

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2010

Present:

Councillor Stephen Carr (Chairman)
Councillors Graham Arthur, Julian Benington,
Peter Morgan, Ernest Noad, Neil Reddin and Colin Smith

Also Present:

Councillor Robert Evans and Councillor Alexa Michael

102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Julian Benington declared an interest as his daughter worked for Affinity Sutton (Broomleigh Housing Association).

Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services, declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 (Part 2 – Award of Contracts for the PCT Campus Reprovision – Scheme 6) and left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed.

104 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes – Meeting on 29th September and the Special meeting on 20th October 2010

With reference to Minute 85 – The Hill Multi Storey Car Park – Slab and Parapet Strengthening Councillor Colin Smith requested an update on the suggestion by Councillor Morgan about using the car park at Bromley College at certain times to enhance car parking capacity.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on 29th September and 20th October 2010, excluding exempt information, be confirmed as a correct record.

b) Matters Arising

It was noted that Councillor Arthur had been appointed by the Leader of the Council to membership of the Local Development Framework Advisory Panel.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**105 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING
THE MEETING**

No questions had been received.

**106 EMERGENCY PLANNING GOLD ARRANGEMENTS AND
MUTUAL AID**

Report CE1064

Members discussed a report setting out proposals to place the current arrangements for mutual aid between Boroughs on a more formal footing. There were two aspects for consideration, revisions to the Local Authority Gold Resolution and the adoption of a Memorandum on Mutual Aid.

The Chief Executive advised that arising from lessons learnt during the heavy snowfall last winter when although Gold Command had not been convened issues had been indentified that required reviewing the mutual aid arrangements. The Local Authority Gold Resolution underpinned the London local authority emergency response arrangements for incidents involving all London Boroughs and had last been revised in 2006. The effect of the changes to be incorporated into the Gold Resolution as an addendum were set out in the report and would provide greater flexibility to the Gold Command operational arrangements.

Alongside the above proposals was a separate issue seeking to put on a more formal basis the informal arrangements and understandings currently in place between London local authorities for mutual aid. This was in the form of a Memorandum that would provide a set of guidelines for providing such mutual aid between participating Boroughs. Members in discussing this request did not consider that such a bureaucratic arrangement was necessary as Bromley had always offered support to other Boroughs when needed. The Leader of the Council read out a statement to this effect as follows: 'The London Borough of Bromley, in the event of a real emergency, will of course at all times seek to offer assistance where requested and appropriate, subject to a satisfactory arrangement being made, but does not feel it necessary to sign a Memorandum of Mutual Aid.'

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Addendum to the Local Authority 'Gold' Resolution be formally approved; and**
- 2) the Council does not feel it necessary to adopt a Memorandum on Mutual Aid.**

107 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2010/11

Report DR10091

The Executive received the fourth budget monitoring report based on expenditure and activity levels up to August 2010. The 2010/11 projected outturn showed an overall net reduction in balances of £1,929,000. This consisted of a reduction in balances to reflect net overspends of £1,275,000 offset by additional income from interest on balances of £120,000; a saving on the central contingency sum of £200,000 and a further reduction in balances to reflect carry forwards (£974,000) funded from unspent budget provision in 2009/10. Any savings from the unspent budget provision in 2009/10 had resulted in a corresponding increase in revenue balances in 2009/10.

The Director of Resources introduced his report and briefly highlighted certain issues including the continuing pressure on services principally overspending by the ACS and CYP departments. The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services commented that the figures quoted were from August and he had received more up to date information indicating the overspend had reduced below £500,000. He emphasised that every effort was being made to reduce costs and the situation was being tackled robustly. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services also reported on the situation within his service area and the package of measures in place to tackle the difficulties. He drew particular attention to the high cost placements of children out of Borough which was an ongoing problem. Councillor Noad felt it was time to look at possible residential sites within the Borough and the need to prioritise this so that officers had a clear understanding of what was required. The Chairman agreed and suggested one way might be to set up a short term Working Group to examine all options. Councillor Reddin supported this and the need to consider possible sites both Council owned as well as any options through the changes to the PCT. The Portfolio Holder asked about the reference in the report concerning ensuring appropriate funding was being received from the PCT. The Chairman reported that he had taken this issue up with the PCT recently and requested up to date financial information to be supplied to the Council and this would be followed up.

The Portfolio Holder for the Environment referring to Appendix 1 and the indicated overspend on Environmental Services of £394,000 disputed this as there was considerable underspend in various areas including waste efficiencies. He accepted there was some uncertainty about the impact of the recession but felt the monitoring report could be simplified and had requested a report on the matter to the Environment PDS Committee. The Director advised that included in the body of the report was information concerning costs and savings relating to the recession fund and he could revise the presentation for future reports to align more carefully the relevant information.

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Councillor Morgan raised a question on why the carry forwards from 2009/10 were shown as reductions in this year which was responded to by the Chairman.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources also spoke of the very tight financial situation facing the Council at this time and even more so in future years. The Chairman reemphasised the need for very stringent budgeting by Chief Officers to reduce overspends.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the latest financial position as detailed in the report be noted and the views expressed by members above be taken into consideration by the Officers;**
- 2) approval be given to allocate £83,000 towards the implementation of the Town Centre Development Plan as detailed in the Director's report (Paragraph 3.13);**
- 3) responsibility for the sum of £250,000 set aside for the Community Fund be delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder as detailed in the Director's report (Paragraph 3.14); and**
- 4) £40,000 of the £65,000 provided to the Council for Local Economic Assessment be drawn down to be used to address identified gaps and for the expenditure to be approved by the Director of Renewal and Recreation as detailed in the Director of Resources' report (Paragraph 3.15).**

108 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - 2nd QUARTER 2010/11

Report DR10093

Consideration was given to a report summarising the current position on capital expenditure and receipts following the second quarter of 2010/11, and proposals for a revised Capital Programme. The Director of Resources advised that this was a 'housekeeping' report setting out the changes to the programme since the Executive meeting in July (Minute 47 – 21.07.10 refers). If the changes being proposed were approved the total Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2013/14 would reduce by £3.2m, due to some slippage but mainly because of reductions in government grant allocations. The programme for 2010/11 it was estimated would reduce by £5.8m to £77.9m.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services asked for an update in respect of the amount of (LAA) reward grant the Council could expect and what had actually been allocated. Members were aware that the overall grant figure had been halved from £4.4m to £2.2m and that there would be no further funding beyond that. The Director of Resources advised that he still expected the Council to receive the funding and would circulate the details to

members after the meeting, together with the date it was expected to be received. Reference was also made to the amount of LPSA funding available.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People queried the Youth Capital Fund (£72,000) reference in the report as he thought the grant had already been cut and the Director agreed to recheck the information. Councillor Morgan also raised some questions on the allocation of Section 106 monies and how they were allocated particularly in respect of housing provision. The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services advised that he had received a briefing from the Assistant Director (Housing) on this and would circulate the information to members of the Executive. The Director in responding to members questions said that he would in future reports show more clarity around the issues raised.

The Chairman reported that he had asked the Director to report back to members on the position regarding 'ring fenced' grants.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the report be noted and approval be given to the revised Capital Programme;**
- 2) approval be given to the following amendments to the Capital Programme:**
 - (i) total reduction of £389,000 between 2010/11 and 2013/14 to reflect revised grant allocations from Transport for London (as set out in the Director's report - paragraph 3.2);**
 - (ii) the addition of £619,000 in 2010/11 in respect of external funding for London private sector renewal schemes (as set out in the Director's report - paragraph 3.3);**
 - (iii) Total reduction of £3,177,000 to reflect changes in government grant support for capital schemes (see paragraph 3.4);**
 - (iv) a reduction of £660,000 in 2011/12 to reflect the likely level of Formula Devolved Capital support from government (see paragraph 3.5);**
 - (v) the deletion of £763,000 to remove remaining provision for schemes either completed under budget or no longer proceeding (see paragraph 3.6);**
 - (vi) the addition of £920,000 in respect of the extension of the Kitchen Waste Collection pilot, approved by the Executive on 3rd September (see paragraph 3.7);**
 - (vii) the addition of £72,000 in respect of Youth Capital Fund grant to be received in 2010/11 (see paragraph 3.8);**

(viii) the addition of £506,000 in 2010/11 to reflect Standards Fund (Revenue) contribution to fund IT in Schools (ICT Harnessing Technology) (see paragraph 3.9);

(ix) the addition of £210,000 to reflect new external funding for the Riverside ASD scheme (see paragraph 3.10);

(x) the net reduction of £90,000 on the Hawes Down Co-Location scheme (see paragraph 3.11);

(xi) the reduction of £595,000 to the 2010/11 planned maintenance/suitability budgets to fund overspends on various schemes in 2009/10 (see paragraph 3.12); and

(xii) the addition of £300,000 to reflect new external funding for the Princes Plain extension scheme (see paragraph 3.13).

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

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

**110 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**

**111 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 29TH
 SEPTEMBER AND 20TH OCTOBER 2010**

The exempt minutes of the meetings held on 29th September and 20th October 2010 were confirmed.

**112 AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PCT CAMPUS
REPROVISION - SCHEME 6**

The Executive approved the awarding of a contract for the provision of care support services for adults with learning disabilities.

**113 COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR WOMEN'S REFUGE
SUPPORT SERVICE**

The Executive approved proposals to enter into a contract for the delivery of support services to Women's refuges.

114 CHURCHILL THEATRE AWARD OF CONTRACT

The Executive considered a report on tender options for the Management of the Churchill Theatre and agreed the contract arrangements.

115 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Executive received a schedule setting out expected capital receipts.

Chairman

The Meeting ended at 8.12 pm