



THE LONDON BOROUGH

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

For submission to Full Council on 8th April 2019

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1. Foreword

1. On behalf of all my colleagues who are engaged in Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in the London Borough of Bromley, I have great pleasure in presenting our Annual Report for 2018/2019, which summarises the work that has been carried out by the Committees during the Council year.

2. The continuing Government reductions in funding support for local councils and the ongoing cost pressures faced by Bromley Council leaves a long term funding gap. The 2019/20 budget has been balanced, however for future years the gap as follows; £16M for 2020/21 and £21M for 2021/22 and £32M for 2022/23 which means that total cumulative cash savings of around £68M over the next 4 years need to be found. The Council has a legal obligation to set a balanced budget, so effort is needed to generate income and find additional savings over this period. The Government will implement the devolution of business rates to individual boroughs from 2020/21 which will allow Bromley to retain a greater share of the business rates it collects (subject to equalisation). Although Bromley is currently part of a London Business rate pilot, the devolution to individual boroughs will offer Bromley an opportunity to be rewarded for growth as well as challenges with any downside risk. Over the next few years this will mean that the Growth Fund will be very important to drive additional business rate revenue.

3. Against this tough background 2018/19 has come in on budget subject to the use of some contingency. Over recent years the Council has set balanced budgets, without significantly impairing the delivery of frontline services. However, in light of the looming budget gap, the Council has increased Council Tax this year by a Bromley element of 3.99%, including the 2% increase to fund social care. In addition the Labour London Mayor and GLA also increased its precept by 5.1%, making the net overall increase of 4.21% for Bromley residents. Current assumptions indicate a 4.99% increase in Bromley's Council Tax share in 2019/20. Bromley Council continues to be debt free, meaning our residents' Council Tax is spent on services and not on interest payments.

4. The Council continues to promote significant change, both in organisational terms and in its ability to continue to provide services expected by residents. The Council has over 1300 statutory obligations to discharge, and the associated costs represent a significant proportion of the Council's overall budget. These take priority over discretionary spending. The funding gap can't be closed without taking some difficult decisions and halting some services all together. Due to its prudent financial management, Bromley Council is able to deal with these challenges but needs to ensure that early decisions are taken and adequate reserves are retained and where appropriate invested to maintain sustainable finances.

5. In addition to the financial challenges ahead and the need to become a different organisation with fewer resources, the Council should grasp opportunities for wider integration across public services including health and local government and look at cooperation with other Local Authorities to drive efficiencies. The Council will need to identify new investment opportunities to help protect key services whilst managing any associated risks. This might need a new look with an Investment and Revenue Generation Sub-Committee, to help grow revenue outside the usual call on tax payer funds. Scrutiny will remain key to ensure that there is adequate control and stability. In the context of these challenges, the Council should review its current structures including the PDS function to ensure that scrutiny can drill down to an appropriate level when looking at opportunities for value for money.

6. The PDS Committees will have an increasingly important role over the coming years to formulate acceptable solutions for the reduction in service provision, which has to come, whilst continuing to deliver quality services to the residents of Bromley.

7. Finally, I would like to thank all Committee Chairmen, members, and the Council's officers for their diligence and hard work during last year in finding practical solutions, which have ensured that Bromley Council could formulate a balanced budget and is able to continue to provide essential services next year, which are important to our residents.

Cllr. Simon Fawthrop
Chairman, Executive Resources and Contracts PDS Committee

2. Policy Development and Scrutiny Chairmen 2018/19



Cllr Simon Fawthrop
Executive, Resources & Contracts



Cllr Mary Cooke
Adult Care & Health Services



Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Education, Children & Families Select
Committee



Cllr Will Harmer
Environment and Community Services



Cllr David Cartright
Public Protection and Enforcement



Cllr Michael Rutherford
Renewal, Recreation & Housing

3. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley

Introduction

- 3.1 Six Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committees at Bromley discharge the overview and scrutiny functions conferred by sections 21 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2000 and successive legislation. The Executive and Resources PDS Committee has an over-arching, co-ordinating role on behalf of the other five PDS Committees and is required by the Council's Constitution to present Full Council with an Annual Report "on the Policy Development and Scrutiny functions and PDS budget, and amended working methods if appropriate" (Article 6, Section 6.03 (d) of the Constitution).
- 3.2 The PDS Committees mirror the Council's executive portfolios:
- Executive, Resources & Contracts
(covering both the Resources, Contracts and Commissioning Portfolio and the Executive)
 - Adult Care & Health Services
 - Education, Children and Families Select Committee
 - Environment & Community Services
 - Public Protection and Enforcement
 - Renewal, Recreation & Housing
- 3.3 In addition to these Committees there are two PDS Sub-Committees:
- Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee
 - Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- 3.4 Although they have no decision-making powers, PDS Committees and Sub-Committees have key roles in contributing to policy development and scrutinising the decisions of the Executive and individual Portfolio Holders.

Policy Reviews

- 3.5 PDS Committees advise Portfolio Holders, the Executive and full Council on policies, budgets and service delivery. PDS Committees can commission groups of Councillors to review an issue or policy, so assisting a Portfolio Holder or the Executive to improve a service or function affecting local people. This can be linked to a forthcoming decision by a Portfolio Holder or the Executive or to assist in formulating fresh, new policy. In each case detailed, evidence-based assessments are carried out and recommendations made in a report. In the process, Councillors can speak to a broad range of people to help gather information for their evidence-based reports.

One-Off Reviews

- 3.6 In addition to in-depth policy reviews, PDS Committees can also review a topical issue at Committee with comments and recommendations referred on to the Portfolio Holder. These reviews are often based around a presentation or an evidence-giving session with expert witnesses.

Performance and Budget Monitoring

- 3.7 PDS Committees monitor the performance of services, functions and contracts within their remit, assessing performance against key performance indicators and policy objectives. Concerns are reported to a Portfolio Holder who can then, if necessary, be called to a PDS Committee meeting to account for the performance of his or her Portfolio.
- 3.8 PDS Committees are also involved in the budget setting process and provide considered comments and recommendations for the Executive to take account of when formulating the Council's annual budget. Similarly, PDS Committees also monitor in-year spend of budgets and raise concerns where there is any possibility of overspend or other issues affecting spending priorities.

Call-in

- 3.9 The call-in process is a key means by which PDS Committees can hold the Executive to account. Any five Councillors can call in a decision and prevent it from taking immediate effect until it has been re-considered by a PDS Committee. The Committee can then interview the Portfolio Holder and officers and consider whether the decision is appropriate, within the Council's policy framework, and whether it should be reconsidered. If the Committee feels that the decision should be reversed or altered, it can make a recommendation to the Executive, which then has to reconsider the matter.
- 3.10 At the time of writing, one call-in has been made in 2018/19. The continued low level of call-in reflects an emphasis given to pre-decision scrutiny leading to better and more robust decisions which are less likely to be challenged.

4. Report from Executive, Resources & Contracts PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Simon Fawthrop

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Keith Onslow

1. Introduction

In 2018/19 the Committee held 8 scheduled meetings, and 1 additional meeting. The regular meetings included the scrutiny of items to be decided at the Executive's meetings, in addition to matters reported to the Committee. The Committee also has Contracts and Commissioning Sub-Committee, chaired by Cllr Wells with support from Cllr Neil Reddin as Vice-Chairman, which has undertaken some very useful work in coordinating the end to end contract scrutiny process and analysing gaps in the processes. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee for their contributions and thank the Officer team, for their support across the year, including call overs and agenda setting as well as numerous ad hoc meetings.

2. Scrutiny of the Executive and the Resources, Contracts and Commissioning Portfolio Holder

The Committee's principal role is to scrutinise the decisions of the Executive and to hold the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive Officer and the Resources, Contracts and Commissioning Portfolio Holder to account. This Committee has discharged its responsibilities diligently and competently during the year. I would like to thank all the above for their valuable contributions. I would also like to thank the PDS Chairmen for their regular reports and contributions, as well as Committee members for bringing their insight and wisdom to the meetings.

3. Review of Council Activities

The Committee has been very conscious of the need to reduce costs and has diligently scrutinised budget and capital programme reports and measures to bring costs under control, including overspends across some budget headings. The contracts register and the disposal of various surplus assets, the performance of the Council Tax Support Scheme and issues concerning homelessness and temporary accommodation, Treasury Management performance which continues in the top 10% of local authority performances, the various invest-to-save projects, as well as details on the Growth Fund and Investment Fund initiatives and the risk register were also considered. In addition the Committee considered the disposal of assets including the Old Town Hall site.

4. Scrutiny of Contracts.

The Committee also reviewed the work of key supplier contracts including the IT Services contract provided by BT (as I am an employee of BT these items were chaired by Cllr Onslow, to avoid any conflict of interest). We also reviewed the work of Liberata and Amey. Whilst it has been good to see the Liberata contract performing well and showing both good value for money and a good level of service, Amey has been more challenging. Bromley's employees often bring poor performance and poor standards by Amey to me on a confidential basis, whilst some things have changed, the fact that these complaints continue means further and deeper scrutiny is required. The retendering of the Exchequer Services Contract was being scrutinised by the Contracts and Commissioning Sub Committee under Cllr Wells.

5. Outlook

The Government's cost reductions have continued to impact on the Council's finances. The task to find the savings necessary to balance the Council's budget has been a major factor across this year.

Keeping on top of the cost pressures, which include additional growth items of up to £33m in 2022/23, partly offset by mitigation of £15m, will be crucial in delivering a balanced budget in future years. The main challenge is closing the funding gap of £32 million by 2022/23, and a lot of hard work remains to ensure the Council continues to set legal budgets over the coming years. On a positive note a Brexit bounce for the economy is just around the corner.

6. Conclusions

The Council is undergoing significant change, both in organisational terms and in its ability to continue to provide services expected by residents. The era of streamlining, re-organising and cost cutting, whilst continuing to provide services "as usual" is becoming harder and difficult decisions will now have to be taken about reducing certain service provision. Statutory obligations will have to take precedence over providing discretionary support.

It remains essential that we take action to meet our statutory obligations, to have a balanced budget and ensure the Council provide key services whilst 'living within its means'.

The challenges for Bromley Council in the coming years are the need to make the wider public fully aware of the Council's financial position of balancing on-going service pressures against a backdrop of less central tax payer support year on year and to ensure that planning is in place for dealing with the budget gap in future years. This will include both cost reductions and revenue generation within the confines of the Building a Better Bromley, Clean and Green approach adopted by the Conservative administration.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop
Chairman, Executive & Resources PDS Committee

5. Report from Adult Care and Health PDS Committee

Chairman Cllr Mary Cooke
Vice Chairman. Cllr Robert McIlveen

The Adult Care & Health PDS and the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held a total of 9 meetings this year. The Sub-Committee considered moving its start time from 4pm to later in the day but after consultation with partners agreed that this would not be a positive move.

I begin by expressing thanks to all Committee Members, both elected and Co-Opted, officers and staff of LBB and the representatives of our health partners who have given unstintingly of their time and their expertise. In particular I would like to pay tribute to Kerry Nicholls, the Clerk to the Committees, who left LBB at the beginning of February. I wish her every success.

Review of 2018/2019

1. The Service is demand-led and the predicted overspend was mitigated by the release of funding from the Improved Better Care Fund, the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) reserve and the work undertaken by the Invest to Save team.

2. During the year the Committee was pleased to note the “Good” outcome of the Reablement inspection in May 2018, the “Good” outcome of NHS England’s annual review of Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group, and the expected positive outcome of the Shared Lives Service Inspection which took place in early 2019.

3. There has been more proactive management of contracts reflecting the Committee’s role in scrutinising the improvement process and Members agree that they have a much improved line of sight of procurement and contract management. The previous flow of urgent decisions has ceased and at its last meeting the Committee was pleased to note that only one contract is red flagged and that is due to the proximity of the end of the contract.

4. The Committee scrutinised reports from the Public Health service which it found helpful. It resolved new funding of £603k to continue the Health Support to Schools programme targeted at children with medical and safeguarding needs to continue when the Better Care Funding ceases in March 2019.

5. Key highlights of the year include:

- Successful partnership working with the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board including the provision of safeguarding training for all Members of the Committee.
- The recruitment of 15 newly qualified social workers strengthened the Adult Social Care Service.
- The procurement of a new Social Care Case Management IT system.
- Attention has been given to both Supported Living and Shared Lives Schemes and recommendations successfully introduced to meet winter pressure demands in 2017/18. These were enhanced for 2018/19 and a report from the BCCG is planned

for the March meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub Committee. made as to procurement process

- The comprehensive evaluation of winter health services carried out by BCCG. A range of services were successfully introduced to meet winter pressure demands in 2017/18. These were enhanced for 2018/19 and a report from the BCCG is planned for the March meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub Committee.

6. Sustained efforts have been undertaken to strengthen our relationship with our partners. The Chairman and the Portfolio Holder now have regular meetings with Bromley Healthcare and, health representatives meet the Health Sub-Committee bi-annually. We are also confident that relationships with Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust will improve following the appointment of Matthew Trainer (previously COO at the PRUH) as Chief Executive at Oxleas and the appointment of Cllr Yvonne Bear to the Oxleas Council of Governors. King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has been subject to a number of severe challenges since it was placed in Financial Special Measures in December 2017, including the need to recruit a Chief Executive at the PRUH. However the inability to field a representative to attend the Sub Committee meeting in January or the meeting scheduled for the 6 March 2019 is more than regrettable.

Objectives for 2019/20

1. Continue to monitor the performance against budget with vigour paying particular attention to the Council's statutory duties that fall under the Committee's purview

2 Focus on mental health taking a holistic approach to encourage partners to work more closely to strive to ensure that physical, mental and social care needs of people are met. In particular scrutinise the process for transition from child to adult mental health services.

3 While appreciating the value of the present schedule of visits to Care Homes etc the Committee does not believe it is the appropriate forum for in depth scrutiny. It will, therefore, invite the providers of high value contracts and users of the service to contribute to the work of the Committee either by attending the meeting or giving feedback in a more appropriate way.

4. Scrutinise the contracts register and the contracts data base. Recognising that its role is to scrutinise the shaping of services and not to micro manage; it will scrutinise the in principle decision as to whether to provide a service and scrutinise the decision of the selection of a provider.

Councillor Mary Cooke
Chairman, Adult Care & Health PDS and Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

6. Report from Education, Children & Families Select Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Nicholas Bennett JP
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Neil Reddin

1. The Committee has now been in its present form as a Select Committee for three years and has bedded in well. All the members serving on the Committee have expressed their view that the way the Committee undertakes scrutiny and produces subsequent policy proposals is more effective than in the old PDS format where the emphasis was largely on scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and his proposed decisions. The Select Committee process recognises that policy flows from the Executive but that, by Committee having control of what it scrutinises, it is able to examine in detail specific areas and make proposals for improvements. The new system holds the Portfolio Holder to account at each meeting and also over the year calls the senior officers for examination of their work. In addition, the Sub-Committee and, when necessary the main committee scrutinises contract decisions which the Portfolio Holder is minded to make.
2. The expansion of the Sub-Committee's role to include performance monitoring has enabled the Committee to give a fuller examination of the budget, the capital programme, contracts and risk registers, the Portfolio Plan and the annual reports of the Virtual School, Private Fostering, Adoption, Local Authority Designated Officer, the Independent Reviewing Officer, the Annual ECHS Complaints Report and the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board. These annual reports are produced at great cost and effort and deserve proper consideration. The Sub-Committee also invited the whole membership of the main Committee for the report into St Olave's School.
3. The Select Committee met five times in the year with an additional meeting to examine the sustainability of the Education Budget. This was one of two inquiries covering the entire budget under the Portfolio. The children's social care budget accounts for 20% of the Council's total controllable budget and therefore must play a considerable role in the way in which the total budget is managed and controlled. The Education budget is largely devolved to schools but some 2% is controlled by the Council. The Committee has made 22 proposals in total, across the two budgets, to improve the effectiveness, economy and efficiency of the way the budget is spent.
4. In addition to the two Reports referred to above the Committee conducted three other major inquiries into:
 - ***Post 16 Non-university technical education and apprenticeship Opportunities in Bromley***
 - ***The impact of Benefit Changes on Children and Families***
 - ***Lifelong Learning***
5. Three mini inquiries were held on the ***Youth Offending Service and Adult Education***. Given the importance of the role of the Council as ***Corporate Parents***, the

Committee also looked at how Council Members could play a greater role in the lives of the children which the Council looks after.

6. The Portfolio Holder appeared for scrutiny at all but one of the meetings and, in addition, the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Education Care and Health Services, the Interim Director of Children's Care and the new Director of Education have all been before the Committee for scrutiny sessions.
7. The Committee was very pleased that the **Living in Care Council** arranged for the Committee to view their new video '**Listen When I Speak**' and it raised important issues which we have considered in our examination of our role as Corporate Parents.
8. The Committee had one important presentation during the year when Gillian Palmer, the Interim Director of Education, presented a valuable research report on **Education Outcomes in Bromley**. The report was extremely helpful, particularly to new members of the Council, on the factors affecting progress at each of the key stages in the education of Children in the Borough.
9. The Committee will have new leadership in 2019-20 as I take on the role of Mayor and Cllr Reddin stands down as Chairman of the Sub-committee. We hope that the new Chairman and Deputy Chairman will build on the progress made by the Select Committee and its Sub-Committee. There are number areas for further improvement. We hope that all witnesses will, in future produce written evidence to be circulated with the agenda and secondly that the range of witnesses can be expanded outside the Council staff. We appreciate that it has been difficult to get schools to give evidence (and we are grateful to those who did respond to the inquiry on post 16 education). We were disappointed that the NHS, the largest employer in the Borough could not find anyone to attend the Post 16 education inquiry and that we have yet to get private sector witnesses to give evidence.
10. I would like to thank the former Director of Education, Care and Health Services, Ade Adetosoye OBE, Gillian Palmer, the former Interim Director of Education, Jared Nehra, our new Director of Education and Janet Bailey, Interim Director of Children's Care, together with all their staff for their help and assistance with the work of the Committee during the year.
11. My thanks also to all the members of the Committee and Sub-committee both elected and co-opted for their thoughtful contributions and cross party cooperation.
12. The behind the scenes work of preparing for the Committee includes an annual meeting with colleagues to discuss the year ahead and then, with my Deputy Chairman, an agenda planning meeting and a call over meeting with officers for each meeting in the annual cycle. I want particularly to pay tribute to Cllr Neil Reddin, the best Deputy I have ever worked with. Neil and I have worked closely together over six of my seven years as Chairman and I shall miss his calm, common sense approach

both as Deputy Chairman and in his efficient chairing of the Sub-committee. Last but not least a huge thank you to Philippa Gibbs, our Committee Clerk and administrator. Without her hard work in preparing the agendas, writing the minutes and drafting our Inquiry Reports the Committee would not operate in the efficient and effective way which it has done over the past years.

Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP

Chairman

Education, Children and Families Select Committee

7. Report from Environment and Community Services PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. William Harmer

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. David Jeffreys



I would like to start by thanking all the people who worked to ensure the success of the Committee in 2018/19. In particular:

- Our committee members whose questioning and contributions have shaped and improved the proposals coming through the committee
- The Director of Environment and Community Services, Nigel Davies and his team for their contributions both to the reports and to the meetings
- Cllr Huntingdon-Thresher for his courteous and knowledgeable responses to committee questions and concerns as Portfolio Holder with his Executive Assistant Cllr. Kira Gabbert
- Mr. Keith Pringle, our committee clerk who ensured each meeting ran smoothly
- The members of the public who in asking their own questions supported the committee in holding the Executive to account and demonstrated a clear passion for enhancing the neighbourhoods in which they live.

The services within this portfolio impact every resident in the Borough, from waste collection, parks and recycling to pot holes and road safety. Residents expectations from the service are changing and we're seeing increased emphasis on continuing to improve the safety of our roads, switching to new and more efficient ways of contacting the council, such as through FixMyStreet and the Bromley.gov.uk website and increasing demands to enhance and improve our parks. The committee has responded to these changing expectations driving ambitious policies.

As a Policy Development and Scrutiny function we serve two roles, firstly to scrutinise decisions relating to our area and secondly to develop and influence the direction of the Council's policy in this portfolio area.

I'm hopeful that members who participated in the committee and members of the public who took the time to attend felt that they had contributed to achieving tangible outcomes in both those roles. I highlight on the next page three key items (but not exhaustive) that the committee has achieved over the course of the year.

As we look forward, the committee will need to grapple with a number of challenges. This list is broad but includes continuing our excellent record on road safety, understanding the impact of electric and possibly autonomous forms of transport, dealing with the increasing number of cars in the Borough and working with our fantastic friends groups to improve our parks and neighbourhoods. All of this will be against a context of continuing and significant reduction to the funding which we will need to respond to in order to keep the Council on a stable financial footing.

1 Proactively holding our contractors to account: Recognising the role of the Local Authority as a Commissioning organisation, the PDS started the civic year agreeing stretch targets for the delivery of our key services. A standing item was placed at the start each meeting to review how our services were performing.

Contract	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55
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8. Report from Public Protection and Enforcement PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr David Cartwright QFSM

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Christopher Pierce

The Public Protection & Enforcement Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee (PP&E PDS) will have met six times during the 2018-19 Council year. (The final meeting of the year is scheduled for Thursday 28 March 2019).

This year marked the addition of the “Enforcement” reference to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio. A significant amount of early work needed to be undertaken to identify the limits and extent of the responsibilities of the new PP&E PDS to ensure the assimilation of Enforcement went smoothly and that any overlap with other portfolios was clearly identified. A small, cross-party “task and finish” group met early in the Council year and identified the following areas of Enforcement activity which would now fall under the PP&E PDS sphere of responsibility:

- Planning Enforcement
- Parking Enforcement
- Neighbourhood Management/Environment Enforcement
- Public Protection and Safety Enforcement

The task and finish group completed its work in time for the September meeting of the PP&E PDS and its recommendations were agreed. Formal reports were then scheduled to be taken at the remaining PP&E PDS meetings to enable full and proper scrutiny to take place.

Portfolio Priorities and PDS Reports

At the first PP&E PDS meeting held on 3 July 2018, the Public Protection & Enforcement Portfolio Holder, Cllr Kate Lymer, outlined her Draft Portfolio Plan priorities for 2018-19. These fall under the following headings:

- **Safe:** Tackling antisocial behaviour and criminal activity (such as doorstep crime), securing health and safety in the workplace and coordinating the Council’s response to the PREVENT programme.
- **Quality Environment:** Through tackling nuisance behaviour, by implementing fly-tipping and littering controls, as well as taking intelligence-led environmental and planning enforcement.
- **Children and Young People:** Tackling the unlawful sale of age-related products, particularly alcohol, tobacco and knives, through test purchase operations.
- **Housing:** Assisting in the provision of safe and secure housing in the private rented sector.
- **Involved:** working closely with our partners and the community to develop and deliver our services.

- **Prosperous and Thriving:** through responsible regulation and enforcement to ensure a fair and safe trading environment for residents, businesses and visitors.
- **Quality Public Services:** Delivering quality Public Protection and Enforcement services with significantly less funding, maintaining a focus on budgetary control contract performance, monitoring and management, and commissioning opportunities.
- **Support and Regulate Businesses:** Monitor Food Safety, Health & Safety and Licensing through inspections, investigations and targeted operations.

The PP&E PDS agreed that the Portfolio Plan be adopted with these outcomes as the policy priorities for the year.

In line with agreed policy priorities, by the end of the year Members will have received detailed written and / or verbal reports on:

- Planning enforcement
- Parking enforcement
- Public Protection and Safety enforcement
- Neighbourhood Management & Environment enforcement
- The Knife and Serious Violence Action Plan
- The Food Standards Agency Audit of Food Hygiene Service Delivery
- The Food Safety Service Plan 2018 to 2019
- The Trading Standards Service Plan
- Animal Welfare Licensing
- The CCTV Procurement Strategy
- The review of the Mortuary Service Contract
- Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Service Update Reports
- The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) Updates
- The Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS)
- Issues surrounding Travellers in the Borough.
- Blue Badge abuse.
- Fly tipping.

Police Scrutiny

With regard to crime, the Mayor of London has identified, as his priorities for the capital, sexual violence, domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, weapon-based crime and hate crime. The PP&E PDS accepted these priorities and added its own local priorities, burglary, violent crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB), which would include moped crime and drug dealing. These priorities were agreed by MOPAC.

All PP&E PDS meetings included a comprehensive Police Update presented by the Bromley Borough Commander or one of his deputies. Members used the priorities identified above as the basis to scrutinise the work of the Police and to raise questions.

It has been sad to note the increase in crime over the past 12 months, both in Bromley and indeed across London as a whole. The PP&E PDS was particularly concerned to note the rising trend in violent and weapon-based crime, burglary and gang related incidents. However, with the exception of the northern part of the borough, local figures show that over the last 12 months across Bromley, possession of weapons offences has actually

fallen by 10% (against the London trend), and this is despite a big increase in local “Stop and Search” operations, which would normally mean these numbers would rise. Burglary and ASB however appear to be following the London trend and are increasing.

It would appear that the Police currently feel under-resourced, both financially and in terms of establishment. The PP&E PDS continues to register its concerns, particularly in the area of local neighbourhood policing, where Community Advisory Panels (CAP) across the borough feel that police visibility, locally, is a major worry, especially with the perceived rise in burglary and ASB. There is also concern that dedicated Ward officers (DWOs) are frequently not in position in their Wards to undertake their duties. Currently the Committee is pursuing this situation with the Police Borough Commander.

Over the past year, a significant amount of discussion has taken place between Members and the Police in Bromley regarding the new “Tri-Borough” policing arrangement which has, over the last 12 months been rolled-out across London. This has seen the amalgamation of policing across the boroughs of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton. Considerable concern was originally raised at the detrimental effect this could have on policing within the perceived “quieter” boroughs i.e. Bromley and Sutton, when considering the higher rates of crime in Croydon. The PP&E PDS Committee lobbied the Deputy Mayor of London for Policing and Crime to keep Bromley’s dedicated borough response team. We welcomed the decision by the Deputy Mayor to reverse the original plan of having one merged response team across all three boroughs, and that each would retain their individual response teams along with their existing number of response officers. The PP&E PDS will continue to monitor closely this new arrangement over the coming year, to see how it beds in.

Food Safety

A visit by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in April 2017 found that the existing system of food hygiene inspections was working well, but more trained inspection officers were needed to reduce the backlog of visits to food premises. To this end, a total of two full-time permanent and three full-time temporary food safety officers (up to 18 months) were recruited in 2017. Officers continue to work closely with the FSA in respect of the reducing backlog, but there is a country-wide shortage of trained and qualified Food Safety Inspecting Officers and the recruitment of these officers is proving difficult. The PP&E PDS continues to monitor this situation through regular reports.

Emergency Planning

A new full-time temporary Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer has recently been recruited and the PP&E PDS received his very comprehensive report at its January 2019 meeting. This report clearly identified that, following the Grenfell Tower Fire and its aftermath, there is significant work to be carried out in the area of planning for major disasters, to ensure that Bromley Council stands fully and properly prepared.

Contact Compliance and Scrutiny

During the past year, the PP&E PDS closely scrutinised the finalising of the CCTV specification, and tendering process, prior to the award of the contract in February 2019. In addition, the Committee also scrutinised the enforcement work of APCOA, the Council’s parking contractor, to ensure the agreed key performance indicators were being fully met and that the Council were achieving the requisite value for money.

Member Visits

During the year, Members were able to visit the refurbished CCTV control room at the Civic Centre as part of their considerations in respect of the contract renewal. Members also have an open invitation to attend Community Impact Days and test purchasing exercises of age-restricted goods as observers.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

Over the year, Members received feedback from the meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), which scrutinises the Police and helps to identify and set the local Borough priorities with regard to crime. These then feed into and complement the Mayor of London's crime priorities. Both the Portfolio Holder and the Vice Chairman of the PP&E PDS regularly attend the meetings of the SNB and the Chairman and PDS Members also attended the SNB annual Crime Summit held on 29 September 2018.

Bromley Youth Council (BYC)

The BYC has two representatives on the PP&E PDS and their contribution has been most welcome. The Chair of the BYC, Cameron Ward, in particular, has played a full and active role in the scrutiny work of the PDS. He has raised many valuable issues which affect young people in our Borough and has been able to register the views and concerns of those he represents, especially in the area of youth crime, drugs and gangs. He continues to forge closer links with the Police in Bromley.

It is interesting to note that last year's Chair of the BYC, Katie Bacon, has gone on, this year, to form the London Youth Assembly, which now represents youth across all the London Boroughs. Her initiative has resulted in the formation of the LYA Council, which is supported by the Greater London Assembly and which meets in City Hall. The LYA Council comprises representatives of all of London's local Borough Youth Councils and Katie is this year's Chair. The Chairman of the PP&E PDS attended the most recent meeting of the LYA Council at City Hall and witnessed the enthusiastic and extremely able young representatives identify the main issues affecting youth in London and start to formulate strategies to address the problems facing young people across the capital city. This is an initiative which should be supported by all London Boroughs.

I would like to thank all members of the PP&E PDS, for their contribution and support over the past year and I would also like to thank those Council Officers who have worked diligently and hard to ensure the PDS has been able to fulfil its role.

Finally I would like to thank the PP&E Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Lymer, for her support and guidance and also for her hard work and enthusiasm over a very busy year.

Cllr David Cartwright QFSM
Public Protection & Enforcement PDS Chairman
March 2019

9. Report from Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Michael Rutherford

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Suraj Sharma

The Committee met five times this municipal year. Each meeting has scrutinised the reports for decision by the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder and considered policy development for key areas across the portfolio. Alongside the elected Members on the PDS Committee, we were also pleased to welcome a co-opted member from the Bromley Youth Council, Mr. Sheldon Thomas. Through this past year, the RR&H PDS Committee has scrutinised a range of proposals and performance metrics and added further scrutiny to the planning service.

The Committee have monitored performance against the Renewal, Recreation and Housing strategic outcomes for the municipal year. In its June 2018 meeting considered the housing part of the portfolio plan to be insufficiently detailed, and targets insufficiently ambitious and sent it back for revision. It was therefore pleased to support an updated plan and key performance indicators at the September 2018 meeting.

Topics the PDS Committee have focused on include:

Town Centres

Bromley: The RR&H PDS Committee remained supportive of improvements to the public realm in Bromley to encourage footfall and the vibrancy of our town centre. However it scrutinised proposals to ensure value for money. As part of this, it rejected a recommendation to build canopies at the current cost, which it was pleased the portfolio holder upheld. It also recommended that excess profit from new commercial units was used to support the maintenance and enhanced cleaning of the pedestrianised High Street, a recommendation that was also upheld.

Beckenham: The Committee was grateful for the successful completion of the work of its sub-committee, the Beckenham Town Centre Working Group. Throughout the duration of the Beckenham High Street improvements, it has successfully engaged businesses and residents in the process. The works have been completed successfully.

Orpington: Scrutiny was given to an opportunity paper on how various sites in Orpington could increase housing stock and improve the town centre. The committee supported the proposals but expressed concern about the lack of pace. It also asked that a working party was set up for the Framework Plan, including representatives of Orpington 1st BID, Orpington College and traders. The recommendation was approved.

Penge: The committee remained supportive of the council's improvements to Penge town centre, including to the High Street and shopfronts.

Housing

Affordable housing: The Committee scrutinised a number of schemes to increase the supply of affordable housing in the borough including More Homes Bromley and the use of Section 106 funds through housing associations. It successfully requested that the

Portfolio Holder take responsibility for achieving more affordable housing by being a member of the Housing Transformation Board.

Temporary housing: The Committee also analysed performance and proposals for temporary accommodation and was concerned about the decrease in available housing with demand increasing. It requested further involvement in scrutinising such schemes and ensuring performance levels of all schemes were high.

Leisure and Culture

Leisure: The Committee is supportive of the council's work to reduce the costs of services without impacting quality. It was therefore pleased with the value for money provided by the new leisure contract which saves council taxpayers' money without affecting service quality.

Libraries: The Committee is also supportive of improving services at the borough's libraries. It was therefore pleased that the new Penge library was delivered under budget and is providing a popular service. It has also supported the proposed West Wickham Leisure Centre and Library, which will also deliver new homes.

Planning

The performance of the planning service was assessed, with a particular focus on the performance of planning enforcement. The committee also scrutinised planning appeals, considering those appeals received and decided and the costs incurred by the council. As a result of ongoing concerns about planning enforcement, it called additional scrutiny at the committee and was pleased that surgeries had been set up to highlight problematic cases.

Scrutiny was applied to the Building Control service and options for its future. It was supportive of plans to undertake a full review of the service in order to achieve an improved service. However it considered it too soon to agree a shared service approach and that commissioning should be considered as part of that review.

The Committee has been tenacious in ensuring that the council takes a proactive approach to private sector buildings with flammable cladding. It has successfully lobbied for officers to speak to ministers to clarify the legal position and take appropriate steps to make the surrounding area of one building more safe.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder

The Committee scrutinised the portfolio budget, requesting that officers and the portfolio holder explained areas where spending was increasing. Particular attention was given to ensure that where third parties run council services, the quality remains unchanged or better and that cost reduces throughout the contract.

The Committee also analysed the contract register twice throughout the year, challenging on specific contracts to ensure that contracts avoid being managed effectively and there is suitable foresight of where new contracts are required.

Presentations

The Committee is grateful to Crystal Palace Community Trust and Countryside for visiting and presenting to it.

Proposals for the forthcoming year

The Committee considers the Transformation Programme to be a great opportunity to cut the costs of homelessness and temporary accommodation while providing our residents with better and more certain housing. It encourages the council to take more steps to increase the affordable housing stock. In particular it encourages further use of Section 106 payments to build affordable homes with housing associations, as outlined at its November 2018 meeting.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their diligence and hard work throughout the year. A lot of work has been carried out, which has covered a very broad range of subjects. I would also like to thank the officers in the RR&H department and Mrs. Lisa Thornley for their tireless work at the committee meetings and the ongoing day to day running of the department.

Councillor Michael Rutherford
Chairman, Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee