

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

PRESENT: Councillor R Blackman (Chair), Dromey (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Farrell and Harrod.

Also present was Councillor Mendoza.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nerva and Kagan (Lead Member, Local Democracy and Consultation).

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

There were none.

2. Deputations

There were none.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 1st June 2005

RESOLVED: -

that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2005 be received and approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Access road to the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane

Councillor Dromey referred to the meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee on 29th March 2005 and asked that clarification regarding any response to the Select Committee's requests be circulated to all Members of the Select Committee in due course.

5. Call-in of Executive Decisions from the Meeting of the Executive on 20th June 2005

Members of the Forward Plan Select Committee were advised that there had been no call-in of Executive decisions from the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 20th June 2005.

6. The Executive List of Decisions for the Meeting that took place on 20th June 2005

RESOLVED; -

that the Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Monday, 20th June 2005 be noted.

7. **Briefing Notes/Information Updates requested by Select Committee following consideration of Version 1 (2005/06) of the Forward Plan**

(i) ***Section 106 Update***

Dave Carroll (Head of Policy & Projects, Planning Service) provided Members with a list of outstanding Section 106 agreements for information. He then went on to advise Members that the above report to the Executive had been delayed following a request from the Capital Board to review a number of issues. It was now anticipated that the report would be presented to the meeting of the Executive in September 2005. In response to a query from the Chair regarding the repayment of Section 106 payments, Dave Carroll confirmed that he was aware of two occasions where section 106 monies had been repaid to the developer as a result of work not having been undertaken.

The Chair then referred to the use of Section 106 funds on open space and parks across Brent. Dave Carroll explained that money had been made available to lay out open space through section 106 agreements at a number of sites across Brent, including the old Abbey National Sports Ground and the Hirst Research site. In response to further queries regarding the old GEC site, Dave Carroll explained that the Section 106 agreement provided for £250,000 to £300,000 to be spent on open ground. The Chair expressed concerns regarding the lack of development of open spaces and poor recreation facilities particularly on this site despite the terms of the Section 106 agreement. Dave Carroll explained that Section 106 agreements were negotiated fully in good faith but that changing circumstances could sometimes affect what action the Council took.

Councillor Dromey referred to areas that were close to other boroughs and queried whether the Council liaised with neighbouring authorities over the spending of Section 106 monies on open spaces. Dave Carroll referred to the Guinness Development to highlight how the Council had liaised closely with Ealing Council on the allocation of money so that necessary work on open spaces could be undertaken. Councillor Harrod stressed that such a system of sharing funds in order to improve open spaces was only practical if all authorities followed a similar practice. Councillor Dromey stressed the need for cross-working with other boroughs to ensure the proper spending of funding and redevelopment of their areas.

In response to a query from Councillor Dromey, Dave Carroll confirmed that the list of Section 106 agreements did not include those agreements where the money had been spent. Referring to the list, Councillor Farrell explained that a development on Coombe Road, Neasden had been completed sometime ago and queried why the Section 106 funds had not yet been used. Dave Carroll confirmed that despite completion of the development, improvement work on the traffic system was yet to be completed. He stressed that it was important that such work was undertaken promptly to minimise any challenges to the Council from developers who requested the return of unspent Section 106 monies. Following a query from Councillor Harrod with regard to the Chilcott Gardens Nursery, Dave Carroll confirmed that this work had been done and that therefore the money should have been transferred to the Transportation Unit. He confirmed that this matter would be followed up.

The Chair commented on the allocation of Section 106 funding to school sites and expressed some concerns that money for school places was not necessarily allocated to the appropriate schools or areas. Dave Carroll explained that with regard to secondary schools, the practice was normally to apply a three-mile catchment area for the spending of Section 106 monies. He explained that it was sometimes difficult to spend such funding particularly when there were no schools in the immediate vicinity. Consequently the Council's priority was usually to spend the Section 106 funding by allocating it to a needy site. The Chair expressed further concerns that developers could have a strong argument against the Council for seeking Section 106 agreements and then using the funds in a different area. Again, Councillor Dromey referred to the issue of cross-borough catchment issues and stressed the need to work with other authorities in order to share Section 106 funding to develop the schools appropriately. At this point Dave Carroll referred to the De Havilland development and stressed that the Council had worked closely with Harrow Council. Councillor Farrell referred to the School Organisation Committee and highlighted its role in steering where Section 106 monies were necessary and to determine how these were best allocated. The Chair commented that hopefully the Committee would have more of a steer on such issues in the future.

RESOLVED: -

that the briefing note be noted.

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

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted.

(iii) ***Civic Centre for Brent***

The Chair of the Forward Plan Select Committee provided Councillor Mendoza with a brief explanation regarding the civic centre for Brent proposals. The Borough Solicitor explained that this report to the Executive would provide an update on the proposals and would allow for the proposals to be further developed. This would then be followed in August 2005 by a further report regarding the procurement process. At this point the Chair referred to discussions that had taken place between the Conservative Group and the lead officers for the project and highlighted concerns regarding the location of a proposed civic centre. The Chair confirmed that the Conservative Group would not support the project if the civic centre was to be located near the Stadium. The Borough Solicitor confirmed that this report contained details about seven possible sites and that whilst none of them were going to be ruled out at the current time, three sites would need to be identified as the preferred locations for a future development. It was noted that further discussions would take place on this matter once the steering group had been established.

RESOLVED: -

that the briefing note be noted.

(iv) ***Salisbury Road Car Park Site: Proposed Sale***

RESOLVED: -

that the briefing note be noted.

(v) ***Brent Reservoir/Welsh Harp Local Nature Reserve Declaration***

RESOLVED: -

that the briefing note be noted.

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

Members expressed some concerns regarding the limited detail in the briefing note.

RESOLVED: -

that the briefing note be noted.

8. **The Forward Plan (*Issue 2 2005/2006*)**

Members were advised that the proposed lease to the College of North West London might be deferred to a subsequent meeting of the Executive. Members noted that the following reports to the Executive had been delayed and would be deferred to subsequent meetings of the Executive:

- Dollis Hill House and the Youth and Community Centres
- Further update reports on Mahogany Arts and the Pakistan Workers Association.

Issue 2 of the Forward Plan (04/07/05 to 04/11/05) was before Members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of this document the Select Committee requested further information to future meetings on the following issues: -

(i) ***Dollis Hill House***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note to the meeting on 26th July 2005 with an overview of the main issues to be contained in the report. The Chair confirmed that attendance by the Lead Member and Lead Officer at this meeting would not be necessary, subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(ii) ***Youth and Community Centres***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note to the meeting on 26th July 2005. The Chair confirmed that attendance by the Lead Member and Lead Officer at this meeting would not be necessary, subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(iii) ***Consultation Strategy for Children and Young People***

Councillor Dromey requested a briefing note on this item to the meeting on 26th July 2005. The Chair confirmed that attendance by the Lead Member and Lead Officer at this meeting would not be necessary, subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(iv) ***Public Convenience Strategy***

Members of the Select Committee requested a briefing note to the meeting on 26th July 2005. The Chair confirmed that attendance by the Lead Member and Lead Officer at this meeting would not be necessary, subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(v) ***Local Development Framework***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item to the meeting on 26th July 2005. The Chair confirmed that attendance by the Lead Member and Lead Officer at this meeting would not be necessary, subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(vi) ***Wembley Redevelopment – Crowd Safety***

The Forward Plan Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item to the meeting on 26th July 2005. The Chair confirmed that attendance by the Lead Member and Lead Officer at this meeting would not be necessary, subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(vii) ***BACES Adult Learning Plan***

Members of the Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item to the meeting on 26th July 2005, but suggested that this item be thereafter deferred to the appropriate Panel for further consideration. Attendance at the meeting by the Lead Member/Lead Officer was requested subject to the briefing note containing sufficient detail.

(viii) ***Approval of Enforcement Policy***

Members noted that a request for further information regarding the report had been requested some time ago at an earlier meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee. However, since this report had been delayed for some time, such a request had not yet been acted upon. It was noted that since this report was now scheduled to go to the September meeting of the Executive a briefing note would be requested for the August meeting of the Select Committee.

(ix) The Forward Plan Select Committee requested that the Older People Inspection report be forwarded to the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel for further consideration. Councillor Blackman was advised that this issue was already scheduled for consideration at its next meeting.

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

There were none.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED: -

that the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee take place on Tuesday, 26th July 2005.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

R BLACKMAN
Chair

Mins0506/scrutiny/ForPlan29jnk