

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

## STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

The Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor Colin Smith, has made the following executive decision:

### COMMUNITY NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

#### Reference Report:

*ENV PDS 050411 item 8b Community Nursery Development*

#### Decision:

(1) Subject to the agreement of the Resources Portfolio Holder, the former Allotment Site at Brook Lane, Downham and Land South of Cranworth Cottages, between Nos. 17 – 43 Leaves Green Road, Leaves Green be used to establish community horticulture nursery facilities.

(2) The proposed community horticulture nursery and growing area be agreed subject to adequate external funding being secured.

(3) The Leaves Green site is, and must continue to be protected as Green Belt land; no hard-standings, sheds or other buildings are to be installed on the land as part of this scheme.

#### Reasons:

For the past year, the Parks and Greenspace Service have delivered the 'Park Time' and 'Grow Time' pilot health initiatives funded by the local Primary Care Trust (PCT). Based at the Cray Valley, the programmes have sought to improve people's health through involvement in landscape maintenance work and growing projects. Both groups are now formally constituted sitting under the "Friends of Parks" umbrella. Those interested in conservation and horticulture work with the "Park Time" team and clients of the "Grow Time" team learn to run an allotment site and grow produce.

As a next stage of development it is intended that the programme becomes sustainable without relying on the Council's financial resources. The vision is to expand the programme to work across all Wards, providing additional maintenance to Bromley's parks and open spaces. Grow Time and Park Time clients need an area large enough to grow shrubs, trees and plants, as new stock or replacements to help populate Bromley Council's flowerbeds and shrubberies. Training and tools etc are to be funded externally through the PCT and other agencies. Existing clients have also raised funds to provide necessary seeds. Surplus land off Leaves Green Road would be used to "grow on" plants once they had left Brook Lane so ensuring they become hardy before planting in parks by the Grow Time and Park Time volunteers.

In time a trading arm would be developed to enable self sufficiency and a viable social enterprise could potentially evolve. The project would be supported by the Friends of Parks and Streets, the Allotments and grassroots sports providers. Adequate external funding would be sought to meet costs at both sites for years 1 and 2 and the project was not expected to require any LBB funding other than 16 hours of officer time per week.

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Councillor Colin Smith  
Environment Portfolio Holder

**Mark Bowen**  
**Director of Resources**  
**Bromley Civic Centre**  
**Stockwell Close**  
**Bromley BR1 3UH**

**Date of Decision:** 18 April 2011  
**Implementation Date (subject to call-in):** 27 April 2011  
**Decision Reference:** ENV10056