

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE**  
**Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Lorber (Chair), Councillor Blackman (Vice Chair), and Councillors Allie, D Brown, Detre, Colwill, Matthews, Sneddon, Van Colle and Wharton.

Councillors Arnold, Fox and Malik also attended the meeting.

**1. Birthday Honours**

Councillor Lorber was pleased to announce that Martin Cheeseman (Director of Housing and Community Care) had been awarded an OBE for service to local government in Queen's Birthday Honours and that local resident, Tony Antoniou, had been awarded an MBE for services to the community in the London Borough of Brent. Members joined him in congratulating them on their awards.

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

None made.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be approved as an accurate record subject to the following:

*Clause 25 – Wembley Park Academy: award of Design and Build contract and entry into a development agreement with Ark*

To add to the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph "The Director of Children and Families also advised that during the planning discussions the GLA had indicated the possible need of a one-off payment of £400,000 in the future should the transportation required from Stonebridge and Harlesden areas be more than the existing capacity of buses. This would be funded from budget provision in future years."

**4. Deputation – Wembley Masterplan: Adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document**

Joe Mears (Chair of the Dane and Empire Court Residents Association) addressed the meeting speaking against the proposal to re-connect North End Road given the cost implications and local opposition. Traffic flow would increase as it would encourage access to the North Circular Road with a resultant increase in noise, pollution and potential for injury. It was put that children currently enjoyed the safety of the cul de sac and Mr Mears suggested a preferred option of improving other road junctions into the Wembley Stadium area, along Empire Way and Wembley Hill Road.

5. **Wembley Masterplan: Adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document**

Councillor Van Colle (Lead Member, Environment, Planning and Culture) introduced the report from the Director of Environment which outlined the results of the targeted consultation of the revised Wembley Masterplan consultation exercise authorised by Executive on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008. The report described the respondents' comments and concerns, and sought agreement to the responses and subsequent proposed amendments. Councillor Van Colle went on to address the deputation received earlier in the meeting from the Chair of Dane and Empire Court Residents Association who spoke against the proposal to re-connect North End Road in Wembley. He referred to the consultation process which had been extensive and the efforts made to take into account objections. The proposals were seen to be an essential means of controlling development and to set a framework for how the authority would wish to see the area develop. He recognised that reopening the road would be contentious but it was felt to be a necessary move to make the whole area work especially on Event Days. The plans were being made for 20 years in the future and in the current recession there was little chance of progress however the council needed to be in a position to negotiate with developers. The council has initial costings from the engineering study and which now needed to be worked up into a detailed design. These showed that it could be funded through developer contributions, but there may be other organisations that could contribute such as TfL. Further work on a financing package would be carried out if the Masterplan was approved. Councillor Van Colle proposed that the recommendations in the report be adopted.

In discussion, the question of the likely levels of traffic flow was raised and the Head of Policy and Projects, Dave Carroll, advised that general information on end state projections and junction capacity after 20 years was available on the council's website.

Members noted the need for a Masterplan to provide a structured framework and a vision, the view that traffic would by-pass most of the estate and that junction improvements would be at the Bridge Road end. The Planning Committee would deal with concerns as and when they arose. The recommendations in the report were agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that agreement be given to the proposed responses to the consultation representations and amendments to the draft Masterplan as outlined in Section 3.7 and detailed in Appendix Two of the report from the Director of Environment and Culture;
- (ii) that the Wembley Masterplan (attached as Appendix 3 to the report from Director of Environment and Culture) as a Supplementary Planning Document to the Unitary Development Plan replacing the

Wembley Masterplan 2004 and Destination Wembley – A Framework for Development, Supplementary Planning Guidance 2003 be adopted;

- (iii) that authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Culture to make and minor changes to the final publication draft.

## 6. **Deputation - Climate Change Strategy**

The Executive heard from Elaine Henderson speaking on behalf of Friends of the Earth supported the council's efforts to reduce climate change on which she had been working closely with council officers. She expressed concern however that the report before members failed to set a target for reduction. While understanding that the council would wish to avoid unrealistic targets, research indicated that a 40% reduction by 2020 to be a reasonable aspiration. Ms Henderson felt there was a need for a baseline to be established which would help measure any reductions. A second point of concern was over the climate change strategy in general, which she felt would not help reduce carbon emissions. The strategy proposed the establishment of Climate Change Steering Group and Ms Henderson questioned the value of this proposal, how it would take decisions forward and how it would be funded. She suggested that the council should commit to decision making being on the basis of climate change so that migration adaptation could be included. Additionally, she was concerned at the absence of an alternative plan should the steering group not meet its objectives.

## 7. **Climate Change Strategy**

Michael Read (Environment and Culture, Policy and Regeneration) introduced the report which reminded the Executive that in September 2007 the council agreed to commission the production of a Climate Change Strategy for the borough. The report explained why the process has taken longer than anticipated and outlined the contents of the proposed Strategy and Action Plan. The Assistant Director responded to the concerns raised earlier in the meeting by Elaine Henderson (Friends of the Earth) and acknowledged that there was a difference of opinion between officers and some consultees on how best to take forward the climate change agenda. The council did have a number of projects in place and it was hoped that the strategy would set the direction for the council in exercising its leadership role and working closely with partner agencies, encourage them to play their part also. Michael Read advised that there were difficulties in establishing a baseline as power suppliers were only willing to provide information to central government and not to local authorities. Additionally, it was put that it would be more productive to work with partners to establish targets, starting from where they were. The council may well be able to attain 40% reduction by 2020 and he was confident that progress would continue to be made. The Assistant Director understood Ms Henderson's reservations and recommended that the Executive adopt the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Van Colle (Lead Member, Environment and Culture) thanked Ms Henderson for her contribution. He put to the meeting that the council was trying to lead and not force commitment to climate change. The council had a number of public buildings that would need to be adapted and it was hoped that the private sector would play a more active role. He felt it was premature at this stage to commit to a 40% reduction by 2020.

In discussion, the Executive referred to the possibility of introducing practical changes that would encourage carbon emission reductions. It was noted that building regulations were already compliant with this aim, sustainable homes were being developed and suggested that planning applications for homes and businesses should at this stage be required to be more carbon efficient. The Executive agreed that targets should be developed through persuasion and in consultation particularly with the borough's Local Strategic Partnership.

The Executive agreed the recommendations in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that agreement be given to the Brent Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough of Brent;
- (ii) that 'Partners for Brent' (the Local Strategic Partnership) be requested to adopt this Strategy for the borough and to invite partners to participate; and
- (iii) that the LSP be requested to work with the council in implementing the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan by setting up a Steering Group and to ask Brent Sustainability Forum to assist.

**8. Order of business**

The Executive agreed to change the order of business in order to bring forward an item for which members of the public and ward councillors were present.

**9. Deputation - discontinuance of John Kelly Boys' Technology College and John Kelly Girls' Technology College and their replacement by The Crest Boys' Academy and The Crest Girls' Academy**

Sue Kayser and Councillor Fox (Chairs of Governors, John Kelly Girls' and Boys' Schools respectively) addressed the meeting concerning proposals in the report to convert both schools into academy schools in particular the recommendation for the school to proceed without the need for extra land by way of CPO or agreement. Councillor Fox regretted that this option, Option B in the report, was being put forward for consideration, space was already inadequate and it would not be possible for the school to relocate during the building process. The pupils were among the most disadvantaged in the borough, many with learning disabilities who needed space and facilities. He asked that consideration of Option B be deferred

to allow time for wider consultation and queried whether the Sir Bruce Liddington (Director General of Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust, EACT) had been consulted on the new proposals.

Sue Kayser echoed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Fox and drew attention to the governing bodies' recommendation that the schools be expanded conditional on the acquisition of adjacent land. Ms Kayser drew attention to the school's Ofsted report which highlighted the poor state of sports facilities and space amenities. Were it not for this, the school would be outstanding.

10. **Discontinuance of John Kelly Boys' Technology College and John Kelly Girls' Technology College and their replacement by The Crest Boys' Academy and The Crest Girls' Academy**

The report from the Director of Children and Families informed the Executive of the outcome of the consultation on the statutory proposals to discontinue (a) John Kelly Boys' Technology College and (b) John Kelly Girls' Technology College. Representation period on both proposals completed on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009; the council's recommendations on the proposal to close John Kelly Boys' Technology College, subject to its replacement by The Crest Boys' Academy (previously referred to as John Kelly Boys' Academy); the council's recommendations on the proposal to close John Kelly Girls' Technology College, subject to its replacement by The Crest Girls' Academy (previously referred to as John Kelly Girls' Academy); current land acquisition issues and options relating to the approved John Kelly Boys' and Girls' Technology Colleges site extension; the process to convert these two schools so as to become Academy schools.

Councillor Wharton (Lead Member, Children and Families) responded to the deputation received earlier in the meeting and acknowledged that the schools made a significant contribution and served disadvantaged communities notwithstanding the poor state of buildings and facilities. The council had been trying for some time to improve the schools to the extent that previous planning permission had expired and compulsory purchase orders had been agreed some years previously. The application for academy status had given an opportunity to move the project forward. Of key concern were the options for rebuilding: Option A, namely to provide 100% new build across the existing site, making use of additional land, would mean to continue to ask the Secretary of State to confirm the compulsory purchase order (CPO), taking into account out of time objections. This option was uncertain in terms of outcome and time. Option B, to build both schools within the existing site boundary was more certain in terms of time span and costs, however, would take a longer time to complete. Councillor Wharton confirmed that discussions had taken place with Department for Children Schools and Families officials who had been initially keen to fund the build however in the current financial climate, funding was now tight and he felt that any funding on offer should be taken while it was still available. Sir Bruce Liddington had indicated approved of Option B as had the Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust. Councillor

Wharton set out the matters the Executive needed to take into account in reaching a decision as set out in the report from the Director of Children and Families.

Councillor Blackman expressed concern that the governing body representatives indicated that they were unaware of the proposal not to proceed with the CPO however the position over the land had to be borne in mind. The value of the land adjacent to the school had increased which would result in a funding gap and the council had to consider whether this would be good use of its reserves. Additionally, the matter could be delayed in a land tribunal but a negotiated settlement was not being ruled out. Members agreed that they would have concerns over children attending schools while building was taking place.

The Executive agreed with the proposal for a deferral on the decision on Option B for one meeting to see if there was any room for manoeuvre and for further consultation with the governing bodies. Consequently recommendations 2.3, 2.5 and 2.6 in the report relating to the CPO, a new planning application and release of funding from the capital programme were consequently not agreed. A further report would be submitted to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that approval be given to the proposal to discontinue John Kelly Boys' Technology College. The implementation of the proposal was subject to Secretary of State's approval for its replacement by The Crest Boys' Academy;
- (ii) that approval be given the proposal to discontinue John Kelly Girls' Technology College. The implementation of the proposal was subject to Secretary of State's approval for its replacement by The Crest Girls' Academy;
- (iii) that the Head of Property and Asset Management be authorised to negotiate any necessary land transactions arising from the process of conversion of the John Kelly Boys' and Girls' Technology Colleges to Academy status;
- (iv) that approval be given to the initial rent free 3 year lease of the school site to Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust (EACT) to take effect from the closure of John Kelly Boys' and Girls' Technology Colleges and their replacement by the Crest Boys' and Girls' Academies the lease and any associated agreements to be on terms agreed by the Head of Property and Asset Management.

**11. London Operational Permit Scheme**

The report from the Director of Environment and Culture recommended that the council adopt a permit scheme to control all works on the public highway. The London operational Permit Scheme (LoPS) was to be a

common scheme across London and currently 18 boroughs, including Brent, have registered their interest in operating the scheme.

Councillor D Brown stated that it was the intention that the scheme be self-financing and properly monitored. The Director added that the scheme should also help minimise problems caused by emergency works.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that officers be instructed to proceed with their consultation with the Department for Transport in respect of the London wide scheme;
- (ii) that, subject to approval by the Department for Transport, officers apply to the Secretary of State to become a permit authority as part of the Common Permit Scheme for London.

12. **Authority to tender for Young People and Teenage Parent Supporting People Accommodation Based Services and Floating Support Services**

The Director of Housing and Community introduced this report which sought authority to invite tender for four Framework Agreements as required by Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89. Four Framework Agreements would be for the provision of Supporting People funded accommodation services (one Framework Agreement for accommodation based services for young people and one Framework Agreement for accommodation based services for teenage parent services) and floating support services (one Framework Agreement for young people services and one Framework Agreement for teenage parent services). Each of the Framework Agreements would commence on 1st September 2010 and will be for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further two years.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that approval be given to approve the pre-tender considerations and the criteria to be used to evaluate tenders for the four Frameworks Agreements for housing support services as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report;
- (ii) that approval be given to officers to invite tenders for the four Frameworks Agreements for housing support services and evaluate them in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria referred to in paragraph (i) above.

13. **Authority to tender for housing support services for families, and associated supporting people contract issues**

The report sought authority to invite suitable providers to tender for three framework Agreements as required by Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89. The three Framework Agreements would be for the provision of Supporting People funded floating support services for vulnerable families

with a range of support needs. The report additionally sought Executive authority to extend current Supporting People Family (Families, Refugees and contracts) up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011. Current Family contracts would expire on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and the extension was sought in order that would be tied in with future procurement.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that approval be given to the pre-tender considerations and the criteria to be used to evaluate tenders for three Framework Agreements for housing support services as set out in section 6.12 of the report from the Director of Housing and Community Care;
- (ii) that approval be given to officers inviting tenders for three Frameworks for housing support services for families as described in paragraph 6.12 of the report and evaluate them in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria referred to in paragraph (i) above;
- (iii) that approval be given to a further extension of Supporting People contracts for Families as specified in sections 5 and section 7 of the report up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

**14. Direct Payments extension of contract with Penderels for a direct payments support and advice service contract**

The report requested approval for the extension of the council's existing Direct Payments Support and Advice Service contract with Penderels Trust to allow further consideration of tenderer's representations.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the delay in the procurement process for the new Direct Payments Support and Advice Service Contract be noted;
- (ii) that approval be given to the extension of the current contract with Penderels Trust for a further period or periods of up to a maximum of four months from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

**15. References from the Forward Plan Select Committee**

**References from the Forward Plan Select Committee meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

*North Circular Road Regeneration Area*

The Executive had before them an extract from the minutes which outlined the discussion at the Select Committee meeting and Councillor Detre reported on concerns raised at the Select Committee regarding the consultation process. Ward Councillors were given the opportunity to obtain further comments however none had been received. It was noted



that the junction of the North Circular Road with Brentfield Road was due for improvement and that proposals would be coming forward to improving the quality of life in the area. Consequently the Executive decided not to agree the recommendation from the Select Committee to remove reference to a parkland setting for the Shri Swaminarayan Temple.

RESOLVED:

that recommendations (i) and (iii) from the Forward Plan Select Committee relating to the submission of a bid to Transport for London for the redesign of the Brentfield Road/North Circular Road Junction be supported.

*Local Development Framework – core strategy and site specific allocations*

The reference was noted.

*Sustainable Communities Act*

The Executive noted that legal advice had already been given stating that there was no need for the council to formally sign up by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and in any event, the matter was already in hand and a motion had been drafted for consideration at the Full Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

P LORBER  
Chair