

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING**  
**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair) and Coughlin (Vice-Chair)<sup>1</sup> and Councillors Fox, Jones, Kagan, D Long, Lyon, R S Patel and Thomas.

An apology for absence was given on behalf of Councillor Beswick.

Councillors Fiegel, Moher and Van Colle also attended the meeting.

**1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None declared.

**2. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004 be approved as an accurate record.

**3. Matters Arising**

None.

**4. Order of Business**

RESOLVED:

that the order of business be amended to as set out below.

**5. Modernising Residential Care for People with Learning Disabilities and Acquisition of Permanent and Temporary Accommodation: Private Finance Initiative**

The Executive received a report updating them on the proposed PFI project, which had received conditional consent from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in regard to the Outline Business Plan, and sought authority to undertake the necessary tasks so that an OJEU notice could be prepared. In addition, it advised Members of the anticipated costs associated with taking the project forward to commercial close and asked Members to confirm their decision to support the project. Councillor Thomas explained that the project would deliver affordable homes and replace accommodation for specialist clients.

Councillor Coughlin enquired about the possibility of the expenditure being deferred over the lifetime of the project and was advised that the aim was to include these in the scheme but the potential costs that would fall on the general fund were indicated in the report to ensure the risk was managed.

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<sup>1</sup> as amended at 15 Nov 04 meeting

In response to an enquiry, it was made clear that the requirements as to what would be built on the existing sites were still being established but the basic intentions were to provide the temporary accommodation first and to facilitate mixed communities in the longterm.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that support for the project be confirmed;
- (ii) that the preparation of the OJEU notice be agreed;
- (iii) that the anticipated expenditure required to bring the project to commercial close and the proposed funding strategy be noted.

## **6. Statement of Licensing Policy**

Councillor Jones introduced the Council's draft statement of licensing policy for consideration and made reference to the response to consultation that had been circulated separately. She moved a motion in her name to the effect of incorporating the results of the consultation into the policy as it progressed towards being finalised and made an additional recommendation in respect of the Neasden area, which was AGREED.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that an amended draft Statement of Licensing Policy, taking account of the Response to Consultation document by revising policies 8.1 and 8.2 and by incorporating minor changes set out in the table of responses, be approved;
- (ii) that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy, as amended, be forwarded to the Overview Committee for consideration for onward submission to the Executive to make any further amendments to the Policy that might be necessary following consultation;
- (iii) that it be noted that a further report setting out the feedback received from the Overview Committee and an updated draft of Licensing Policy would be brought before the Executive at its next meeting for further consideration and for onward submission to Full Council;
- (iv) that officers investigate the levels of crime, disorder and nuisance in the Neasden area, and whether this was related to licensed premises in that area, and report back to the Executive on the need for a cumulative impact policy to be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy.

## **7. Audit Commission Inspection of Cultural Services in Brent 2004**

Members considered a report outlining the result of the Audit Commission's Inspection of Brent's cultural services in July 2004, which was the first to be conducted in the country and from which the Council had been awarded a two star rating. It was noted that the inspection result would form part of the

Government's Comprehensive Performance Assessment of Brent Council and the inspection measured the impact and effectiveness of Brent's service delivery against the shared national priorities, as well as the locally identified priorities.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the inspection result and comments made in the Inspection Report be noted;
- (ii) that the Action Plan to address the issues raised in the report be approved;
- (iii) that the officers in all of the services inspected, and those from the Policy and Regeneration Unit who were involved, be congratulated for their efforts.

#### **8. Ninth London Local Authorities Bill**

The Executive had before them a report concerning the promotion of a further General Powers Bill on behalf of London Local Authorities in the next parliamentary session. It was noted that, at the request of the Association of London Government, the City of Westminster had agreed to act as lead borough in the promotion of the bill.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Brent's participation in the proposed legislation; be approved; and
- (ii) that it be recommended to Full Council to pass a first resolution at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 approving the London Borough of Brent's participation in the proposed legislation and approving the inclusion in the bill (being promoted by the Westminster City Council under the name or short title of "London Local Authorities") of provisions effecting all or some of the purposes set out in the detail at paragraph 7.2 of the report; and to enact any additional, supplemental and consequential provisions that may appear necessary or convenient.

#### **9. Complaints Annual Report 03/04**

Councillor D Long introduced the annual report for 2003/04 on complaints about Brent Council noting that this was the fifth annual report on the operation of the Council's complaints procedure. He warned that as it became more widely known how well the Council handled complaints there was likely to be an increase in the number of complaints received but expressed the view that however many were received what mattered most was how they were dealt with.

The Executive then took the opportunity to wish Angela Hickey (Corporate Complaints Officer) well in her new position with the Prison Service noting the transformation in Brent's complaints record during her time in post and that systems were in place that would continue into the future. An additional

recommendation was moved to congratulate staff involved in complaints handling and this was AGREED.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that the relevant officers across the Council be congratulated for the improvements in complaints handling.

**10. Brent's Voluntary Sector Compact**

The Executive received a report introducing Brent's voluntary sector compact produced by the boroughs local strategic partnership (LSP), Partners for Brent. The purpose of 'Our Compact' would be to support and promote effective working relationships across all sectors. It expressed the LSP's statement of commitment to partnership working across the voluntary, community, public and private sectors and a related list of actions.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Council approve and become a signatory of 'Our Compact'.
- (ii) that a designated officer, within the Voluntary Sector Support Service, Education, Arts & Libraries be appointed as the Council's point of contact on matters concerning the compact;
- (iii) that copies of 'Our Compact' be sent to all Members.

**11. Any Other Urgent Business**

None.

**12. Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED:

that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting as the following items contain exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 namely:-

Any terms proposed, or to be proposed, by or to the Authority in the course of negotiations for a contract or for the acquisition or disposal of property or supply of goods or services.

**12. Youth & Community Centres Review – Update**

The Executive was reminded that a report entitled "Review of Non-Brent Managed Youth & Community Centres" was taken to a special meeting of the Executive on 18 August 2003. The Executive in making its decisions on the 16 centres covered by that report had instructed officers to report back on a number of the centres where additional work or negotiations with the centres'

managements was required. The report now before them was the first report back on a number of issues which were outstanding at the time of the August 2003 report and also updated the Executive on the actions which were agreed in that report.

Councillor Coughlin moved a motion to amend the recommendation in respect of the Kingsbury Centre and to amend the proposals in respect of reporting back to the Executive. It was agreed that a time limit should be set in respect of agreeing terms on the Kingsbury Centre and an amendment to the motion to include this was proposed. The motion as amended was AGREED.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress as at September 2004 towards implementing the decisions agreed in August 2003 for the 16 centres (paragraph 8.0 of the report refers) be noted;
- (ii) that it be noted that the leases for the centres were with solicitors for completion;
- (iii) that with regard to:
  - (a) Learie Constantine Community Centre: the repayment plan (para. 8.10.2 of the report refers) be approved;
  - (b) Mahogany Arts: it be noted that a separate report would be brought to the Executive when outstanding legal issues had been agreed and a way forward agreed with Mahogany Community Ventures Limited (para. 8.11.2.7 of the report refers);
  - (c) Pakistan Community Centre: it be noted that a separate report would be brought to the Executive when the legal rights, if any, of the Pakistan Workers Association to the Pakistan Community Centre had been established and agreed by the Council and terms agreed with the trustees of the Pakistan Workers Association (para. 8.12.2.4 of the report refers).
  - (d) Preston & the Mall Community Centre: that the inclusion of the outbuilding in the lease of the centre to the Preston & Mall Youth & Community Association (para. 8.13.2.2 of the report refers) be agreed.
  - (e) The Gladstone Centre: that the proposals outlined in the report be noted (para. 8.5.2.5 of the report refers).
  - (f) The Dennis Jackson Centre and the Wembley Centre: it be noted that if a transaction eventually materialised with the Governors of Copland School then details of the transaction would be included in a separate report to the Executive – (paras. 8.3.3 and 8.16.3 refer) and it be agreed that in the meantime interim lease arrangements would be concluded with the respective occupiers of the two sites.

- (g) The Kingsbury Centre: that the earlier decision to grant a lease of the premises to the owner of the day nursery to act as 'head tenant' be endorsed subject to officers taking such other steps as they consider necessary to ensure that the premises are available for use by other community groups and, in the event that it is not possible to agree suitable terms with the owner of the day nursery by the end of November 2004, that the offer be withdrawn and an offer be made to the Cypriot Youth Club to act as 'head tenant' and subject to a license in favour of the owner of the day nursery to enable her to continue to operate a nursery from part of the premises for certain hours during the week.
- (iv) that the Manager, Corporate Property Services be instructed to write to the centres let on long leases to advise the lessees of their responsibilities under the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (CAWR) 2002 and obtain action plans from them on the way they intend to discharge their responsibilities;
- (v) that, in addition to the reports referred to in resolutions (iii) b), c), e) and f) above, a further Executive report be produced in the event that problems arise in the implementation of any of the other items covered by the remainder of resolution (iii).

### 13. **522-524 Kingsbury Road – Lease Renewal**

The Executive received a report seeking the Executive's consent to the renewal of the Council's lease of the above property on the terms detailed within.

RESOLVED:-

that it be agreed to renew the Council's lease of the above shop/office and residential block for a term of 10 years from 29 September 2003, the expiry date of the current lease, on the main terms set out in the detail of the report and such other terms which the Manager of Corporate Property Services considers to be in the best interest of the Council.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm  
A JOHN  
Chair

*Mins0405/Executive/exec11ocj*