

**EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES PDS COMMITTEE****5<sup>th</sup> February 2014****11. UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN****(A) PUBLIC PROTECTION & SAFETY PDS COMMITTEE  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

1. The fourth meeting of the Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee of the municipal year 2013/14 took place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.
2. Two Oral Questions were raised by the Chairman of Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom Safer Neighbourhood Panel which were both referred to the Deputy Borough Commander as the questions concerned the Local Policing Model and the operational effectiveness of the new model which were more appropriate for a Police response.
3. The Deputy Borough Commander Jo Oakley provided a Police update to the Committee. We were informed that Bromley had a newly appointed Chief Inspector who would be responsible for the Emergency Response Teams. Crime levels were generally going down. Overall crime levels had decreased year on year by eight hundred crimes against the MOPAC 7 crime reduction targets. Vehicle crime and low level assaults had fallen however the number of serious assaults had increased. It was explained that this was resultant from a change in the classification process, classifying all domestic violence injuries as serious. Borough Police are currently targeting and monitoring recognised hotspots for motorists and cyclists being killed or seriously injured. There are also 15 current Operations targeting different types of crime, including anti-social behaviour, serious acquisitive crimes, drugs and gangs.
4. The latest budget monitoring position for 2013/2014 for the Portfolio based on expenditure and activity levels up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013 show a projected underspend of £19k.
5. The Committee also examined the proposed cost savings for the next financial year which were accepted by the Committee. The proposed savings are reductions to the community safety budget and out of hours noise service, a reduction of the Portfolio Holder Grants Budget and general efficiency savings.
6. The Committee was advised that the Council's CCTV system was over ten years old and was now in danger of failing. It was not cost effective to replace in part, and

would need to be replaced in full. Consequences of system failure would be severe – a risk to community safety and crime resolution and a massive loss of revenue to the Council in terms of parking enforcement. It was resolved that the Portfolio Holder endorse this bid for capital expenditure.

7. A presentation was given by Mr Toks Adesuyan, the Legal & Stakeholder Manager (London South – Magistrate & Youth Court) of the Crown Prosecution Service. Mr Adesuyan gave a general overview of the CPS's work and functions including their guidance book "The Code". Mr Adesuyan outlined the two priority areas for the CPS were racial hate crime and domestic violence and explained that a Domestic Strategy Group had recently been set up. He gave the recent conviction rates for prosecuted Domestic Violence cases in Bromley which are above the London average.

8. A presentation was given by Mr Alf Kennedy, a Committee member, on behalf of Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association which has 37,000 members in the Borough.

9. The Portfolio Holder provided an update on the current position in relation to the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhood Board into Bromley as requested by MOPAC. The Bromley Community Engagement Forum would be dismantled and incorporated into the SNB, and the Safer Bromley Partnership would be come smaller, meet less frequently and become more strategic.

10. A progress report was presented by the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for Bromley following the Tackling Gangs report that was presented to the Safer Bromley Partnership in September 2012.

11. The Committee reviewed the Annual Update Report for the Bromley Youth Offending Team Partnership, providing an update on performance as well as information relating to operational and strategic developments.

12. The Committee reviewed the Annual Update Report on Substance Missuse.

**Cllr Kate Lymer,  
Chairman, Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee**

**(B) CARE SERVICES PDS COMMITTEE  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014**

The Committee updated our Matters Arising and our Work Programme. Visits to Clarleigh House, Burrows House and The Hawes Down Centre were reported and the importance of such visits by members discussed.

The Care Services 2013/2014 Portfolio Plan was updated. The Tackling Troubled Families Project was briefly discussed as some members have concerns around this.

Sara Bowrey updated the committee on the continuing pressures in the department and what is being done to address them. The most obvious problem is the high cost of temporary accommodation and the concern that this need is likely to increase over the next few years as supply cannot keep up with demand. However, there was some good news, a significant achievement was securing 38 places at Bellgrove. Measures for preventing homelessness in the first place were also discussed and the possibility of Bromley adopting a "Mortgage Rescue Scheme" as the Government's one is about to end.

The committee discussed The Framework for Children with Disabilities. Bromley are working with neighbouring Boroughs to provide better value for money in delivering short breaks and personalised care services for disabled children and young people. The cost through the framework is £12.50 an hour compared with £16.00 for spot purchases.

The committee had a lively discussion around Day Opportunities and Respite for Older People. Some members are still concerned about the closure of Day Centres but overall the view was that many older people would have greater choice, be able to explore new areas of interest and meet new people through using a personal budget.

Respite at Home Services are under further consideration.

The Draft Budget was considered. There are still outstanding issues and areas of uncertainty remain.

The Budget Monitoring report was noted. The pressures are consistent.

A revised Capital Programme was approved by the Executive in November following a detailed monitoring exercise after the 2nd quarter 2013/2014. This resulted in some schemes in this Portfolio being rephrased.

A report from The Mobility Forum was discussed and it seems that there is further work that could be carried out by them although they been classed as a "task and finish" group. Lorna Blackwood will update the committee in March and only if it is viable will the Portfolio holder agree to further funding.

The Quality monitoring of Domiciliary Care, Care Homes and Children's Placements was discussed.

The Committee receives annual updates covering the arrangements for monitoring contracts and progress made to raise standards in services commissioned from 3rd parties. Overall Bromley has a low level of complaints.

There were 23 safeguarding referrals this year (to end Nov) compared to 28 in 2012/2013.

The importance of Member visits to our care homes was discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Council made 216 placements in Children's Social Care in 2013/2014 so far from 1st April. There have been no complaints received.

The Committee received an update on the Pathfinder Project and Children and Families Bill.

The most significant changes and concerns are around the new Education, Health and Care Plans which will begin at birth and continue to the age 25 years old. There is no clarity from Government around the threshold for SEND to date and this makes The Council's task incredibly difficult in planning for the future. Families will require support from The Council, especially reassurance around personal budgets which many are finding difficult.

The Education Portfolio has a decision around Day Nursery Provision and asked this committee for comments on the proposals available.

The Committee noted The Annual ECHS Debtors Report and noted that a considerable debt of had just been recovered after over a decade.

A request to carry over funding for Public Health Weight Management Pilot Schemes was supported, however members requested regular updates on progress and questions were raised about evidence that such schemes produce outcomes long term. It was felt that the concerns around diabetes warranted the expenditure at this time.

There were no questions on Care Services PDS Information Briefing Reports.

Finally, the exempt minutes of The Care Services PDS Committee held on 29th October were approved.

The meeting ended at 9.10 approx

**Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe,  
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee**

**(C) RENEWAL AND RECREATION PDS COMMITTEE**  
**28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**BUDGET MONITORING**

Members considered the latest budget monitoring position for 2013/14 based on expenditure and activity levels up to 30 November 2013. The total portfolio budget showed a projected underspend of £99k.

Consideration was also given to the level of expenditure and progress achieved in regard to the implementation of the Renewal and Recreation projects within the Member Priority Initiatives.

Early warning outlined regarding a claim against LBB, the Chief Planner reported that notice of a claim for compensation had not yet been received. Officers were informed prior to the Development Control meeting on 7 January 2014 that if the application to fell the tree was refused, the applicant would launch an appeal. However, as the appeals process was considerably lengthy, it may be some time before the Council heard anything further.

**LAND AT SNAG LANE, CUDHAM - PROPOSED ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION**

Members considered the making of an Article 4 Direction to remove certain classes of permitted development from an area of land between Cudham Lane North and Snag Lane. The land had recently been purchased by a development company and there was concern that it would be sub-divided into small plots which would undermine the open character and visual amenities of the area due to indiscriminate development including fencing, structures, temporary uses of land and stationing of caravans.

**ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION - STATION SQUARE, PETTS WOOD**

Members were asked to consider making a non-immediate Article 4 Direction to restrict specific permitted development rights for commercial frontages and forecourts in Station Square, Petts Wood in order to preserve the character of the Station Square Conservation Area, by allowing the Council to consider each proposal on its merits.

**CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICES TO RESIDENTIAL IN PARTS OF BROMLEY TOWN CENTRE - PROPOSED NON-IMMEDIATE ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION**

In order to avoid harmful impacts upon economic development, Members considered the making of a non-immediate Article 4 Direction to withdraw the permitted development right of change of use from office to residential from the Business Improvement Areas, (as shown in the Area Action Plan) and nearby areas within a short distance of Bromley North and South. The Chief Planner outlined the reports above and clarified the significance of Article 4 Directions. He advised that the expediency of issuing an Article 4 Direction for all above should be considered and that there was a risk of compensation becoming payable at a future stage.

**BECKENHAM CONSERVATION AREAS**

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 21 November 2013, Members recommended that authorisation be sought to proceed with a consultation on the proposed creation of a Beckenham High Street Conservation Area. A map outlining the area concerned was circulated to Members. The Chief Planner briefly outlined the report commenting that the consultation exercise would allow local

people to put their views forward. The Chairman stated that potentially, smaller individual conservation areas could be added at a future date.

### **DRAFT 2014/15 BUDGET**

Members considered a draft 2014/15 Budget for the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio incorporating cost pressures and initial draft budget saving options as reported to the Executive on 15 January 2014. The Executive requested individual PDS Committees 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.

### **RENEWAL AND RECREATION BUSINESS PLAN 2013/14 MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER 3**

The report outlined progress made towards the delivery of actions agreed in the Plan and identified actions as priorities for delivery in Quarter 3. The existing contract for Christmas lights in Bromley, Orpington and Penge was in its final year of operation. A detailed report would be submitted to the next meeting of the R&R PDS Committee on 1 April 2014. Commenting on the 'red' status for determination of planning applications, the Chief Planner stated that the number of incoming major and minor applications fluctuated from quarter to quarter. The percentage of major applications for the current quarter were slightly higher than the previous quarter. Incoming minor applications had recently increased with 80% being determined in December 2013 and 75% in January 2014. The Chairman suggested that a column be included to show the amount of work undertaken. The Chief Planner reported that 18 major, 140 minor and 593 other matters had been dealt with during the last quarter. He also reported that income levels were also being monitored as a major concern. The current income received was £200k ahead of expectations. It was reported that the ongoing strategic work with Registered Providers to minimise affordable stock disposals would not affect tenants' right to buy. Kerry O'Driscoll, Head of Housing Development and Strategy would be invited to update Members at the next R&R PDS meeting on 1 April 2014. The Chairman asked Members to send him their ideas on what they believe should be included in a new action column in future Business Plan reports.

### **TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT - JANUARY 2014**

Members received an update on activities undertaken by the Council's Town Centre Management and Business Support Team since November 2013. The report also summarised priorities to the end of March 2014. Members joined the Chairman in congratulating Alison Stammers, Chair of the Chislehurst Town Team on winning the Mary Portas' High Street Champion of the Year Award. The Chairman acknowledged the great work undertaken by Ms Stammers. The Head of Town Centre Management and Business Support agreed to look further into a previously reported issue concerning resurfacing of pavements in Croydon Road, Penge. It was reported that consultation was currently being undertaken with local people in regard to the improvement of the shopping parade at Clockhouse and other parades as part of the Local Parades Improvement Initiative. Details would be reported back to Members when available.

### **TOWN CENTRES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members considered the progress achieved in delivering the Town Centres Development Programme and were asked to agree that the Beckenham Town Centre Working Party be reconvened to provide design oversight and strategic

guidance during the initial scheme design stage for Beckenham Town Centre. The Chairman asked for an update on the works being undertaken by Thames Water in Bromley North Village. Members were informed that work had commenced on 2 January 2014 and were currently running to schedule with pipe replacement commencing shortly. Conways would begin their work as soon as Thames Water had finished theirs and it was anticipated that all programmed work would be completed by May 2014. It was reported regarding the concerns of traders who were feeling the impact of the works being undertaken. The Head of Renewal stated that the Conways contract was managed on a weekly basis and payment was not made until the work had been carried out, so this was an incentive for them to finish the works as soon as possible. The number of work gangs used was maximised as much as possible. The Head of Renewal agreed to circulate a detailed programme of works to Members. The Head of Renewal agreed to look into the matter of replacement water pipes in Penge High Street where the road had previously collapsed.

**Cllr Ian Payne,**  
**Chairman, Renewal & Recreation PDS Committee**

**(D) ENVIRONMENT PDS COMMITTEE**  
**29<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Budget Monitoring:**

The main items of note were:

- The unexpected costs arising from the exceptionally stormy weather. The St Judes Storm resulted in increased costs to the Council of £120K. Since the report was prepared the Christmas & subsequent storms have arisen, resulting in more costs. As a minimum a further £120K in costs should be expected. The warm stormy weather has (so far) replaced the cold snowy weather of recent winters but still pot holes seem to be increasing in number over the winter.
- The increase in waste tonnage continues and may be accelerating, resulting in enhanced (over budget) disposal costs. This seems set to continue as the economy improves and poses an issue for future budget setting. The PDS recommended a working group to examine waste to reduce costs & quantities. The PDS working group would be looking to impact the 2015/16 budget.
- The Government review of parking enforcement continues and poses a significant threat to the Environment Income budget for 2014/15. The impact on congestion & businesses remains to be determined. If it occurs, the reduced income would require a revision of the parking enforcement service.

**Parking Bailiff Services**

It was recommended to directly contract two providers (the same two used by Liberata for Council Tax) until 31/10/16. This follows expiry of a contracting framework agreement (ESPO). The justification followed experience of the

contractors. The main parking service contract (enforcement) expires at the same time, so a full tender can be undertaken across the shared service with Bexley.

### **Planned Highway Maintenance**

Streets for planned maintenance were agreed without amendment. It was noted that the cash limiting of highway maintenance is gradually reducing the number repaired due to the impact of inflation on costs. A future Environment PDS Working Group was recommended to address this service issue.

### **Street Cleaning Scrutiny**

The street cleaning contractor, Kier Environmental, attended the PDS for scrutiny. The improvements of the service over the past year were recorded, but it was noted that service pressures remain. The ability to tackle heavily parked roads continues to pose a problem with the budget costs. Innovations were discussed. The newly developed targeted leaf clearance with tree type did not succeed this year largely due to the St Jude's storm accelerating leaf fall, also the tree type audit focussed on LBB trees (where information was available) not residents' trees.

The interim report of the Shortlands pilot which links residents associations with street cleaning staff & contractors has shown benefit. Local intelligence targets cleaning on hot spots & it appeared that public perception improved if hot-spots were cleaned even if this was at the expense of other locations. The full report will be delivered in May.

### **Parks**

The strategy/gateway review for tendering of non-programmed parks works and soft Landscaping was agreed.

### **Draft 2014/15 Budget**

The pressures on the budget, particularly that related to current overspends for exceptional events and waste were noted.

**Cllr William Huntington-Thresher,  
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee**

## **(E) HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee met on Thursday 30th January at 3.30pm. Members of The Health and Wellbeing Board were also invited.

There is confusion over the title of this committee as it is referred to as the above and also The HOSC. For clarification, they are the same committee. I was informed in May that the title was The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee and as the Chairman this is what I have and will continue to call it.



The workload of this committee is becoming larger and the issues more complex. Therefore it was agreed to hold an extra meeting in April.

However, the most important Agenda item on the 30th January was to discuss the worsening figures in A & E at the PRUH. As Chairman, I was therefore astonished to learn on Monday 27th January that a summit had been arranged for the same day as our meeting by CQC and that there would be no representation from Kings at the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee. This despite the Portfolio Holder drawing to their attention the date of our meeting earlier in January.

I do not find this acceptable. This was a public meeting arranged over two months in advance, there was never a question of us cancelling at such short notice, especially when the subject matter was so important. Our Officers spent a considerable amount of time trying to accommodate the meeting at The Civic Centre and to juggle people around. This in a Department that is already under enormous pressure.

I will therefore be writing to Kings to express my disappointment and seek reassurances that this will not occur again. I will be requesting their presence at the Care Services PDS on March 11th for an update on the situation at the PRUH. Dr Angela Bhan did however give us a very detailed account of the steps in place to help improve performance and the causes for the decline in performance in the previous quarter. The main concerns are the 4 hour targets and 12 hour trolley breaches.

In order to ensure that all actions are on track, there is significant effort in monitoring and regular performance meetings regarding the recovery plan.

The Committee was informed of the progress with Bromley's Clinical Commissioning Group's Promise programme. In brief, this is a programme to change the way in which health and social care is delivered to a proactive and holistic approach to the care of patients. Success is dependent on the ability to prevent patients with complex needs from worsening ill-health and to maintain and promote independent and high standards of living.

A slide was presented which showed substantial savings when patients were supported by the Promise programme.

Finally, the Committee approved the exempt minutes from the meeting held on 14th October 2013.

The meeting ended at 5.30pm.

**Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe,  
Chairman, Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**(F) EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE**

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

1. The Portfolio Holder answered three questions requesting the right for summer born children to enter reception at 5 years of age rather than Yr 1. He pointed out that academies are responsible for their own admissions and in the case of maintained schools, unless the DfE Guidance changed it was not proposed to change the current arrangements whereby children aged 5 were placed in Year 1. Subsequently the Committee agreed to have a report on the pros and cons of the issue at the March meeting.
2. The committee considered a comprehensive report on young people 'Not in education, employment or training' (NEETS). The number in Bromley has fallen to 581 in August 2013 and is expected to have substantially reduced by the time an update is provided after the February 2014 count. The committee was impressed with both the comprehensive data and the wide range of targeted opportunities that are in place for these young people to obtain further education and training for employment.
3. The Portfolio Holder updated the Committee on the following:
  - i. plans to convert the Pupil Referral Unit to an academy and for it to be operated from September 2014 by Bromley College. The committee endorsed the extension of the contract for the consultant head teacher until September 1<sup>st</sup>;
  - ii. progress towards the establishment of a bi-lingual free school at Bromley South;
  - iii. the forthcoming discussion with Bishop Pat Lynch, area bishop for SE London, about the creation of an RC Secondary school in the borough and the future of the All Saints School site at Layhams Road in Hayes and Coney Hall Ward.
4. The committee received its regular update on Ofsted Reports and under performing schools including data risk.

The new Ofsted categories are: *Outstanding, Good and Requires Improvement*. 14 LA maintained schools are in the third category. Following reorganisation the authority now commissions most school improvement services. The committee discussed, at length, the reasons why some schools under perform and the role of the senior team, governors and the authority officers in improving such schools.

5. Proposals to develop a business case for market testing the two local authority run day nurseries were supported.
6. The detailed report from the *School Places Working Party* was considered and the recommendations agreed. Concern was expressed about some decisions by

planning sub-committees which subsequently imposed conditions which effectively prevented expansion. Estimates produced for the committee indicate the borough will need space for a further 27 forms of entry (815 pupils) in secondary schools by 2021.

7. The increase of £3m in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the forthcoming year was welcomed and the proposals by the Schools Forum for its allocation were supported.
8. A report of the implications of 'free' school lunches for Key Stage 1 from September was discussed. Concern remains that the timetable for implementation and the capital allocation from central government for kitchens and eating accommodation is inadequate.
9. The draft budget, previously examined by the Education Budget Sub-committee, which proposes savings of £950 k, was unopposed.
10. A report commissioned by the committee about the attainment of Looked After Children gave examples of individual case studies. The committee placed on record its thanks to the dedicated work of foster parents, schools and officers in helping this vulnerable group with their education.
11. An update of the SEN Pathfinder Project and the Children and Families Bill was considered together with the accompanying draft Code of Practice.
12. The role of the local authority with academies was discussed and it was noted that the Council had more than 250 statutory duties relating to education and that new ways of working with the academies were being sought. A conference is planned for all Academies and maintained schools in the summer and a schools partnership organisation may result.
13. The *School Governance Working Party* has been re-established to consider further ways in which the work of LA governors can be strengthened.

**Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP,  
Chairman Education PDS Committee**