

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 24 February 2020

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Nicholas Bennett MA J.P.**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Kira Gabbert**

Councillors

Gareth Allatt	Peter Fortune	Angela Page
Vanessa Allen	Hannah Gray	Chris Pierce
Graham Arthur	Christine Harris	Neil Reddin FCCA
Kathy Bance MBE	Colin Hitchins	Will Rowlands
Yvonne Bear	Samaris Huntington-	Michael Rutherford
Julian Benington	Thresher	Richard Scoates
Kim Botting FRSA	William Huntington-	Suraj Sharma
Mike Botting	Thresher	Colin Smith
Mark Brock	Simon Jeal	Diane Smith
Kevin Brooks	David Jefferys	Gary Stevens
David Cartwright QFSM	Charles Joel	Melanie Stevens
Mary Cooke	Josh King	Harry Stranger
Aisha Cuthbert	Christopher Marlow	Kieran Terry
Peter Dean	Robert Mcilveen	Michael Tickner
Ian Dunn	Russell Mellor	Pauline Tunncliffe
Nicky Dykes	Alexa Michael	Michael Turner
Judi Ellis	Peter Morgan	Stephen Wells
Robert Evans	Keith Onslow	Angela Wilkins
Simon Fawthrop	Tony Owen	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Nicholas Bennett MA J.P.

169 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marina Ahmad, Katy Boughey, Will Harmer and Kate Lymer.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Julian Benington, Aisha Cuthbert, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Russell Mellor and Michael Rutherford.

170 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest in relation to minute 178 (TEC Amendment) as he was about to take delivery of an electric car.

171 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th December 2019

RESOLVED that, subject to the addition of Councillor Michael Turner to the list of those present, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2019 be confirmed.

172 Petitions

There were no petitions to consider.

173 Questions

Three questions had been received from members of the public for oral reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

Seven questions had been received from members of the public for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

Sixteen questions had been received from members of the Council for oral reply. The questions, with the replies given, are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

Seven questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix D to these minutes.

174 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

Two statements were made as follows -

(A) From the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health, Councillor Diane Smith - The Council's vision for the future of the borough's Day Centres.

The Portfolio Holder began by explaining that the Council's strategy was clearly stated at the front of the Ageing Well Strategy - "We want to ensure that older people retain their independence for as long as possible, with the

assistance of family, friends, faith and community groups, the voluntary sector and, where necessary, the Council and Health Services.”

In 2013, the Council had moved from commissioning the service through a block contract to spot purchasing arrangements, and had put in place transitional funding arrangements to help providers secure long-term sustainability. They were also encouraged to develop their offer to self-funders. Reports to Members in early 2013 showed that the Council’s approach had been extensively discussed with providers for at least three years previously. In 2017/18, the Council had agreed a one year waiver of the full market rent for one of the Day Centre providers. In 2018/19 a similar waiver agreement was made, extending to the main Day Centre providers for older people at a cost to the Council of approximately £140k. A return to full market rent was due from 2019/20, but the Council, aware that commissioners were continuing to work with providers, agreed to reduce the rent for this financial year too.

With the support of Council commissioners, providers had taken measures to improve their sustainability, including by reviewing prices and developing new partnerships, development of a marketing strategy to promote the day centres and build up their private client-base, sharing of resources and successful business models, including reviews of pricing structures, staff ratios and work rotas, work on optimising the use of day centre buildings, and supporting care staff to study for vocational qualifications whilst working. In July 2019 a possible funding opportunity had been identified for one of the day centres, and this was just being actioned by the provider. Commissioners continued to work with the Day Centres to develop their offer in a way that was sustainable and met the changing needs of individuals.

Responding to questions, the Portfolio Holder stated that, in terms of the strategic view, Members would have the opportunity to comment on the action plan that was part of the Ageing Well Strategy. Residents did have the ability to choose where to go, and did not necessarily choose to use traditional day centres. As an example, Lewisham Council had recently reduced their day centres from three to one in view of the impact of direct payments and there being a different offer in the community. The Portfolio Holder agreed that day centres did give people choice, but they were not always choosing to use the Day Centres and there were vacancies. She also agreed that Day Centres were important for offering respite, and the views of carers needed to be taken into account. The Ageing Well action plan was due to be considered at the next Adult Care and Health PDS Committee meeting in March.

(B) From the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management, Councillor Graham Arthur - The proposed staff pay award for 2020/21.

The Portfolio Holder stated that, in six weeks’ time, Bromley staff would be the only local government workers in London who would know what their salary was. While the national pay rise was likely to be 2%, Bromley’s increase

would be 2.5%, payable from 1st April. The Council was also setting aside £200k for merit payments - over £1m had already been paid out since the beginning of the scheme. The Council was also giving an extra reward to those at the lowest end of the pay scale by eliminating spinal points 4-8, moving them into point 9.

The Council depended on the quality of its staff, and they deserved leadership and motivation. There were now 30 trained mental health first aiders, a break-out room and access to more than 20 staff benefits. These included a salary sacrifice leased car scheme (a suggestion from staff), a childcare deposit loan scheme to help parents get back to work (a suggestion from a Member), and the annual leave purchasing scheme (suggested by the PDS Committee.)

In November the first staff conference had been held to inform staff about the transformation programme and the investment in IT to facilitate flexible working. The roll-out of the £5.2m IT improvement had been shortlisted for a national award. The Departmental Representatives Forum continued to shape what was done - their work was much appreciated.

The Council was investing in the staff of tomorrow through the YES scheme and the Frontline scheme. Twenty four apprentices and four graduates had been recruited, and these were soon to be increased. Most had now been recruited to full-time employment, some in senior positions.

The Council would continue to motivate, consult and reward as it moved to becoming a dream organisation, a place of choice to work.

In response to questions, the Portfolio Holder agreed that the Council was competing with other boroughs for the same potential employees, particularly for social workers. While salaries were often higher in inner London, Bromley could emphasise that it was an attractive place to live and work, with excellent staff benefits and working environment. He considered that staff morale was high and that turnover and retention were improving.

175 **2020/21 Council Tax**
 Report CSD20019

Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur, moved acceptance of the recommendations made by the Executive. In moving the recommendations, Councillor Smith confirmed that there were no changes to the final Mayoral precept.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Angela Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Ian Dunn -

“The following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 55-107.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2020/21:

Amended Recommendation (2.1):

- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £12,081k to reflect the changes in (d) and (p) to (v);

Additional Recommendation (2.1):

- (l) Agrees that £635k be carried forward from underspends in the 2019/20 Central Contingency to fund costs in 2020/21 relating to:
- implement light controlled pedestrian crossing at Chislehurst Crossroads at a cost of £350k;
 - install a 20mph speed limit for schools at a cost of £285k;
- (m) Requests that officers review options to revise CPZ charges to be based on emissions with higher charges introduced for second and subsequent vehicles at the same address. The scheme proposals to be self-financing;
- (n) Agrees to additional one off funding of £2m to be utilised over 4 years towards building maintenance with monies to be met from the Council's Invest to Save Fund earmarked reserve;
- (o) Agrees the removal of the payment of council tax by care leavers up to the age of 25 years funded from a further increase in the empty homes premium for properties empty for more than two years to 100% (assume changes from October 2020);
- (p) Provision of landlord and tenant support services at an annual cost of £70k to be funded from the Council's 2020/21 Central Contingency Sum;
- (q) Agrees to additional funding of £300k per annum for respite services to be funded from the IBCF monies set aside (£1,677k to support hospital discharge);
- (r) Apply London Living Wage as the minimum pay level for Council staff at an annual cost of £25k per annum to be funded from the Council's 2020/21 Central Contingency Sum. Also agree to commission a review at a cost of £25k to consider the implication of applying London Living Wage as a minimum pay for all LBB contractors. The review to be funded from the Commissioning Authority Programme earmarked reserve;
- (s) Agrees additional funding of £100k for mental health services with costs met from the Council's 2020/21 Central Contingency Sum;
- (t) Agrees additional funding of £250k for public health with costs to be met from the Council's 2020/21 Central Contingency Sum;

- (u) Agrees one off funding of £200k for installation of additional CCTV cameras to be funded from the Environmental Initiatives/High Street and Parks Improvement earmarked reserves. The ongoing running costs of £40k to be met from the Council's 2020/21 Central Contingency Sum;
- (v) Agrees additional funding of £100k for youth services/facilities with costs to be met from the Council's 2020/21 Central Contingency Sum;
- (w) Agrees funding of £50k per annum for Small Business Grants with the cost to be met from the Growth Fund Earmarked Reserve over a four year period;
- (x) Agrees one off funding of £5m from the Council's Invest to Save Fund earmarked reserve to provide Carbon Zero 2029 Target initiatives/investment;
- (y) Agrees funding of £250k per annum for additional staff to aid the housing development programme with the costs for four years to be met from the Council's Growth Fund earmarked reserve;
- (z) Notes that any ongoing costs will be reviewed as part of the 2021/22 budget preparation.

Further details are provided in Appendix 1 ([Appendix E](#) to these minutes).

Amended Recommendation (2.3):

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £545,579k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £378,596k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act."

On being put to the vote, this amendment was **LOST**.

Accordingly, the recommendations of the Executive, as moved by Councillor Colin Smith and seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur were CARRIED as follows -

That Council -

- (1) (a) **Approves the schools budget of £79.506m which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recoupment;**

- (b) Approves the draft revenue budgets (as in Appendix 2 to the report) for 2020/21 to include the following updated changes:**
 - (i) minor variation of £27k relating to the collection fund surplus/ collection fund surplus set aside.**
- (c) Agrees that Chief Officers identify alternative savings/mitigation within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any savings/mitigation reported to the previous meeting of the Executive held on 15th January 2020;**
- (d) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2020/21:**

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority *	447
London Boroughs Grant Committee	248
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.) *	252
Lee Valley Regional Park *	309
Total	1,256

* Provisional estimate at this stage

- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £12,666k to reflect the changes in (d);**
- (f) Notes that the 2020/21 Central Contingency sum includes significant costs not yet allocated and there will therefore be further changes to reflect allocations to individual Portfolio budgets prior to publication of the Financial Control Budget;**
- (g) Approves the revised draft 2020/21 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above;**
- (h) Sets a 3.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2020/21 compared with 2019/20 (1.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and notes that, based upon their consultation exercise, the GLA are currently assuming a 3.6% increase in the GLA precept;**
- (i) Notes the latest position on the GLA precept, as above, which will be finalised in the overall Council Tax figure to be reported to full Council (see section 12 of the report);**
- (j) Approves the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4 to the report);**
- (k) Executive agrees that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 24th February 2020.**

(2) Council Tax 2020/21 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (k) above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,128.80	1,153.00	24.20	1.99
Bromley (ASC precept)	87.46	111.77	24.31	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,216.26	1,264.77	48.51	3.99
GLA *	320.51	332.07	11.56	3.61
Total	1,536.77	1,596.84	60.07	3.91

* The GLA Precept may need to be amended once the actual GLA budget is set.

(#) in line with the 2020/21 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,216.26 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 24th February 2020.

(3) Council formally resolves as follows:

1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 is 132,026 'Band D' equivalent properties.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/2021 is £166,983k.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £543,554k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £376,571k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £166,983k being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - (d) £1,264.77 being the amount at 3(c) above, divided by (1) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

- (4) To note that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below
- (5) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands	London Borough of Bromley £	Greater London Authority £	Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements £
A	843.18	221.38	1,064.56
B	983.71	258.28	1,241.99
C	1,124.24	295.17	1,419.41
D	1,264.77	332.07	1,596.84
E	1,545.83	405.86	1,951.69
F	1,826.89	479.66	2,306.55
G	2,107.95	553.45	2,661.40
H	2,529.54	664.14	3,193.68

- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2020/21, which reflects a 3.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2020/21 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2020/21. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 24th February 2020. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (7) Set aside a sum of £2m in 2019/20 as an earmarked reserve for transformation funding for health and social care.
- (8) Set aside a sum of £993k in 2019/20 as an earmarked reserve for health estate development in Bromley.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors Gareth Allatt, Graham Arthur, Yvonne Bear, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Mary Cooke, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Robert

Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Kira Gabbert, Hannah Gray, Christine Harris, Colin Hitchins, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Christopher Marlow, Robert Mcilveen, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Chris Pierce, Neil Reddin, Will Rowlands, Michael Rutherford, Richard Scoates, Suraj Sharma, Colin Smith, Diane Smith Gary Stevens, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Kieran Terry, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Vanessa Allen, Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Simon Jeal, Josh King and Angela Wilkins.

176 Capital Programme Monitoring Q3 2019/20 and Capital Strategy 2020 to 2024
Report CSD20020

A motion to agree the inclusion in the Capital Programme of the new scheme proposals listed in Appendix C to the report was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

177 Crystal Palace Park
Report CSD20041

A motion to approve the addition of the Crystal Palace Subway project to the Capital Programme at a cost of £3.141m on the basis of the scheme costs being fully funded by grants from the Strategic investment Pot, Historic England and TfL, and a contribution from the Friends of Crystal Palace Subway, was moved by Councillor Peter Morgan, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

178 TEC Amendment to allow London Councils a Collaborative Role in Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
Report CSD20025

A motion to agree the proposed Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) amendment as requested, authorising the Director of Environment and Public Protection to sign the amendment as required, was moved by Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, seconded by Councillor Kieran Terry and **CARRIED**.

179 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21 and Quarter 3 Performance 2019/20
Report CSD20021

A motion to note the report and adopt the Treasury Management Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21 (Appendix 4 to the report) including prudential indicators (summarised on page 41 of the report) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement (page 20 of the report),

was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

180 2020/21 Pay Award
Report CSD20023

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Vanessa Allen and seconded by Councillor Angela Wilkins -

“That all Bromley staff should receive the London Living Wage as a minimum.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

A motion to approve -

(i) A flat 2.5% pay increase for all staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process.)

(ii) The removal of the equivalent of spinal points 4-8 (affecting BR1, BR2, and BR3 grades) with assimilation to equivalent spinal point 9 (BR3.)

(iii) The introduction of a 4p electric car lease mileage rate for business mileage.

(iv) That the Trade Unions’ pay claim for staff be rejected (see paragraph 3.7 of the report)

and to note that, as in previous years since coming out of the nationally/regionally negotiated frameworks, Bromley staff will receive the 2020/21 pay increase in time for the April pay, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells and **CARRIED**.

181 Pay Policy Statement 2020/21
Report CSD200

A motion to approve the 2020/21 Pay Policy Statement was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells and **CARRIED**.

182 Members Allowances Scheme 2020/21
Report CSD20024

A motion to approve the Members Allowances Scheme 2020/21 and the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances, on the basis of a 2.5% increase in all allowances, in line with the recommended increase for Council staff, with the allowance for the Leader of the Council increased to £40,000 and the allowances for the Leaders of the minority groups increased by similar percentages to £9,333 and £4,667 was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells, and **CARRIED**.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors Gareth Allatt, Graham Arthur, Yvonne Bear, Julian Benington, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Mary Cooke, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Hannah Gray, Christine Harris, Colin Hitchins, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Christopher Marlow, Robert Mcilveen, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Chris Pierce, Neil Reddin, Will Rowlands, Michael Rutherford, Richard Scoates, Suraj Sharma, Gary Stevens, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Kieran Terry, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunncliffe, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Vanessa Allen, Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Simon Jeal, Josh King and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members abstained -

Councillors Nicholas Bennett, Kira Gabbert, Colin Smith and Diane Smith.

183 Local Pension Board Annual Report
Report CSD2042

A motion to receive and note the Local Pension Board Report 2019 was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunncliffe, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells and **CARRIED**.

184 Appointment of Independent Person
Report CSD20026

A motion approve the appointment of Mr Ken Palmer as Independent Person until the end of the current Council in May 2022, to reaffirm the appointment of Dr Simon Davey as Independent Person until the end of the current Council in May 2022 and to confirm that Mr Palmer and Dr Davey be co-opted to the Standards Committee, was moved by Councillor Vanessa Allen, seconded by Councillor Michael Tickner and **CARRIED**.

185 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

No motions had been received.

186 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor reported that efforts to contact Dina Asher-Smith to invite her to a reception at the Civic Centre had not been successful yet.

The Annual Charity Quiz had been held on 14th February and the Mayor thanked Ian Payne and his family for their assistance. The Mayor added congratulations to the Deputy Mayor, whose Team had won the Mayor of Sevenoaks' Quiz.

The Mayor reminded Members of the following events -

- The Charity Dinner at Corza Restaurant in West Wickham on 27th February.
- The Mayor of Bromley Awards on 11th March.
- The Mayor's final charity event at Chapter One on 22nd April.
- A ceremony at 3pm on 8th May, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.
- The end of term Thanksgiving Civic Service on 10th May at St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane.

The Meeting ended at 9.55 pm

Mayor