

MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 29th March 2005 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Dromey (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Gladbaum, Harrod, Moher and Taylor.

Also present were the Lead Member for Housing (Councillor Thomas) and the Lead Member for Environment and Planning (Councillor Jones).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Blackman and Hughes.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Harrod declared a personal interest in the item relating to Chalkhill Redevelopment Combined Facilities Building.

2. Deputations

There were none.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting on 2nd March 2005

the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2005 had been circulated separately to the agenda.

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2005 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 14th March 2005

Members of the Select Committee were advised that the deadline for call-in was Monday, 21st March 2005 and that no items had been called in from the meeting of the Executive held on 14th March 2005.

6. The Executive List of Decisions for the Meeting that took place on 14th March 2005

The list of decisions had been circulated separately from the agenda.

RESOLVED;-

that the list of Decisions for the Executive Meeting on Monday, 14th March 2005 be noted.

7. **Briefing Notes/Information Updates requested by Select Committee following consideration of Version 10 of the Forward Plan**

(i) ***Award of the Parking Contracts***

Mr Irfan Malik (Assistant Director, Environment) introduced Mr Subash Radia to the meeting as the new Parking Manager. Mr Radia explained how the parking contracts were carried out as two separate packages with both being capable of being provided by one contractor. Four bids for each package had finally been accepted with two of the providers bidding for both packages. The tender panel would consider the bids and recommend accordingly to the Executive.

In answer to questions by members of the select committee it was explained that the majority of the costs of the contract were fixed by way of providing enforcement staff, the parking shop, issue of permits and provision of vehicles. Only a very small element of the contract related to the number of penalty notices issued and this was only to cover the administrative cost associated with the issue of each notice. Mr Malik accepted that the general view was that the more notices issued the greater the income but this was wrong as each notice issued attracted only a small administrative payment to cover the contractors costs for issuing the notice. Councillor Jones emphasised this point and pointed out that the appeal process for the issue of penalty notices remained within the Council.

Mr Radia informed the select committee that current performance levels for each contract were satisfactory and that there were arguments for and against only one contractor providing both elements of the contract. The select committee was also informed that the contract took account of the pilot for the sale of parking vouchers expected to start at the end of May/beginning of June.

Councillor Jones added that the contract took into account the impact of developments in the Wembley area, important aspects of training and health and safety issues around the protection of wardens.

Members of the select committee discussed the generally held view that parking enforcement was an income generating tool and the fact that were it not for the administrative element attached to the issue of each penalty notice the clear message could be sent out that there was no income related to the number of notices issued. The Lead Member and officers acknowledged this point and agreed to consider this aspect for the future. It was also acknowledged that upon the award of the contract positive publicity was required.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted.

(ii) ***Access Road to Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, NW10***

Marcus Perry (Corporate Property) introduced the briefing note and explained that it was considered to be beneficial to the Council to sell the freehold of the access road for £1 in order to divest itself of responsibility for the capital and ongoing maintenance responsibilities. He stressed that the Liberal Jewish Cemetery and Norman Court both had access rights over the land.

Members of the select committee felt that the Council should not relinquish ownership of the land without a reasonable capital receipt for it.

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive be informed of the view of the select committee that there should be stringent re-negotiation on the sale of the access road in order to achieve an improved benefit to the Council.

(iii) ***Chalkhill Redevelopment: Combined Facilities Building***

Councillor Thomas confirmed that the Council remained fully supportive of the provision of a combined facilities building and the delay in reporting to the Executive was only because further information was awaited.

Members of the select committee were keen to see the facility being provided with the support of the community and for the community and asked that the report to the Executive be submitted to the select committee as well.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted and the report to be submitted to the Executive be put before the select committee as well.

(iv) ***Environment Capital spend 2005/06 and Highway Maintenance Major works Programme***

Mr Chris Margett (Head of Highway Maintenance) introduced the briefing note and circulated copies of a plan showing roads and footways in the borough included in the 2005/06 maintenance programme. Councillor Jones added that further road improvement schemes would be coming forward through funding from Transport for London, out of which the Council had again done well.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted.

(v) ***Youth and Community Centres – further updates on Mahogany Arts and the Pakistan Workers Association***

Marcus Perry (Corporate Property) introduced the briefing note explaining that the outstanding issues would be reported to the Executive for resolution in May or June. Terms had nearly been agreed with the Pakistan Community Centre but there remained legal issues to resolve relating to the premises at 28 High Street, Harlesden connected with Mahogany Arts.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted and no further updates on these matters be submitted to the select committee subject to resolution of the issues by the Executive..

(vi) ***Copland Community School – Sale of Land***

Marcus Perry (Corporate Property) explained that it was now not going to be possible to report to the Executive in April on this matter because of one outstanding issue around the arrangements for the Dennis Jackson Community Centre. The intention was to report in one go on all the land transactions being proposed to facilitate the building of the new school and the provision of improved youth and community facilities. The point was made by a member of the select committee that it was not so much about the sale of land as the transfer of parcels of land.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted.

(vii) ***Outstanding Briefing Notes***

The select committee noted that consideration of the following items on which briefing notes had been requested had been deferred to the meeting of the Executive scheduled in June and that information on these would be submitted to a future meeting of the select committee;

- Approval of Enforcement Policy
- Lifelong Learning and Cultural Services – Fees and charges 2005/06

A briefing note on why the report on the disposal of Lyon Park Infant & Junior Schools' Caretaker House had been delayed in being submitted to the Executive, which had been circulated separately from the agenda, was noted.

8. **The Forward Plan (*Issue 10 2004/2005*)**

Issue 11 of the Forward Plan (04/04/05 to 05/08/05) was before the select committee having been circulated separately from the agenda. Following consideration of this document the following comments were made:-

(i) *Proposed Telecommunications Installations at the Designworks, Park Parade, NW10*

Councillor Gladbaum pointed out that she had not been informed about this matter as she would have expected as a ward councillor.

(ii) *Dollis Hill House*

It was noted that the Executive may have to look at alternative proposals on the current assumption that the PCT would withdraw from the scheme.

No items were identified for future briefing notes.

9. **Item considered by the Executive that was not Included in the Forward Plan**

RESOLVED:-

that it be noted that the following item had been considered by the Highways Committee which was not included in the Forward Plan:-

High Road, Wembley – Local Safety Scheme

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the select committee was scheduled very close to the anticipated date of the General Election and that no additional briefing notes had been identified for reporting to that meeting.

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the consent of the Chair, the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee scheduled for 3rd May 2005 be cancelled in the event of a General Election being called for 5th May.

11. Any Other Urgent Business

There was none.

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm

W DROMEY
Vice-Chair in the Chair

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