

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING
Monday, 10th April 2006 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair) and Councillors, Fox, Jones, D Long, Lyon and R S Patel.

Councillor Gladbaum also attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors Coughlin, Beswick, Kagan and Thomas.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Fox declared a personal interest in the item relating to the compulsory purchase of land at Dollis Hill Industrial Estate.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th March 2006 be approved as an accurate record.

3. Item referred by the Forward Plan Select Committee – 28th March 2006

The Executive received an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee held on 28th March which set out the discussion at the meeting on the update report regarding the Casino Advisory Panel previously considered by the Executive. It was agreed to note the issues raised by the Select Committee.

4. Petition – Trees in Liddell Gardens, NW10

Consideration of this item was deferred to later in the meeting to allow the petitioners time to attend.

5. Petition for CCTV Cameras and Lighting in Bathurst Gardens

The petition from residents, which asked for CCTV cameras and additional lighting, was received. The lead petitioner had been informed that this petition would be considered at this meeting and the report looked into the standard of lighting and the provision of CCTV in Bathurst Gardens.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that it be noted the standard of lighting in Bathurst Gardens meets the British Standard 5489 and it is resolved not to change the current British Standard of lighting in this road;
- (ii) that officers approach Silverlink and ask them to reposition their camera on the station roof as suggested in paragraph 3.8 of the report;

- (iii) that officers approach Transport for London for funding to position a camera on 639 Harrow Road NW10 as recommended by the Crime Prevention Manager.

6. Statement of Community Involvement Adoption

The purpose of this report was to inform members that a binding report was issued by the Planning Inspector, following the Independent Examination on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and that the SCI passed its test of soundness. The Executive was asked to adopt the revised SCI and refer it to Full Council for approval.

- (i) that the Inspector's Binding Report be noted;
- (ii) that Full Council be recommended to adopt and publish the revised Statement of Community Involvement incorporating the Inspector's recommendations.

7. Authority to tender Contract for Waste Services

The Director of Environment and Culture introduced this report concerned with the provision of waste management services to the borough. The report requested approval from the Executive to commence a tendering process and invite tenders in respect of the Council's Waste Services Contract as required by Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89. The Director advised that the proposals were for a comprehensive service including collection, recycling and street cleansing. The Lead Member for Children and Families welcomed the report expressing confidence that the proposals represented the best way of proceeding.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the pre-tender considerations and the criteria to be used to evaluate tenders as set out in paragraph 3.22 of the report from the Director of Environment and Culture;
- (ii) that approval be given to officers to invite tenders and evaluate them in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria;
- (iii) that the 20 specific recommendations shown at paragraph 3.21 of the report be approved, which will provide for proposals and costs to be submitted in respect of the kerbside dry recycling service (i.e. the range of collection methods proposed to service properties of a different type that will capture the maximum amount of material), and the frequency of street cleansing generally across the Borough (i.e. by asking for separate prices for [a] a twice per week frequency, and [b] a three times per week frequency).

8. Environment and Culture Capital Programme (Non Highway) 2006/7

This report outlined the planned capital expenditure in Environment and Culture against the capital allocation agreed at Full Council on 6th March 2006. The report made recommendations to members detailing the schemes included in the programme.

RESOLVED:-

that scheme approval be given for the schemes relating to parks and cemeteries, Bridge Park StreetCare, improved sports and leisure facilities and play areas, strategic priorities around supporting children and young people, promoting quality of life and the green agenda as detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3.3 of the report from the Director of Environment and Culture.

9. Environment & Culture Capital Spend 2006/7: Highway Major Works Programme

This report made recommendations to members detailing the prioritised programme for major footway upgrade projects, carriageway resurfacing schemes, improvements to grass verge areas and accessibility, renewal of marginal highway land, new street signage, gulley maintenance, the maintenance of road channels and footway boundaries to facilitate street cleaning, and lighting improvements. Approval had previously been given to the sum of £3,150k for the 2006/7 capital works programme. The Director of Environment and Culture drew members' attention to the reserve schemes that would be brought forward in the event of delays to programmed works or should additional funding become available.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that it be agreed to utilise the main highways capital programme of £3,150k as follows:

	% budget	amount (£)
▪ Major footway upgrade	31.7	1,000k
▪ Major carriageway resurfacing of non-principal unclassified (borough road) network (BVPI 224b)	31.7	1,000k
▪ Major carriageway resurfacing of non-principal classified (B & C road) network (BVPI 224a)	17.5	550k
▪ Improvement to grass verges and accessibility	3.2	100k
▪ Renewal of marginal highway land	2.4	75k
▪ New street signs	5.4	170k
▪ Gulley replacement/maintenance	2.4	75k
▪ Concrete roads	3.2	100k
▪ Maintenance of road channels and footway boundaries to facilitate street cleaning	2.5	80k

- (ii) that the Director of Environment and Culture be given delegated authority to apportion on the basis of the results of the SCANNER survey commissioned by TfL, which are due in May 2006, £550k of capital funding to the resurfacing of the borough's non-principal classified (B & C) road network;

- (iii) that the schemes and reserve schemes, as listed in Appendices 1 – 4 of the report from the Director of Environment and Culture be approved.

10. Extension of Brent Housing Partnership Management Agreement (The ALMO)

This report advised members on the current arrangements for the management of the Council's tenanted housing stock and requested approval for an extension of the current management agreement with Brent Housing Partnership. The Director of Housing and Community Care referred to BHP's Best Value Performance indicators which identified a general improvement and added that efforts to achieve decent homes targets were on track. Consultation was expected from the central government in June on the future of ALMOs.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the extension of the management agreement with Brent Housing Partnership for a 5-year period to 30th September 2012 be approved;
- (ii) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Housing and Community Care to make amendments to the existing agreement where necessary.

11. Sustainable Lettings – Proposed Pilot Scheme at Donnington Court

The Director of Housing and Community Care introduced this report which proposed a pilot project for the Donnington Court development to test the Council's approach to sustainable lettings. The recommendations in the report reflect the sub-regional approach currently being discussed by the West London boroughs. The proposal involved ring-fencing certain sizes of property to smaller households than would usually be accommodated in the dwellings and apart from a number of small changes, was largely in accordance with the overall lettings policy.

Councillor Lyon, (Lead Member, Children and Families) concurred that the pilot was in a good location for sustainable housing policies given the proximity to park areas, a hospital, schools, shops and public transport.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the proposals with regard to under-occupation set out in paragraphs 3.1.5. – 3.1.6 of the report from the Director of Housing and Community Care be agreed;
- (ii) that the wider Sustainable Lettings agenda that is being developed in the sub region be noted;
- (iii) that it be noted the outcomes from the pilot will be reviewed to inform consideration of lettings policy and officers will report back on progress as the sub-regional and local picture develops.

12. Empty Properties Task Group: Final Report

The Empty Properties Task Group held its final meeting on the 18th January 2006. Its agreed recommendations were included within its final report and were presented to the Quality of Life Scrutiny Panel at its meeting of the 24th January 2006.

The Director of Policy and Regeneration in the absence of the Task Group Chair advised that the recommendations had been extensively discussed within the service area and comments had been included in the report.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the recommendations of the Empty Properties Task Group for action be noted;
- (ii) that the key findings of the Task Group, as outlined in the report, be noted.

13. Housing Densities and Urban Impacts – Task Group Report

This report provided officer comments and information on legal, financial, and diversity implications of the scrutiny Task Group's report entitled Housing Densities and Urban Impacts.

RESOLVED:-

that the recommendations made in this review be noted; and the task group be thanked for their work, and the service for implementing the recommendations of the task group.

14. Performance Management Task Group: Final Report

The Performance Management Task Group held its final meeting on the 1st February 2006. Its agreed recommendations were included within its final report and were presented to the Performance and Finance Select Committee at its meeting of the 21st March 2006.

The Policy and Performance officer, in the absence of the Task Group Chair advised that a number of issues had been raised including improvements to the vital signs data and more localised working, adding that service areas were in favour of the recommendations.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the recommendations of the Performance Management Task Group for action be noted;
- (ii) that the key findings of the Task Group, as outlined in the report, be noted.

15. Best Value Performance Indicators 2004/05 Comparison Report

This report introduced the Comparison Report on Brent Council's Best Value Performance Indicators 2004/05. The Director of Policy and Regeneration stated that the indicators showed a trend of positive improvement. It was felt that a couple of the indicators, for example those relating to waste collection, did not give accurate between borough comparison due to differences in collection methodology and discussion on these was continuing.

RESOLVED:-

that the Council's performance against key performance indicators be noted.

16. Pilot Controlled Drinking Zone – Kilburn High Road Area

The presence of street drinkers in the area around Kilburn High Road and South Kilburn has led to complaints of anti-social behaviour and affected public perceptions of the area. The report proposed that a pilot CDZ be implemented, for a 6 month period, along the Kilburn High Road and within South Kilburn, adjacent to the borough boundaries with Camden and Westminster. This would give the local police powers to require people to stop drinking and confiscate and remove alcohol. The Brent CDZ would complement the CDZs that are being planned or already in place on the Camden and Westminster side of the border.

The Director of Policy and Regeneration advised that no objections had been received to the proposals, following consultation, and the police borough commander, local businesses and residents had all expressed support. He confirmed that the zone had been extended to take in some adjacent roads in the Queen's Park, Brondesbury Park and Mapesbury areas. An evaluation of the pilot would be used to inform consideration of this tool and its suitability in other areas of Brent where the consumption of alcohol in the street or public places caused problems of crime and anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted and:

- (i) that, in principle, support the implementation of a pilot controlled drinking zone in the area around Kilburn High Road and South Kilburn for an initial period of 6 months;
- (ii) that agreement be given to the area to be designated as a public place as shown in the map (Appendix A to the report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration), subject to any adjustments which may be made following consultation;
- (iii) that the report and recommendations be referred to Full Council for decision;
- (iv) that an evaluation of the scheme 6 months from implementation be submitted and then consideration be given to further options for the implementation of CDZ's elsewhere in Brent.

17. **Implementing Electronic Government Statement 6 (IEG6)**

The Council was required to submit the sixth Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statement to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) by 10th April 2006. The IEG6 statement described the Council's progress towards implementing e-Government. The Council had already achieved the December 2005 target for 100% BVPI 157 services available electronically.

RESOLVED:-

that the IEG6 Statement be approved and the Council's excellent progress towards meeting the required targets be noted.

18. **e-Government Programme 2006/7**

This report summarised progress towards the 2005/6 e-Government targets and proposes the allocation of funding to finance the ongoing maintenance of e-Government projects completed in previous years and new high priority projects that have been identified for 2006/7.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the proposed funding arrangements for 2006/7 be agreed;
- (ii) that the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be authorised to make modifications to the programme during 2006/7, which could be accommodated within the overall e-Government budget.

19. **National Non-Domestic Rate Relief & Hardship Relief**

The Council has the discretion to award rate relief to charities or non-profit making bodies. It also has the discretion to remit an individual National Non-Domestic Rate liability in whole or in part on the grounds of hardship. This report included all the applications received from 1st November 2006.

The Executive also had before them an appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained information relating to the following category of information exempt from the Local Government Access to Information Act: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).

The Executive considered a motion in the name of Councillor Coughlin which was put to the meeting and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to discretionary rate relief at 100% to local charities for the applications set out in Appendix 3 to the report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources for 2005/06;
- (ii) that approval be given to discretionary rate relief at 25% to non profit making organisations for the applications set out in Appendix 4 for 2005/06;

(iii) that the applications for hardship relief in Appendix 5 be not approved.

20. Initial Progress Report on Implementation of Key Issues within 2004/05 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter

The Director of Finance introduced this report which provided an initial progress report of the implementation of the key recommendations in the 2004/2005 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter to Brent Council.

The Executive also had before them an appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained information relating to the following category of information exempt from the Local Government Access to Information Act: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).

RESOLVED:-

that the progress to date be noted.

21. Joint Procurement of Internal Audit Services

The purpose of this report was to seek approval from the Executive to invite expressions of interest for the provision of Internal Audit Services to the Council and for those services to be procured as required by Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89 and via a joint arrangement with the London Boroughs of Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Harrow.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to officers to invite expressions of interest for the provision of Internal Audit Services to the Council;
- (ii) that it be agreed there are good financial and/or operational reasons to consider outstanding items in Standing Order 89 in a separate report to be brought by officers before Invitations to Tender are issued.

22. Brent Local Area Agreement - Next Steps

This report outlined proposed next steps for developing Brent's recently agreed Local Area Agreement (LAA). Brent's LAA was agreed with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on Thursday 23rd March 2006 and committed the Council and its partners in the Local Strategic Partnership to achieving 12 challenging stretch targets and delivering against a broad outcomes framework of performance measures over a three year period. Both the stretch targets and the outcomes framework have been the subject of extensive consultation and negotiation with our local partners and the Government Office for London (operating on behalf of the ODPM). In return for delivering these local outcomes the Council would be provided with specified freedoms and flexibilities, a reduction in some reporting requirements and the ability to pool some budgets where this will better enable the attainment of the desired local outcomes, and the receipt of up to £9.2m performance reward grant if by 2010 all stretch target are achieved.

The Director of Policy and Regeneration stated that a further report would be submitted on proposals to achieve the settled homes headline outcome.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the proposed management arrangements for the future development, implementation and monitoring of the Brent Local Area Agreement be agreed;
- (ii) that the proposed allocation of Performance Reward Grant from the Councils' Local Public Service Agreement to support the achievement of the stretch targets within the LAA, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

23. Extended Services Strategy (2006/8)

The Lead Member, Children and Families was pleased to introduce this report which gave parents and children a greater range of opportunities given the Education and Skills' expectation that all children should be able to access a core offer of extended services through schools by 2010.

The strategy aimed to build upon the strong tradition of partnership working in Brent through proposing the model 'Neighbourhood Learning Communities'. This model promoted clusters of schools working together, with a range of other statutory, community and voluntary groups, to offer extended services and activities in their neighbourhood. The strategy has been developed following the piloting of three 'Neighbourhood Learning Communities', which began in September 2005.

The Executive concurred with the Lead Member, Environment, Planning and Culture in welcoming the report.

RESOLVED:-

that the Extended Services Strategy be approved and the Neighbourhood Learning Community cluster arrangements and funding allocations be endorsed.

24. Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - School Places Task Group Report

This report provided a response to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel's report entitled 'School Places Task Group'. Councillor Lyon thanked the task group for the report which he felt largely endorsed activity already taking place. He referred to the recent high demand for school places, a situation which he felt could not have been forecast with many people arriving from abroad and choosing to live in the borough. He referred to plans to extend and build new school in the Wembley area which would help alleviate problems in the future.

RESOLVED:-

that the findings and recommendations in the School Places Task Group report be noted and the task group be thanked for their work.

25. Community Schools Admission Arrangements for September 2007

This report advised members of the need to adopt admissions arrangements for Brent's Community Schools for the September 2007 intake. This is required by 15th April 2006.

RESOLVED:-

that the proposed admissions arrangements as outlined in Appendix B to the report from the Director of Children and Families be adopted.

26. Authority to Invite Tenders For Structural Repairs at Alperton High School

This report requested approval to invite tenders in respect of the above named works contract as required by Council Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89 and to evaluate tenders as set out in paragraph 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 of this report. The Lead Member advised that this work was required under health and safety regulations.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the pre-tender considerations and the criteria to be used to evaluate tenders as set out in paragraph 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 of the report from the Director of Children and Families;
- (ii) that approval be given to officers to invite tenders and evaluate them in accordance with the approved evaluation criterion, as referred to in paragraph (i) above.

27. Compulsory Purchase of land at Dollis Hill Industrial Estate, Brook Road, London NW2

This report sought authorisation for the Council to exercise its statutory powers under the Education Act 1996 and section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the compulsory purchase of land. Councillor Lyon, Lead Member, reminded the Executive that the land was required for John Kelly Technical College, development which had a high priority. Plans had been commissioned and a high quality design was expected for this major investment

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) be approved to acquire (save those already owned by the Council) all of the interests and rights in land at Dollis Hill Industrial Estate Brook Road London NW2 which is edged by a thick plan line on the plan attached to this report at Appendix 1 ("the CPO Land") firstly (in respect of the land shown hatched) under Section 530 (1) Education Act 1996 for the purposes of the John Kelly Technical Colleges which are to be maintained by the Council and secondly in respect of the remainder of the land under Section 226 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990;
- (ii) that it be authorised that the CPO, once made, be submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation;

- (iii) the Executive authorises the :
- (a) Director of Children and Families to enter into agreements and make undertakings on behalf of the Council with the holders of interests in the CPO Land or parties otherwise affected by the Scheme setting out the terms for the withdrawal of their objections to the confirmation of the CPO and including the offering back of any part of the Order Land not required by the Council after the completion of the development or the acquisition of rights over the CPO Land in place of freehold acquisition, where such agreements are appropriate;
 - (b) Making of one or more general vesting declarations or service of Notices to Treat and Notices of Entry (as appropriate) pursuant to the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 and the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 respectively should the CPO be confirmed by the Secretary of State;
 - (c) Service of all requisite notices on the holders of the CPO Land relating to the making and confirmation of the CPO;
 - (d) Director of Children and Families to remove from the CPO any plot (or interest therein) no longer required to be acquired compulsorily for the scheme to proceed and to amend the interests scheduled in the CPO (if so advised) and to alter the nature of the proposed acquisition from an acquisition of existing property interests to an acquisition of new rights (if so advised);
 - (e) Director of Children and Families within the defined boundary of the CPO Land, to acquire land and/or new rights by agreement either in advance of the confirmation of compulsory purchase powers, if so advised, or following the confirmation of compulsory powers by the Secretary of State;
- (iv) that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to instruct Counsel and experts to represent the Council and provide evidence at any inquiry into the confirmation of the CPO if necessary;
- (v) that the Director of Children and Families be authorised, if so advised, to seek to acquire for the Council by agreement any interest in land wholly or partly within the limits of the CPO Land for which a blight notice has been validly served.

(Councillor Fox declared a personal interest in this item).

28. Authority to seek Expressions of Interest for the contract for the new-build of a 4 Form Entry School at Wembley Manor

This report requested approval to invite Expressions of Interest and tenders for the proposed building of a 4 Form Entry primary school on the present site of Wembley Manor Junior and Infant Schools ("the Wembley Manor Schools"). The estimated commencement date of the contract is no later than 31st January 2007. This report contained the relevant pre-tender considerations (paragraph 3.11 - 3.17) as required by Contract Standing Orders 89 and 90.

The Executive also had before them an appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained information relating to the following category of

information exempt from the Local Government Access to Information Act: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the pre-tender considerations and the outline evaluation criteria to be used to shortlist and evaluate the tenders for the Wembley Manor rebuilding contract as set out in paragraph 3.11 – 3.17 of the report from the Director of Children and Families be approved;
- (ii) that officers be authorised to invite expressions of interest and tenders and evaluate them in accordance with the approved outline criteria referred to in paragraph 2.1 and Director of Children and Families, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, be authorised to select the appropriate procurement procedure for the contract from the two options outlined in paragraph 3.3 and 3.4 of the report;
- (iii) that it be noted in the event that a pre-construction agreement is to be entered into, a further report will be brought to the Executive in respect of the award of that contract.

29. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:-

that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting as the following reports are not for publication as they contain a category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).”

30. Madison House, 24-28 London Road, Wembley – Rent Review of Ground Floor

This report sought members consent to the rent review pursuant to the provisions of the lease held by the Council in respect of the ground floor premises in Madison House with regard to the terms detailed in this report.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the rent review in the sum as set out in the report for the ground floor of Madison House, shown by red hatching on the attached location plan, be approved with effect from 19 September 2005, under the provisions of the lease held by the Council;
- (ii) that the Head of Property and Asset Management be authorised to complete memoranda of rent review on the terms agreed;
- (iii) that the efficiency measures that BACES will put in place to contain extra costs (para 4.1, 4.2 of the report refers) be noted.

31. Church Road Car Park (South) – Proposal for Licence to operate an Open Air Market

It was proposed to grant a periodic licence to facilitate the operation of an Open Air Market from the above site. The Market is intended to occupy land owned in part by Fortunegate Housing Association, with whom Brent will stand as joint Licensor.

RESOLVED:-

that the granting of a licence to Sherman and Waterman Associates Ltd (SWAL) as joint Licensor with Fortunegate Housing Association (FHA) be approved to operate a Tuesday and Saturday Open Air Market from the combined Church Road Car Park for a one year period from 1st March 2006, at a licence fee and upon such terms as are set out in the report.

32. Various Public Open Space Land In Wembley – Permanent Easement in favour of EDF Energy for underground cabling to supply New Stadium

This report sought the Executive's approval to agree the grant of a permanent easement in favour of EDF Energy in return for the consideration outlined in paragraph 3.6 below. This provided formal agreement for the nearly completed underground electricity cables to pass through four areas of public open space in Wembley for the purpose of supply to the new Wembley development.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the grant of a permanent easement in favour of EDF Energy be approved at the figure set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report for installation of high voltage underground cables through Tokyngton Recreation Ground and the neighbouring St Raphael's Open Space, Sherrens Farm Open Space and (as a backup scheme) King Edward VII Park, Wembley, routes shown red on the attached plans, for the purpose of supply to the new Wembley development. EDF will pay the Council's costs in the transaction;
- (ii) that the Head of Property and Asset Management be authorised to agree such other terms as are in the best interest of the Council.

33. Petition – Trees in Liddell Gardens, NW10

Consideration of this item had been deferred to later in the meeting to allow the petitioners time to attend. The report provided background information for a petition received in respect of trees in Liddell Gardens, which contained signatures asking for trees to be planted in Liddell Gardens, NW10.

Caroline Bottomley presented the petition and expressed regret on behalf of residents at a general deterioration in the street scene with the trees not being replaced and as gardens were increasingly lost to car parking. She stated that the campaign had been very popular with local press interest and residents of neighbouring streets agreeing with the request. She asked that consideration be

given to sponsorship or other financial arrangements, as in some other boroughs. She reminded the Executive of the benefits of trees to the environment.

The Chair, Councillor John, expressed sympathy with the views expressed but added that that trees were not universally popular given the adverse affects that some trees had on pavements. The Lead Member added that a minority of other residents complained about leaves however there were sound environmental reasons for planting ornamental trees that had a shorter life span but caused less damage. She agreed that consideration should be given to fund raising initiatives in other boroughs. The Director of Environment and Culture concurred adding that provision would also need to be made for a replacement programme for trees that do not survive or are vandalised. Councillor Lyon also expressed regret at the demise of front gardens and the decreasing opportunities for urban dwellers to experience nature.

The Executive thanked the petitioner for her contribution.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the information provided in the report be noted;
- (ii) that the Executive considers funding additional trees in future budget growth rounds;
- (iii) that the Executive consider a future tree sponsorship scheme.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

A JOHN
Chair

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