

**(10) Updates from PDS Chairmen (Minute 61)**

**(1) Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

We have held one meeting since last E&RPDS PDS on 2 September 2014.

Members considered the Committee's work programme for the period November 2014-May 2015 and requested the following:-

- Updates on Bromley Market in relation to costs, income, the future of the market and its function be included in Town Centre Management reports.
- A separate report on the proposals for Churchill Place (Site G in the Area Action Plan) be submitted in November 2014.
- Update report on the New Homes Bonus Topslice - Project Proposals be submitted in November 2014; Referring to the New Homes Bonus Topslice (paragraph 3.23, page 38), Members agreed that the London Councils request for submission of bid proposals in August (in what was, essentially, the peak holiday season), was unjust. This was an important project and the Authority had only been given 3 or 4 days in which to respond. The Chairman commended officers in their efforts.
- An 'Arts in Bromley' report be submitted for consideration at the meeting in January 2015.

Members considered the progress achieved in delivering the Town Centres Development Programme and were asked to endorse the submission of project proposals under the New Homes Bonus Top Slice programme.

The Portfolio Holder's agreement was sought for Section 106 funds to be used for the proposed Town Centre Management Initiatives as set out in the report.

With regard to Site C: Town Hall it was reported that a positive meeting between the developer and the Council's Management Team had taken place. The applicant was mindful of the comments and advice given in relation to listed buildings and also agreed to undergo a CABI design review as part of the application process.

On-site operational hours for the works at Bromley North had been extended during the summer months and as anticipated, the programme remained on schedule.

Members considered the current arrangements for management of the Churchill Theatre which are due to expire in April 2016. The process and timetable for retendering the lease in line with the Council's financial regulations and procurement procedures were also considered.

Members considered an update on Town Centre Management and business support activities which had taken place since the previous update in June 2014.

Members were informed that work was ongoing in regard to the Bromley Business Improvement District (BID). An agreement with the Council in terms of a grant had been finalised. The next stage of the process would involve a feasibility assessment of the BID followed by consultation.

The re-launch of the Bromley Business Growth Club in partnership with Action Coach was noted as was the upcoming Bromley and Kent Business Expo scheduled to take place at Coolings Nursery on 15 October which Members were encouraged to attend.

Councillor Ian Payne  
Chairman, Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

## **(2) Environment PDS Committee** **23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

### Budget Monitoring:

The Environment budget is currently predicted to be overspent by £207K. The main cause is the increased volume of general waste collected or received and reduced income from reduced volumes of paper for recycling and trade waste. Disposal of waste is a statutory duty of the council. The PDS has a Waste Working Group to review budget pressures in waste and recycling.

### TFL funded work programme 15/16:

The committee reviewed the LIP submission. The submission is the second year of the 3 year LIP delivery plan agreed with TFL in 2013. The expected income remains at roughly the same level as 14/15 and represents a reduction of almost 20% compared to historic levels.

### Street Enforcement:

The committee considered the financial implications of the non-statutory provision of disabled parking bays. Costs arise from assessments, road surveys, signage and enforcement of the use of the bays. An annual charge of £80 was supported. A charge of £80 is equivalent to charge for a permit in an all-day Controlled Parking Zone. The service is now expected to be budget neutral.

The committee considered a proposal to charge for white bar markings. The white bar markings are advisory and are only normally applied across dropped kerbs providing access to multiple properties. The department receives many more enquiries for white bar markings resulting in staff effort to review the requests. The committee supported the introduction of a charge (£50) when residents apply for a white bar, with further charges (£50) arising when the white lines are installed or reinstalled. Whilst white bars will be applied in more scenarios, not all applications will be considered appropriate.

### Congestion reduction scheme:

The committee reviewed a number of options to improve the Widmore Road & A21 junction to address congestion. The committee supported the scheme progressing to detailed design and consultation with statutory bodies.

#### Additional Planned Highway Maintenance:

In February 2014 the Executive agreed to provide £1m one off funding to address winter damage to the highways. In addition TFL allocated LBB a further £715K for highway maintenance due to winter damage. The use of TFL funds needed to be agreed with TFL; it was agreed that the funds would be directed at bus routes. It was proposed that the £1m executive funding would be split 80:20 between planned and reactive/emergency maintenance. The proposed planned maintenance schemes were provided to the committee. The committee supported the proposals.

#### Street Lighting Invest to Save:

The committee reviewed the progress of the street lighting invest to save. Following detailed structural assessment of street lighting columns it found that less columns needed to be replaced than originally estimated. The reallocation of the invest to save funds to lantern replacement would allow an extra 2,475 lanterns to be replaced. This would be expected to result in a further £42K of energy savings as the most inefficient lanterns would be selected. The invest to save remains on track to repay the investment; the precise timing depends on energy prices. The committee supported the scheme amendments. The committee noted that savings would be reduced as the Council is now below the threshold for carbon tax payments (academies are now separate to the council).

#### Public Toilets:

The committee supported the proposal to extend the community toilet scheme to Penge Town Centre.

#### Public Transport Liaison:

The committee supported trialling inviting Bromley residents to an informal meeting of Public Transport providers.

#### Green Garden Waste Collection:

The committee reviewed the progress of the GW collection service and noted the continued expansion of the scheme due to its popularity with Bromley residents with over 15,000 now subscribing to the service. The committee accepted that the service charge would probably need to increase with inflation.

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher  
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee

### **(3) Education PDS Committee 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

#### 1. Portfolio Holder's Update

The Portfolio Holder Cllr Stephen Wells reported on the following matters:

- 11 new bulge classes in primary schools to meet increased demand;
- 150 more applications for reception classes in the current school year than predicted;
- The opening of two free schools – Harris Shortlands and La Fontaine;
- The approval of E21 secondary school for Elmers End;
- The appeal by Harris Beckenham against the refusal of planning permission for the new free school on the Kelsey site;

- The replacement of Bromley Pupil Referral Service by the Bromley Educational Trust under the aegis of Bromley F&HE College;
- The provision of universal infant free school meals with the provision of hot meals at all schools;
- The Governors' Conference held on September 27<sup>th</sup> was adjudged a success. The committee however expressed its' concerns that although proposed by PDS Committee's School Governance Working Party neither the Chairmen of the committee had been consulted about the agenda or invited to attend.

## 2. Under Performing Schools

The Portfolio Holder reported under this standing item that an Executive Principal had been appointed to Burwood School following concerns about the school.

## 3. Special Educational Needs Transport Strategy

A key recommendation of the report that a proposal to implement muster points not be proceeded with was not supported by the PDS Committee. The Committee felt very strongly that, where appropriate, SEN pupils should be collected from on street 'muster points' rather than from their homes. The committee also expressed scepticism about the need to have a full-time Health and Safety officer to review the 'muster points' and the travel needs of each pupil who might use them.

## 4. Day Nursery Provision – market test.

It was agreed that market testing of the Council's day nursery provision at Community Vision and Blenheim School on a concession basis should proceed.

## 5. Adult Education DWP Contract

The committee considered the projected over spend on the contract with DWP for the provision of training for unemployed people. It would appear that the grant had been cut subsequent to the approval of the budget. The matter is to be examined in greater detail at the Education Budget sub-committee on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett  
Chairman, Education PDS Committee

## **(4) Public Protection and Safety PDS 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

The second meeting for the municipal year 2014/2015 of the Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee was held on Wednesday 1st October 2014.

2. The Borough Commander attended to give the Police Update. The Borough Commander also informed the Committee that the police were on target to make the required £575m target for savings this year, but this had been very challenging. Burglary was down by 6.8% against a target of 6%. The rates of criminal damage offences had increased by 8%. Motor Vehicle crime was down by 22% which was on target. The number of actual bodily harm offences had increased by 139 compared to the same point last year.

The Borough Commander stated that plans were now underway to initiate Operation Bumble Bee and Operation Equinox. The former was aimed at reducing burglary, and the latter was aimed at reducing violence in the town centre. It was noted that the volume of burglary offences increased as the nights drew in and the hours of daylight decreased.

The Borough Commander mentioned that Parm Sandu was now in place as Deputy Borough Commander in place of Jo Oakley, and that David Tait had assumed responsibility for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Staffing levels were currently good, and Bromley Police were currently six police officers and sixteen PCO's above staff target levels.

The Borough Commander referenced ASB and burglary related crime in the Crays area, with particular reference to the use of mopeds. It was noted that eight key individuals had been arrested, four had been remanded in custody, and one had been detained at a secure unit in Bedford.

Reference was made to the efforts that the police had made to support the summer diversionary activity projects, and there was positive feedback from Members regarding this. The Committee were updated concerning arrangements in place to ensure that police officers worked at least once every three weekends. This was releasing a greater number of police officers to deal with incidents arising in town centres on a Saturday night.

The Committee heard that a meeting had taken place with SLAM (South London and Maudsley NHS Trust) concerning how the police were going to deal with incidents at Bethlem Hospital in the future. The plan was that communication would take place with the relevant Team Leader before arriving on site, so that officers would be better informed upon arrival.

The Borough Commander informed Members that many officers were now working with body worn video equipment. This had proved particularly useful in dealing with domestic abuse incidents.

Video recordings had been used as evidence in court proceedings. The scheme had been piloted in seven boroughs and the equipment was currently being used by around 54-55 officers.

A Town Centre Team focusing on Orpington Town Centre was being launched on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

It came to light during the police update that a large number of asylum seekers had been accommodated at the Mary Rose Inn Hotel at St Mary's Cray. This was a surprise to Members and the Portfolio Holder, who were not aware that around seventy asylum seekers had been transferred to St Mary's Inn from the Queen's Hotel at Crystal Palace. It was presumed that the placements had been initiated by UKBA. It was not known how long the accommodation was planned for, but was estimated at three months. The Portfolio Holder and the Ward Councillor for Cray Valley East expressed concern that they had not been informed. It was the general consensus of the Committee that a protocol or channel of communication be opened up with UKBA to avoid a repeat episode of non-communication.

3. At the previous meeting of the Committee, the Portfolio Holder stated that he wished to encourage greater scrutiny of himself by Members so a new rolling Agenda item has been added titled 'Question to the Portfolio Holder from the PP&S PDS Committee'. Cllr Stevens was asked questions by the Committee on the lack of communication from UKBA regarding the Mary Rose Inn Hotel and the plan moving forward, a question about what could be done to prevent incursions by the Travelling Community, and problems concerning a number of dog related problems in Mottingham.

4. The latest budget monitoring position for 2014/15 for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio based on expenditure and activity levels up to 31st July 2014 showed a balanced budget. Members also noted that an amount of £41,584.00 remained unallocated from the Community Safety Budget. The Director of Environment and Community Services indicated that Committee Members were welcome to put forward ideas to the Portfolio Holder for the allocation of uncommitted funds from the Community Safety Budget.

5. A report written by Mr Jim McGowan, Head of Environmental Protection, was written to advise Members of proposals to spend the remaining balance of the Targeted Neighbourhood Activity Project Fund throughout the Borough. The Committee were informed that £150,000.00 had previously been allocated to a Targeted Neighbourhood Activity Project, but that only £55,000.00 of this money had been used, leaving an underspend of £95,000.00. The purpose of this report was to put forward project spend proposals for the underspend, although it was not the case that all the money had to be allocated in the current financial year. It was noted that Mr McGowan was seeking agreement in principle to the projects outlined in the report, but acknowledged that there was still some fine tuning and changes that would need to be addressed. The Committee agreed in principle to the projects and fund allocation identified in the report; it was agreed that the specific detail of projects and fund allocation would be delegated to the Director of Environment and Community Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillors.

6. A report written by Mr Rob Vale informed Members of the proposals by Trading Standards and Community Safety Teams to engage with a national approved trader scheme to replace the existing Safer Bromley Trader Register which had been operating within the borough since 2009. Rob Vale explained that the Safer Bromley Partnership Trader Register had been very successful over the last few years, with over 100 local businesses signing up to the register. However, it was now the view of Trading Standards, that LBB replace the Bromley Trader Register with a new service that would be provided by the national provider Checkatrade. This was a nationally recognised free service offering a business directory of traders that had been comprehensively vetted and performance monitored. The cost to businesses to join this service would be £600.00 per annum. It was explained that any business registered with Checkatrade that would also like to be endorsed by Trading Standards, and display the Bromley logo.

7. A further report was written by Mr Robert Vale, Head of Trading Standards and Community Safety that updated Members on the new ASB Act 2014 which focuses on putting the needs of victims first. It was explained that the Act introduced two new measures which were designed to give victims and communities a say in the way anti-social behaviour is dealt with; these were the Community Trigger and the Community Remedy.

The Community Trigger would be the means by which individuals or communities would “trigger” a case review to look into allegations of anti-social behaviour and crime that met the relevant threshold, and had not yet been resolved. The Community Trigger would be activated after three complaints that met the locally agreed threshold. The relevant bodies that would have statutory obligations under the Act would be MOPAC (Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime), the local authority, the local Clinical Commissioning Group, RSLs (Registered Social Landlords).

Members noted LBB (London Borough of Bromley) would need to draft a local Community Trigger procedure document. It was further noted that the joined up Community Trigger procedure agreed by the relevant partner organisations, would need to be submitted to MOPAC for approval. This would need to be done in the next few weeks. The Committee also commented that additional staffing resource would likely be required to provide the relevant administrative support needed to administer the Community Trigger Procedure. The Portfolio Holder wondered if there would be MOPAC funding available for this.

A Member commented that this seemed like a case of another burden on the local authority and police, with no further funding. This was a sentiment expressed also by the Borough Commander, who stated that the resource to deal with the Community Remedy would need to come from that already existing, and the responsibility for this would likely fall to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. A further Member expressed concern that the police may struggle with this extra statutory duty. Another member highlighted the importance of making the scheme accessible to those who were vulnerable.

Members observed that all relevant bodies would have to work together to devise and produce a Community Trigger Strategy. There would need to be an LBB point of contact for making a Community Trigger application, and this was likely to be the LBB Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator. Members were informed that the Community Remedy Document would be designed to provide victims with a say in the out of court punishment of perpetrators for low-level crime and anti-social behaviour. It was a police function and it would be the task of the police to draft a Community Remedy document for Bromley.

8. A verbal update was provided on the work of the Environmental Protection team by Mr Jim McGowan subsequent to the tour of LBB CCTV centre to inform the large number of new Members on the Committee of that teams work and services.

9. This short report was written by Paul King, Head of Youth Support Services providing an update on how this years Summer Activities in our Parks went. It was noted by the Committee that although the Programme this year was smaller, the attendance was in fact greater. Mr King informed the Committee that another report would follow which would provide greater detail concerning age breakdowns and demographic information.

10. The Annual Update Report on Bromley Youth Offending Team Partnership is an annual report to the Care Services Portfolio Holder, but had come to this Committee for information purposes. The report was written by Paul King, as was the update at the Committee meeting. The report was noted by the Committee.

11. The Summary of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Annual Report was also presented to the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee for information purposes and was also noted by the Committee.

12. It was noted that the next visit for the Committee would be to the Police Dog Training Centre at Keston, and since the last PDS meeting the Committee had made a visit to Bethlem Royal Hospital as well as the CCTV room at the Council.

Councillor Kate Lymer  
Chairman, Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee

## **(5) Care Services PDS Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**

The Chairman welcomed the new co-opted Members to the Committee who represent a wide range of groups and organisations representing residents who have particular needs.

The Committee reviewed its Work Programme and discussed matters arising from the last meeting. It was felt that the October Agenda was too large for Members to adequately scrutinise. An update on Adoption was asked to be added to the next meeting.

A presentation on the role of The Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) was given, outlining the key areas of focus for 2013/ 2014. The Annual Report for the year has been published and I would encourage all Members in their role of 'Corporate Parent' to read this excellent and very clear update. It summarises how the IRO service monitors the performance of the local authority in relation to its looked after children.

The latest Budget Monitoring Report was presented. Questions were raised around the spiralling projected overspend, currently £2,890,000 and what the effect would be if this could not be brought back in to line. The Director outlined, the now familiar reasons as to why this budget is so volatile, namely that it is numbers driven in both adult and childrens services and it only takes very few unexpected high placement costs to have a dramatic effect on the figures. The recent changes in adult social care have had a significant impact on information available to monitor the budgets. (see Appendix 1b of Care Services Agenda Item 8a) Pressures in housing also remain considerable along with the voids in ECH. Dols could cost the Council up to £2m+. This is not included in our budget.

A review of the Capital Programme resulted in several schemes being deleted. These had remained dormant for between 12-14 years. It was agreed that more regular reviews would be beneficial.

An excellent update on The Care Act was presented. This included a detailed financial model of the estimated costs for LBB. However, there are many assumptions and estimates that make it almost impossible to predict how accurate this model might be.

A report was given on the latest homelessness pressures and a request to draw down £653,000 from the £1.2m held in contingency. The benefit cap and reduced



housing benefit subsidy has meant that private landlords are increasingly reluctant to let to those on low income. Private sector evictions account for 40% of homeless approaches. Key actions are being undertaken to try and mitigate against these rising cost pressures focused on homeless prevention, driving down nightly paid costs and accessing a more cost effective supply of accommodation prioritising high cost placements.

A report was presented to use the former Manorfields site as short term, reasonable quality temporary accommodation. The proposal is for 44 units and the projected cost for refurbishment is £563k. Revenue savings are projected at £322k per annum.

The contract for community support services for people with mental ill health is due to expire in March 2015. A review found that the current service arrangements do not demonstrate value for money. It is proposed that the Council agrees to Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group leading the commissioning for a new, single service therefore saving procurement costs. The Council's contribution would be £100,000 meeting its statutory requirements and making savings of £92,281.

An earlier report on Substance Misuse Services given to the Care Services was heard by the Executive in June who asked for further details in order for them to make a decision on whether to extend three contracts. The latest report gave details of prevention, early intervention and treatment which informs, advises and supports people to take responsibility for their own health and are an integral part of government strategy and Building a Better Bromley. The Committee supported the extension of the current contracts for a further year with a view to tendering for a new service with the possibility of delivering further value for money through the process.

The Committee were asked to consider the proposals for the drawdown of the non-ring-fenced adoption reform grant £618,100 for 2014/15 and 2015/16. This is to improve adoption performance in Bromley. A clear set of objectives would increase the number of looked after children being placed for adoption, speed up the process from fostering to adoption, help to complete care proceedings within six months, pay for financial pressures around connected persons assessments and medicals and ensure that we can meet the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. There are concerns that the funding is short term.

The proposal to market test Day Nursery Provision was noted. It was also noted that the Education PDS had asked for Ward Members views.

The second Adult Services Stakeholder Conference Report was noted and some of the 27 recommendations discussed. The aim of the Conference was to ascertain the low level help and support needs that enable residents to stay healthy and maintain their independence as well as any gaps in local provision. 64 people attended, of whom the largest group were service users. The Vice-Chairman and I attended and found the Conference very useful especially in terms of working closely with our partners at the CCG. It is clear that there is a need for a central point of up-to-date information, advice and guidance for health and social care which is used as a resource by all front-line staff as well as individuals. An update of the outcomes of the recommendations will be given to E & R in December and early in the Spring.

Members were asked to comment on the Implications of changes to the Youth Remand Framework. The report outlined the fact that many secure remands of

children may be unnecessary. ( However, figures were from 2010/11 and I will ask for an update on these.) The report highlighted that there had been an increase of 33% of young people (21) placed on remand in 2013 in Bromley, all of whom have been known to the Police and Authority for a considerable period of time. The Tackling Troubled Families Programme has prioritised these families for support along with Bromley Targeted Youth Support Programme. A £500,000 full year pressure has been identified in this area (set aside in central contingency.) Final figure for 2013/2014 was £269,041 and the projection for the current year based on remands to the end of August is £242,693.

## PART 2

The Committee considered the award of a contract for care and support services to Avenues London. This contract is to support independence particularly for vulnerable people. Avenues London's bid is highly competitive and savings of over £400k per annum will be made. Rigorous contract monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that quality standards are maintained.

Members comments were asked for on the extension to the current contract with the Liberty Centre for one year from November. This will enable Officers to review the effectiveness in terms of outcomes for the client of the day provision by the Liberty Centre with a view to the long term commissioning of the Service and also the outcome of the Adults social care tender which also includes day opportunities.

Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe  
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee