



THE LONDON BOROUGH

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11

For submission to Council on

Monday 11th April 2011

Policy Development and Scrutiny Chairmen 2010/11



Cllr. Eric Bosshard
Executive and Resources



Cllr. Robert Evans
Children and Young People



Cllr. Judi Ellis
Adult and Community



Cllr. Tim Stevens JP



Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher



Cllr. Sarah Phillips

Public Protection and Safety

Environment

Renewal and Recreation

Contents

	Page No.
Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committee Chairmen	2
1. Foreword	4
2. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley	5
3. Reports from PDS Committees -	
Executive and Resources	7
Adult and Community	9
Children and Young People	11
Environment	17
Renewal and Recreation	24
Public Protection and Safety	29

1. Foreword by the Chairman of Executive & Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Committee, Cllr. Eric Bosshard

- 1.1 On behalf of all my colleagues who are engaged in Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in the London Borough of Bromley, I have pleasure in presenting our Annual Report 2010/11. This report summarises the work that has been carried out by the Committees during the Council year.
- 1.2 Following the General Election in May, the new Conservative-Liberal Government moved swiftly to reform local politics by introducing measures to transfer power from central government to local authorities and to the communities and individuals they represent. Salient measures were the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the disbanding of the Audit Commission; the end of central monitoring of the 4,700 targets associated with Local Area Agreements; the abolition of top-down regional bureaucracy associated with the Government Office and Regional Development Agencies; the introduction of transparency into Councils' finances; the hand-over of the Public Health role of the Primary Care Trusts to Councils and the introduction of the Localism Bill.
- 1.3 The dominant feature affecting Council business this year was the parlous state of the national finances and the need to achieve significant savings in Council expenditure. This influenced our work programme as it created uncertainty until the Comprehensive Spending Review was announced in December 2010. Every PDS Committee worked diligently to prepare the ground for achieving anticipated savings.
- 1.4 All PDS Committees deserve praise for their hard work and I am pleased to report that the required reductions in departmental budgets were achieved for the year 2011-2012.
- 1.5 Looking ahead, the national economic situation is not expected to improve much in the short term. The easy savings have been made and only some fundamental changes to the quantum and delivery of the Council's services will achieve the necessary savings in future years. Task forces comprised of PDS members, officers and portfolio holders need to be established now to commence this review and I have every confidence that they will succeed in formulating programmes, which will continue to safeguard essential services whilst achieving the necessary cost savings.

Cllr Eric Bosshard

**Chairman, Executive & Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Committee,
March 2011**

2. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley

- 2.1 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. 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).
- 2.2 The PDS Committees mirror the Council's executive portfolios:
1. Executive and Resources (covering both the Resources Portfolio and the Executive)
 2. Adult and Community
 3. Children and Young People
 4. Environment
 5. Public Protection and Safety
 6. Renewal and Recreation
- 2.3 Although they have no decision-making powers, PDS Committees have key roles in contributing to policy development and scrutinising the decisions of the Executive and individual Portfolio Holders.

Policy Reviews

- 2.4 PDS Committees advise Portfolio Holders, the Executive and Full Council on policies, budget 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

- 2.5 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

- 2.6 PDS Committees monitor the performance of services and functions 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.

- 2.7 PDS Committees are also involved in the budget setting process and provide considered comment 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

- 2.8 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 considered by a PDS Committee. The Committee can then interview the Portfolio Holder and officers and consider whether the decision was 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.
- 2.9 At the time of writing, one call-in has been made during 2010/11 and this concerned a decision by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People to approve proposals for the school lunch grant funded through the Standards Fund. After consideration by the Children and Young People PDS Committee it was decided to take no further action. This continued low level of call-in reflects an emphasis given to pre-scrutiny leading to better and more robust decisions which do not need to be challenged.

3. Reports from PDS Committees

Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Eric Bosshard

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Robert Evans

Introduction

- 3.1 2010/11 has been a very busy year with eleven meetings of the Committee, as well as working group meetings. Our regular meetings were scheduled to precede the Executive's meetings so that all their decisions could be pre-scrutinised. We replaced one policy development meeting with a Financial Seminar by the Chief Financial Officer and his deputy in light of the financial challenges faced by Bromley.

Scrutiny of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder

- 3.2 A key role of the Committee is to pre-scrutinise the decisions of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder. Our Committee has worked very hard to achieve this task and the workload of some meetings has been very heavy indeed. The Contracts register has continued to prove a valuable tool for alerting members to renewal or re-tendering of Council contracts.
- 3.3 During the year we have scrutinised the activities of Liberata, the restructuring of the property division, the office accommodation strategy, the building regulations charging scheme, the recycling and composting for all scheme, the HR function, the operation of section 106 agreements, the carbon reduction commitment scheme and carbon management programme, and the website upgrade.
- 3.4 The Leader of the Council and the Resources Portfolio Holder have attended all our meetings and Senior Officers have been present to answer questions on matters in their spheres of responsibility. I would like to thank all of them for the assistance they have provided to our committee.
- 3.5 In addition to reviewing proposed decisions of the Executive, our Committee invited the Leader of the Council, the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive to present to us an overview of their activities and answer questions in their areas of responsibility. These bi-annual meetings have been very valuable for keeping members of our committee up to date with recent developments affecting the Council and I would like to thank all the speakers for having made the effort to come and talk to us.

Policy Development and Working Groups

- 3.6 The parlous state of the Nation's finances and the effect on the Council had a dominant influence on the activities of our Committee. Early in the year it became clear that the likely reduction in grant funding would entail a major re-adjustment of many of the Council's activities. In order to prepare members of all committees it was decided to hold a Finance Seminar to explain the issues, which would affect the Council's finances and its ability to

continue to fund essential activities and services. This seminar was presented by the Chief Financial Officer and his deputy and was a great success.

- 3.7 A special meeting was held with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the PDS committees to discuss the savings, which needed to be achieved. In order to progress this work, it was agreed to form task forces consisting of the PDS Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Portfolio Holder and senior officers of each department to review budgets and activities and to propose savings.
- 3.8 In addition we reviewed the proposed petition scheme, the corporate training strategy, the proposed emergency planning gold arrangements and mutual aid, the implications of disbanding the Primary Care Trust and its impact on the Council.
- 3.9 We formed a working group to review the use of new technology to improve the Council's activities. This work is progressing and the working group is expected to report shortly. We debated setting up a working group to examine the concept of Total Place in Bromley, but in light of the evolving changes in the financial arrangements affecting the Council it was decided to postpone this work until after the Comprehensive Spending Review and the setting of the 2011-2012 budget. It is now time to form this working group.

Reports and Communication

- 3.10 Reports are an important source of information for members on issues which are to be decided by the Executive and the Portfolio Holders and which PDS Committees need to pre-scrutinise. It is therefore important that the papers for all the agenda items are dispatched in a timely manner to allow members to study and examine these issues. I am pleased to report that great efforts were made at the beginning of the year by the officers to improve this information flow and its timely delivery to members. This has contributed to much improved debates at meetings.
- 3.11 However, report writing remains a weak element in the reporting activity. Too many reports are verbose and repetitive in parts, but the principal weakness is that a concise Executive Summary is missing. In many instances this has led to over-lengthy debates at meetings when important facts needed to be unearthed from the body of the reports, instead of having them readily at hand. It is important that this weakness is put right at the earliest opportunity.

Conclusions

- 3.12 Over the past year this Committee has worked hard to scrutinise fully the decisions of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder and to review many aspects of the Council's business.
- 3.13 The task to find the significant budget savings demanded by the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review has been the dominant challenge this year. New ways needed to be found to deliver frontline services within the severe budget constraints imposed on the Council. It is very pleasing to report that all PDS committees rose to this challenge and that the necessary cost savings for 2011/2012 have been achieved.
- 3.14 However, the pressure to continue to reduce costs in the coming years will be an ongoing and significant challenge. The easy savings have been made and only some fundamental changes to

the quantum and delivery of the Council's services will achieve the necessary savings in the future. This Committee believes that task forces comprised of PDS members, officers and Portfolio Holders need to be established now to commence this review; their remit should encompass a full examination of all the Council's activities and no holy cows should be tolerated.

Cllr. Eric Bosshard
Chairman, Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Adult & Community PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Judi Ellis
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Roger Charsley

Introduction

- 3.15 The services scrutinised by the Adult and Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee are both universal and targeted. They include Health provision in the Borough; domiciliary, day and residential care; housing, residential standards and advice and signposting advice on all of the above.
- 3.16 The provision of these services covers the complete spectrum from the NHS to a small voluntary charity providing a Luncheon Club.
- 3.17 The membership of the Committee apart from elected members reflects these community partners;
- Bromley Primary Care Trust
Bromley Mental Health Forum
Learning Disability Forum
Bromley Council on Ageing
Disability Voice Bromley
Carers Bromley
Bromley Federation of Housing Associations
- 3.18 This broad spectrum enhances the knowledge and experience needed to influence policy development and undertake informed scrutiny.
- 3.19 There were six meetings in this Council year (May 2010 – April 2011) plus a joint meeting with the Public Protection Scrutiny Committee. We also held two Health Scrutiny Working Group meetings and have been involved in meetings to meet the challenges resulting from changes to the PCT and South London Health Care NHS Trust.
- 3.20 Councillors and co-opted members visited residential establishments throughout the year and attended partner provider AGMs and various meetings with Link, South London Health Care NHS Trust, Bromley Mencap, the PCT, Bromley College, Partnership Boards, forums and local Resident Groups.

Work of the Committee

- 3.21 The priorities are established by the Portfolio Holder following a planning day and the Committee monitor and review the various policies as they are progressed. We also monitor the key performance targets and the Budget.
- 3.22 This is a Service with increasing demands and highly successful partnership working. We have looked at the following in terms of scrutiny and policy development;
- Security at Bethlem Royal Hospital

- Supporting Independence in Bromley – regular updates including; Personal budgets, Direct payments, Assistive technology and equipment generally, and reablement.
- Portfolio Plan
- Commissioning arrangement for supported living for people with learning disabilities.
- Empty Property Strategy
- Thyme Out Update
- Health care commissioning
- Safeguarding Adults Annual Report
- Contract Reviews
- Regular Budget Monitoring Reports
- A picture of Health {NHS reorganisation}
- Age concern Bromley Brokerage
- Residential Care
- Day care
- Domiciliary care
- Blue badge provision
- South East London Health Trust
- Beckenham Beacon
- Dentistry
- Cardiac and Stroke care provision

Public Questions

3.23 We have had a large number of questions from the public this year and would like to thank the questioners for their continued interest in and support for the work of the Committee.

Conclusion

3.24 My thanks go to all Elected Members and Co-opted Members for their dedication and commitment in the last year. This has been a challenging year, with changes in budget provision across the Council necessitating a substantial review of all services and an increased emphasis on preventative measures to enable more residents to continue to enjoy living in their own home, whether private or managed by a Housing Association or specialist provider. This has been through contracts with partners as well as fresh in-house initiatives and in the case of Extra care Housing New build.

3.25 The Committee is directly supported by Anne Watts, Assistant Director, Strategic Development and Philippa Stone, Democratic Services Officer. The Committee continues to receive good quality and timely reports and this has been appreciated by the Members of the Committee. Our thanks go to Anne and Philippa and to all the officers who write the reports and attend the meetings.

3.26 The remit of the Adult and Community PDS Committee probably affects every family in the Borough and it is very important that the user's voice is included at all stages of policy development and Scrutiny. We would like to thank all the volunteers who sit on sub-groups, Boards and Forums for their involvement and support.

Cllr. Judi Ellis
Chairman, Adult & Community PDS Committee

Children and Young People PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Robert Evans

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Stephen Wells

Introduction

- 3.27 The services provided within the Children and Young People Portfolio affect all of the borough's 72,000 children, young people and their families together with a significant number of children and young people from neighbouring boroughs who attend Bromley schools. The range of universal and targeted services provided through the Portfolio is diverse and complex and includes support to schools and pre-school settings including school improvement; children's social care services including those for children in care; services for disabled children and those with special educational needs (SEN) and services for young people including those who are disaffected and disengaged.
- 3.28 The membership of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny (CYP PDS) Committee represents wide community interests. In addition to Elected Members, there are co-opted representatives from the Anglican Diocesan Board and the Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Board, Parent Governors, Independent Schools, teachers, young people, Bromley PCT and Pre-School Settings. This broad representation provides a strong knowledge and experience base on which to influence policy development and undertake the scrutiny functions for the Portfolio.
- 3.29 The work of the Committee includes scheduled meetings, special meetings and working parties.

Policy Development and Scrutiny

- 3.30 There were eight regular meetings of the Committee scheduled during the Council Year May 2010-April 2011, one of which was cancelled due to severe weather conditions (30.11.10). There was one Special Meeting (20.12.10) where only urgent items were considered to ensure the scrutiny function was maintained. At all meetings the Committee considered key matters in depth, including the pre-scrutiny of reports for the CYP Portfolio Holder. Members of the Committee took part in the Council's termly visits to education and other establishments. The priorities for the Portfolio are defined in a work programme, which is kept under review by the Committee and the Portfolio Holder.
- 3.31 The Committee seeks to fulfil its policy development and scrutiny role by:
- consideration of the CYP priorities to be included in the Council's Building a Better Bromley performance plan and CYP Partnership Strategic Plan, followed by a review of progress against the Plan;
 - monitoring of the key performance indicators and budgets;
 - pre-decision scrutiny of relevant Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions.
- 3.32 During the year Policy Development and Scrutiny has been applied to the following subjects:

CYP Budget

- 3.33 The Committee received regular Budget Monitoring Reports for CYP services to ensure that funding continues to be aligned with approved policy and strategy. The reports include where appropriate, variations in both the Schools' Budget and the Non-Schools' Budget and the reasons for these, together with management action that might be necessary to ensure that budget spend can be kept overall within the approved limit. Financial pressures due to significant increases in demand of children with SEN and within Children's Social Care have been monitored closely and solutions sought to minimise growth.
- 3.34 Members also consider information on schools with deficits and the status of their deficit recovery plans; this year's report is scheduled for the 3 May 2011 meeting.
- 3.35 In September 2010 the Committee considered the impact of the Secretary of State for Education's announcement of the £1.42m in year reduction of Area Based Grants to Bromley Children and Young People services and recommended approval of the Director CYP's proposed strategy to deliver the savings required.
- 3.36 In January 2011, the Committee considered the draft CYP Budget for 2011/12 which summarised the budget planning assumptions for the year. The report included the proposed CYP budget savings for 2011/12 and 2012/13 on the initial steps to achieve the Council's four year savings target of a 25% reduction in costs in response to the Government's announcement in October 2010 that Local Authority funding will be reduced by 28% over the next four financial years: 2011/12 to 2014/15. For children and young people services this represents a reduction of £11.6m on a £46.4m base non-schools budget. The committee provided detailed comments on the proposed CYP savings options for years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and the potential impact that these would have. The report also identified a growth bid for additional funding to address the significant service pressures in relation to three areas: Recruitment and Retention of Children's Social Care staff; Children's Placements and SEN Transport,

Recruitment and Retention of Children's Social Work Staff

- 3.37 In January 2011, the Committee reviewed the impact of the strategy approved by the Council's Executive in February 2010 to improve the recruitment and retention of qualified children's social care staff. The strategy set out a package of measures to enable Bromley to secure a stable children's care workforce and reduce reliance on agency local support, together with measures to increase the capacity within the service to manage the significant increase in volumes of referrals and caseloads. The Committee acknowledged that the strategy had begun to deliver some success in terms of recruitment and retention and that a thorough evaluation of the strategy would be undertaken at the end of the financial year.

Government Policy Changes

- 3.38 The Committee received regular reports from the Director, Children and Young People services outlining the government's reform agenda for education and wider children's services and the implications for Bromley. These included developments within the Education Bill 2011 and various reviews including the Munro Review of Child Protection together with detailed updates regarding the Academies Programme and the position within Bromley.

Commissioning

- 3.39 Details on all CYP contracts with a 'whole-life' value of £50k or higher are reviewed at each meeting of the PDS Committee to ensure that effective and timely commissioning and procurement processes are being followed. This includes contracts awarded since the last

meeting and the status of contracts ending within the following six months and subsequent six to twelve month period. In addition the committee receives an annual report in May outlining the broad commissioning intentions of the CYP service for the forthcoming year and beyond. In 2010/2011, CYP commissioned services and contracts to an annual value of £27,324,561, of which an estimated £16.64m related to the spot purchasing of placements for Looked After Children and Children with Special Educational Needs.

Partnership Working

- 3.40 Under revised corporate arrangements for the scrutiny of partnerships, the CYP PDS is invited to comment on the meeting agenda and work programme of the CYP Partnership Board (formerly the CYP Trust Board) together with the outcomes achieved through partnership working between the Local Authority and key partner agencies including schools, colleges, pre-school settings, Bromley PCT, the Police and the voluntary sector. In June, the Committee reviewed and noted progress in the delivery of the priorities within the Bromley Children and Young People Plan 2009/11 and the contribution to the Council's Building a Better Bromley priorities.

Children and Family Centres

- 3.41 A report was considered in July 2010 outlining the proposed revision of the Phase 3 Children and Family Centres capital programme in the light of emerging changes to the Government's Sure Start policy. The recommendations to the Portfolio Holder were that the revised set of schemes which reduces the programme from six to two be approved.
- 3.42 In January 2011 the Committee reviewed an evaluation of progress in the development of phases 1 and 2 the Borough's Children and Family Centre programme and the outcomes achieved for children and young people in the Borough since the last report to Committee in December 2009. The report outlined that the average number of adult and child users per week (when excluding multiple visitors) to the 16 operational children and family centres ranges from 108 adults and 101 children at Community Vision in Penge to 23 adults and 26 children at Widmore, together with details of the activities and services available and the impact on family life.

Transition Strategy for Young People with Learning Disabilities

- 3.43 A report setting out action being taken by Adult and Community and Children and Young People services to support young people and adults with learning disabilities to lead more fulfilling and independent lives was considered. The report included action being taken to manage the cost pressures arising from the growing numbers of children with a learning disability moving through to adult services. The Committee welcomed the report and the proposals it contained and endorsed the development of a cross portfolio transition strategy for learning disabilities.

Performance Monitoring

- 3.44 Key Performance Indicators for the CYP Portfolio, including local (selected by Members) and national indicators, are monitored by the Committee on a quarterly basis and contribute to the Council's Performance Management Framework through the Council's Executive and, with partners, through the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership. The nature of reporting has been improved to ensure effective scrutiny of meaningfully presented data. Areas of performance that have been particularly raised by the Committee include the upward trend in social care referrals and children subject to a Child Protection Plan, the level of absences in

schools, particularly at primary phase, and the level of teenage pregnancies. The Committee noted the management action in place to address these issues.

- 3.45 As part of the Council's statutory duties in relation to standards of attainment achieved within schools and overall performance, the Committee receives an annual report; this year the report is scheduled for the PDS meeting on 15 March 2011.

External Inspections of CYP Services

- 3.46 The Committee received and commented on reports in relation to the outcomes from the following external inspections of CYP services that took place during 2010/11:
- Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children (LAC) Services; this was a new 40 day inspection framework introduced by Ofsted in Autumn 2009. Bromley's inspection took place during March and April 2010; the overall inspection outcome rating was "adequate overall, with some good features in both Safeguarding and LAC" (Report to 20 July 2010 meeting). The Ofsted report had been thoroughly reviewed by the Executive Working Party for Child Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting. The Committee recommended approval of the post inspection action plan and timescales.
 - Ofsted is required under Section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to undertake an Annual Performance Assessment and Inspection Judgement of each Local Authority's Children's Services. The outcomes judgement for Bromley's Children and Young People Services was published on 3 December 2010; the services have been rated at level 3 "Perform Well" and "exceed minimum requirements". The report was considered at the CYP PDS meeting of 24 January 2011. The Committee expressed congratulations to the Director, Children and Young People services and staff within the CYP Department for the hard work and commitment in sustaining a good performance rating for the last three years and noted the actions planned to address the areas of further development highlighted in the report and the progress made to date.
 - Inspection of Youth Offending Team; the improved progress made since the re-inspection of the Youth Offending Team (January 2008) was considered jointly with the Public Protection and Safety Committee (Report to 14 December 2010 meeting).

Pre-Scrutiny of Decisions of the Portfolio Holder, Children and Young People

- 3.47 The Committee also undertook pre-scrutiny of the following reports and recommendations for decision by the CYP Portfolio Holder:
- the Strategy for Capital Investment in Secondary Schools and the Primary Capital Programme
 - the Dedicated Schools' Grant: 2011/12 Consultation
 - the Transfer of 16-19 Funding and Commissioning from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the LA
 - Early Years Capital Funding
 - Standards Fund Allocations
 - School Funding Consultation

- Kelsey Park Sports College
- Annual Report on Adoption Activity 2009/10
- Bromley Safeguarding Children Annual report 2009/10
- Membership of School Governing Bodies
- Restructuring of services: Learning and Achievement and Bromley Children and Family Service teams.

Member Working Parties:

3.48 In addition to scheduled meetings of the CYP PDS Committee, Members sat on the Committee's Primary School Development Plan Working Party and also on two Working Parties established by the Executive, namely those concerned with (i) Special Educational Needs and (ii) Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting. Detailed scrutiny has been provided of policy and operational issues considered by those Working Parties as detailed below:

Executive Working Party – Special Educational Needs (SEN):

3.49 The working party is under the Chairmanship of the CYP Portfolio Holder and has met on three occasions in 2010/11 to take forward Phase V of the SEN strategy which was agreed in May 2009. In order to reduce reliance on out of borough placements and associated costs, the strategy has focused on four areas: increasing provision in Bromley for targeted groups; improving provision in primary school special opportunity units; increasing provision for short breaks (respite) and improving co-ordination of support to families by continuing to develop a Joint Disability Service across Health, Education and Social Care.

3.50 The working party discussed provision that is needed to reduce the number of children with social emotional and behaviour difficulties (SEBD) attending out of borough schools.

3.51 The working party also made recommendations to the Portfolio Holder on the use of funding for short breaks and advised on the direction of new grant funding of £1.1 million to increase the capacity for short breaks provision for disabled children to secure an increase in provision from 318 children in 2008/09 to 835 in 2010/11. This provision ensures that the need for residential placements for disabled children is reducing.

3.52 The working party continued to monitor the budget pressures within the SEN and Disability Service and heard that the number of new statements had risen from 218 in 2008 to 257 in 2010 requiring an additional £800k for the mainstream schools SEN budget. There had also been 39 additional severely disabled children moving from pre-school into school settings from 2009 to 2010. The working party agreed to recommend that the special educational needs budget would require additional DSG funding to avoid continued budget pressure due to increasing volumes and complexity of needs.

3.53 At its meeting in December 2010 the working party recommended that a new SEN Home to School Transport Policy be consulted upon. Under the LA's statutory duty, over 800 children receive transport assistance to attend school. The PDS were consulted on the policy developments at it February 2011 meeting.

Executive Working Party – Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting:

- 3.54 The working party met on 4 occasions during 2010/11 to monitor and review performance in key areas relating to safeguarding and looked after children, including: the Corporate Parenting Framework, Post Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding & Looked After Children Services Action Plan, the Social Care & Safeguarding Improvement Plan, the Children's Social Care Charging Policy, the financing arrangements for Safeguarding Children and the Recruitment & Retention Implementation Strategy.
- 3.55 The working party particularly considered the increased pressure on children's social care services during the last three years. Using 2007/8 as a baseline and comparing this against the latest full year information (2009/10) there have been significant increases in the level of initial contacts (144%), referrals (126%), initial assessments (113%), core assessments (80%), children subject to a child protection plan (75%) and new admissions to care (34%); with consequential increases in caseloads. The increased numbers and complexity of need of children requiring foster placements and residential care was particularly noted. The pattern for 2010/11 shows some slowing down in initial contacts and referrals but a further increase in the number of children becoming subject to a child protection plan (as at December 2010 a 111% increase from the baseline figure of 2007/8). The working party noted the management strategies for dealing with the increased number of referrals and to manage workloads, including the work undertaken to establish a multi-agency triage team to filter police Merlin reports.
- 3.56 Additional pressures on the service due to difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified social care staff were also considered and the implementation of the strategy to address these issues monitored. At the beginning of 2010/11 the gross vacancy rate for qualified children's social care staff was high at 42% and reduced to 20.5% by 31 October 2010, demonstrating the positive impact of the Council's recruitment and retention strategy.
- 3.57 At the February 2011 meeting, the working party were pleased to received a presentation from representatives of the newly established Children in Care (CiC) Council which aims to support children in care to actively participate in the development and delivery of services. Upcoming priorities for the CiC Council included their launch event and evaluating the effectiveness of the Bromley pledge. Members of the CiC Council were also keen to become involved in the recruitment of social care staff.

Primary School Development Plan Working Party:

- 3.58 The Primary School Development Plan Working Party undertook a Scrutiny Review of the Primary School Development Plan and provided recommendations for the strategic planning of primary school provision. The working party reviewed updated pupil population projections which indicate a continuing increase in demand for reception class places through to at least 2013. The working party concluded that there was likely to be a need for an additional 7 forms of entry (210 places) across the Borough by 2013 and, taking into account of projections for each planning area and other local circumstances, recommended that the additional capacity required is achieved by temporary increases in admissions at a number of schools.
- 3.59 Proposals were made in respect of each of the nine planning areas, including increases in capacity where appropriate. Detailed reports were provided to the Portfolio Holder and the PDS Committee demonstrating how increases in capacity would be achieved. Following recommendations by the Committee to endorse the proposals, the Portfolio Holder approved all the recommendations from the Review, authorising the Director CYP to undertake consultation with schools and other key agencies on the proposals.

Other Matters

Call-Ins: There was one item subject to 'Call-In' this Council Year - The School Lunch Grant. Following further consideration on 7 September 2010 no further action was taken.

Audit: Two financial matters have been referred from the Audit Sub-Committee.

Presentations: The Committee is scheduled to receive a presentation on 'Creative Learning at the Churchill Theatre' (15 March 2011).

Cllr. Robert Evans
Chairman, Children and Young People PDS Committee

Environment PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Lydia Buttinger

Introduction

- 3.60 The services provided within the Environment Portfolio affect every resident of Bromley, as well as those who visit the borough or travel through it. Over recent years, research has consistently shown how significant these services are to residents. Clean streets, traffic congestion, the condition of highways and pavements, and parks provision are all considered to be matters of high importance by residents.
- 3.61 By their nature many of the issues considered by the Committee are long-term. Measures to increase recycling for example, or to reduce energy consumption, can only take effect over time. However the Committee has continued to build on work carried out in the past and has kept major issues under review.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and Executive

- 3.62 The Committee seeks to fulfil this role by:
- Early consideration of priorities and action points to be included in the Environment Portfolio Plan, followed by a half yearly review in November each year of progress on the Plan.
 - Monitoring of key performance indicators and budgets.
 - Pre-decision scrutiny of relevant Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions
- 3.63 All reports on proposed decisions are presented at PDS meetings for pre-scrutiny, with the Portfolio Holder and his Executive Assistant attending to contribute to discussion, answer questions and receive comments. The Portfolio Holder has then made decisions separately in the days following the meeting.
- 3.64 Following the May 2010 Council elections, a number of newly elected Members joined the Environment PDS Committee, and two successful induction events were held. At its first meeting in June 2010, the Committee sought to balance its activities, in particular the extensive pre-decision scrutiny of highways schemes which had absorbed considerable attention in the previous year. The Committee decided to focus attention in future on significant traffic schemes valued at over £25,000 and correspondingly to streamline examination of smaller schemes. This approach has worked well during the year and has allowed greater attention to policy development, and scrutiny of finance and performance. Where significant public or Member interest has been shown in smaller schemes, the Committee has continued to make provision for full pre-decision scrutiny.

Working Groups

- 3.65 The Committee has sought to focus its efforts, directly and through Working Groups, on issues of concern to the public such as street cleansing, waste and recycling, and transport strategy.
- 3.66 Three Working Groups were constituted for at least part of 2010-11:

Waste Minimisation

Councillors: William Huntington–Thresher (Chairman), Nicholas Bennett, Lydia Buttinger and Samaris Huntington–Thresher

- 3.67 Waste collection and disposal is one of the major items of expenditure for the Environment Portfolio. The expansion of recycling is an issue that affects every household in the borough. It is important both financially and environmentally.
- 3.68 The Working Group has been established by the PDS Committee for some years. However, during 2010, Recycling and Composting for All has been rolled out borough-wide and the PDS Committee itself has taken the lead on these issues.
- 3.69 The Working Group has also widened its remit to consider potential and actual changes to the Green Garden Waste service arising due to pressures on the budget in the coming years.

Street Cleansing

Councillors: William Huntington-Thresher; Katherine Bance; Jane Beckley; and Ian Payne

- 3.70 The Street Cleansing Working Group met from July to October 2010 to undertake a fundamental review of the services delivered through the existing street cleansing contract, future challenges for the service, and options for the new contract which would commence in April 2012. A PESTLE analysis of external factors was undertaken, and the Group visited other local authorities to examine their approaches to the service.
- 3.71 The Working Group reviewed the relative operations, performance and cost of the existing service. The Group recommended letting a combined contract with six lots for five years, with the option of a two year extension period. It also recommended a revision of the cleaning schedules for roads and footways. Against the backdrop of rising public expectation, the group endorsed the contribution of ‘deep cleans’, night-time cleaning, street furniture and bus stop beats.
- 3.72 The Working Group supported the work of the Street Friends initiative, and its development to encourage and educate young people. Engaging the service provider in Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, and the development of cross-departmental education campaigns, would be important factors in improving residents’ understanding of the street environment.
- 3.73 The Working Group felt that environmental enforcement would be strengthened through partnership working, and the Council’s legal powers should be used as a mechanism to manage the environmental quality of the boroughs town centres.
- 3.74 The Working Group made recommendations relating to contract packaging and procurement, contract standards and specification, community engagement and environmental enforcement. At its meeting in late November 2010, the PDS Committee endorsed these

recommendations. On 1st March 2010 the Committee went on to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the procurement strategy for the new contract, set in the context of the Working Group's recommendations.

Transport Statement

Councillors: William Huntington-Thresher; Nicholas Milner; and Richard Scoates

3.75 The Working Group met in July 2010. The main topics of discussion were:

- the presentation of the Council's transport objectives in the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to reflect local priorities through funding from TfL;
- delivery of the LIP which is a statutory document setting out how the Council intends to play its part in furthering the Council's and the Mayor of London's Transport strategy; and
- the need for a new statement setting out the Council's transport policies in a single document, which had not been done since 1999.

3.76 The Group provided comments on a draft list of LIP objectives and it was agreed that the earliest time to focus on the Transport Document would be 2011.

3.77 At the Environment PDS Committee meeting in late September 2010 Members endorsed the list of LIP objectives recommended by the Working Group, observing that the successful delivery of a number of projects was dependent upon the contribution of partners such as TfL and Network Rail, and that the LIP needed to consider methods to hold these partners to account. The proposed transport objectives were included in the draft LIP and supported by the Committee in November 2010 for submission to TfL, which was also to be used as a basis for consultation with statutory consultees and other stakeholders.

3.78 In discussion, the Committee highlighted the following issues for future consideration as the drafting process for the LIP progressed:

- Implications of any drop in Mayoral funding for mandatory projects or targets;
- Local accountability of TfL for its responsibilities to deliver LIP objectives;
- Fine-tuning targets or objectives at a local level to assist in prioritising efforts;
- Ensuring there was consultation with groups representing older people's interests, and interest groups such as cyclists' associations and the Institute of Advanced Motorists;
- The implications of the Borough's inclusion within the current south London sub-region;
- Exploring key issues of local interest, such as parking by rail commuters; and
- The relative position of the Council on key benchmarked indicators, such as traffic injuries.

Other Major topics addressed by the Committee during the year

Recycling and Composting for All

3.79 Following successful trials, in August 2010 the Environment PDS Committee scrutinised proposals to expand Recycling and Composting for All across the remainder of the Borough. Ten years ago, 76% of the borough's refuse was being sent to landfill sites. Since then the Council had significantly reduced that percentage through several initiatives, culminating in the

food waste collection trial introduced in September 2007. Residual waste is collected every other week, whilst a weekly collection of kitchen waste and paper is maintained. Volumes of waste had fallen in the trial area by 50% and tonnages of recyclates had increased by 32%. The trial had been extended in spring 2009 to an extra 23,000 properties. The feedback from customers had been very good with the majority fully supporting recycling and very few complaints had been received.

- 3.80 The Committee endorsed proposals for the scheme to be rolled out borough-wide for completion prior to Christmas 2010. Potential annual savings generated from the revised service amounted to £200,000 which would in time pay back in full the cost of the initial investment. There would also be income generated from the paper collected and then sold for recycling.
- 3.81 The Committee was informed of the communications strategy for the changes. There would be extra waste advisers, road shows in the main high streets, and extra cover for the Customer Service Centre during the roll out to ensure residents' questions were answered.
- 3.82 The Committee also looked to ensure that recycling options will be available to schools and that the environmental education in schools should support the Council's Recycling and Composting for All policy.

Parking

- 3.83 The Committee remained engaged with a range of issues following the report of the Parking Working Group in June 2009.
- 3.84 At its June 2010 meeting the Committee scrutinised proposals to harmonise at 6.30 pm the end time for charging at most car parks and on-street bays. The objective here was to reduce incentives to park on-street. This had been proposed by the Working Group, and the Committee supported the proposal to encourage motorists to use car parks rather than on-street spaces. It could also provide a modest boost to the borough's evening economy.
- 3.85 At their July 2010 meeting, Committee members considered whether to endorse an extension of the current parking enforcement contract. The Committee asked for additional benchmarking with arrangements in other similar authorities. This research was subsequently carried out and helped to inform the Executive decision to extend the contract for a further five years.
- 3.86 The Committee suggested in September 2010 that a season ticket scheme be considered, and a proposed scheme was then scrutinised at the March 2011 meeting.
- 3.87 Detailed scrutiny took place on the reviews of parking schemes in Orpington town centre (July 2010 and 29 November 2010), Bromley town centre (January 2011) and Penge (March 2011).
- 3.88 Options for renewal of The Hill car park were examined at the Committee's August and September 2010 meetings, in the light of weaknesses in the building's structure and pressure on Bromley town centre's car parking capacity. The Committee recommended an option with an estimated cost of £280,000 which would improve safety and extend the life of the structure

for 2 to 5 years. It was hoped this would also provide time to decide on the longer term future of the car park and retain the potential for full strengthening at a later date. The Executive subsequently agreed to take this option forward.

Road Safety and Traffic Management Schemes

- 3.89 As outlined above, the Committee has this year re-focused its pre-decision scrutiny of traffic management and road safety schemes. A large number of schemes have been brought forward for decision, and each has been scrutinised in proportion to its potential impact. The Committee has advised the Environment Portfolio Holder accordingly on whether schemes should be accepted or referred back for further consideration.
- 3.90 At its meeting in September the Committee considered proposals for how Congestion Pinch Points could be tackled in future. 37 sites had been identified for engineering measures to alleviate 'pinch point' problems at acceptable cost. The first area proposed for investigation comprised the northern part of the A224. This had a high number of individual sites with many reports of delays and rat running problems caused by congestion. When designs had been drafted it was proposed to carry out consultation with local Ward Members and then undertake further consultation with residents, businesses and other relevant parties.

Friends of Parks and Street Friends

- 3.91 In March 2011 the Committee received the annual review of the borough's Friends schemes, for Parks and Streets. The number of Parks Friends groups has increased to 51, representing over 30,000 hours of voluntary work contributed to Bromley's parks. The additional funding raised in partnership with Friends Groups was over £265,000. Finally there are now over 700 Street Friends helping to improve the borough's street scene. The Friends schemes and additional funding are resulting in significant improvements to the environment in the borough and enhanced community spirit.

Highway Maintenance

- 3.92 Maintenance of the highway is of major importance to residents and maintenance of good communications is essential for economic well-being of the Borough. Any failure to maintain the infrastructure adequately will have long-term implications for the level of expenditure needed in future years. Reflecting the importance of these issues, in September 2010 the Committee scrutinised the planned Highway Maintenance programme and the Street Lighting Replacement programme. In addition, the Committee supported the establishment of a future working party by the Environment Portfolio Holder to examine the Council's approach to Highways Maintenance.
- 3.93 The Committee has also suggested that the 2011/12 Committee should consider establishing a Highway Assets Working Group at its May meeting.

Winter Operations

- 3.94 Several refinements to the borough's snow operations had been introduced during 2009 in time for the snow events of December 2009 and January 2010. The performance of the Winter

Maintenance Service was reviewed by the Committee in July and September 2010 following a second consecutive winter with significant snowfall.

- 3.95 The Committee acknowledged improvements in performance, including the retention of sufficient stocks of salt at the Central and Shire Lane Depots. The Council had renewed some of its gritter fleet, and in addition quad bikes, demountable gritters, and snow ploughs operated by local farmers were used. There was an extensive programme of pre-treating roads based on detailed weather forecasting. The Council worked with other partners such as schools, hospitals and day centres and was supporting a network of “Snow Friends” - local residents who assist in keeping their own streets safe and accessible. The Department for Transport was developing a simple code of practice for members of the public and business owners on responsible activity when clearing snow and ice, and it was proposed that a guidance note for Bromley residents and businesses be provided by the Council following release of national guidance.
- 3.96 The Committee endorsed the policy of continuing to prioritise 40% of the borough’s road network for gritting. This is greater than the 30% required by the London-wide ‘Resilience Network’. The Committee suggested that a 30% resilience network should only be established as a fall-back in case resources were not available to treat all of the current priority routes.
- 3.97 The lessons learnt during the two previous winters were further applied during the heavy snowfall in December 2010. The PDS committee has congratulated staff and contractors on their efforts keeping Bromley’s roads and footways clear this winter.

Contract review

- 3.98 The Committee regularly considers work packaging and tendering issues. In addition, at each meeting of the Committee a digest of the Council’s Contracts register is presented focusing on contracts within the remit of the Environment Portfolio. This has assisted the Committee in planning its input into the contracts process.
- 3.99 The Committee has continued to carry out detailed reviews of contracts which are approaching the date when they would need to be re-tendered or extended, as well as careful pre-decision scrutiny of contract award recommendations. The contracts examined during the course of the year were:
- Coney Hill Landfill Site Monitoring (contract award – June 2010)
 - Transport Consultancy Services (future options - June 2010)
 - Parking Enforcement (contract extension – July 2010)
 - Street cleansing (gateway report – March 2011)

Public Transport Liaison Forum

- 3.100 The Public Transport Liaison Forum met in October 2010, chaired by the Chairman of the Environment PDS Committee and attended by Members, officers, TfL officials and transport operators. The Forum is the main route for dialogue with TfL, the Council’s key transport partner.

- 3.101 A presentation was received from TfL on the re-launch of Countdown, a real time information service for buses which will be rolled out from spring 2011. Issues which were raised and discussed at the meeting included bus services 320 and 464 to Biggin Hill, feedback on the Travel Plan for Orpington College including continuing concerns about public transport access at this site.

Portfolio Plan and Budget Monitoring

- 3.102 At its April and June 2010 meetings the Committee scrutinised the draft objectives and milestones set out in the proposed Environment Portfolio Plan. At the November 2010 meeting, the Committee scrutinised performance at the half-year stage on the commitments made in the Plan. The Committee remained concerned at the impact of the recession on parking, and was encouraged by the performance improvements in recycling and waste diversion.
- 3.103 The Committee has given significant priority this year to budget-related issues, including scrutiny of the financial position of the Portfolio's services at each meeting. In the light of the increasingly austere financial outlook for local government this has gained in importance. In January 2011 a special meeting of the Committee was called to scrutinise proposals for spending reductions in 2011/12. The Committee's advice on these matters has gone on to inform both Executive and full Council deliberations on the 2011/12 budget.

Outcome of the 2007/10 Local Area Agreement

- 3.104 The PDS Committee was formerly responsible for monitoring progress on those parts of the 2007/10 Local Area Agreement which related to the Environment Portfolio. Achievement of the stretch targets in the Agreement are now expected to lead to the Council receiving a reward grant of around £600,000 related to Environment objectives, of which £500,000 has been earned by the achievement of recycling targets in 2009/10.

Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability

- 3.105 In January 2011, the Committee scrutinised two Executive reports providing a progress update on environmental sustainability. These included information on the Council's carbon management programme to reduce energy costs and CO₂ emissions from the Council's own operations, and across the borough. The Committee noted that carbon emissions associated with staff commuting had increased, as had emissions by the Council's fleet due to increased journeys following day centre closures. Street lighting CO₂ emissions had increased by 2% between 2008/09 and 2009/10 as (orange) sodium lights were upgraded to white light. The Committee were concerned at this increase in street lighting emissions and asked for further progress to be reported in 2011/12.
- 3.106 The second report examined compliance with the statutory Carbon Reduction Commitment. It was reported that the coalition government no longer intended to redistribute allowances but would retain the revenue, thus effectively introducing a carbon tax. A cost to the Council of over £350,000, rising by more than £100,000 per annum, was currently being projected. Schools were expected to be the largest single element of the Council's carbon footprint. It was noted that under the CRC Scheme the Council currently had responsibilities for academy schools as well as maintained schools. The Committee requested the Executive to write to the Secretary

of State for Education to highlight the anomaly that academy schools appeared to be outside of the Council's remit except for the payment of carbon emissions.

Looking to the future

- 3.107 The work programme for 2011/12 will be agreed by the Environment PDS Committee following the Council's Annual Meeting in May. The Committee will continue to follow up long term issues protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment in Bromley.

Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee

Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Sarah Phillips
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Michael Tickner

Introduction

- 3.108 The Committee will have met 6 times this year. Each meeting has scrutinised the reports for decision by the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder and considered policy development of key areas of the Portfolio, with the exception of the January 2011 meeting which considered the draft Council budget for 2011/12. Monitoring performance against the Renewal and Recreation Department's Building a Better Bromley priorities has been central to the committee's work. There have been two working groups which have enabled a thorough investigation of key issues.

Working Groups

- 3.109 The main focus this year has been Bromley North Village and the Library Service. Some additional work associated with the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centre working group has also been undertaken during this year.

Employment and Skills

- 3.110 In December 2010 Members considered a report and received a presentation from Simon Norton, Principal at Orpington College, about a revitalised proposal for **the merger of Bromley and Orpington Colleges**. The proposal drew upon joint work already undertaken by the Colleges between 2007 and 2009. This work was endorsed at the time by the London Borough of Bromley, local MPs and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The original rationale for merger still remains and the Colleges believed the case was now even more compelling in the light of increased pressures on Further Education (FE) funding. Following Skills Funding Agency approval of the colleges' Draft Proposal at the end of December 2010, consultation was due to take place in January/February 2011 and, if successful, approval to establish the merged college is expected by early summer 2011. Members recommended that the Portfolio Holder endorses continued Local Authority support of the college merger proposal.
- 3.111 The Committee was provided with an update on the **Thyme Out project** which aims to improve the life chances of adults with learning disabilities. External funding was previously provided for the project from the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund. In discussion reference was made to the Thyme Out scheme being an excellent project; it resulted in a detailed standard of grounds maintenance at the Civic Centre and acknowledgement was given to the contribution provided by helpers and assistants. The Portfolio Holder referred to the project being an admirable scheme which he felt was well run and he asked for his best wishes to be taken back to those involved.
- 3.112 In October 2010 the Committee received the final report on **People into Employment (PiE)**. This project was established by the Council to reach its stretch target on worklessness during 2007-10 agreed as part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Members received a summary of the final outcomes with reference given to opportunities that could be considered for giving further support to the PiE target group. The target agreed in 2006 was to assist 100 residents in receipt of incapacity or lone parent related benefit for six months or more into sustained

employment (16 hours per week for at least 13 weeks.) Members noted that the actual figure achieved was 75, which was a good achievement in spite the worsening economic conditions during this period, and potentially securing £163,125 in reward money for the Council.

Town Centres

- 3.113 In June Members considered some additional work associated with the Committee's working Group on **Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centres**. The further work related to recommendations of the Working Group concerned with environmental considerations at the town centres; estimated revenue and capital costs associated with those recommendations were highlighted for officer consideration along with a further refinement of the recommendations to the Environment Portfolio Holder. The R&R PDS Members wished to retain a close interest in the outcomes of the Working Group report – and have therefore asked that updates on developments in Beckenham, West Wickham and also Penge be included in the work programme for 2011/12.
- 3.114 The Committee has continued its review of the major proposals for Bromley and Orpington Town Centres.
- 3.115 In June the Committee heard about the options for redevelopment of **Bromley Museum at the Priory in Orpington** after the planned relocation of the Library. Members heard that the preferred option was to utilise the space both to extend the museum offer and improve visitor facilities, alongside providing space for small professional business use such as those already in existence in the Priory outbuildings. In addition to supporting local employment, Members were informed that this could act as a catalyst for regenerating the immediate area around the Priory and its gardens providing an opportunity to attract financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage. This could have the effect of creating an 'arts and heritage zone' at the southern end of Orpington High Street. An outline scheme, with an estimated cost of £2.5m, had been developed meeting all the above criteria, as well as addressing original comments from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 3.116 Noting progress on the **Area Action Plan for Bromley Town Centre and the Masterplan for Orpington** (the Area Action Plan received approval at Full Council in October 2010), Members were advised that the next stage in the development process was a focus on implementation and to ensure that the development proposals contained in the AAP could be developed and delivered in accordance with the proposed phasing. The Committee was provided with the copy of a draft Development Programme, which outlined how this would be achieved for both Bromley and Orpington town centres. The key issue in securing good quality developments would be identifying funding to secure the appropriate specialist advice. Members endorsed the approach outlined in the draft Development Programme and supported the plans to draw on specialist development expertise and advise.
- 3.117 The Committee has also been kept up to date throughout with the proposals for **improvements to Bromley North Village**. Working with local stakeholders, officers had prepared a draft Renewal Strategy for the area to inform and provide direction for developing individual projects in the Plan. The draft Strategy sought to provide a wider strategic overview of renewal ambitions for the area as well as setting the longer term vision and objectives. Bromley North Village was selected in November 2009 for inclusion in the Mayor's Great

Spaces Initiative and Transport for London (TfL) had adopted a competitive bidding process to select the most innovative and imaginative schemes. Members were informed in December 2010 that this bid had been successful and funding has now been provided to develop a detailed design for the area.

- 3.118 The Committee agreed that Member input to the development of the Renewal Strategy would be valuable and a Member Working Party chaired by me was set up in June to look in detail at certain aspects of this, including community safety issues, wayfinding and branding for the Village. At the February 2011 Committee meeting it was agreed that the Town Centre Member Working Party would be designated as the main Member forum for the project to provide Member oversight and strategic guidance. Members of the Committee's Working Party will be invited to attend the TCMWP for these considerations and further updates will be provided to the Committee.
- 3.119 In February 2011 the Committee considered a report summarising proposals for **Town Centre Management activities** planned for 2011/12, including events and Christmas lights, and requesting that sufficient resources be made available from the Portfolio Initiatives Fund to deliver the planned activities. The report also proposed a reduction in the net expenditure by the Council on Town Centre activities during the 2011/12 financial year, to be offset by seeking additional contributions from the private sector. The Portfolio Holder was being asked to recommend to the Executive that the expected under spend of £53,400 could be carried forward and allocated for Town Centre Management and also approve the permanent viring of a sum of £50,000 from the Portfolio Initiative Fund for use on the proposed activities from 2011/12 onwards. Members approved of the proposal to reduce the overall level of funding in favour of finding additional contributions from businesses and endorsed Council support for most of the activities proposed in the report, including the plans to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Economic Recession & Business Support Programme

- 3.120 The year has seen the continuation of difficult economic conditions, nationally and locally. The Committee has actively kept abreast of the impact on the Borough and the support and help that the Council and its partners can provide to its communities, in particular to local businesses.
- 3.121 Regular economic updates have provided evidence to the Committee of the economic position and helped in its scrutiny of policy and projects.
- 3.122 The Committee has in the past supported several measures to **support businesses** through the recession. The Committee was provided with a report on the outcomes of these, including the Supply Bromley project to encourage local businesses into the Council and public sector supply chain. This initiative in particular was applauded by Members as providing a practical way for the Council to support businesses. Members endorsed plans to renew the Coaching for High Growth project - which provides subsidised support to assist local businesses to overcome barriers to growth – the hosting of a borough wide 'Boost Your Business' event (with the introduction of an entrance fee) and extension of procurement support projects. In addition Members welcomed the proposal to seek the development of a high profile inward investment show case event for the borough – which would highlight the advantages of the borough as a

business location and 'sell' the development sites arising across the borough, particularly following the adoption of the Bromley AAP.

Leisure and Culture

- 3.123 The Committee considered the **Bromley Mytime Leisure Trust Draft Service Delivery Plan** for 2011/12 including Bromley Mytime's Annual Partnership Plan for 2011/12, details of Bromley Mytime's five-year Investment Fund proposal and details of Bromley Mytime's pricing proposals for 2011/12. Mr Dennis Barkway, Chairman of Bromley Mytime introduced the item and Mr Steve Price, Chief Executive of Bromley Mytime gave an overview. The ensuing discussions took in pricing, the impact of the Olympics on demand and possible future funding and the funding of capital improvements at dual use facilities at schools. Members supported the Service Delivery Plan and Investment Fund Programme of works for 2011/12.
- 3.124 Contracts for the refurbishment of the **Pavilion Leisure Centre** (including the introduction of a ten-pin bowling alley) and for the operation of the **Churchill Theatre** were scrutinised by the committee in October 2010.
- 3.125 In June 2010, Members agreed to establish a Working Group to consider the future delivery of the Borough's **Library Service**, chaired by me. In February 2011 The Committee considered a report summarising the findings of the Working Group which outlined four options for the future development of the Library Service. Members discussed the various options and agreed that option 4 should be explored further in line with the recommendation of the Working Group. This involved working in partnership with Bexley to develop a shared service across both boroughs, with the potential for attendant back office and management savings. It was understood by Members that nothing could be ruled in or out, including the issue of whether any branch libraries would need to close or amalgamate with other service points. Members expressed support for the overall proposal but some had reservations over the possible closure of libraries. Members asked that a further report around Option 4 providing detailed costs and savings be provided to the next meeting Committee.

Property Matters

- 3.126 In December 2010 Members considered a report related to the 12 **Council owned Shopping Parades** of estate shops (141 shop units) built as part of housing estate schemes in the 1950's to provide facilities for the day to day requirements of local residents. The Council sub-lets these to individual shopkeepers and small businesses most of which are local traders although there are some multiple traders; it was a matter of whether retaining these properties in the Council's ownership was providing best value to the Council tax payer. Members were informed that the shops currently produced a good net return to the Council when measured against their indicative capital values. Overall this was currently estimated at 9.2% and it was anticipated that this would improve further when the voids were reduced over the next few months – and Members noted that this is a better rate of return than could be obtained currently by investing the capital receipts on the money market. In the light of this Members were supportive of retaining the shopping parades in Council ownership.

Performance Monitoring and Budget Monitoring Reports

- 3.127 The Committee has received regular performance monitoring and budget monitoring reports. The delivery of the Local Area Agreement employment target was the subject of a specific report. The Committee also received a report from Internal Audit regarding the Value for Money scoring for Building Control – which was judged to be a level 3, meaning that Value for Money requirements were being substantially met by that service.
- 3.128 In January 2011 Members considered a **draft 2011/12 Budget** for the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio incorporating cost pressures and additional saving options as reported to the Executive on 12th January 2011. The Executive requested that each PDS Committee consider the proposals arising from the report to its 12th January meeting entitled “The Local Government Finance Settlement 2011/12 to 2012/13 and Related Budget Issues”. For the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio, commentary was provided on the position for five areas namely the Cotmandene and Mottingham shops, the Field Studies Centre, the Adult Education Centre, income from Planning Applications and income from Building Control. Savings options across the Portfolio were also detailed for the consideration of Members. The scale of the cuts proposed across the Council were emphasised to Members. There was much discussion regarding the savings proposals outlined for the Portfolio and there was particular concern that the effects of proposed cuts to the Arts Council grant and to the Planning Enforcement section should be mitigated. Recommendations to the Executive reflected these particular concerns.

Conclusion

- 3.129 In conclusion it has been an interesting and exciting year for the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee and I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their input and support. I would also like to thank all Officers in the Renewal and Recreation Department with whom I have enjoyed working.

Cllr. Sarah Phillips
Chairman, Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Public Protection & Safety PDS

Chairman: Cllr. Tim Stevens JP

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Douglas Auld

- 3.130 During 2010/11 the Public Protection and Safety Committee met seven times and had three joint meetings i.e. with Children and Young People PDS Committee, the General Purpose and Licensing Committee and the Adult and Community Services PDS Committee. The purpose was to discuss the Youth Offending Team, alcohol and violent crime, the Drug Action Team and security at the Bethlem Royal Hospital.
- 3.131 The PPS Portfolio is truly cross-cutting both in terms of Council wide input to its objectives and the contribution made by external partners. In line with this, the Committee has introduced a new thematic approach to its work this year. Also, over the summer months there was a Directorate change for Public Protection and Safety matters from Adult and Community Services to Environmental Services. We have altered our approach to include the agenda of the Safer Bromley Partnership and set up a schedule of visits for Members to see how partners and officers work in delivering Portfolio objectives.
- 3.132 Issues considered over the past year were:
1. Ward Security
 2. Probation Service presentation on operation pay back
 3. Scrutiny of the Safer Bromley Partnership
 4. Review of the Council's CCTV including a trip to the control room
 5. Bromley Community Engagement Forum
 6. Alcohol and Crime
 7. RIPA Powers
 8. New Government proposals for anti social behaviour
- 3.133 The other key theme for the Committee was engagement and once again I would like to thank our co-opted representatives from a number of local organisations for their contributions throughout the year.

Our co-optees include:

1. Bromley Neighbourhood Watch
2. Bromley Victim Support
3. Bromley Youth Council

4. Bromley Federation of Residence Associations
 5. Bromley Engagement Forum
- 3.134 The Committee has implemented a programme of presentations as well as the thematic approach, and the following presentations took place:
- Trading Standards
 - Noise
 - Anti- Social Behaviour.
- 3.135 The Committee had a visit from the Greater London Assembly (GLA) Member James Cleverly who provided an update us on matters to do with the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) and Safer Neighbourhood Policing.
- 3.136 The local police have been in regular attendance at meetings and the Borough Commander, Charles Griggs, gave regular updates on crime and policing in the Borough of Bromley.
- 3.137 The PDS Committee has regularly scrutinised the decisions of the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder and we have worked together in a spirit of close and productive co-operation.
- 3.138 I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Co-opted Committee Members for all their hard work and support over the last year and as always finally thank officers for their dedication, commitment and support over the last year.

Cllr. Tim Stevens JP
Chairman, Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee