

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING
Monday, 15th January 2007 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Lorber (Chair), Councillor Blackman (Vice Chair), and Councillors Allie, D Brown, V Brown, Castle, Colwill, O'Sullivan, Van Colle and Wharton.

Councillors Arnold, Detre, Dunwell, Mrs Fernandes, Fox, Gupta, Hashmi, Hirani, Jones, Malik, Mistry and Motley also attended the meeting.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

The following members declared personal interests in the item relating to school places as members of the governing bodies of the schools shown:

Councillor Blackman – Preston Manor
Councillor Lorber – Barham Primary
Councillor O'Sullivan – Chalkhill Primary
Councillor Van Colle - Michael Sobell Sinai School (wife is clerk to governors).

Councillor O'Sullivan declared a prejudicial interest in the items relating to Fortunegate Community Housing's Board and the Disposal of Mayo Road Open Space as a member of Fortunegate Housing Trust and would withdraw from the meeting for these items. Councillor Colwill declared a personal interest as a member of Brent BETS.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:-

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

3. Order of Business

It was agreed to change the order of business to consider the School Places report first, followed by the Dollis Hill House item.

4. Deputation - School Places – follow up review of sites and pupil number forecasts

Dr Gill Reed (Brent Teachers' Panel) addressed the meeting and, in connection to the report from the Director of Children and Families, referred members to her report 'Brent secondary school provision – a clear case of discrimination', which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. According to data in the report it was asserted that 55% of pupils from the south of the borough went out of the borough for their schooling, compared to 23% in the north. Given the relatively higher proportion of black students living in the south of the borough and also of disadvantaged groups such as those with disabilities and special needs, borne out by the census data, it was argued that the lack of school provision in these areas indirectly discriminated against these pupils. Dr Reed felt that these communities

should have been specifically consulted and she also questioned why further consideration was not being given to Gladstone Park as a location for the new school.

Hank Roberts (Brent Teachers' Panel) drew attention to the recommendations in the Director's report and felt that any decision to acquire the Bridge Road site should be made by members and based on the results of consultation and percentage of responses for and against the proposals. He felt that the logical decision would be to find a site in the south of the borough, which was historically more deprived and where there was currently limited provision. Mr Roberts advised the Executive to expect a legal challenge to any decision to locate a school on this site and also on the question of the chosen sponsor in view of the current national investigations into the award of peerages. Mr Roberts asserted that 95% of teaching staff felt that the Bridge Road was the wrong site and questioned motives for a decision to proceed especially given the views expressed during the May 2006 local election campaign.

5. **School Places – follow up review of sites and pupil number forecasts**

John Christie (Director of Children and Families) introduced the report which was presented further to the decisions at the 13th November 2006 meeting, where a review of the forecast of the need for school places in the report was requested. The Executive had also requested that officers examine the feasibility of developing the Gwenneth Rickus building (Centre for Staff Development, Brentfield Road) as a secondary school by re-locating the Teachers' Centre and amalgamating or incorporating adjacent land holdings. The report before members provided a summary review of possible sites and a forecast of pupil numbers. Also circulated to members prior to the meeting was a report from Dr Gill Reed (Brent Teachers' Panel) 'Brent secondary school provision – a clear case of discrimination, and background papers relating to the review of pupil forecasts by an independent expert, Dr Ian McCallum, and also the equality impact study relating to the provision of school places.

The Executive also had before them an Appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12 of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1972:

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

John Christie responded to the deputation received earlier in the meeting and referred members to the equality impact study and the catchment area to counter the charge of discrimination. He stressed that if approved, the report would be subject to consultation and that there was a clear distinction between a new City Academy and the expansion of other schools. Regarding the Gladstone Park site as a possible location for a new school this would require the use of public open space which would have to be re-provided. Other alternative school buildings in the south had poor frontage. In support of the Bridge Road site, John Christie referred to

the transport facilities, accessibility from other parts of the borough and the fact and that it was both affordable and available within the timescales. However, he emphasised that this school was not an end in itself but part of the strategy for the future.

In discussion, members referred to the potential loss of green space on the Bridge Road and questioned whether plans for shared use of the facility and public access would occur. It was also pointed out that the catchment area had been redrawn to cover most of Wembley, when previously it had covered a significant area to the south of the North Circular Road. It was also doubted whether, given the design of the 5,000 new dwellings expected in the Wembley area, there would be the projected number of families with school aged children. Councillor Dunwell wished it be recorded that should the decision be to proceed with the Bridge Road option, he would treat the site without prejudice at the conclusion of the decision making process¹. Other members spoke in favour of locating a new school in the south of the borough to reduce the number of children travelling to the Wembley area which would be worsened when there was also Stadium traffic with which to contend. It was also felt that the Bridge Road site should be retained for additional sporting capacity.

In support of the proposals to locate a new City Academy in Bridge Road other members reminded the Executive that the matter had been up for discussion for a number of years and it had been established that the Wembley Park site was the only appropriate, available site. This had been agreed at that the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee in December 2006 and the demographics report had not changed this view. It was argued that it was now time to approach the DfES for funding for a school as soon as possible. It was added that further delay would only worsen the situation. Councillor Motley (Chair, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee) concurred adding that detailed consideration had been given by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that while he had reservations, there was a need to be practical, responsible and take the decision to build on the Bridge Road site. An additional school would still be needed in the south of the borough in the future.

Councillor Wharton (Lead Member, Children and Families) referred to the serious and growing problem of the shortage in school places with most schools already full. The issue of catchment areas had been examined and other possible sites considered exhaustively. The dual constraints of money and land restricted options open to the Council. Consideration had been given to how the buildings could best fit on to the site, keeping the land open for the public especially at weekends. Councillor Wharton proposed a motion in his name in support of a City Academy on the Bridge Road, Wembley Park site and also that the search be continued for a suitable site for expanding secondary provision in the south of the borough, when funds were available. This would be part of the remit of the member level strategy board to be established. Councillor Wharton assured the meeting that the Bridge Road site would be acquired under the set conditions and parameters and community access would be built in. The

¹ amended at 12 February 2007 meeting

feasibility study would also consider ways of managing traffic situation, however, the good public transport nearby would help reduce problems.

Councillor Blackman (Lead Member, Resources) proposed an amendment to the motion in the name of Councillor Wharton, proposing that the option of developing two City Academy sites, one on the Centre for Staff Development (CSD) site in Brentfield Road and another on the Chalkhill Youth and Community Centre site in co-operation with the DfES. He felt that the evidence supported the need for more than one school and that any planning problems could be overcome. In addition to the Harlesden and Stonebridge areas, Councillor Blackman felt there was also a need for school places in the Welsh Harp area. He added that he did not have a principled objection to City Academies, providing that sponsors did not seek to influence school policy. Councillor Blackman made reference to basis on which the Executive was formed following the local elections in May 2006, in particular an agreement to withdraw the Bridge Road site from consideration as a potential location for a new school. He urged members to have the political will to challenge central government for provision for two schools.

John Christie commented that the 2010 date for the new school to be ready could already be at risk. Central government was aware that the Council was in the process of re-examination however there was a huge demand for resources and funds were finite. He advised that there was already a shortfall in provision with some children on special projects and others waiting for places. He also stated that given their limited size, it was estimated that any schools built on either the CSD site or Chalkhill Youth and Community Centre would have to be stories high and consequently unsuitable. In relation to the proposed sponsor, the Director emphasised his work with the NSPCC.

Councillor Lorber (Leader of the Council) set out the need for the Council to provide good quality education for all pupils to meet the high demand for places both in the north and the south of the Borough. A long term strategy was being devised to provide places over ten years involving both expansion and new schools, however, central government assistance would be required. Councillor Lorber was pleased to report that lobbying had been successful in achieving additional funding for Preston Manor and both John Kelly schools, but regretted that the finance for John Kelly schools would not be available until 2011². He assured the meeting that the additional traffic issue would be addressed and added that keeping the sports fields as private land was by no means an assurance that they would be maintained as open space. Councillor Lorber stated that considerable time had been spent trying to find alternative locations but none were as viable or available. He regretted that more money was not available from central government.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Blackman was put to the vote and declared LOST. In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 65(e) Councillors Blackman, Colwill, O'Sullivan and Van Colle asked that

² amended at 12 February 2007 meeting

their votes in favour be recorded. The motion in the name of Councillor Wharton was put the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

This Executive Meeting notes the report in the name of the Director of Children and Families and commits itself to providing the best schools and the best quality of education for Brent school children. We confirm our dual strategy agreed in November 2006 of both expanding existing schools and building new schools as a means of providing sufficient school places in both the primary and secondary sectors.

We will press Government at every opportunity to provide the resources we need to provide a high quality education service to local children and their families and have already agreed at last November's Executive Meeting a sum of £500,000 for feasibility studies and to continue to lobby for extra resources. Our lobbying has made some progress with the recent DfES decision to approve an extra £2 million capital funding to enable the £4.5 million expansion of the popular Preston Manor High School. We will continue our campaign to secure additional resources for rebuilding the two John Kelly Schools and to expand primary and secondary provision to meet rising demand across the borough.

We will also continue to search for a suitable site for expanding secondary provision in the south of the borough including the Harlesden and Stonebridge area. We have additionally asked officers to pool together all uncommitted school capital funding into a single pot for school expansion purposes and to identify suitable projects where these funds can be used to greatest effect. We further note the renewed approach made by officers to Government with the aim of securing additional support for capital investment in Brent schools as set out in paragraphs 3.54 – 3.57.

We note the Director's report on future pupil numbers up to 2016 which shows a potential shortfall of 15FE secondary places and 7FE primary places and we also recognise the Council's absolute responsibility to provide for this rising demand for school places in the borough. We also note that, while the forecast is based on currently known information, the data will be continually interrogated and any significant changes to the current forecast will be reported both to the Executive and to the member-level Strategy Board that the Executive has agreed to set up to oversee the school places development strategy.

Having now reviewed in considerable detail a large number of potential sites to meet this rising demand for school places, we have concluded that the Bridge Road site in Wembley Park is the best and most viable site for the development of a new primary and secondary school and we therefore resolve to acquire from Transport for London their Bridge Road site together with its associated playing fields to provide a location for a new all-through City Academy funded by the DfES and an agreed sponsor. We note the progress on negotiations to purchase the land and authorise the Head of Property and Asset Management to acquire the site at or within 10% of the value set out in Attachment 1 (Not For Publication) and to then

dispose of the land for the purposes of constructing the new City Academy provided that, having considered the responses to any consultation carried out, he is satisfied that the disposal should proceed.

The new school will primarily serve the Wembley area in accordance with the Council's approved admissions code which gives a degree of priority to pupils living closest to the school. We also instruct officers to prepare a comprehensive plan for ensuring substantial community access to the new school's sports hall, playing fields and other facilities and we direct that this should be an integral part of the scope of the feasibility study that will need to be undertaken on the new school. Our intention is that such community access should be guaranteed and legally protected in the future.

We note that there will need to be a thorough traffic impact assessment as part of the planning process for the site and that the main vehicular access to the school is likely to be from Forty Avenue. Our aim is to ensure that the traffic and parking issues associated with the school are minimised and that the environmental and amenity interests of local people are protected as fully as is practicable. We note that any new school provision is likely to generate some traffic wherever the school is located but that the Bridge Road site offers good pedestrian and public transport access compared to many of the alternative sites we have investigated.

Finally, we agree that consultation should now begin with schools, other stakeholders and the wider public on the Council's strategy for school development as set out in this officer report and the earlier report to the November 2006 Executive.

The Executive therefore AGREES to:

- (i) acquire from Transport for London their Bridge Road site in Wembley Park together with its associated playing fields.
- (ii) authorise the Head of Property and Asset Management to acquire the site at or within 10% of the value set out in Attachment 1 (Not For Publication) and to then dispose of the land for the purposes of constructing the new City Academy provided that, having considered the responses to any consultation carried out, he is satisfied that the disposal should proceed.
- (iii) instruct officers to prepare a comprehensive plan for ensuring substantial community access to the new school's sports hall, playing fields and other facilities which should form an integral part of the scope of the feasibility study that will need to be undertaken on the new school.
- (iv) commence consultation with schools, other stakeholders and the wider public on the Council's strategy for school development as set out in this officer report and the earlier report to the November 2006 Executive.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 65(d) the voting on the above decision was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Lorber (Chair), Allie, D Brown and V Brown, Castle, and Wharton. (6)

AGAINST: Councillors Blackman (Vice Chair), Colwill, O'Sullivan and Van Colle. (4).

6. Deputation - Dollis Hill House: Update on Marketing Exercise

Gill Close (Dollis Hill House Trust) and Martin Redston (Stables Gallery) addressed the meeting in connection with proposals for the marketing of Dollis Hill House as set out in the report from the Director of Environment and Culture. Martin Redston expressed surprise at the possible inclusion of the Stables Gallery in the marketing proposals for the house and advised that he was due to meet officers the following day on this issue. He emphasised the need for house to be retained for community use. Regarding proposals to expand the site, he put forward for consideration an area to the east of the house that had been considered in the past and encouraged members to visit. Mr Redston stressed the need for arts activities and for co-operation to continue.

Gill Close felt that the marketing publications should make it clear that a covenant on the house required that it be retained 'in perpetual use for the people'. She also referred to, and handed over at the meeting, a feasibility study that had been carried out in the past that she felt should be made available as part of the background papers and referred to the proposals to include extra land on the eastern curtilage.

7. Dollis Hill House: Update on Marketing Exercise

This report provided members with a progress update on the marketing of Dollis Hill House with a recommendation to include the Stables Block. It detailed the proposed approach to the marketing proposals and the timetable which members were asked to agree.

Richard Saunders (Director, Environment and Culture) responded to the deputation received earlier in the meeting and circulated a supplementary report at the meeting which proposed further adjustment to the eastern boundary indicating that further deviation may be required as part of the bidding process. He was aware of the requirement for the park to be maintained in perpetual use for the public, stated that he would take legal advice as to the status of the obligation and ensure the marketing was accurate. It was agreed to establish ownership of the Trust's feasibility study and whether and how it could be used. It was also agreed to circulate clarification of the offer made by Ken Livingston (Mayor of London) the previous year to match fund Council expenditure on the house.

Councillor Van Colle (Lead Member, Environment, Planning and Culture) proposed the recommendations in the report as amended by the

supplementary report from the Director, noting that there might be further changes to the eastern boundary to reflect the points made at the meeting. Councillor Fox (Ward Councillor) expressed concern about the future of the Stables Gallery and the need to retain the café.

Councillor Lorber emphasised the need for interested parties to be made aware of the need for community access to, and use of, the area and assured that all interests would be taken into account. A further report would be made to the May Executive meeting and he requested that the marketing documents be made available to the Mayor of London and that his response be circulated.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the proposed approach to marketing the Dollis Hill House, including the Stables Block;
- (ii) that the timetable for marketing the Dollis Hill House and Stables block as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report from the Director of Environment and Culture, be agreed;
- (iii) that the curtilage of Dollis Hill House be extended to the east by taking a straight line from the eastern edge of The Stables to the eastern edge of the main eastern wall of Dollis Hill House.

8. Supply of Library Management System - participation in the London Libraries Consortium's framework agreement

This report reviews the requirements for the replacement of the Library Service's circulation management system. It recommends that the Executive approve the Library Service's proposal to join the London Libraries Consortium, in order to benefit from its framework agreement which consists of a five year contract to DS Ltd.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the proposal to join the London Libraries Consortium;
- (ii) that approval be given to an exemption from the tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders in relation to the proposed new library circulation management system, so allowing use of the London Libraries Consortium's supplier, DS Ltd, on the basis of good operational and financial reasons as set out in sections 4 and 5 of the report;
- (iii) that approval be given to the delegation to the London Borough of Havering (lead borough of the London Libraries Consortium) of the contract monitoring responsibilities in relation to Brent's proposed role under the framework agreement with DS Ltd;

- (iv) that it be noted that the Director of Environment and Culture has delegated authority to award the proposed contract to the lead borough of the Consortium because it will not be a high value contract.

9. **Update on Progress - Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity in Brent 2004 – 2009**

The Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity in Brent was agreed by members in 2004. This report informed members of the progress and key achievements made to date by the Council and key stakeholders against the six key themes within the strategy. The report also showed progress made by the Sports Service against the strategy action plan. Attached copies of the three sports specific development plans which have been agreed by sports specific working groups: tennis, swimming and cricket. Councillor Van Colle (Lead Member), in commending the report to the Executive, stated that efforts should be confined to these three areas.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the achievements made to date by the Council and key partners to deliver the main themes of the Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity in Brent be noted;
- (ii) that the progress made to date by the Sports Service against the strategy's action plan for the Council be noted;
- (iii) that the sports specific development plans for tennis, swimming and cricket be approved.

10. **Local Development Framework – Revised Local Development Scheme**

This report explained revisions proposed to Brent's Local Development Scheme and asked Executive to agree it for submission to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED:-

that approval be given to the Local Development Scheme, attached as Appendix 1 to the report from the Director of Environment and Culture, for preparing Brent's Local Development Framework.

11. **Review of Vale Farm Sports Ground**

This report set out for members the main findings of a recent review of the Vale Farm Sports Ground and its key recommendations for future management arrangements. The Director of Environment and Culture referred to the action plan that was now in place and confirmed that some arrangements were in place for users' support and co-operation. He added that the creation of a Vale Farm Sports Ground consultative forum would provide an opportunity to bring parties together and help in the development of long term proposals.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the main findings of the review of the Vale Farm Sports Ground be noted;
- (ii) that officers implement the recommendations within the action plan in Appendix 1 of the report from Director of Environment and Culture, subject to funding being identified where appropriate;
- (iii) that officers develop a sports centre strategy for sports centres across the borough.

12. **Mayor of London's Housing Strategy – Response to Initial Consultation**

This report from the Director of Housing and Community Care outlined the main themes of the consultation document *Towards the Mayor's Housing Strategy*, published by the Greater London Authority on 29th November 2006, set out the consultation process for the strategy and sought approval for the draft response set out in Appendix 1. Members approved the draft and thanked officers for the response.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the response to the consultation document be endorsed;
- (ii) that the proposals for further consultation during 2007 and the timetable for production of the strategy be noted;
- (iii) that the arrangements for consultation and response at the sub-regional level be noted;
- (iv) that the final Brent response be approved by the Director of Housing and Community Care in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Customer Care to ensure that, where appropriate, it is consistent with the West London response.

13. **Proposed Changes to Fortunegate Community Housing's Board**

This report concerned proposed changes to the board of Fortunegate Community Housing and sought members' agreement to an immediate change to the quorum for board meetings and agreement in principle to further subsequent changes to the board's size and membership.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the request from Fortunegate Community Housing (Fortunegate) to agree to changes to the quorum, size and composition of their board be noted;

- (ii) that agreement be given to an immediate change to the quorum, to comprise of three members for all forms of business and decisions by the board, provided at least one is an independent member and at least one other is either a Council or resident member;
- (iii) that agreement in principle be given to further changes to the board, to take effect from June 2007, providing all existing Church End tenants have been rehoused in their new homes, as follows:
 - (a) that the board size be reduced from 18 to 12 directors;
 - (b) that the Council's representation be reduced to two directors;
 - (c) that residents' representation be reduced to five members, being still 40% of the smaller board;
 - (d) that residents' representation be widened to include tenants outside of the Church End and Roundwood estate, provided the residents of these two estates maintain their representation broadly in line with the proportion they form of Fortunegate's total stock in the borough;
 - (e) that residents are consulted and their views taken into account by the board before these changes are finalised;
 - (f) that independent members' representation be maintained at five; and
 - (g) that there be no Catalyst directors on the Fortunegate Board.
- (iv) that the Director of Housing and Community Care be authorised to agree detailed changes, following the above principles, including any necessary changes to Fortunegate's Memorandum and Articles of Association and any other legal documentation required, having taken advice from the Borough Solicitor.

(Councillor O'Sullivan declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a Board Member, did not take part in the discussion and left the meeting for this item).

14. **Options for Older People Day Services**

Martin Cheeseman introduced this report, the purpose of which was to obtain agreement for the overall strategy for the future provision of day services for older people and the re-provision of statutory day services and the contracts with the voluntary sector. The current lease for the building accommodating Dollis Hill Day Centre would expire in November 2007 and a decision needed to be made about its future. The current negotiated contracts for older people day care provided by the voluntary sector expire in March 2007 and a decision needed to be made on how the services were to be continued.

The question was raised as to whether the Brent Primary Care Trust had to the capacity to play a full role in the development of day services especially the promotion of wellbeing and health promotion within day centres referred to in the report. The Director responded that the Council would continue to work with the trust and any problems would be reported to members.

The Executive also had before them an Appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12 of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1972:

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RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the strategy for the future provision of day centres, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report from the Director of Housing and Community Care.
- (ii) that regarding the re-provision of Dollis Hill Day Centre, approval be given to the transfer of the service at Dollis Hill Day Centre from Dollis Hill Industrial Estate to an appropriate alternative site, subject to a further report to the Executive;
- (iii) that agreement be given to the current contracts with Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre, Brent Irish Advisory Service (BIAS) and Asian Community Care Services (ACCS) being extended to 30th November 2007 to allow sufficient time for the Council to test the market in the services covered by these contracts by inviting expressions of interest to establish if there are any viable alternative providers. If more than one potential provider comes forward for any package of the services then a full tendering process should be followed for that package and the Executive agrees that only the service currently provided by Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre will then be treated as a High Value contract for the purpose of the Contract Standing Orders;
- (iv) that:
 - (a) that for any service currently covered by a contract with either Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre, BIAS or ACCS, if no alternative providers come forward then there is no requirement to tender for that service on the basis that there is only one provider as set out in the Standing Order 86(e)(i), and
 - (b) for any falling within (a) above, authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Community Care to decide whether to award a new three year contract to the organisation currently carrying out the service concerned, on completion of satisfactory negotiations.
- (v) that approval be given to an exemption from the tendering requirements of the Council's Standing Orders to permit negotiations to continue with Elders Voice with a view to finalising a contract for a day care service to commence from 2 April 2007 for three years on

the basis of good operational and financial reasons as set out in section 3.6 of the report from the Director of Housing and Community Care;

- (vi) that officers from Older People Services review and evaluate the services provided by Mission Dine, New Testament and West Indian Self Effort and report back to the Executive on the future commissioning and funding of these organisations.³

15. **Allocation of Main Programme Grant – 2007/08**

This report made recommendations for allocation of the Main Programme Grant (MPG) to local voluntary sector organisations for 2007/08. The Director of Housing and Community Care stated that it was being recommended that for 2007/08 a different approach to grant funding be adopted and that there should be no open application process for the MPG with the current pattern of funding maintained for one year to allow time for the review of MPG funding to take place. It was recommended that decisions on allocation of MPG funding be delegated to the Director, Housing and Community Care for the 2007/08 funding period only. However, where the application form or any other information received as a result of monitoring of organisations during 2006/07 suggested that MPG funding to any organisation should be reduced or cut, a report would be submitted to the Executive with whom the final decision would rest. The Director clarified that as usual, some organisations would be ineligible for grant funding thereby allowing the remainder to be awarded grants at their current level plus an allowance for inflation.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Main Programme Grant not be advertised for the 2007/08 funding period, but that organisations currently in receipt of MPG funding are required to submit applications for renewal of funding at no more than the current level, clearly identifying the activities, outcomes and outputs to be provided with MPG resources;
- (ii) that decisions on allocation of 2007/08 MPG funds be delegated to the Director of Housing and Community Care;
- (iii) that in cases where a reduction or cessation of funding to organisations is recommended by the Director of Housing and Community Care, a report be submitted to Executive for decision;
- (iv) that a review of future MPG funding be carried out in early 2007/08 and a report presented to Executive following the review which seeks decisions on the process for allocation of MPG funding for 2008/09 and subsequent years. The review will be subject to consultation with the voluntary and independent sector and will include the findings from the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.

³ as amended at the 12 March 2007 meeting

16. **Joint Procurement of Internal Audit Services**

This report requested authority to award contracts as required by Contract Standing Order No 89. This report summarised the process undertaken in the collaborative procurement of framework agreements for core internal audit services and additional internal audit services and, following the completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommended which tenderers should be appointed to the framework agreements and to whom the contract for internal audit core services should be awarded.

The Executive also had before them an Appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12 of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1972:

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The Lead Member, Resources (Councillor Blackman) added that this was a good example of collaborative working with other boroughs and that the Council would not necessarily use all the facilities available under the agreement.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the award of the Core Internal Audit Services Framework to Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd; PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP; and Bentley Jennison Ltd;
- (ii) that approval be given to the award of the Additional Internal Audit Services Framework to Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd; PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP; Bentley Jennison LTD; and Haines Watts;
- (iii) that approval be given to "call off" the contract for the provision of Core Internal Audit Services under the Core Internal Audit Services Framework to Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd.

17. **Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit at 31st March 2007**

As part of the Council Tax setting process for 2007/2008, the Council was required to estimate the amount of any surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund as at 31st March 2007. As this had to be done by the 15th January 2007 (or first working day thereafter), the report asked members to approve the balance projected. Councillor Blackman considered that the deficit was still be substantial and promised that stringent action would be taken against non payers.

RESOLVED:-

that the calculation of the estimated Collection Fund balance as at the 31st March 2007 as a deficit of £1,500,000. be agreed.

18. IT Strategy 2007

The Corporate IT Strategy 2007 outlined the direction of information and communications technology in Brent Council through to 2010. It supported the Council's Corporate Strategy and departmental IT requirements. Councillor Blackman (Lead Member) commended the strategy to members, as it aimed to rationalise systems that had developed over an extended period of time, affected all areas of the Council's work and provide benefits to residents.

RESOLVED:-

that the IT Strategy be approved.

19. Authority to award contract for a Client / Business Index System

This report requested authority to award the contract for the Client/Business Index system, as required by Contract Standing Orders Numbers 88 and 89. The report summarised the process undertaken in tendering the contract and, following the completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommended to which supplier the contract should be awarded.

The Executive also had before them an Appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12 of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1972:

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Councillor Blackman proposed a motion in his name amending the recommendations in the report to reflect the revised position following negotiations. The Borough Solicitor confirmed that there had been a number of outstanding issues surrounding the tender, most had been withdrawn and the remaining would be dealt with by officers.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that it be noted that Northgate Information Solutions (UK) Ltd has withdrawn proposed amendments to the terms and conditions of contract which were unacceptable under the Public Procurement Regulations 2006;
- (ii) that the contract for the Client / Business Index system be awarded to Northgate Information Solutions (UK) Ltd subject to agreement on the remaining outstanding contractual issues and the final form of contract;
- (iii) that the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor, be authorised to resolve to

the remaining outstanding contractual issues and agree the final form of contract.

20. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:

that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting as the following items contain information exempt from the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972, namely:

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

21. Disposal of Mayo Road Open Space

The Council had been working with Fortunegate Community Housing (Fortunegate) on the regeneration of the Church End area and had undertaken public consultation in October 2006 on the proposals which received a positive overall response and were endorsed by Executive in November. It was agreed that details of each scheme would be brought to Executive. The redevelopment of the Mayo Road site was the first major project that provided 59 affordable dwellings. This necessitated the disposal of land at Mayo Road Open Space and proposals to replace this with new open space on former cemetery land adjacent. In addition, the build of a Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was being developed by the Director of Children and Families in consultation with the St Mary's Church of England Primary School, the Diocesan Board for Schools and the Chair of Governors, who is also Minister of St Mary's Church.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that approval be given to the sale of Mayo Road Open Space to Fortunegate at such consideration as is the best that can reasonably be obtained in the opinion of the Head of Property and Asset Management but in any event to be no less than the total of:

- a. the anticipated cost of the laying out of the new park;
- b. the amount required to fund shortfall in the cost of the multi use games area (MUGA); and
- c. the amount of contributions towards the improvement of non car access and the provision of school places which would normally be required under a s106 agreement in respect of the proposed development,

and such sale to be subject to the grant of planning permission for the development and for the location of the MUGA remaining as shown in the current proposals.

(ii) agree the location of the MUGA as shown in the current proposals, but subject to further consultation as set out in paragraph 3.11.1 of

the report from the Director of Housing and Community Care and if objections or representations to the proposed location are received as a result of such consultation which in the opinion of the Director of Housing and Community Care are not groundless or insignificant, then the issue of the location of the MUGA shall be referred back to the Executive for further consideration.

- (iii) that the approval be given to the use of the proceeds of the sale of the Mayo Road open space towards the discharge of the costs referred to in I, ii and iii of paragraph (i) above;
- (iv) that the Head of Property and Asset Management be authorised to agree such other terms for the disposal of the Mayo Road open space as are in the Council's best interests in his opinion;
- (v) that agreement be given to close St Mary's Cemetery (formerly known as Willesden Old Cemetery) and to extinguish Rights of Burial as set out in paragraph 3.11.5 of the report from the Director of Housing and Community Care by following appropriate consultation procedures.

(Councillor O'Sullivan declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a Fortunegate Gate Housing Board Member, did not take part in the discussion and left the meeting for this item).

22. Lease Assignment 8th and 9th Floors Brent House, Wembley

This report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources sought approval to take the assignment of the lease held by Capita Business Services Ltd of office accommodation at Brent House.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Council take an assignment of the lease held by Capita Business Services Ltd for the basement 8th and 9th floors Brent House;
- (ii) that the Council either lease the 9th floor east wing or grant a licence to Capita Business Services Ltd.

23. Hampton House, Dyne Road, Kilburn Proposed sub-lettings of part

To approve the proposal to sub-let office space (831 m²) at Hampton House, Dyne Road, Kilburn vacated by Brent Housing Partnership in July 2006. It was confirmed that alternative accommodation was being sought for the Kilburn One Stop Shop.

RESOLVED:-

that delegated authority be given to the Head of Property and Asset Management to sub-let vacant offices at Hampton House on the terms

outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

P LORBER
Chair

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