

**EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 8 October 2014

Present:

Councillor Eric Bosshard (Chairman)
Councillors Nicholas Bennett J.P., William Huntington-
Thresher, Russell Mellor, Ellie Harmer, Peter Fookes,
Tony Owen, Pauline Tunnicliffe, Kate Lymer,
Samaris Huntington-Thresher, David Livett, Keith Onslow
and Angela Wilkins

Also Present:

Councillor Graham Arthur, Councillor Stephen Carr and
Councillor Robert Evans

**52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF
SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Will Harmer and Ian Payne. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Samaris Huntington-Thresher and William Huntington-Thresher, and from Cllr Nicholas Bennett who had to leave early.

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**54 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received for the Committee.

**55 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES PDS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2014
(EXCLUDING EXEMPT ITEMS)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2014 (excluding exempt information) be confirmed.

56 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Report CSD143

The Committee received a summary of matters arising from previous meetings. It was noted that the report on Anerley Town Hall was now expected in the November cycle.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett complained that his i-pad was unable to open certain documents, including the agenda for the Executive, and asked about progress with supplying Office 365 for Councillor's i-pads. There were significant costs involved in purchasing Office 365 for all Members, so the intention was to carry out a trial to establish whether it offered useful benefits over the free software available.

57 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY AND PRIVATE EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Committee noted the Forward Plan of Key and Private Executive Decisions as published on 16th September 2014.

58 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

One question had been received from Evelyn Collington, Coordinator, Bromley Mental Health Forum. The question was put at the meeting by Mr Peter Moore – details are set out in [Appendix 1](#).

59 HOLDING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

Doug Patterson, Chief Executive, attended the meeting to update the Committee and answer questions. He began by stating that officers were working hard to deal with the projected overspend on the current budget to ensure that it was removed by the end of the year. They were also working on the financial challenges of the next four years, when savings of £60-£80m would be needed. The Leader had set a target of finding £30m of this ready to implement after the general election. This would be achieved with a combination of continuing to find top-down efficiencies and making significant bottom-up changes to the services provided, maintaining statutory requirements. Work was under way on many issues and these were being fed into the Cabinet.

Among current issues were – implementation of the Care Act 2014, which the government was saying would be fully funded; joint working with Oxleas and Bromley Healthcare on the delivery of services; joining up back-office services across Council departments and moving all Directors into the Old Palace; disposal of assets; the consultation just launched by Biggin Hill Airport on varying operating hours; the tensions around the Local Plan and building more houses, which would raise finances; the continuing problems with the Waste4Fuel site in St Paul's Cray; the forthcoming official opening of the new Penge Library; and preparation for the 2015 general election – a report on this was being prepared for the next General Purposes and Licensing Committee meeting. He would be circulating an update on current issues from Assistant Directors to all Members shortly; he also mentioned that he would be visiting LB Barnet to find out more about their approach to services.

Mr Patterson responded to questions from Members on a number of issues –

- Asked what was being done to reduce the numbers of children coming into care, he responded that there was great pressure on staff dealing with these issues, and that the Council had to remember its corporate parenting responsibilities.
- Mr Patterson was not aware of any approaches from major developers looking to build on the green belt, but he did anticipate that such proposals could come forward at some stage.
- A Member asked about a particular planning issue, but Mr Patterson responded that he would discuss the matter outside the meeting.
- Mr Patterson was confident that savings could be delivered and he already had draft plans that would achieve this, although the choices involved were very difficult.
- Mr Patterson did not consider that many other authorities were doing better than Bromley, but he had asked Directors to check the benchmarking information and look at other high-performing Councils.
- Asked about the need to inform residents about the difficult choices ahead, Mr Patterson reported that some online surveys were being planned and that the Leader was looking at holding a series of meetings with residents associations to try to get more informed discussion than with the traditional public meetings held in recent years.
- On Waste4Fuel, the permit for the site was due to be revoked in the next day or so. The Council was very clear that responsibility for regulating the site lay with the Environment Agency. Members suggested asking HMRC to pursue the former directors of the operating company for the profits made, and possibly using the Proceeds of Crime Act or other legal avenues.
- Discussions with ZhongRong on Crystal Palace Park were still going on, and the position was now more positive again.
- A Member asked whether the number of staff in HR had shrunk; Mr Patterson confirmed that as the number of staff directly employed by the Council reduced the need for support staff would also reduce.
- A question was asked about whether the staff choir practised during the working day or in staff time, and whether staff were allowed to take cigarette breaks during their working hours – a completely smoking-free working zone was suggested. Mr Patterson agreed to look into these matters.

- A Member asked whether the need for election candidates to obtain ten physical signatures could be modernised; however, this was a legal requirement that the Council could not change.
- The Chairman suggested that the Council needed fewer meetings and more concise reports with better executive summaries that did not bury numbers in text and that covered the wider impacts of proposed decisions. Mr Patterson undertook to discuss this with Directors.

The Chairman thanked Mr Patterson for his presentation.

60 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS
Report CSD14144

The Committee considered the following reports on the part 1 agenda for the meeting of the Executive on 15th October 2014.

(5) Temporary Accommodation Update – Use of Manorfields as Temporary Accommodation
Report CS15087

The report set out the invest to save requirements for the proposed use of Manorfields, a former residential care home, as temporary accommodation to enable the Council to meet its statutory housing duties and reduce the significant cost incurred by the increased use of nightly paid accommodation. The proposals had been supported by Care Services PDS Committee on 2nd October 2014.

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, as a ward councillor, complained that not enough had been done to inform and consult with local residents and ward councillor, and suggested that the recommendations should be supported only subject to a meeting being held with residents. The successful scheme at Belle Grove was very similar to that proposed for Manorfields, and members had been invited to a visit there. It was noted that the proposals would require planning permission, and the planning process would offer opportunities for residents to comment.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(6) Homelessness and Welfare Reform Draw-down from Central Contingency
Report CS14095

The Committee received an update on homelessness pressures in 2014 and the range of initiatives being pursued; it was recommended that £653k of the £1.2m held in central contingency for homelessness and welfare reform pressures be drawn down. It was also reported that formal consultation had started on revisions to the allocations scheme – a further report on this would be presented for formal consideration. The recommendation was supported by Care Services PDS Committee on 2nd October 2014. The Committee was

informed that the drawdown was already assumed in budget monitoring reports.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(7) Substance Misuse Services
Report CS14072

The Executive had requested further information and consideration by Care Services PDS Committee before taking a decision on whether to extend three contracts with Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) to provide an integrated drug and alcohol service for a period on one year from January 2015. The report also sought approval to extend the contract with KCA to provide an integrated drug and alcohol service for children and young people for a period of one year from January 2015 as allowed for in the contract. Care Services PDS Committee had supported the recommendations.

Members commented that consideration of the contracts had been left too late, and questioned what was proposed after the one year extensions. It was confirmed that processes were in place to ensure that all contracts were reviewed in good time before they expired, although sometimes the pressure of the numbers of contracts needing attention put pressure on resources. Members suggested that this indicated that lead-in times should be extended. It was confirmed that these one year extensions were perfectly permissible legally and were provided for in the original contract, and that often an extension represented good value for money.

Members questioned some of the statistics in the report, and asked whether this was the totality of substance misuse services, what the cost per person was and whether many people were re-presenting. It was noted that the success of treatment was measured by reference to a period of just three months, which Members considered was too short. Members also inquired about the impact of not providing these services; there was no way to quantify this and it was noted that funding was provided through the Public Health Grant.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(8) Adoption Grant Drawdown
Report CS14089

The Executive was asked to approve the draw-down of non-ring fenced grant to support adoption reform to ensure that children were adopted without delay. The recommendations had been supported by Care Services PDS Committee on 2nd October 2014; the Chairman Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe commented that there had been occasions when the courts had ordered children to be returned to their families, only for this to break down shortly afterwards, thus reducing the opportunities for adoption. She confirmed that the money was essential and that she had requested an early update to the next Care Services PDS meeting on 11th November which clearly identified

the outcomes that would be achieved from this additional grant funding. This grant was area-based and not a specific grant and therefore was not ring fenced for adoption services - the money could be used to offset cost pressures elsewhere in the ECHS budget. If the grant drawdown was agreed, it would be necessary to establish when the placement savings would be realised.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(9) Draw-down of Government Grant Funding held in Contingency to Support the Local Authority in Implementing the SEN Reforms and Pathfinder Champion Support
Report ED15082

The report set out proposals to draw down grant funds held in contingency – SEND Implementation (New Burdens) Grant and Bromley Pathfinder Champion Grant. The recommendations had been supported by the Education PDS Committee on 30th September 2014.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(10) Commissioning – Proposed Total Facility Management Contract
Report DRR14/089

The Committee received a report on the outcome of the market intelligence exercise that had been undertaken regarding Facility Management and Public Protection Services. The report set out a programme in line with the Council's financial strategy commencing with a "gateway" report to the Executive in February 2015 including confirmation of the baseline option that would be market tested. Subject to the Executive's approval, there would be exhaustive work on detailed specifications for all the services which would be key to achieving a successful outcome. Under the Community Right to Challenge, expressions of interest could be made by staff or community groups before 31st December 2014.

Members questioned whether the savings that potential contractors expected were realistic, given that the services were already very lean. It was noted that the figures given in the report were only approximate, and the general rule of thumb was that private contractors could expect to reduce costs by about 10% when services were first contracted. However, it was emphasised that it was very difficult to pre-judge the likely savings that could be made prior to commissioning negotiations with potential contractors. More substantial savings could only be achieved by reviewing what services were still needed. It was confirmed that it was intended that, should these services go out to tender, companies would be able to bid for different lots, enabling a variety of providers to bid, although it was anticipated that the most savings would come from larger contracts. Tenders would be rigorously tested for both quality and ability to deliver. In taking a "thin client" approach it would also be important to ensure that the authority retained enough client-side officers to ensure that contractors carried out their responsibilities properly. The Chairman

commented that it was crucial that contracts needed to be set up such that the Council could monitor contracts with a minimum number of staff, and that the onus was firmly put on the contractor to perform and to report back regularly.

Officers confirmed that consultation meetings with Directors and the project team had been held for all 201 staff affected by the proposals, and all had been formally written to. It was acknowledged that the higher number of full time equivalent (FTE) posts than staff indicated that in some areas temporary staff were in post due to the need to maintain flexibility before budgets were set.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

(Councillors Peter Fookes and Angela Wilkins requested that their votes against the recommendation be recorded.)

(11) Street Lighting – Invest to Save
Report ES14071

The report set out a proposal to amend the outputs of the street lighting invest to save scheme to provide greater efficiency savings – this had been supported by the Environment PDS Committee at its meeting on 23rd September 2014.

The Committee discussed how electricity pricing worked for street lighting, given that the Council was now able to monitor and control each individual lamp column, and questioned how electricity was procured for street lighting. Officers reported that there were negotiations at a national level with industry bodies to achieve more accurate charging regimes – this issue would continue to be investigated.

Members were pleased with the savings achieved through this project, and suggested extending it. Officers confirmed that they would investigate this and report back to members as the current project progressed towards completion.

A member noted that over a third of residents responding to post-completion questionnaires felt that the new lighting was not bright enough. Officers explained that the new lighting was more directed onto the carriageway, possibly giving the impression that it was less bright overall; this would be reviewed in the spring after experiencing leaf-fall and a full winter.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported and that further opportunities be sought to extend the invest to save project.

(12) Public Toilet Provision
Report ES14085

The report outlined a proposal to close the Penge High Street public toilet from 1st January 2015 and introduce a community toilet scheme for Penge

town centre. It was noted that since the report had been published Weatherspoons had withdrawn and had been replaced by a local café. The Environment PDS Committee had supported the proposals at its meeting on 23rd September, subject to recommending to the Environment Portfolio Holder that he should ensure that measures were in place to prevent the public toilet building falling into decay should it be declared surplus to requirements. Other concerns had been raised about publicity, signage and the new venues. Councillor Keith Onslow commented that problems had occurred with the scheme at Green Street Green with the old building being neglected and one of the new venues closing very early. Officers confirmed that these concerns would be monitored.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be supported.

61 UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN
Report CSD14145

Updates were received from PDS Chairmen on recent PDS meetings – these are set out in appendix 2.

62 WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15
Report CSD14146

The Committee received the latest version of its work programme for 2014/15. It was noted that membership of the New Technology Working Group included Councillors Nicholas Bennett, Judi Ellis and Kate Lymer in addition to Councillor Will Harmer.

**63 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
(VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT 2000**

RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**The following summaries
refer to matters
involving exempt information**

**64 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD
SEPTEMBER 2014**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2014 were confirmed.

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(7) From Evelyn Collington, Co-ordinator, Bromley Mental Health Forum, to Councillor Graham Arthur, Portfolio Holder for Resources (put by Peter Moore)

Bromley Council as a Mindful Employer

The benefits of employers being 'mindful employers' are well documented, please follow link below for more details. Please can you let us know if Bromley Council is considering becoming a 'Mindful Employer', and if not, why not?

<http://www.mindfulemployer.net/>

Reply:

Being an "Excellent Council" we take seriously our duty of care to monitor the health and wellbeing of our staff at work. We understand the link with individual staff and organisation performances. Hence the Council provides a wide range of benefits and supports to staff including specialised counselling and general awareness and bespoke training on mental health and other forms of ill health issues in general. For example staff can access confidential counselling service and wellbeing benefits under the Council's Real Benefits Scheme.

The Council funds a dedicated Occupational Health Unit employing a qualified p/t doctor and a qualified occupational nurse to provide proactive advice and support to staff and managers on health and wellbeing issues. For example the unit encourages staff and managers to use the HSE stress survey to monitor the mental health of individual staff.

The Council is equally proud of its positive recruitment initiatives aimed at improving the employability and life chances of vulnerable people mainly people with mental or learning disabilities. For example through the "Thyme Out" initiative the Council was able to provide shadowing opportunities, work experience and on the job training to circa 140 people with mental/learning disabilities in the last 5-6 years. Under a similar scheme called "Branching Out" also for people with mental ill health the Council offered training opportunities to circa 40 people in two years. We also use the "job carving" programme to recruit and retain staff with disabilities in employment. In the last few years, the Council working in partnership with JobMatch/Mencap has recruited 12 people via the job carving programme.

Based on this, the Council is not seeking to participate in any accreditation or review process.

Supplementary Question

As a supplementary question, Mr Moore asked whether the Council would consider signing up to "Time for Change." In response, Councillor Arthur stated that he did not consider that this would offer anything to Council staff or residents that was not already available.

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(10) Updates from PDS Chairmen (Minute 61)

**(1) Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee
2nd 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 CABE 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 23rd 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 GGW 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 30th 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 27th 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 16th.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett
Chairman, Education PDS Committee

(4) Public Protection and Safety PDS 1st 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 22nd.

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 2nd 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