

**MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor R Blackman (Chair), and Councillors Dromey, Kabir (alternate for Harrod) and Taylor.

Also present was Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gladbaum, Harrod, Moher and Sengupta. Apologies were also received from Councillor Kagan (Lead Member for Democratic Services) and Councillor Coughlin (Lead Member for Corporate Resources).

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

There were none

**2. Deputations**

There were none

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004 be received and approved as an accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were none

**5. Call-in of Executive Decisions from the Meeting of the Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004.**

There were none at this meeting.

**6. The Executive List of Decisions from the Meeting of the Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004.**

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive's List of Decisions from its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004 be noted.

7. **Information requested by the Select Committee arising from consideration of earlier versions of the Forward Plan (2004/05)**

***Draft Air Quality Action Plan (Update)***

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning) was present for this item.

The Select Committee was advised that the Action Plan had not yet been completed due to a number of delays and the need for additional work to be undertaken by the Transportation Unit. The Lead Member explained that the standards that would be imposed as a result of the Action Plan were likely to be difficult for all London Boroughs to meet and that a number of concerns had been expressed by both the GLA and DEFRA. Phil Rankmore (Director of Transportation) explained that the Transportation Unit was in the process of producing the Local Implementation Plan and was therefore working closely with officers in Environmental Services to ensure that the two Plans reflected one another and that concerns raised by the GLA and DEFRA were addressed.

The Chair expressed some concerns about the implications for the GLA and local authorities for those vehicles that fell under their responsibility, due to the financial implications of replacement and investment prompted by the Action Plan. Some Members also queried the implications for Brent in terms of passing traffic through the Borough and the effect of high volumes of stationary traffic particularly on areas such as the North Circular Road.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the briefing note be noted;
- (ii) that further details about the GLA and DEFRA's concerns be fed back to Members of the Forward Plan Select Committee;
- (iii) that Members be advised as to when the Draft Air Quality Action Plan report might be presented to the Executive;
- (iv) that a further briefing note be presented to the Select Committee in advance of the report being presented to the Executive; and
- (v) that Yogini Patel (Environmental Health, Service Manager [Environmental Monitoring]) be invited to attend the next meeting of the Select Committee in October to provide Members with a verbal update about the Action Plan.

8. **Briefing notes/ information updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of Version 4 of the Forward Plan**

***Youth and Community Centres Review – Update***

Marcus Perry (Head of Property Services) advised Members of the Select Committee that a more detailed report would be presented to the Executive on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2004. He then proceeded to update Members about the following youth and community facilities across the Borough.

*Mahogany Arts, the Pakistani Community Association's Centre, the Gladstone Centre and the Wembley Centre*

Members were advised that separate reports would be presented to the Executive later in the year or early in 2005 so that legal advice could be sought on a number of issues and discussions with the various organisations, individuals and community groups could be concluded.

Acknowledging the differing issues raised by various sections of the community, the Chair queried whether Members could influence the on-going discussions with the Pakistani Centre and was advised that the Trustees had refused to accept the proposed settlement from the Council but had now provided historical data regarding the transfer of the lease. This information differed from that held by the Council and consequently it was now unclear how to instigate an effective dialogue. Members noted that the Centre's Annual General Meeting (AGM) had recently taken place and all sections of the community had participated.

Regarding the Mahogany Arts Centre, Marcus Perry explained that the group now had the support of the LDA and that all efforts were being made to find a sensible way forward so that the group could remain in the property but with no disadvantage to the Council or the group.

Regarding the Gladstone Centre Members noted that the reaction of the community to the Council's proposal had been disappointing and that there appeared to be a misperception by some that local community groups would lose local community facilities. Marcus Perry confirmed that the community groups would be without a facility for approximately one year as part of the proposal but that the longer term significance of the plans had to be taken into account and it was important that the funding from the Freeman Trust be used effectively. In order to assure residents about the implications of the proposals, Marcus Perry confirmed that consultation would be necessary.

Regarding the Wembley Centre Members noted that a separate report to the Executive would include details about the sale of the playing fields to Copland School, once the on-going discussions had concluded. Mr Perry confirmed that discussions were currently underway with both the architects and Copland School regarding the inclusion of the sites of the Dennis Jackson Centre and the Wembley Youth and Community Centre in the area covered by the planning application for the new Copland School and enabling residential development. The Chair referred to St Joseph's claim to the playing fields and subsequent objection to the Copland development. Marcus Perry explained that the Council was seeking to change the lease with Copland School to enable the proposed development to take place. He stressed the need to ensure fair user rights for St Joseph's as part of the transfer however the school was currently placing unfair demands on Copland School. Members noted that the planning application at Copland had been delayed as a result of the on-going discussions but that a great deal of work was being done by the Education department, the schools and the Corporate Property Team.

At this point some Members expressed concerns about the number of units in the proposed housing development at the site and were advised that whilst the development could set a precedent for future schemes, redevelopment of the site was crucial to enable improvements to take place at Copland School.

#### *Learie Constantine Centre*

Members of the Select Committee were advised that the management was sticking to the repayment plan and whilst the latest payments had been a little late, 8 of the 27 payments had so far been successfully made. Marcus Perry explained that he had written to the Chair of the Centre requesting an explanation about the legality of the situation at the Centre with respect to requests for debenture payments from Members, but had to date not yet received a response.

#### *Preston and Mall*

Members were advised that the future use of the outbuilding remained the main issue for consideration as it was now proposed that the building could be included in the lease to the Centre following the removal of asbestos. It was hoped that this building could be used for storage or for the provision of youth activities.

#### *Kingsbury Centre*

Members noted that the briefing note did not contain details on the Kingsbury Centre. Marcus Perry explained that Eton Grove Nursery was to be given the lease as previously agreed however there were now a number of concerns regarding how certain user groups were

being denied access to the Centre. Marcus Perry explained that consequently the Executive would be asked to amend its earlier decision which was taken in August 2003 so that the Centre could be used more effectively by all community groups. He confirmed that one of the options could be for a Cypriot Youth Group to be given control of the lease.

### ***Pavilion at Neasden Recreation Ground***

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning) was present for this item.

The Lead Member advised the Select Committee that a draft report on this item had been prepared approximately a year ago but had been deferred due to the necessity for further work to be undertaken. Members noted that although there had been a number of parties interested in the site, the majority of community groups did not have sufficient resources to improve and refurbish the Pavilion. Whilst Community 8 had expressed an interest in the site, a deadline for a further response had been imposed on the group. Members noted that the outcome was not yet known but acknowledged that it was unlikely that the group would be able to manage the site due to financial constraints and a lack of business experience. Consequently, it was now possible that the Pavilion would be demolished as the building was boarded up and dangerous and previous attempts at tendering had been unsuccessful.

### ***Local Implementation Plan***

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning) was present for this item.

Phil Rankmore (Director of Transportation) advised the Select Committee that the latest version of the Forward Plan was incorrect as this report would be presented to a future meeting of the Executive and not the Highways Committee as it affected a number of service areas who were expected to contribute to the drafting of the Plan. Members noted that the report was likely to go to the Executive in December 2004 and if agreed the draft Plan would then go out for widespread consultation in the New Year.

Commenting on the Implementation Plan which would come into effect in 2006, Members were advised that guidance had been provided in the form of the Mayor's Transport Strategy which outlined the programme that the Council was expected to meet and which should be referred to in the Implementation Plan. The Plan would include details about issues such as a policy statement, the socio-economic and demographic context, the Road Safety Plan, the School Travel Strategy Plan and funding. Members noted that approximately 80

items had to be included in the Plan and that whilst there was little time to prepare the document, the majority of documents that fed into the Plan had already been produced.

In response to a query regarding the linkage between the Local Implementation Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan, Mr Rankmore confirmed that the Plan had to have regard to the Mayor's Air Quality Action Plan. He explained that whilst there were a number of contentious points in the Mayor's Plan, Brent was generally supportive of the Mayor's Public Transport Strategies, unlike some London authorities. Regarding the possible extension of the congestion charging zone, Members were advised that consultation would be undertaken with the Borough in the near future and that this could potentially become a contentious issue.

### ***Wembley Stadium Event Day Parking Controls***

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning) was present for this item.

Phil Rankmore (Director of Transportation) advised the Select Committee that a special meeting of the Highways Committee would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004, to update Members of the Committee about the outcome of the consultation process that had been undertaken regarding event day parking controls. Members of the Select Committee were advised that early indications suggested that approximately 11% of questionnaires had been returned from 40,000 households by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004. Whilst this not necessarily a good return it was important to note that this depended on whether the majority of returns were from within the inner zones that would ultimately be most affected by event day parking controls.

Mr Rankmore confirmed that the results of the questionnaire were currently being compiled and that a detailed report outlining the implications of the response would be presented at the special meeting of the Highways Committee. The Chair expressed some concerns that despite earlier discussions, ward councillors had not been involved in the post-consultation process and would not be made aware of the outcome of the consultation until the final report went to Committee. He suggested that advance consideration of the details would minimise potential upset by residents and queried whether the details of the consultation could be circulated to Members in advance of the special Highways Committee meeting. Mr Rankmore confirmed that this would be possible.

Responding to a question about the timescales for implementation of parking controls Mr Rankmore explained that the Highways Committee would provide guidance on this matter, although it was anticipated that parking controls would be introduced in spring 2005. He confirmed that schemes within the inner zone had to be introduced by the time of

completion for the Stadium but that further controls within the outer zones could be introduced thereafter.

In response to a question concerning the anticipated number of event days at the Stadium, Mr Rankmore explained that at the expiry of the present planning cap, the number of sporting events would be unrestricted whilst the number of music events would be determined by separate licensing agreements. Whilst a precise figure was not yet known, Members were advised that the implemented parking controls would take into account the agreed number of events at the Stadium per annum.

### **Ninth London Local Authorities Bill**

Helen Keep (Lawyer, Legal Services) advised the Select Committee that the report before Members would be presented to the October meeting of the Executive. The report contained an amalgam of points that had been raised by local authorities through the lead authority, the London Borough of Westminster regarding the promotion of a further General Powers Bill. Referring specifically to the banning of smoking in public places, Helen Keep referred to a paper arising from the Leaders' Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004 which provided an update on the Ninth London Local Authorities Bill and details about the pros and cons for introducing such a ban. Members noted that the Council had not yet reached a decision on the matter and was awaiting guidance from Parliamentary agents who were investigating the matter in detail on behalf of local authorities.

Members of the Select Committee noted that the report would be considered at the October meeting of the Executive, would be considered by Full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 and thereafter once the Bill had been deposited at Parliament by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2004, a second resolution would have to be passed by Full Council. Ms Keep advised Members that the Bill included a vast range of issues and that there were obvious cost implications for implementing some of the points.

In response to a query from the Select Committee, Ms Keep explained that drinking in public places was not covered in the Bill as this issue was addressed in the Criminal Justice Act which enabled authorities to designate places as drink free zones.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the briefing notes be noted;
- (ii) that details about the response from Community 8 regarding management of the Pavilion at Neasden Recreation Ground be provided to Members of the Select Committee;

- (iii) that details about the consultation undertaken regarding Event Day Parking Controls be circulated to all councillors in advance of the special meeting of the Highways Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004, including an explanation about demarcation of the inner and outer parking control zones.

**9. The Forward Plan – Issue 5 (04.10.04 - 04.02.05) 2004/2005**

Issue 4 of the Forward Plan (06.09.04 to 07.01.05) had previously been circulated to Members of the Select Committee. Issue 5 of the Forward Plan (04.10.04 - 04.02.05) was now before Members of the Select Committee.

Following consideration of these documents, the Select Committee requested further information on the following issues:-

***Paul Daisley Hall Charges Increases***

Request for a briefing note to the October meeting if the report to the Executive is deferred beyond October. The Lead Member and lead officer were requested to attend the meeting and respond to Members questioning.

***Civic Centre Project***

Request for a briefing note to the October meeting if the report to the Executive is deferred beyond October. The Lead Member and lead officer were requested to attend the meeting and respond to Members questioning.

***Retendering of Leisure Management Contract – Draft Specification***

Request for a briefing note to the November meeting of the Select Committee. The Lead Member and lead officer were requested to attend the meeting and respond to Members questioning.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the above items be submitted for consideration by the Forward Plan Select Committee at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2004 or to future meetings as indicated;
- (ii) that a request be referred to the Management Board by the Select Committee for the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel to consider the Outcome of the First Sage of Consultation on the



Review of Provision for SEN, if this item did not already feature on the Panel's work programme.

(iii) that a verbal update on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan also be provided at the October meeting of the Select Committee, as per a request by Members; and

(iv) that briefing notes on the following items be considered at the October meeting following earlier requests from the Select Committee:-

*a. Brent Crime, Disorder and Misuse of Drugs Audit*

*b. One Stop Shop Annual Performance Report for October 2003/04.*

**10. Items considered by the Executive that were not included in the Forward Plan**

RESOLVED:-

that it be noted that at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004, the Executive considered a report on the Connexions Service, which was not included on version 4 of the Forward Plan (06.09.04 to 07.01.05) due to reasons of urgency.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Noted that the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

**12. Any Other Urgent Business**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

R BLACKMAN  
Chair

*Mins0405/scrutiny/ForPlan28Sj*