

# **LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

## **MINUTES**

**of the proceedings of the Meeting of the  
Council of the Borough  
held at 7.50 pm on 18 October 2021**

**Present:**

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor Russell Mellor**

**The Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Tony Owen**

### **Councillors**

Gareth Allatt	Simon Fawthrop	Chris Pierce
Vanessa Allen	Peter Fortune	Neil Reddin FCCA
Graham Arthur	Hannah Gray	Will Rowlands
Kathy Bance MBE	Christine Harris	Richard Scoates
Yvonne Bear	Colin Hitchins	Colin Smith
Julian Benington	William Huntington-	Diane Smith
Nicholas Bennett MA J.P.	Thresher	Gary Stevens
Kim Botting FRSA	Simon Jeal	Melanie Stevens
Mike Botting	David Jefferys	Harry Stranger
Katy Boughey	Kevin Kennedy-Brooks	Kieran Terry
Mark Brock	Josh King	Ryan Thomson
David Cartwright QFSM	Kate Lymer	Michael Tickner
Mary Cooke	Christopher Marlow	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Aisha Cuthbert	Robert Mcilveen	Michael Turner
Peter Dean	Alexa Michael	Stephen Wells
Ian Dunn	Peter Morgan	Angela Wilkins
Robert Evans	Angela Page	

**In the Chair  
The Mayor  
Councillor Russell Mellor**

### **284 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Kira Gabbert, Will Harmer, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Charles Joel, Keith Onslow, Michael Rutherford and Suraj Sharma.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Kieran Terry.

**285        Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**286        To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2021**

Two amendments to the draft minutes were required –

- To include Cllr Chris Pierce as present;
- To include Cllr Nicholas Bennett in the list of Members thanking Mark Bowen for his service to the Council.

**RESOLVED that, subject to these amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021 be confirmed.**

**287        Questions**

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

Fifteen 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.

Fourteen 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.

Eleven 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.

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

The following statements were made –

**(1)        Women's Safety –**

At the request of Councillors Angela Wilkins and Kathy Bance MBE, the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement, Cllr Angela Page, made a statement about the steps being taken to improve the safety of women in the borough and address the issue of violence against women and girls following the murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa.

The Portfolio Holder emphasised that Bromley had relatively low rates of domestic abuse and sexual offences both in the public and private realms, but the Safer Bromley Partnership was committed to improving the situation and

had specific priorities around reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The Council's Public Protection and Early Intervention services were key to this, and domestic abuse was a high priority for the Metropolitan Police. The Safer Bromley Partnership had submitted a joint bid for funding under Round 3 of the Safer Streets Fund, but had not been shortlisted by the Mayor's Office. Chief Inspector Craig Knight was leading research on aggression against women in the public realm across the boroughs of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton that was not currently being reported to the Police. Police Officers were responding to information from the public about where they felt unsafe, and working with Head Teachers in schools and with the voluntary sector. A new team of Police Officers dedicated to Bromley town centre had just been announced.

Responding to questions, the Portfolio Holder stated that she was open to new suggestions from Members. There were a number of concerns about the vetting of police officers in the wake of Sarah Everard's murder, but while the Council could discuss this with the Police they were ultimately matters for the Police and not the Council. She acknowledged that CCTV and lighting were issues that had been raised frequently in the past, and conversations with the Police would continue, but she cautioned against installing new lighting and CCTV in isolation, and was not minded to disagree with decisions made on these issues by the previous Portfolio Holder. Other Members raised the issue of how women often only reported domestic abuse after numerous offences, and were sometimes intimidated into withdrawing allegations, and the issue of spiking of drinks, which the Council could tackle using its licensing powers.

## **(2) Care and Health Integration Award**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health, Cllr Diane Smith, reported that Bromley had won an award for Care and Health Integration at the Municipal Journal Achievement Awards. The Council, along with Health and Voluntary sector partners, had won the award for two projects which provided an effective and joined-up response to the Covid-19 pandemic – the Bromley Discharge Partnership and the Care Home Support Programme. The Portfolio Holder was joined by other Members in congratulating the Bromley staff involved in these initiatives. Asked about respite care, the Portfolio Holder stated that she expected this to be considered by the PDS Committee.

## **(3) Ofsted Inspection**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families, Cllr Kate Lymer, informed the Council that a two day inspection of arrangements for Children in Care, including disabled children, had taken place the previous month. The report was due to be published at midnight that evening, and although a formal grading was not being awarded if there was a grading it would be outstanding. The Portfolio Holder thanked frontline staff, the Senior Leadership Team in the Department, Jim Gamble, Ade Adetosoye, Councillor Peter Fortune and, most of all, Janet Bailey, who would be retiring from the Council soon.

Responding to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder welcomed Cllr Thomson's interest in Mentoring and offered to ensure that a meeting was arranged with officers for him. In terms of the lessons learnt since 2016, the main point was that the Council put children first in everything. Caseloads were on amber, and referrals were up, but caseloads were being managed down and staff were being moved to meet priorities. Permanent staff numbers were very high at 84%, but recruitment and retention remained a priority.

#### **(4) Public Finance Award for Excellence in Asset Management**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management, Cllr Graham Arthur, announced that the Council had recently received the Public Finance Award for Excellence in Asset Management, recognising two key achievements – generating £13.8m pa through strategic investment and a 34.1% return on Pension Fund performance, resulting in a fully funded Scheme. These achievements secured vital services and ensuring value for money for Council tax payers. He thanked the Director of Finance, Peter Turner, and his team for their excellent work in winning this and other recent awards.

Cllr Arthur also took the opportunity to congratulate Cllr Kevin Kennedy Brooks on his recent wedding.

Cllr Arthur announced that after nearly twenty years serving across four portfolios he would be standing down from the Executive, handing over to Cllr Michael Rutherford. He paid tribute to the managers and their teams within his portfolio, who had risen to the challenges of recent months. Councillors Colin Smith and Angela Wilkins thanked him for his service to the Council.

#### **289        Making Bromley Even Better** Report CSD21107

A motion to approve the refreshed corporate strategy "Making Bromley Even Better 2021 – 2030" was moved by Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Kate Lymer and **CARRIED**.

#### **290        Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2020/21** Report CSD21112

A motion to receive and note the Health and Wellbeing Board's Annual Report 2020/21 was moved by Councillor David Jefferys seconded by Councillor Robert Evans and **CARRIED**.

#### **291        Councillor Attendance 2020/21** Report CSD21109

A motion to note the Councillor attendance data for meetings in 2020/21 was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Gareth Allatt and **CARRIED**.

**292 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.**

The following motions had been submitted for discussion at this meeting -

**(A) Boundary Charge**

To be moved by Cllr Kieran Terry and seconded by Cllr Christopher Marlow.

*“This Council expresses its concern about the major impact to Bromley’s residents and businesses of a boundary charge, which would tax motorists driving across our borders from outside London, and calls on the Mayor of London to immediately cease and rule out any further progress on its implementation.”*

**(B) COP 26 Summit**

To be moved by Cllr Ian Dunn and seconded by Cllr Simon Jeal

*“The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, (also known as COP26 summit) taking place under the presidency of the United Kingdom between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> November, is a crucial and urgent opportunity for governments globally to secure commitments to global net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier, as required to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and avert the worst consequences of the climate crisis, including irreversible ecological and environmental damage.*

*To coincide with the summit, we call on Portfolio Holders to hold public meetings and other events linking in with the key themes of the summit, for the Council to lead in bringing together contractors, local businesses, community groups, residents and other stakeholders to build on existing strategies and generate new ideas for action, working together to ensure delivery of net zero emissions across the Borough, contributing to London-wide, national and global decarbonisation as rapidly as possible.”*

It was agreed that both motions would be referred to the next Environment and Community Services PDS Committee meeting.

**293 The Mayor's announcements and communications.**

The Mayor thanked Members for attending the Autumn Ball the previous Saturday, and also thanked those Members who were attending Remembrance Sunday events on behalf of the borough.

The Mayor informed Members of the following events coming up -

- A Chinese dinner at Ming’s Restaurant in Petts Wood on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- The Mayor’s Quiz Evening would be at Crofton Hall, Orpington on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

*Council*  
*18 October 2021*

- A virtual Whisky tasting evening in April 2022.

Further details would be circulated by the Mayor's Office.

The Meeting ended at 9.59 pm

Mayor