

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the  
Council of the Borough  
held at 7.30 pm on 28 February 2011

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor George Taylor**

**The Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Ruth Bennett**

### Councillors

Reg Adams	Ellie Harmer	Gordon Norrie
Graham Arthur	Will Harmer	Tony Owen
Douglas Auld	David Hastings	Tom Papworth
Kathy Bance	Brian Humphrys	Ian F. Payne
Jane Beckley	Samaris Huntington-	Sarah Phillips
Julian Benington	Thresher	Neil Reddin
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	William Huntington-	Catherine Rideout
Eric Bosshard	Thresher	Charles Rideout
John Canvin	John Ince	Richard Scoates
Stephen Carr	Charles Joel	Colin Smith
Roger Charsley	Kate Lymer	Diane Smith
Peter Dean	Paul Lynch	Tim Stevens
Judi Ellis	Diana MacMull	Harry Stranger
Robert Evans	Mrs Anne Manning	Michael Tickner
Roxy Fawthrop	David McBride	Pauline Tunncliffe
Simon Fawthrop	Russell Mellor	Michael Turner
Peter Fookes	Alexa Michael	Stephen Wells
Peter Fortune	Nick Milner	
John Getgood	Peter Morgan	
Julian Grainger	Ernest Noad	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair  
The Mayor  
Councillor George Taylor

## 42 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Katy Boughey, Lydia Buttinger and Russell Jackson. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Samaris Huntington-Thresher.

#### **43 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were confirmed, subject to the following amendments:

- i) Appendix A – Oral Questions by members of the Council – Question 3: reply by the Chairman of the Development Control Committee; last sentence to read ‘Councillor Michael commented that her menu choices contributed £8.30 to the bill total. The bill was paid by Peter Martin of the Planning Department.’
- ii) Appendix – Statement of Licensing Policy 2011-14: alter date for commencement of the scheme to 7th January 2011.

#### **44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were advised that under the Code of Conduct they would not have a prejudicial interest in setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government and Finance Act 1992.

Those members who were appointed by the Council as Governors of local schools and members of the local government pension scheme declared personal interests and a list of this information had been circulated.

The following additional personal interests were declared:

Councillor Auld as his wife was an employee of the Council; Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP as a Governor of Langley Park School for Girls which was not shown on the list circulated; Councillor Judy Ellis who had a son working as a teacher at a Bromley School; Councillor Simon Fawthrop as a parent of a child attending a Bromley School; Councillor Roxanna Fawthrop whose sister attended a Bromley School; Councillor Peter Fookes who was a Trustee of Penge and Anerley Age Concern; Councillor Julian Grainger as a parent of three children attending Bromley Schools; Councillor Samaris Huntington-Thresher as a non elected Governor of Orpington College; Councillor Paul Lynch as a parent of a child attending a Bromley School; Councillor Diane McMull as a Governor of Langley Park School for Girls which was not shown on the list circulated; Councillor Peter Morgan who was a Trustee of Bromley and Downham Youth Club which received a small grant from the Council; Councillor Tony Owen who had a daughter teaching at a Bromley School; Councillor Ian Payne who was a school Governor at Edgebury Primary School which was not included on the list circulated; Councillor Sarah Phillips who had two children attending Bromley schools and was a school governor at the Bromley Adult Education College. Councillor Neil Reddin who had one child about to start at a Bromley School and was also a non LEA Governor of St Olave’s Grammar School; Councillors Colin and Diane Smith who had a daughter working at Bromley Library; Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe who had two children attending Bromley schools; and Councillor Turner who was a Trustee of Bromley and Downham Youth Club which received a small grant from the Council.

Councillor Bance declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 – Motion: Community Infrastructure Levy and left the room during consideration and discussion of this matter.

#### **45 PETITIONS**

Members were informed that there were no petitions to report to this Council Meeting.

#### **46 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There was 1 written question and three members of the public attended to ask oral questions at the meeting – these are attached as Appendix A and B to the minutes.

#### **47 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

These are attached as Appendices C and D.

#### **48 STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, PORTFOLIO HOLDERS OR CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety reported that it had been possible to find funding from various grant sources to support several different Community Safety areas of work, including continuing with the Domestic Abuse Advocates and the Safer Bromley Van. Application had been made for Community Safety Funding to support various work in the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. Councillor Morgan also advised that he would be reporting to the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee on proposals to expand the Mentoring Scheme for young people.

#### **49 BUDGET (REVENUE AND CAPITAL) - REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS 2nd and 14th FEBRUARY 2011**

##### **(1) 2011 COUNCIL TAX**

A report of the Director of Resources amending the recommendations of the special Executive meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 concerning the Council Tax 2011/12 had been circulated which included the final position on levies as follows:

	<b>£'000</b>
<b><i>London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA)</i></b>	<b>455</b>
<b><i>London Boroughs Grant Committee</i></b>	<b>530</b>
<b><i>Environment Agency (Flood Defence etc.)</i></b>	<b>218</b>
<b><i>Lee Valley Regional Park (see above)</i></b>	<b>394</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>1,597</b>

A motion to receive and adopt the recommendations, including the revised recommendations of the Executive, together with an additional amendment to recommendation (b) was proposed by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Arthur.

The following amendment to the recommendations of the Executive (as amended by the Director of Resources) was proposed by Councillor McBride and seconded by Councillor Adams-

“The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2011/12 and indicative budget for 2012/13:

- (a) Do not proceed with the following savings:
- (i) Positive Activities for Young People (£38k in 2011/12);
  - (ii) Connexions and Targeted Youth Support (£1,200k in 2011/12);
  - (i) Reduce spend on Private Sector Renewal Grant (£350k in 2011/12);
  - (ii) Reduce funding for sheltered housing (£500k in 2011/12);
  - (iii) Review rangers service and park security contract (£156k in 2011/12);
  - (iv) Playground repairs/bins in parks (£20k in 2011/12);
  - (v) Reduce non-routine maintenance of street lights and signs (£25k in 2011/12);
  - (vi) Parks strategy and Friends Groups etc. (£10k in 2011/12);
  - (vii) That the unallocated balanced of £255k, included in the Director of Resources report, is utilised towards partly meeting the net impact of the proposals above
- (b) Establish a libraries trust with savings of £93k in 2011/12 and £373k in the full year);
- (c) Delete provision of £500k in 2011/12 Central Contingency Sum for risk/service pressure;
- (d) Reduce by £221k the provision for uncertain items in the 2011/12 Central Contingency Sum (balance remaining of £279k);
- (e) Reduce the Council’s annual contribution towards the pension fund deficit by £950k resulting in extending the deficit recovery period from 12 to 15 years;

As a consequence of the changes above the existing recommendations, after allowing for the report of the Director of resources re item 9, be amended as follows:

**Recommendation (b)**

That the draft revenue budget be increased by £280k in 2011/12;

**Recommendation (f)**

The following further amendments be included within the 2011/12 Budget:

Approve a central contingency sum of £7,074k to reflect the changes in (b) above;

**Recommendation (n)**

A budgeted withdrawal of £280k from General Fund Balances be approved for 2011/12 to support the 2011/12 revenue budget (the full year savings from the Libraries Trust result in one year funding only from balances)."

**On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST.**

The following amendment to the recommendations of the Executive (as amended by the Director of Resources) was proposed by Councillor Getgood and Councillor Fookes -

"The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2011/12 and indicative budget for 2012/13:

(a) Do not proceed with the following savings:

- (ii) Pupil clothing and footwear grant totalling £100k in 2011/12 rising to £200k per annum in 2012/13;
- (iii) Reduction in family centres from 2012/13 (£2,200k per annum);
- (iv) Integrated Youth Service (£1,200k per annum from 2011/12);
- (v) Youth Offending Team Service – management post (£40k per annum from 2011/12);
- (vi) Charging for Care Services (£200k in 2011/12 rising to £300k per annum in 2012/13);
- (vii) Non eligible day care users paying full cost (£50k per annum from 2012/13);
- (viii) Review Park Ranger Service and Park Security Contract (£156k in 2011/12 rising to £241k in 2012/13);
- (ix) Deletion of school crossing patrols (£233k in 2012/13);
- (x) Stop Parks Strategy (£10k in 2011/12 rising to £53k in 2012/13);

- (xi) Amalgamate Penge and Anerley Libraries (£90k in 2012/13);
  - (xii) Removal of Mayoral and Deputy allowances (£16k in 2012/13);
  - (xiii) Removal of support for Cllr IT (£20k per annum from 2011/12)
  - (xiv) That the unallocated balanced of £255k, included in the Director of Resources report, is utilised towards partly meeting the net impact of the proposals above
- (b) Provide additional funding of £450k per annum from 2011/12 targeted to areas of greatest deprivation for early years intervention to support vulnerable children;
- (c) Increase car park charges (off street and on street) from 2012/13 which assuming no fall out of usage would generate additional income of £1,370k from 2012/13;
- (d) 10% reduction in maintenance of highways, verges and trees providing savings of £600k per annum;
- (e) Reorganisation of Directorates providing savings of £200k from 2012/13;
- (f) Further savings, in addition to the savings considered by Executive, by bringing forward reduction in Portfolio Holders to 5 in 2011/12 (£31k in 2011/12) and from 2012/13 reducing Portfolio Holders to 4 (plus the Leader) – further saving of £31k from 2012/13;
- (g) The net impact of the above proposals would be funding from the use of reserves totalling £1,301k in 2011/12 and £2,719k in 2012/13 (after allowing for a reduction in income from interest on balances of £11k in 2011/12 and £82k in 2012/13).

As a consequence of the changes above the existing recommendations, after allowing for the report of the Director of Resources re item 9, be amended as follows:

**Recommendation (b)**

That the draft revenue budget be increased by £1,301k in 2011/12 (indicative increase of £2,719k in 2012/13);

**Recommendation (f)**

The following further amendments be included within the 2011/12 Budget:

Approves a central contingency sum of £7,795k to reflect the changes in (b) above;

**Recommendation (n)**

A budgeted withdrawal of £1,301k from General Fund Balances be approved for 2011/12 to support the 2011/12 revenue budget (an indicative further withdrawal of £2,719k in 2012/13)."

**On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST.**

The recommendations of the Executive (as amended) were, after debate, put to the vote and **CARRIED** as follows:-

**Recommendation (b)**

**Approves the draft revenue 2011/12 Budget and the additional savings for 2011/12 and 2012/13, included in the report to the Executive, with the following amendments:**

- (i) Executive requested that the proposal to reduce a Planning Enforcement Officer does not proceed. Alternative funding has been identified by the Director of Renewal and Recreation from new savings in Ordnance Survey Mapping Fees to enable the post to be retained;**
- (ii) Executive agreed an unallocated balance of £282k which was available for the provision for risk/service pressures. Executive also agreed that funding for continuation of the Volunteer Child Protection scheme should be met which reduces this unallocated balance by £38k to £244k;**
- (iii) That the latest information on Lee Valley Levy precept results in a reduction of £11k (reduced from £405k to £394k in latest 2011/12 Budget). This increases the remaining unallocated balance to £255k;**
- (iv) That the unallocated balance of £255k remains within the provision for risk/service pressures in the 2011/12 Central Contingency Sum;**
- (v) Reduction in local democracy savings of £120,000 to ensure democratic responsibilities are fulfilled. The monies to be retained within the 2011/12 Central Contingency Sum.**

### Recommendation (e)

The following provisions for levies be included in the budget for 2011/12:

	£'000
London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA)	455
London Boroughs Grant Committee	530
Environment Agency (Flood Defence etc.)	218
Lee Valley Regional Park (see above)	394
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,597</b>

### Recommendation (f)

The following further amendments be included within the 2011/12 Budget:

Approves a central contingency sum of £8,050k to reflect the changes in (b) above;

### Recommendation (h)

Sets a nil variation in Bromley's council tax for 2011/12, compared with 2010/11, which includes a nil increase in the GLA precept:

Property	Split of Council Tax		Council Tax
	Bromley	GLA	
	£.p	£.p	
Band 'A'	<b>660.87</b>	<b>206.55</b>	867.42
Band 'B'	<b>771.02</b>	<b>240.97</b>	1,011.99
Band 'C'	<b>881.16</b>	<b>275.40</b>	1,156.56
Band 'D'	<b>991.31</b>	<b>309.82</b>	1,301.13
Band 'E'	<b>1,211.60</b>	<b>378.67</b>	1,590.27
Band 'F'	<b>1,431.89</b>	<b>447.52</b>	1,879.41
Band 'G'	<b>1,652.18</b>	<b>516.37</b>	2,168.55
Band 'H'	<b>1,982.62</b>	<b>619.64</b>	2,602.26

*(Note: The Leader of the Council during the course of his speech thanked Mr Paul Dale, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, who was retiring from the Council, after having been with Bromley since July 2000. He paid tribute to Mr Dale's commitment to the Borough and his skill and loyalty. Councillor McBride added his thanks to Mr Dale for his support and dedication to the Council. Councillor Getgood also expressed similar appreciation for Mr Dale's professionalism and the support he had given to all members.)*



**2) CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER MONITORING 2010/11**

A motion to approve the recommendations amending the Capital Programme was duly proposed and seconded.

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**3) CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2010**

A motion to approve the recommendation on the Capital Programme Review was duly proposed and seconded.

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**50 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE -16th FEBRUARY 2011 - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2011/12**

A Motion to formally approve the Member's Allowances Scheme 2011/12 (Appendix F) was proposed, seconded and adopted.

**51 REPORT OF THE RESOURCES PORTFOLIO HOLDER TREASURY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2011/12**

A Motion to approve the recommendation on the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy was duly proposed and seconded.

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**52 REPORT ON EXECUTIVE DELEGATIONS AND STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources spoke of his work with Mr Paul Dale, Director of Resources, and had found his advice and assistance invaluable. He thanked Mr Dale for all his support and wished him well for the future.

A motion to approve the delegations was proposed, seconded and adopted.

**53 MOTIONS**

Notice of two Motions had been received but Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP advised that he had withdrawn the motion on membership of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee which would now be dealt with by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Stephen Carr and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith:

“This Council believes the imposition of a Community Infrastructure Levy as a means of funding the Cross Rail project as outlined in the Mayor’s consultation documents is fundamentally flawed and unfair as there can be no obvious benefit to Boroughs such as Bromley.

Accordingly, the Council calls upon other like minded Councils and the Director of Legal and Democratic and Customer Services to explore the potential to challenge most vigorously the imposition of such a levy.”

**On being put to the vote this Motion was CARRIED.**

*(Councillor Bance left the Council Chamber during consideration of this item.)*

#### **54 DATES OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Attention was drawn to the following changes to Council Meeting dates:

- a) A special Council Meeting had been called for Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 commencing at 7pm to consider the Biggin Hill Airport proposals. This would be followed by a meeting of the Executive who would make the final decision on the matter.
- b) The date of the Council Meeting on the published Programme of Meetings scheduled for Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 was before the meetings of the last Executive and General Purposes and Licensing Committee for this municipal year in case there were any matters of business requiring a Council decision. It was agreed that the Council Meeting date be moved to Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The new Programme of Meetings for next year had also been amended to reflect this arrangement.

The change of dates was noted.

#### **55 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked members for their support for the dinner at the House of Commons and the successful Quiz Night held the previous week in aid of his Charity and the support from Councillor Ian Payne and his family for organising the quiz.

He announced that on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Councillor Mellor had agreed to ‘teach’ guests about wine and that there would be a last charity bike ride on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 in Jubilee Park.

*Council*  
*28 February 2011*

The Mayor added his personal thanks and paid tribute to the work of Mr Paul Dale, Director of Resources, as this was his last Council meeting before leaving Bromley.

Mayor

The Meeting ended at 10.40 pm