

Meeting of the Executive
Monday, 17th August 2009 at 7.00 pm
LIST OF DECISIONS

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

Councillors Dunwell and Malik also attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Colwill, Matthews and Sneddon.

ITEM 1 Lord Laming Report

Summary:	Following the death of Baby Peter in Haringey, the Secretary of State for Children asked Lord Laming to review the progress of child protection work in England at the same time as asking Moira Gibb to head up the Social Work Taskforce. Lord Laming's report was delivered in March 2009 with the Government formally responding in May 2009. The Executive asked for an update on this report and was asked to endorse Brent's local response to the report. The response is initial at this stage because those recommendations which are directed at the Local Authority are subject to updating through further work with the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit or through the revision of Working Together to Safeguard Children.
Ward(s):	None.
Decision Taken:	RESOLVED: (i) that the local response to Lord Laming's report outlined in the action plan appended to the report before the Executive be endorsed; and (ii) that the Local Safeguarding Children's Board take the lead on the actions specific to its remit and that the Brent Children's Partnership Board (Brent's Children's Trust arrangement) take overall responsibility for ensuring that all partner agencies carry out their required actions.

ITEM 2 Authority to renew advice service grants to Brent Citizens' Advice Bureau and Brent Community Law Centre Limited.

Summary:	The authority of the Executive was sought to renew for a specified period the existing grant funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Brent Community Law Centre Limited (BCLC). There is no provision in the Council's Constitution to extend existing grant funding, so the renewals amounted to fresh grants.
Ward(s):	None
Decision Taken:	RESOLVED: (i) that the grant for the CAB be renewed for a further 12 months, to conclude 30 th September 2010 pending the outcome of a strategic review; and

	(ii) that the grant for the BCLC be renewed for a further 6 months, to conclude 30 th September 2010 pending the outcome of a strategic review.
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ITEM 3 Gypsy Roma and Traveller Inclusion Strategy

Summary:	<p>The Housing Act 2004 and the ODPM planning circular 01/2006 mainstreamed the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities and placed a requirement on local housing authorities to:-</p> <p>assess the accommodation needs of GRT communities and, based on the findings produce a strategy and action plan to work towards providing/finding solutions for the identified need and ensure that the cultural needs of these communities are respected.</p> <p>The draft strategy and action plan cover the next five years, 2009 – 2014 and focus on improving access to all Council/other statutory agencies’ services to work in partnership with these communities towards integration and community cohesion.</p>
Ward(s):	All.
Decision Taken:	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) that the summary of findings of the GLA commissioned Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) survey as it relates to Brent attached as Appendix 1 to the report be noted;</p> <p>(ii) that the draft strategy and action plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report be noted;</p> <p>(iii) that the reduction of pitches from 31 to 20 to ease overcrowding on the Lynton Close site once alternative facilities have been found be agreed;</p> <p>(iv) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive, agreeing the purchase of the identified site(s), setting out how the cost will be met and all other financial implications, whilst noting that it will be necessary for the new site to:-</p> <p>a) meet the criteria set out in the Council’s Travellers Policy, b) accommodate residents moved from the Lynton Close site and c) provide additional pitches in line with the targets set in the GLA’s London Plan due to be published in Autumn 2011.</p> <p>(v) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive setting out detailed costing to:-</p> <p>a) refurbish and redesign the Lynton Close site; and b) set up the new site in line with the good practice guidance issued by the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG).</p>

ITEM 4 Treasury Management Annual Report 2008/09

Summary:	The Executive considered a report which provided information to members on borrowing and investment activity during 2008/09. It also set out how the Council performed against prudential indicators set in the 2008/09 budget. Because the Treasury Management Annual Report is required to be agreed by Full Council, the Executive was asked to recommend the Annual Report to Full Council for approval.
Ward(s):	All.
Decision Taken:	RESOLVED: that Full Council be recommended to: (i) approve the Treasury Management Annual Report and Annual Investment Strategy Report; and (ii) note the outturn for prudential indicators as detailed in section 5 of the report.

BELOW THE LINE REPORT

ITEM 5 Appendix to report on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inclusion Strategy

Dealt with under item 3 above.

P Lorber
Chair