

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2015 starting at 7.00 pm
(adjourned until 17 September 2015 following the Special Executive meeting)

Present

Councillor Stephen Carr (Chairman)
Councillors Graham Arthur, Peter Fortune, Kate Lymer,
Peter Morgan and Colin Smith

Also Present

Councillor Simon Fawthrop and Councillor William
Huntington-Thresher

255 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Robert Evans.

The Leader also conveyed apologies from Councillor Nicholas Bennett who was unable to attend the meeting as a visiting Member.

256 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Noting the agenda for the Executive's Special meeting to be held on 17th September 2015, Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest by virtue of his employment with British Telecom.

257 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 15TH JULY 2015 AND 7TH AUGUST 2015

The minutes for both meetings were agreed.

258 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

A number of questions had been received. Details of the questions and replies are at **Appendix A**.

Noting that one of the received questions was similar in content to a question previously asked at an Executive meeting, the Leader highlighted provision in the Council's Constitution enabling a question to be rejected if substantially the same as one asked in the previous six months.

Although willing to accept the question on this occasion, the Leader explained that it would be necessary to reject such a duplicate question in future.

**259 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY UPDATE AND GRANT
DRAW-DOWN**

Report ES15041

Report ES15041 provided an update on the Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority, including progress in implementing provisions of the Flooding and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), and changes in responsibilities. The report sought approval for the Local Flood Risk Strategy (LFRS) and Action Plan (the strategy having been drafted as part of a joint procurement approach with the South East London Flood Risk Group). It also reviewed L B Bromley's response to the groundwater flooding issue in 2014 and sought agreement for a sum of £213k being released from Central Contingency to implement a programme of future responsibilities and work streams.

At the previous meeting Councillor Nicholas Bennett explained that he had made a number of suggestions in comments submitted during consultation on the proposed LFRS (appended to Report ES15041) but that these did not appear to have been taken into account. In the circumstances Members agreed to defer the report to the next meeting.

Report ES15041 advised that comments received during consultation were now included at Appendix C to the strategy, with the LFRS document amended as appropriate.

Referring to recommendations from the Executive and Resources PDS Committee at their meeting on 3rd September 2015, the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for the Environment indicated that work on the Council's flood risk register had not yet concluded. Concerning a Flood Asset Register, Report ES15041 advised that following condition surveys and ad hoc investigations, knowledge continued to develop of assets with a potential to contribute to flooding.

In regard to the Environment Agency document "*Living on the Edge*", providing a guide to the rights and responsibilities of riparian landowners, the document would be made available on the Council's website. The Portfolio Holder highlighted that riparian landowners would also be reminded by letter of their responsibilities for helping to manage flood risk.

Members agreed to the recommendations in Report ES15041 and further agreed that the additional recommendations from the Executive and Resources PDS Committee be taken forward.

RESOLVED that:

(1) a sum of £213k be released from the 2015/16 Central Contingency budget to implement the proposals detailed in Report ES15041;

- (2) the Local Flood Risk Strategy and associated Action Plan be approved;**
- (3) the LLFA future works programme be approved;**
- (4) the Register of Flood Risk features be published on the Council's website; and**
- (5) a positive programme be undertaken to highlight the responsibilities of riparian landowners, including publication to the Council's website of the Environment Agency document "*Living on the Edge*".**

**260 SCHOOLS PROGRAMME, VOLUNTEER MANAGER, AND
 RESETTLEMENT OFFICER - DRAW-DOWN**

Report ES15067

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had allocated a total of £86,570 Preventing Homelessness Grant to L B Bromley. The Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder agreed in June 2015 that £26,570 be released from Central Contingency and approval was now sought to release the remaining £60k.

The funding would be used to enable Bromley Women's Aid (BWA) to continue and expand their Schools Programme to develop awareness of healthy relationships and domestic violence. It would also be used so that a Volunteer Manager and a Resettlement Officer could be employed to expand the BWA support service for the next two years. The scope of support available within BWA's services could improve so that women move from a refuge when ready into a range of different housing options, rather than wait for a local authority housing offer.

Early identification, intervention, and support would not only help prevent domestic abuse but could also remove a need for refuge accommodation, allowing bed spaces to be provided for those in urgent need.

The grant would fund the project to 31st March 2017. The service specification and project plans had been developed by BWA and the grant awarded on the understanding that BWA would deliver the project. There were no other known local providers with the capacity, knowledge or skill set to undertake the work.

Some Members of the Executive and Resources PDS Committee were concerned that children as young as seven years old should be addressed on domestic violence, and suggested that raising the awareness of teachers might be more appropriate. There was also concern at how outcomes would be measured and it was suggested that Executive Members be sent summaries of the content of actual sessions with further details of DCLG methodology and performance standards. Councillor Fawthrop suggested that the methodology behind the programme needed consideration and he

supported the involvement of teacher staff who would have an understanding of the children and be familiar with their history.

The Schools Programme was delivered by a BWA officer in a one hour session in the children's classroom with the children's teacher present. The session would include the use of DVD material and feedback suggested that the children engaged well. Any children disclosing domestic abuse during a session were referred to the school's safeguarding lead and offered one to one support by a BWA Child Support Officer. The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety suggested that information on the Service Level Agreement with BWA be circulated to highlight activities and outcomes from the project. Referring to the Executive's Children's Board, the Leader was reassured on measures for dealing with some of the safeguarding issues and all schools had a nominated safeguarding officer.

Confirmation was sought on whether issues unrelated to safeguarding would be passed to agencies. It was explained that a focus would be on the most vulnerable children with identified concerns. The school would manage the relationship between the BWA officer and children. Assessments would be made around the degree of risk for a child and of hearsay issues not related to domestic violence and child abuse. The BWA officer would be encouraged to report concerns to the Head Teacher and/or Safeguarding lead and feed back concerns to the project organisers via the Council's Head of Trading Standards and Community Safety.

As part of ongoing scrutiny, it was suggested that the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee receive a presentation from the BWA officer providing sessions at schools. A Member was unsure on whether means were available to judge project outcomes; he was also concerned about a DVD on domestic violence being shown to children as young as seven years old. He suggested that schools already covered the matter without a need for BWA sessions which could incentivise children to report issues that might not be there.

The Leader felt that if one child could be prevented from serious harm then it was necessary to consider release of the funds. Although concerned to ensure there would be no ongoing cost should grant funding be withdrawn, the Leader suggested that the recommendations be agreed in principle. The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety added that Bromley Women's Aid were experts in their field and the DVD would focus on what a healthy relationship would look like.

It was agreed to support the recommendations in principle with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety delegated to obtain responses to concerns raised in discussion. This would include feedback on the range of matters reported on from the BWA classroom sessions.

RESOLVED that, in principle:

- (1) draw-down of the £60k sum held in Central Contingency be approved and allocated to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Budget for 2015/16;**
- (2) award of the contract to provide a Schools Programme, Volunteer Manager, and Resettlement Officer to Bromley Women's Aid be approved; and**
- (3) any residual balance of the year two grant be carried forward into 2016/17 to enable Bromley Women's Aid to deliver the project.**

261 CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER ISSUES REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no additional issues to be reported from the Executive and Resources PDS Committee.

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

263 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 15TH JULY 2015 AND 7TH AUGUST 2015

The exempt minutes of the above meetings were agreed.

264 BROMLEY ADULTS AND BROMLEY YOUNG PERSONS SUBSTANCE MISUSE CONTRACT TENDERS - AWARD OF CONTRACT

Report CS15920

Report CS15920 outlined the results of a tendering process for provision of the Bromley Adults Substance Misuse Service and the Bromley Young Persons Substance Misuse Service. The report also provided a recommendation for award of contracts.

265 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL WORKS AT BEACON HOUSE

Report ED15104

Members were updated on progress in refurbishing Beacon House, Old Holmesdale Road, Bromley so that it could open as Burwood School's KS4 and KS5 provision next year.

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The meeting was adjourned on 9th September 2015 and re-convened following the Executive's special meeting on 17th September 2015 to *inter-alia* enable clarification on costs related to the refurbishment project.

Having considered supplementary information and explanation from officers, Members accepted the costs as presented and agreed the recommendations in Report ED15104.

Chairman

The Meeting ended at 8.27 pm