
- The need for the scheme to at least break even
- Hours and location of enforcement should be regularly reviewed

7.8 The Committee endorsed the proposal to extend the trial for a further six months to gather more experience and identify future options.

Parking Shared Service

7.9 The Committee considered a detailed proposal to create a shared parking service with LB Bexley. This would provide immediate service opportunities and savings, with the prospect of further significant savings in the future. The Committee was able to confirm that:

- Neither borough would seek financial performance penalties
- Current performance is good in comparison with other London boroughs, and would be sustainable in a shared service context
- The proposed cost sharing model was acceptable to both boroughs
- Arrangements for Bexley and Bromley staff were compatible

7.10 The Committee strongly endorsed the creation of the shared service in preference to the alternative option of seeking further small scale efficiencies. A progress report will be given in autumn 2013, including a review of the boroughs' outsourcing approach to parking services.

Contract scrutiny and review

7.11 The Committee carries out detailed reviews of existing contracts, as well as pre-decision scrutiny of recommended contract awards. The main contract examined was that for Street Lighting Maintenance, including the linked 'Invest to Save' improvement programme. Other contracts scrutinised were those for Parking ICT and Street Works. The Committee also reviewed the Council's use of a framework for procuring Engineering Consultancy Services.

Street Environment Contract Review

7.12 In reviewing this major contract the Committee interviewed senior managers from Kier, the Council's street cleaning contractor. Key issues were:

- Action had been taken to remedy problems with overflowing bins, and litter on rural roads, identified through monitoring inspections
- Engage with residents to facilitate cleaning of heavily parked streets
- The need for ongoing review of cleaning frequencies
- Inspectors should draw on local intelligence to identify problem areas, for example with blocked gullies
- Focus should be on litter as the main priority, rather than detritus
- Need to tackle litter around satellite recycling sites

Public Transport Investment Working Group

7.13 Membership: Councillors William Huntington-Thresher; Ellie Harmer; Nicholas Milner; Nicholas Bennett; and David Jefferys.

7.14 This Working Group was convened in 2012 to consider the Council's priorities in response to the Mayor of London's pledge to improve public transport links to the borough.

7.15 The Working Group agreed the priority for the Borough should be a DLR extension from Lewisham to Bromley, which would improve connections between the Borough and Canary Wharf. TfL should be asked to develop the economic case for this scheme. The Council should raise the profile of the proposed DLR extension and seek support from other beneficiaries such as LB Lewisham and Kent County Council.

Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee

8. Report from Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Douglas Auld
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Kate Lymer

- 8.1 By the end of the municipal year the Committee will have met on six occasions. Attendance at the five meetings to date by Councillor Members has been 91.1%. Co-opted members represent the Bromley Community Engagement Forum, the Bromley Federation of Residents' Associations, Bromley Neighbourhood Watch, Bromley Victim Support and Bromley Youth Council.
- 8.2 Cllr. Tim Stevens is the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Safety.

Scrutiny of Services, Initiatives and Portfolio Holder Funded Projects

- 8.3 Each meeting has, taking into account the Portfolio Plan and budgetary constraints, scrutinised reports prior to them going forward to the Portfolio Holder for decision. Outlined below are the key areas scrutinised by the Committee during the past year:-

- The Portfolio Plan
- Budget Monitoring
- Public Protection Links to Public Health
- Summer Diversionary Activities and YOT NEETS.
- Stray and Abandoned Dogs (Gateway Review)
- Evaluation of the Bromley Perpetrator Programme
- Mortuary and Coroners' Services (Gateway Review)
- Putting Victims First – Legislation re changes to Anti-Social Behaviour Law
- One off spend initiative – Mottingham targeted action 'clean up' project
- Portfolio Holder Grant funding of CCTV cameras at Cotmandene Crescent and Star Lane.
- The Safer Bromley Partnership agendas and decisions
- The Draft 2013/14 Budget

Other Issues & Reports

- 8.4 Among others the Committee received updates and presentations on the following:-
- A police update at all meetings
 - Security at the Bethlem Hospital
 - The work of Victim Support
 - The Bromley Mentoring Service
 - Adult Safeguarding – the Board's annual report
 - The Bromley YOT Partnership – annual update
 - The Junior Citizenship Scheme

- Tackling Gangs in Bromley
- Enforcement activity within the Division – the Committee receives bi-annual reports
- The future of the Fire Service – James Cleverly and Andrew Holcolme
- The Bromley Youth Council campaign against bullying
- Community Payback
- Substance Misuse – the 2011/12 annual update

8.5 Of particular note are the items relating to (i) Coroners' services, (ii) Policing and (iii) the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill.

Coroners' Services

8.6 By the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 which was implemented in late 2012 new responsibilities apply to local authorities. The two main requirements for local authorities, both with cost implications, are in the future to provide coroners' officers (four are required in Bromley at an approximately cost of £200,000 per annum) and to provide, in a new post, a Medical Examiner (ME) with a team of junior doctors and a support team. The coroners' officers are currently funded by the police and the transition arrangements with the Metropolitan Police have still to be established. In one police area (not London) the police have ceased funding with immediate effect. In respect of the MEs the Government is proposing to introduce a system of fees, which is expected to cover local authority costs. These fees have to be recovered locally by Councils. Details of the scheme/proposals are expected to be released later this year.

Policing

8.7 The recent Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) proposals was outlined in the Crime and Policing Plan, the aims of which are to:-

- Cut seven priority crimes by 20 per cent
- Boost public confidence by 20 per cent
- Reduce spend by 20 per cent
- Reduce court delays by 20 per cent
- Increase compliance with community sentences by 20 per cent and
- Cut youth offending by 20 per cent

8.8 The Committee agreed with these objectives and to assist in bringing them about lobbied for enhanced Safer Neighbourhood Teams as well as more detailed proposals such as police vehicles being based at St Mary Cray, Biggin Hill and Penge.

8.9 The Metropolitan Police's model for borough policing has not yet been finalised although in response to a police suggestion that some Boroughs would share a Commander the position of a Borough Commander for each Borough has been confirmed. That having been said it would seem that the police are reverting to a system of 'Sector' policing, whereby the Borough would have four Sectors with five or six Wards in each Sector and an Inspector in charge of each Sector. The current proposal is that each Ward would

have a dedicated constable and PCSO with the remaining constables and PCSOs being employed centrally at a Sector on a shift system to be deployed as necessary. When the Commissioner visited the Civic Centre in January he stated that the current number of police officers in the Borough was approximately 440 and this would be increased to approximately 600 by 2015.

The Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill

- 8.10 This extensive Bill was published on 13 December 2012. The proposals contained therein would both simplify and strengthen anti-social behaviour law. However there are possible cost implications for the Council on three counts – (i) the need for council staff to become members of additional committees; (ii) the need for council officers to become more involved in actions combating anti-social behaviour; and (iii) numerous additional appeal procedures are proposed which could involve the council in defending its actions in courts ranging from Juvenile Court to the Crown, the High and Appeal Courts requiring the attendance of solicitors and barristers plus preparation time.

Budget Savings

- 8.11 The Committee approved “base line” budgetary savings for 2013/14, totalling £351,000. This represents approximately 11.5% of the controlled budget. Unfortunately £101,000 of the savings that had been proposed (relating to a cut in the LBB contribution for statutory Disabled Facilities Grants) was later classified as a potential ‘Corporate Saving’ and officers in the Public Protection Division have had to identify some alternative savings.

The Commissioning Agenda

- 8.12 The Committee are supporting the initial work between officers from the Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley on a shared management arrangement whereby Bexley effectively pay for Bromley to manage particular services. This will be progressed on a service by service basis where the business case is clear. The first service areas to be considered are Health & Safety and Trading Standards. Others may follow depending on the success of the work in the services mentioned above.
- 8.13 Further, the Public Protection Division is one of the initial ten service areas to be reviewed by the Council’s new Commissioning Board against each of the strategic service delivery models which have been identified (e.g. outsourcing social enterprise, shared services etc). The Division is working with the Board’s assigned lead on a full options appraisal and associated business case which will recommend the best value for money option for Public Protection.

Community Safety Funding

- 8.14 The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Bromley has submitted to MOPAC a bid for funds (approx. £2.2m) relating to local interventions to achieve the correct outcomes in terms of community safety. The assessment of these bids will be

determined by the potential impact of proposals (the likelihood of making a difference on the ground) and local demand (levels of crime). On the latter factor Bromley may not score well. The result of the bid will become known in April. Until then funding for certain schemes/posts remains uncertain.

Public Protection & Safety and the Press: Horsemeat investigations and Foxes

- 8.15 These two recent issues attracted enormous press interest and demonstrate just how quickly Public Protection matters can come to the forefront in the minds of the public.

Mention In Parliament

- 8.16 Bob Stewart (MP for Beckenham) said in the House of Commons “Trading Standards in Bromley have tried to get a grip of nuisance phone calls with various measures. When they hear of a problem they rapidly get hold of the originators of cold calls and warn them off; they have set up a system for banks and building societies in the Bromley area to contact Trading Standards if elderly people begin to make unusual withdrawals or to do things that are not typical of them; they have delivered 70 talks in the past year to the elderly warning them about the dangers of nuisance and cold calls; they have sent out packs to elderly residents also warning them of the problem; and of course they use the local newspapers and radio to alert people to scams...They are a model.”

Working Group

- 8.17 I have established a Working Group of Committee members to examine the potential in the Public Protection Division for generating further income and savings and especially to look for further opportunities for invest to save changes. The Group will be chaired by Cllr. Peter Fortune. A report will be included in the June PP&S PDS Committee agenda.

Visits by Members

- 8.18 Visits have been made by Committee members and other Councillors to Junior Citizenship events at various locations across the Borough and close liaison has been maintained between members and the various sections in the Division. Arrangements are in hand to visit both the Local Ambulance Station on Bromley Common and the central Ambulance Control Room at Waterloo.
- 8.19 Once more I thank my fellow Councillors, the Co-opted Members of the Committee and the Council Officers for their involvement, commitment and invaluable assistance and contributions made during the municipal year.

Cllr. Douglas Auld
Chairman, Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee

9. Report from Renewal & Recreation PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Sarah Phillips
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Neil Reddin FCCA

Introduction

- 9.1 The Committee will have met 5 times this municipal year. Each meeting has scrutinised the reports for decision by the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder and considered policy development of key areas of the Portfolio. Monitoring performance against the Renewal and Recreation Department's Building a Better Bromley priorities has been central to the committee's work. One Member working group has been operating throughout the year, namely the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centre Working Party, and in July an additional joint Working Group – focussed on Housing Need – was established with members of the R&R and Care Services PDS Committees. Alongside the elected Members on the PDS Committee we were also pleased to welcome a co-opted member from the Bromley Youth Council, Mr Ross Stanford. We would like to thank Mr Stanford for his contributions to the Committee meetings throughout the year.

Employment and Skills

- 9.2 Following the Executive Committee's decision to allocate £500,000 to support sustainable employment opportunities for young unemployed people living in Bromley, it was proposed to establish a three year project to create jobs for young residents aged 18-24. In July Members were informed of the development of this programme and provided with further details on the scope of the project and how the services would be procured – using a competitive tendering exercise. The award of contract was expected following the January E&R PDS meeting, and Members of the R&R PDS will be updated on the outcome of this procurement process at the final Committee meeting of the municipal year in February.
- 9.3 At the Executive's meeting in February 2012, Members agreed to savings of £170k in 2013/14 from the Cotmandene Community Resource Centre and Mottingham Community and Learning Shop. It was proposed to undertake a tendering exercise to seek suitable and appropriately qualified organisations to manage and operate both Centres at no cost to the Council. The proposals would therefore generate savings of £142k to £169k, depending on which option was taken forward. In the event that no suitable tender returns were received the Portfolio Holder was asked to agree to the two Centres closing from 1st April 2013.
- 9.4 However, in January 2013, given recognition of the valuable services provided through the Cotmandene and Mottingham Centres, the Executive considered that further work needed to be done to ensure that similar services might be offered by other providers in the longer term. It was therefore announced that the centres would remain open for at least another year for which funding would continue. Members of the PDS were

informed that the tendering process had already commenced, with a total of 21 expressions of interest received from which a shortlist of 8-10 companies would be drawn up. Although the services provided would not replicate those of the Council, a similar range would be offered. The Job Centre Referral Service was externally funded and would, therefore, continue.

Town Centre Development and Planning

Bromley

- 9.5 In July it was reported that the Outer London Fund Round 2 bid had been successful resulting in an award of nearly £2m for Bromley Town Centre of which £150k would be set aside for a shop front improvement scheme.
- 9.6 An application for development of Opportunity Site K of the AAP - Westmoreland Road Car Park, had been granted and vacant possession of the site would be taken by the developers in due course. In October, work had commenced to provide the area with additional car parking spaces. A variable messaging system to provide real time information to drivers about car park capacity was to be installed to assist with managing increased load on remaining car parks in the town. Members were informed that all car parks (with the exception of supermarket car parks) would have the variable messaging system installed.
- 9.7 Members requested that sufficient and timely information was provided to them and to the public (for example via the Council website) to help keep residents and businesses informed about changes to parking. The Council's aim was to focus on user groups and to send a plan (including a map), to season ticket holders informing them of the additional car parking spaces some six weeks before the serving of a notice and closure of the car park.
- 9.8 In January it was reported that due to various technical issues the timetable for the implementation of the Variable Messaging Service had not been adhered to and the Chairman highlighted the lack of communication with regard to this. It was agreed that Members concerns be brought to the attention of the Director of Environmental Services.
- 9.9 Subsequent to the High Court decision to quash the Policy on Opportunity Site A - Bromley North Station, it was intended that a new policy will be taken through the Local Plan and submitted for consideration by Members. However in January, because of the possible DLR extension (see paragraph 3.4) - which could have a fundamental impact on the proposed development - Members were informed that the policy for Site A would not be updated in the immediate future.
- 9.10 With regard to Opportunity Site G - West of the High Street - the Executive had agreed that a developer partner be sought and subject to market testing, the preferred developer would be confirmed in spring 2013. In October it was reported that the procurement stage to find a developer had been completed and a report was prepared

for consideration at a meeting of the Executive in October. Officers subsequently met with three prospective development partners who shared the Council's vision. A development brief had been revised and a series of workshops were arranged during February which prospective partners would attend to meet Portfolio Holders and Members.

- 9.11 In November Members were advised that a decision on the Bromley North DLR extension would probably be made in early 2013, based on an economic appraisal, although much thought was also needed on the engineering options. If no economic appraisal was provided by TfL Members proposed that the Leader of the Council write to the most senior GLA politician covering transport investment requesting that L B Bromley be given an opportunity to provide considered comment and that an economic appraisal was needed for this. The lobbying of MPs to support this request was also encouraged.
- 9.12 In January it was subsequently reported that a meeting had taken place between TfL, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Colin Smith, Bob Neil MP (Bromley and Chislehurst) and the Deputy Mayor for London. It was reported that appraisal work would be undertaken and all costs would be met by TfL. This would be implemented by June 2013 and depending on the results, a time line would be set to undertake the work.
- 9.13 In January it was Members were informed that work had progressed on Bromley North Village public realm improvements. A scheme had been drawn up for approval by members at a meeting of the Executive in February 2013. It was reported that Officers met with TfL in January when a final approval for their funding, in principle, had been obtained subject to the result of a bus consultation. Officers were also seeking approval for re-profiling of funding from the GLA. Members were also informed that Conways (the term contractor) would undertake the works and an Implementation Plan would be submitted to a future meeting of the PDS for Member approval. It would take approximately 18 months for a programme to be implemented. The Portfolio Holder was recommended to endorse the detailed design of the Bromley North Village Public Realm Improvements. Alongside the Bromley North Village implementation are other planned public realm improvements funded by the Outer London Fund. In January Members of the PDS approved of the extension of the consultancy commission for the completion of the public realm scheme designs throughout Bromley town centre – to provide a consistency of approach.

Orpington

- 9.14 With regard to the improvement of the Walnuts Shopping Centre in Orpington, a planning application was submitted for the development of a 7 screen multiplex cinema with ancillary retail facilities and restaurants. The market would be relocated to College Square. Members were advised that Planning permission for the development of the Walnuts was subsequently granted in October.

Beckenham

- 9.15 In March 2012 the Council set aside £250k to support improvements for Beckenham, from the funds allocated for Member initiatives. £50k of this was to support the development of a funding bid to Transport for London's (TfL) Major Schemes initiative and £200k was for shorter term improvements. In July Members considered the progress achieved by Urban Design Consultants, East Architecture and Urban Design, on the concept design for Beckenham Town Centre, which eventually informed the submission to TfL which took place in September 2012. Members also considered a list of short-term improvements which could be carried out.
- 9.16 Councillor Tickner, Chairman of the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centre Working Party (BWWTCWP), reported that the group met once a month at Beckenham Library and were well attended by local residents and local associations.
- 9.17 In January it was reported that the Area Based Bid to Transport for London had unfortunately not been successful. However, an additional sum of £200k had been allocated in the 2013/14 LIP settlement (from TfL funds) for improvements to the Rectory Road / Southend / Beckenham Road junction. Members were informed that the bid could be submitted to TfL again in the autumn of 2013. It was suggested that once the BWWTCWP had completed its work a more permanent Town Team could be formed to include many of the current members and to promote and coordinate ongoing improvements to the town centre.
- 9.18 In January it was reported that TfL had agreed, in principle, to the erection of light columns and other public realm improvements in West Wickham. This project would be discussed in more detail through the agenda of the BWWTCWP.

Development Control Issues

- 9.19 In January, following a request by Members of the PDS, a report outlined planning performance on minor applications, other applications and planning enforcement was presented. The report also included information on the amount of income received from planning applications, outlined the objectives and actions needed to improve the planning service and reported on the number of formal enforcement, contravention and breach of condition notices served during 2011/12.
- 9.20 The Deputy Chief Planner outlined the main points of the report and highlighted that changes had been introduced to improve the assessment of first stage applications and validation. Staff are now required to deal with all stages of the validation of applications rather than specific aspects. Problems concerning the invalidity rate were being addressed and the process had been speeded-up by the use of electronic consultation as opposed to paper. Since September 2012, the number of outstanding applications requiring assessment had been significantly reduced from 1,200 to 700. Further improvements would be implemented to ensure the planning service ran more efficiently.

9.21 Planning enforcement was also part of the improvement plan. Approximately 750-900 enforcement complaints were received each year of which many were resolved quickly. About 20% of complaints required further investigation. Members requested that planning statistics are to be provided on a regular basis to future meetings of the PDS.

Town Centre Management and Business Support

9.22 In July Members of the PDS were reminded that the Council had approved the setting aside of £250k for the R&R Portfolio Holder for one-off spending on schemes designed to improve the attractiveness, quality of life and economic viability of small shopping parades. A report was presented which outlined the proposed methodology for implementing the local parades initiative. The report also set out the application process and provided 'ground rules' to be followed upon receipt of applications from local parades wishing to be considered for funding. Members were informed that schemes which did not involve a revenue tail i.e. the provision of hanging baskets or litter bins etc, would be funded by the Council for year 1 with the proviso that local traders would be expected to fund the scheme in the years that followed. Members were invited to submit ideas to improve local trade for which officers would provide a breakdown of costs. Members approved the scheme and agreed that for individual schemes with a maximum estimated cost of up to £25k the decision on spending could be taken by the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Chairman of the PDS Committee. Any schemes of greater value than this would need to be presented to a future R&R PDS Committee for approval. An update on spending against the budget for this scheme was provided to Members as part of budget monitoring reports at subsequent meetings and a detailed report on the project is expected for the final meeting of the Committee in February.

9.23 Throughout the year Members received update reports on activities undertaken by the Council's Town Centre Management and Business Support Team. In July Councillor Tickner reported concerns raised about the lack of a Town Centre Manager for Beckenham. Members were informed that two candidates had been identified for the position and had been invited for an interview. It had proven difficult to find successful candidates as the position was only for a fixed term of 9 months. Subsequently, in August, a new TCM to cover Beckenham and Penge town centres was appointed.

9.24 Members considered the Orpington BID proposal in July, which was a Part 2 item due to possible personnel implications. In October Members supported a recommendation to reallocate £7.2k from an earmarked S.106 fund to assist with the Orpington BID project and were informed on the progress with the BID – including results of business consultations and the development of the draft BID proposal document.

9.25 With regard to the provision of Christmas lights, it was reported that all towns which had received them in previous years would receive them in 2012. In November the update on Town Centre Management activities during the third quarter had a particular focus on Christmas lights and events planned across the borough. The involvement of partnerships was highlighted and such working was encouraged when funds are short. The work of the new Town Centre Manager for Beckenham and Penge was also

commended. In January it was noted that the same TCM had addressed the problem of a poorly maintained shop front in Beckenham and had resolved the issue to a very high standard.

- 9.26 In January Members considered an update on the BID campaign for Orpington which suggested that approximately 79% of those providing a voting intention, indicated an intention to vote 'yes', however there were still a lot of unknowns. Members were informed that BID Ballot papers had been issued on 17 January and that voting would end on 21 February 2013. Members were also provided with feedback on the successful events which had been delivered in a number of town centres over the Christmas season, including a very well patronised Santa Dash event in Bromley, delivered in partnership with MyTime Active. Members were informed that a number of willing sponsors had come forward and the Town Centre Management Team were currently in talks with them to provide a similar but bigger event in 2013.
- 9.27 In November Members of the PDS were informed that the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy provided for the adoption of arrangements aimed at promoting and stimulating the local economy, based on a principle of realising economic, social and environmental benefits for the community through its contracting activity. In line with the Strategy, Members considered a proposed protocol for including local small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) when sourcing and selecting organisations to provide quotations to the Council for works, services and supplies where the estimated value was less than £50k. Members recommended that the Portfolio Holder agreed that the Council adopts use of the protocol for the inclusion of local small and medium sized enterprise (SME) contractors when sourcing and selecting organisations to provide quotations to the Council.

Housing

- 9.28 In June 2012, Members of the Council approved the setting-up of a working group to consider housing needs within the Borough. The group was to comprise Members of both the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee and the Care Services PDS Committee. Members were in favour of the establishment of such a working group. Although responsible for setting its own terms of reference, it was suggested that the group restrict itself to the consideration of housing policies and strategies. Councillors Ince, Bance and Dykes were nominated to serve as Members of the Working Group. A report on Housing Strategy and Privatisation is expected to be considered the final meeting of the year in February.

Leisure and Culture

- 9.29 In July a report informed Members of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken across the borough's libraries. Survey questionnaires had been adapted to suit individual libraries with regard to their usage, opening hours and the range of services they provided. The consultation process involved surveys conducted with library visitors, face-to-face exit surveys and telephone surveys. The Assistant Director Renewal and Recreation reported that as useage of Orpington Library had exceeded

expectations, this library together with Central and Biggin Hill Libraries were unlikely to be included in any decision to reduce hours of operation. Survey results showed that people were not too concerned about borrowing CDs and DVDs; they would much prefer to see book stocks replenished. The Portfolio Holder was requested to authorise that work be carried forward to pursue the option of reducing the operating hours of libraries and diminish stocks of CDs and DVDs with the resulting savings being redirected to the book fund in order that more books could be purchased. In November Members were advised that a range of options continued to be looked at regarding reduced opening hours. Members were also advised that volunteers for the Library service were not replacing paid posts and Libraries were not therefore reliant upon the services of volunteers to remain open.

- 9.30 Concerning plans for the provision of a new library service it was reported that at a meeting of the Executive in October, a decision was taken to proceed with the merge of Penge and Anerley Libraries – and Officers were pushing for the acquisition of a suitable building in Penge.
- 9.31 Members considered an update on preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Consideration was also given to the finalised arrangements in respect of the anticipated impact that the Games would have on Bromley. The Torch Relay would pass through Bromley, Beckenham and Penge. All three town centres held additional organised music and dance events and were very well attended by members of the public.
- 9.32 Also in July Members considered lease of the TrEE centre and the acquisition of 46 Green Lane Penge as Part 2 items.
- 9.33 In July Members were provided with an update on bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the Priory Museum and noted it was the Council's intention to rent out the vacant office space in that building.
- 9.34 In November Members were informed that as part of the transition to a new computer system to further streamline joint operations between Bromley and Bexley Libraries, it was necessary for a major data cleansing operation to be undertaken. In this regard, authorisation was sought for all items which had been damaged, lost, stolen or missing for more than six years to be deleted from the stock database. Authorisation was also sought for the rationalisation of media hire charges. The recommendations were supported by the Members of the Committee.
- 9.35 Members also considered the outcome of a tendering process in relation to a new multi sport hub site at Norman Park (as a Part 2 item).
- 9.36 In January before continuing with the published items on the agenda, Mr Steve Price, Mytime Chief Executive and Mr Dennis Barkway, Chairman of Mytime Active gave a public presentation on the MyTime Active annual report. Members were provided with a Mytime Active document entitled 'Delivering Social Value' which outlined the history of Mytime Active and highlighted its achievements to

date, together with current and future programmes and activities. Statistics for the past year, showed an overall attendance of approximately 3 million people. Mr Price commented that as the Council reduced its funding, Mytime would need to grow and diversify outside of Bromley. Members were in agreement that whilst Mytime was independent, it should work closely in partnership with the Council to ensure the continuation of beneficial social and community activities. More detailed discussion of the MyTime annual report and its financial aspects continued as a Part 2 item.

Finance and Performance Monitoring

Finance

- 9.37 In July Members considered the 2011/12 provisional outturn for the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio which showed an underspend of £131k and represented a 1.28% variation against the controllable budget of £10.23m. The variation of £131k included £100k of carry forward requests which related to the Local Development Framework and libraries.
- 9.38 At each meeting of the PDS Committee Members also considered the latest budget monitoring position for 2012/13. The controllable budget for the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio was projected to be balanced at the year end. In January it was reported that the total Portfolio budget showed a projected underspend of £10k (based on figure to end of November).
- 9.39 In October and November Members considered and supported the changes agreed by the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme for the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Programme for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16.
- 9.40 In January Members considered a draft 2013/14 Budget for the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio incorporating cost pressures and initial draft budget saving options as reported to the Executive on 9 January 2013. PDS Committees had been asked to consider the initial proposals outlined in the report, including the additional savings options and asked for Member comments to be reported to the February meeting of the Executive. Expenditure pressures on services within the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio were identified in relation to the income received from planning applications and building control. Savings options across the Portfolio were also detailed for Member consideration.

Performance Monitoring

- 9.41 In July Members considered the Renewal and Recreation Business Plan 2011/12 Monitoring Report for Quarter 4 which included a summary report of the delivery of actions for 2011/12. The report also outlined the draft Renewal and Recreation Business Plan for 2012/13 which reflected departmental changes that had occurred for 2012/13 and accordingly revised the department's priorities for the Council's property assets, incorporating new priorities to include functions around housing and public

health. Each subsequent meeting of the PDS reviewed the Business Plan and progress to date on the agreed actions and milestones.

- 9.42 When considering an update report on the R&R Business Plan in October, Members noted that due to restructuring, the College would, in future, be reporting to the Education and Care Services Portfolio. Further Member comments and questions concerning adult education would be passed onto Education and Care Services under whose remit adult education now rested.

Conclusion

- 9.43 In conclusion it has been a very busy and exciting year for the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee and I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their input and support. I would also like to thank all Officers in the Renewal and Recreation Department with whom I have enjoyed working.

Cllr. Sarah Phillips
Chairman, Renewal & Recreation PDS Committee