

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 starting at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P., Councillor Simon
Fawthrop and Councillor William Huntington-Thresher

192 TERRORIST INCIDENT AT WESTMINSTER

The Leader offered condolences to those affected by the terrorist incident at Westminster that afternoon, and led those present at the meeting in a few moments of silent reflection.

193 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

194 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Peter Morgan declared an interest in relation to minute 198 (Budget Monitoring 2016/17) as his daughter worked for Kier, who held the Council's street cleansing contract.

195 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

No questions had been received.

196 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2017, AND CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING Report CSD17039

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2017 be confirmed.

197 CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE Report CS17130

The Executive received an update on progress with Children's Services, including feedback from Ofsted's second Monitoring Visit on 22nd/23rd February 2017. The report had been scrutinised by the Executive and

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Resources PDS Committee at its meeting on 15th March 2017 and the Care Services PDS Committee at its meeting on 21st March 2017. Three key areas of progress were set out –

(i) Progress with the Children’s Services Improvement Plan. The Plan included some two hundred actions, of which only seven were outstanding at the last review in February. The Plan was closely monitored by the Governance Board and at weekly meetings of the Improvement Team Board.

(ii) Practice Improvement Framework. A new improvement audit programme had been introduced including a programme of monthly case audits and deep dive reviews of specific areas. An analysis of sixteen children returned to their families had established that it was appropriate to return them in twelve cases, in two cases the parents had withdrawn and in the remaining two the courts had decided that return was appropriate.

(iii) Ofsted Monitoring Visit. The latest monitoring visit had been on 22nd/23rd February; feedback had been encouraging and the formal letter would be published on Friday.

There was also progress in appointing senior staff at Head of Service level, and there appeared to be interest amongst social workers in working for Bromley.

Although there had been a good pace to the improvement so far, it was important to ensure that progress was embedded and sustainable. The service was engaging more successfully with partner agencies, and was working closely with Legal Services to build up the confidence of the courts in Bromley’s capability.

Members requested that a “dashboard” of performance information be provided and updated on a regular basis; the Education and Children’s Services Portfolio Holder confirmed that this was being developed. Further information on outcomes for Looked after Children was sought – this needed to go beyond academic qualifications and capture wider health and wellbeing information. The Leader proposed that this information be reported to the PDS Committee on a regular basis.

A sheet summarising the use of the additional funding allocated to children’s services improvement had been circulated at the request of Executive and Resources PDS Committee. The Chairman of the PDS Committee urged the Executive to ensure that expenditure was kept within budget and queried a sum of £63k included in the summary. The Leader stated that large overspends were being reported across the country and in London in particular - Bromley’s position was relatively under control compared to some London authorities. While the Government had provided the precept on adult care, there was a need to recognise funding pressure on children’s services.

There had been a dramatic increase in legal proceedings, with around ninety cases now with Legal, roughly double the amount from a year ago. This

reflected both a national increase, and the effect of the Ofsted report. Efforts were being made to understand and manage this increase. The Chairman of the Education Select Committee stated that if scrutiny of children's services was referred to his Committee in May he intended that this would be a priority for their work programme. He also suggested that Members consider his Committee's third report, which included scrutiny of the Virtual School (at section 4.9.) He pointed out that the academic performance of Looked after Children in Bromley was good compared to the national figures, but he also suggested that there was a need to convey the Council's high expectations for children in its care more effectively, including through the Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

198 BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17
Report FSD17034

The Executive received the third budget monitoring report for 2016/17 which projected a net overspend of £3.7m and highlighted significant variations which would impact on future years as well as early warnings that could have an impact on the end of year position. The report was based on activity and expenditure levels up to the end of December 2016. An additional recommendation would be considered on the Part 2 agenda.

The report had been scrutinised by the Executive and Resources PDS Committee at its meeting on 15th March 2017. The Committee had supported the recommendations, subject to an additional suggestion that consideration be given to merging the Council's Adult Passenger and SEN Transport fleets.

The Environment Portfolio Holder pointed out that the Environment budget was projected to underspend, but there was some uncertainty on whether certain income from defaults was achievable.

Members were concerned at the projected overspend of £124k on the Coroner's Service. This was a statutory service managed by LB Croydon on behalf of four local authorities. The Council had an obligation to meet its share of the costs, but Members wanted reassurance that expenditure was being controlled and managed effectively.

The Director of Finance agreed to present the income from investment properties as a separate line in Appendix 1, the projected outturn, in future. This was currently anticipated to be around £13m.

The Chief Executive reported that a letter had just been received from the Government on the operation of the additional adult social care funding. The detailed conditions would need to be closely examined, as they appeared to be driven by health service considerations and might create additional burdens and requirements.

RESOLVED that

- (1) The latest financial position be noted.**
- (2) It is noted that a projected net overspend on services of £3.7m is forecast based on information as at December 2016.**
- (3) The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services and the Executive Director of Environment and Community Services, as detailed in sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the report, be noted.**
- (4) The projected variation of Cr £5m in the Central Contingency as detailed in section 3.4 be noted.**
- (5) The projected increase to the General Fund balance of £224k as detailed in section 3.7 be noted.**
- (6) The release of £786k from the Central contingency as detailed in paragraph 3.4.3 be agreed.**
- (7) It is agreed that £257k held in the central contingency for the Civic Centre Development Strategy be transferred to an earmarked reserve as detailed in section 3.4.4.**
- (8) The carry forwards being requested for drawdown from the Central Contingency totalling £40k (net) as detailed in section 3.5 be noted.**
- (9) The Prior Year Adjustments of £185k as detailed in section 3.6 be noted.**
- (10) Council be recommended to approve the transfer of £4.0m to the Growth Fund as detailed in section 3.12.**
- (11) The full year costs pressures of £5.2m as detailed in section 3.8 be noted.**
- (12) Funding of up to £50k be approved, to be met from the Council's 2016/17 Central Contingency Fund, for the legal matter identified in part 2 of the agenda.**

**199 PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM PROJECT AND MARKET
 REORGANISATION FOR BROMLEY HIGH STREET**
 Report DRR17/005

The detailed designs and scheme costs for the whole of the proposed improvement works for Bromley High Street had now been fully completed. As a consequence of the proposed public realm changes the existing street market would need to be relocated and officers had been assessing options for the future development of the market, including commissioning of the

market operation. The report outlined options for the relocation and reorganisation of the market – the Executive was asked to approve the relocation of the market and agree the future format, and approve funding for the scheme including funding for an additional temporary staffing resource to manage the market transition project.

The Report had been scrutinised by the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee on 7th March 2017. The Committee supported the recommendations, subject to proposing that approval of £720k of the spending be deferred until the outcome of the detailed design and final costs for the market kiosks was submitted for approval in July 2017 and that the provision of electronic advertising boards should be reviewed in 2019 when the reorganisation is complete.

The Executive welcomed the scheme, which would result in a slightly smaller but better quality market. It was confirmed that the additional street cleansing costs of £60k per annum could be met from income generated by the scheme, including rent from the market kiosks, and that the electronic advertising boards were new, rather than just replacing existing boards. Members also commented that lighting should be a key feature of the scheme to highlight the more attractive buildings in the High Street and Market Square.

RESOLVED that

(1) The detailed design and programme for the Bromley Town Centre Public Realm Improvement scheme comprising the ground plane works extending from Market Square to the Elmfield Road junction costed at £2.844m be approved.

(2) A total of £2.844m is allocated from the Growth Fund and added to the Capital programme to undertake the implementation of the scheme, subject to Full Council approval. (It was noted that the outcome of detailed design and final costs for commercial kiosks and the mirrored pavilions would be reported to Members for approval in July 2017.)

(3) A decision on the allocation of £720k from the Growth Fund to the Capital Programme be deferred until the outcome of the detailed design and final costs for the market kiosks are submitted for approval in July 2017.

(4) Should the S106 funding of £4m be received from the Langley Court development, it is agreed that the scheme be funded by these monies and the £3.564m be returned to the Growth Fund.

(5) Annual growth of up to £60k to cover the enhanced cleaning and maintenance costs from April 2018, subject to the level of income generated from the commercial kiosks.

(6) The options for the future operation of the market set out in paragraph 3.15 of the report having been reviewed, the preferred option

(c), to approve the relocation, reorganisation and relaunch of Bromley Town Centre market as outlined in paragraphs 3.17 to 3.22, be approved.

(7) The taking of all necessary steps to relicense the market and street trading arrangements under the Food Act as recommended in paragraph 3.21 and Section 7 be approved.

(8) The allocation of £40k from the Growth Fund to meet the cost of employing a temporary project officer for a period of 12 months to provide the necessary coordination for the transition of the market to the proposed new format be approved.

(9) Plans to install a number of 3m x 1.7m electronic advertising boards be reconsidered and reviewed in 2019 when the High Street and Market Square reorganisation is complete.

200 BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
Report DRR17/017

A proposal had been received from Cudham Village Residents Association for Growth Fund funding towards the provision of upfront Broadband infrastructure. The report had been scrutinised by the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee on 7th March 2017 and the Committee had supported the proposal.

A Member commented that fibre over poles was now a potential low-cost solution – this would be fed back to the organisers.

RESOLVED that

(1) Funding of £15k be approved from the Growth Fund to support the community initiative detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

(2) Authority to release the final funding be delegated to the Executive Director of Environment and Community Services with the agreement of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Director of Corporate Services.

201 OPERATIONAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE BUDGETS AND PLANNED PROGRAMME 2017/18
Report DRR17/018

The Executive considered proposed maintenance budgets and the planned maintenance programme for 2017/18. The report highlighted a number of budgetary pressures and requested additional funding to ensure that the Council had sufficient funds to maintain its buildings and to ensure compliance with statutory regulations.

The Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder called for a more proactive approach to maintenance, which he stated would save money in the long-

term. Another Member suggested that more maintenance and repairs needed to be undertaken by tenants – lease terms were being reviewed by Cushman and Wakefield and this would be addressed wherever possible.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett asked whether there had been any progress with the former public toilets in West Wickham in his ward. Officers were requested to report back on the current position, and on the other former public toilet buildings. It was noted that these buildings could be very difficult to sell, and sales often fell through. It was suggested that some properties might be suitable to use for temporary accommodation for the homeless; this was now considered in all cases.

The report had been scrutinised by the Executive and Resources PDS Committee at its meeting on 15th March 2017.

RESOLVED that

(1) An increase in the Building Maintenance budget of £126k per annum be agreed for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report, which is to be funded from the Council's 2017/18 Central Contingency Sum.

(2) Subject to the Council agreeing the budget, overall expenditure of £2,068,790 be agreed for the Building Maintenance budget in 2017/2018.

(3) It is noted that a further report will be submitted to the Executive (see paragraph 3.6) to consider any further costs arising from the Council's statutory obligations.

(4) The planned programme in Appendix A be approved.

(5) Authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration to vary the programmes to accommodate any change in the approved budget or where such action is considered necessary to either protect the Council's assets or make the most effective use of resources.

(6) Funding of up to £170k be approved from the earmarked reserve in the Infrastructure Investment Fund to install separate meters to the utility supplies at the Churchill Theatre/Central Library to protect the Council's VAT exemption status.

(7) The carrying forward of £113k from this year's planned programme to 2017/18 to reconstruct the Central Depot wall be approved.

202 CONTRACT AWARD OF LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEMES (PART 1 SUMMARY)

The Executive considered a part one summary of a part 2 report providing an overview of the process for the tendering of the learning disability supported living schemes at 109 and 111 Mason's Hill and 18/19 Century Way.

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The report had been scrutinised by the Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

**203 CONTRACT AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SEXUAL HEALTH
EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (PART 1 SUMMARY)**
Report CS17106A

The Executive considered a part one summary of a part 2 report providing an overview of the tendering process for the Community Sexual health Early Intervention Service.

The report had been scrutinised by the Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

**204 EXTRA CARE HOUSING CONTRACT AWARD (PART 1
SUMMARY)**

The Executive considered a part one summary of a part 2 report providing an overview of the process for the tendering of the care and support in Extra Care Housing Schemes at Regency Court, Sutherland Court, Apsley Court, Crown Meadow Court, Durham House and Norton Court.

The report had been scrutinised by the Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

**205 CONTRACT AWARD FOR STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS
REVIEWS (PART 1 SUMMARY)**
Report CS17132A

The Executive considered a part one summary of a part 2 report providing an overview of the tendering process for the Statutory Homelessness Reviews Service.

The report had been scrutinised by the Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

**206 REPLACEMENT OF HOUSING INFORMATION SYSTEM - ITT
EVALUATION OUTCOME (PART 1 SUMMARY)**

The Executive considered a part one summary of a part 2 report providing an overview of the process for the tendering of a Housing IT system.

The report had been scrutinised by the Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.

207 GATEWAY REPORT - MENTAL HEALTH FLEXIBLE SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT

Report withdrawn. (A decision was now being taken by the Care Services Portfolio Holder following scrutiny at Care Services PDS Committee on 21st March 2017.)

208 INFORMATION BRIEFING

An information briefing concerning Crystal Palace Park – Regeneration Plan Update had been circulated.

It was suggested that the tower block at the Lodge should be considered for use by the homeless. Approaches had already been made, although it was understood that the tower was still used at certain times of the year. The Leader urged that another approach be made.

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

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

210 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**

211 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2017 were approved.

212 BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17

The Executive approved funding of up to £50k from the Council's Central Contingency Fund for a legal matter.

213 CONTRACT AWARD OF LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEMES

The Executive awarded a contract for the delivery of supported living services at 109 and 111 Masons Hill and 18/19 Century Way.

214 CONTRACT AWARD - COMMUNITY SEXUAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
Report CS17106B

The Executive awarded a contract for the provision of Community Sexual Health Early Intervention Services.

215 EXTRA CARE HOUSING CONTRACT AWARD

The Executive awarded two contracts for the provision of Care and Support Services within Extra Care Housing schemes at Regency Court, Sutherland Court and Apsley Court (Lot 1), and Crown Meadow Court, Durham House and Norton Court (Lot 2).

216 CONTRACT AWARD FOR STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS REVIEWS
Report CS17132B

The Executive awarded a contract for the provision of Statutory Homelessness Reviews.

217 REPLACEMENT OF HOUSING INFORMATION SYSTEMS - ITT EVALUATION OUTCOME

The Executive awarded a contract for a new Housing IT system.

218 INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICES (ICES)

Report withdrawn.

219 FUTURE PROVISION OF STREET LIGHTING SERVICE
Report ES17018

The Executive agreed proposals for the future of the contract for the provision of street lighting.

220 BROMLEY OLD TOWN HALL AND SOUTH STREET CAR PARK
Report DRR 17/019

The Executive received a report on the proposed redevelopment of the former Bromley Town Hall and South Street Car Park.

**221 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR TEMPORARY
ACCOMMODATION AT STEWART FLEMING PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
Report ED17038

The Executive agreed to an extension of the contract for provision of temporary accommodation at Stewart Fleming Primary School until permanent expansion works are completed in 2019.

**222 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL WORKS AT
POVEREST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Executive awarded a contract for capital works at Poverest Primary School.

**223 CONEY HILL LANDFILL SITE, OXTED - LANDFILL
MONITORING CONTRACT**

Report withdrawn.

The Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

Chairman