

Decision Maker: Executive and Resources PDS Committee

Date: 10th October 2013

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

Title: BRIEF UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 This report provides an opportunity for PDS Committee Chairmen to report on the recent work of their Committees. Since this Committee's last meeting on 4th September 2013 the following PDS Committee meetings have been held –

Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee: 10th September 2013

Education PDS Committee: 17th September 2013

Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee: 18th September 2013

Environmental Services PDS Committee: 1st October 2013

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is asked to note the updates provided by PDS Committee Chairmen.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: One of the roles of PDS Committees is to scrutinise proposals coming before executive bodies for decision – this supports the Excellent Council BBB priority.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £363,070 (2013/14 controllable budget)
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget.
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): There are 10 posts (8.55 fte) in the Democratic Services Team.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Preparing this report takes less than one hour of staff time per meeting.
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Legal

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

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): This report is intended primarily for the benefit of members of the Committee.
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Ward Councillor Views

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None

Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee: 10th September 2013

1. The second meeting of the Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee for the municipal year 2013/14 took place on Tuesday 10th September.
2. Deputy Borough Commander, Jo Oakley provided a Police Update to the Committee on the new policing model (Tranche 2) that was to go live in the borough on Monday 16th September and the new four operational policing clusters in borough each led by an Inspector were explained to us. We were also given details of the Front Counters and Contact Points and their opening hours. Overall the Committee was told that policing performance in the borough for the last year was good; overall crime levels had reduced including residential burglary, theft from motor vehicles, and motor vehicle theft was all down. Lastly we were informed that the Police Open Day was scheduled for the 22nd September. Following questions from members we were told that the local police compliment had not quite reached full strength and that the complement was short of some 20 officers.
3. The Committee endorsed a report explaining a new joint Initiative with Environmental Services to Increase Enforcement Activity in the Borough. The report proposed increased action to tackle Enviro Crime with a programme to supplement existing functions running from October 2013 to March 2014. Commentary highlighted the proposed activities with an indication of costs.
4. An urgent report was considered as the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 was coming into effect in stages starting from 1st September and fees needed to be in place to enable applications to be submitted between 1st and 15th October. The Act replaces the previous registration system and establishes a new licensing regime administered by local authorities and permits the Council to set a fee for a license, which are required to be renewed every three years. The Committee and Portfolio Holder felt that there needed to be further consideration of the proposed fees, including benchmarking against other boroughs proposed fees, so a no immediate decision was made. The Portfolio Holder approved an amended schedule of fees the following week.
5. Members received a presentation by Mr Rob Wise – Environment Manager for Kent and South London at the Environment Agency and Mr Jon Griffin – Team Leader of the Kent Waste Team at the Environment Agency concerning the Waste4Fuel site at Cornwall Drive, Orpington. The Committee were provided an update on enforcement actions to date and explanations of the current High Court Order and the legal process going forward. The risks of closing the site immediately were discussed and the Committee conveyed its concerns that the situation had continued for so long.
6. In view of the transfer of daily operational responsibilities for the Council's Youth Service and Youth Offending Team passing to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio at the start of the Council year the Committee was provided an overview of the content and purpose of Council services for young people.
7. Members received a brief update on the Summer Diversionary Activities Programme for 2013, including details of confirmed content, publicity and budget for the Programme. A full report would be provided to the Committee in November.
8. The Committee noted an update on the Performance of the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme in Bromley.
9. Members considered an Information briefing on the 2012/13 Annual Report of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board. The report outlined the Board's work to drive improvement in multi-agency action to safeguard vulnerable adults. Concerns were voiced regarding how the new policing

model would affect Adult Safeguarding. Deputy Borough Commander Jo Oakley indicated that the Detective Inspector who is part of the Safeguarding Board would have more responsibility and overall she thought there should be little difference in police input for Adult Safeguarding under the new Policing model.

10. A visit is being arranged to the London Ambulance Service (LAS) Control Room at Waterloo for October.

**Cllr Kate Lymer,
Chairman**

Education PDS Committee: 17th September 2013

1. Commission Review of Education Services

Because of the attendance of a 100 plus members of the public the committee began its meeting in the council chamber and to consider a report recommending market testing of a range of education services. Most of the audience were parents of deaf children who were concerned about possible outcomes of commissioning of hearing impairment services. The report, which arises out of the council wide commissioning programme, followed soft market testing of the following services:

- i. Admissions;
- ii. Strategic place planning and capital management;
- iii. Education welfare;
- iv. Behaviour Services;
- v. School Standards;
- vi. Workforce Development and Services;
- vii. Early Years;
- viii. SEN Inclusion support.

Glen Kelly, Staff Side representative was permitted to address the committee and was then questioned on the grounds for his opposition to the proposal.

There appeared to be some misunderstanding about what was proposed. The report, which goes to the Executive on October 16th, merely requests permission to bundle education support services and to invite tenders, so they can be evaluated against the cost and quality of in house provision. An assurance was given that there would be a further opportunity for representations if recommendations are made to change the present delivery of the various services.

2. Ofsted Reports and follow up on under-performing schools

As part of the committee's central objective ***to improve school, pupil and governance performance***, this is a standing item on the agenda. With the welcome tightening of the Ofsted inspection framework three schools, (Scotts Park Primary, St Mary Cray Primary and Burwood) which had been judged as either good or satisfactory under the previous regime, are now judged as 'requires improvement'. The committee now receives reports of the monitoring visits on all schools in this category and those in special measures.

3. School Places

The committee considered two reports on proposals to expand a number of primary schools and the ensuing budget implications in the basic need programme. Detailed examination of the proposals had

been carried out by the Primary School Development Plan Working Group under the chairmanship of Cllr Sarah Phillips and all the recommendations were approved. The Working Group's name has been changed to the School Places Working Group to reflect the need, in the near future, to consider secondary school expansions as the increase in pupil numbers reaches that age group.

4. Academies and Free Schools

Two of the Council's 17 education commitments are to encourage all Bromley LA schools to become academies and to encourage the provision of new free schools. Considerable progress has been made as the following figures indicate:

- Secondary 16 of 17 schools now academies;
- Primary 16 of 74 primaries now academies

A further 19 primary schools are in the process of converting and a further 12 schools are moving towards application and most are consulting parents

A 'road show' is planned to encourage the remaining 27 (36%) primary schools to convert either singly or as part of collaborative groups by 2015.

Four free schools have been approved by the Secretary of State and are expected to open in 2014. They are:

- Harris Primary Free School Beckenham;
- Harris Primary Bromley (Kingswood site in Shortlands);
- Harris Aspire (Secondary alternative education);
- Bromley Bilingual Primary School

In addition there are a potential four more schools:

- Joint bid by Langley Secondary Association for Primary Free School on the Langley Park schools campus;
- Secondary Free School (led by Beaverwood and Hayes);
- A primary C of E free school sponsored by Bishop Justus School;
- A RC Secondary Free School sponsored by the Archdiocese of Southwark (Following the opening last month in Richmond of a new RC School, Bromley is now the only London borough without a catholic maintained secondary school).

5. School Governance Working Group

Following the publication of the report of the school governance working group, a report was presented to the committee on proposals for implementing the working group's recommendations. This will be considered in greater detail at the November meeting of the committee but in the meantime copies have been circulated to the governors' forum and the Portfolio Holder and I will be addressing it on September 30th.

6. Online admissions

The committee concerned at the low level of online school admissions and applications for free school meals, in comparison to other London Boroughs has been pressing for greater channel shift to digital usage. They were concerned to learn that even though levels of online use are increasing the 'Pan London admissions system' still responds with a written letter even though an applicant has applied online. We have asked our representative to press for this to be amended to reflect how the private sector uses digital media.

7. Special Education Needs Pupils in Mainstream Schools

Increasingly pupils with special education needs are being educated in mainstream schools. Provision for those who require specialist schools is also being increased within the borough. The committee received a report on steps being taken to ensure that Bromley children receive the appropriate support in the most cost effective manner.

8. Education Department Pay Policy for Centrally based teaching staff

The committee considered a report on revised arrangements for teacher directly employed by the department in the behaviour service and other specialist support teams, the model policy is based on the new national Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document. It was agreed to recommend that Portfolio Holder agree the proposals.

9. Future work

The Committee has commissioned a number of additional reports for consideration at future meetings in the current municipal year they are:

- i. Educational Attainment for Looked after children;
- ii. Truancy;
- iii. young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS). As this last issue also impacts on the work of R&R PDS (Apprenticeships) and Public Protection (Youth service and crime), it is proposed to invite members of those committees to discuss this item as part of the March 2014 Education PDS meeting.

10. Independent School Ofsted Inspection

The committee discussed the recent Ofsted inspection on Darul Uloom School which rated the school as inadequate particularly in the teaching of secular subjects and in a number of safeguarding issues.

Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Chairman