

**MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor R Blackman (Chair), Councillor Dromey (VC) and Councillors Freeson (alternate for J Moher) and Nerva.

Also present were Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture) and Councillor Lyon (Lead Member for Children and Families).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coughlin (Lead Member for Corporate Resources), Hughes and J Moher.

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

There were none.

**2. Deputations**

There were none.

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005 be received and approved as an accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

*Executive List of Decisions - Presentation of Task Group reports to the Executive*

Commenting on the Executive List of Decisions, Members requested clarity from the Executive regarding the Select Committee's concerns about a lack of a formal written response and commitment to implement recommendations arising from Overview and Scrutiny task group investigations. Members requested feedback on how the process of receiving reports would be improved in the future.

*Recommendations for Award of Contract for Bridge Strengthening and Associated Works Outside Wembley Park Station*

Members requested a future update regarding the proposed works and sought clarification regarding their earlier request that a meeting be organised in association with Camden for all in councillors in the South of the Borough regarding issues arising from Kilburn High Road. The Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture confirmed that officers were in the process of organising a joint meeting with Camden and that a further update would be provided in due course.

5. **Call-in of Executive Decisions from the Meeting of the Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

The deadline for call-in was Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005. No items were successfully called in following the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

6. **The Executive List of Decisions for the Meeting that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive List of Decisions be noted.

7. **Briefing Notes/Information Updates requested by Select Committee following consideration of Version 5 (2005/06) of the Forward Plan**

(i) ***Wembley Redevelopment – Crowd Safety and Security***

John Howe (Transportation Unit) and Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture) were present for this item.

John Howe (Transportation Unit) provided Members with an update on the Wembley Redevelopment – Crowd Safety and Security report which aimed to enhance CCTV coverage on pedestrian routes between the Stadium and the three stations:- Wembley Park, Wembley Stadium and Wembley Central. Mr Howe advised that the proposed crowd management scheme would supplement that provided by the existing Brent CCTV coverage and the recently awarded S106 (WNSL) package. The scheme also included a new Public Address (PA) system between the Stadium and Wembley Park station and also at Wembley Stadium station, which would be operational on event days. Members were advised that the disposition and performance of the PA speakers had been discussed with officers from Brent Environmental Unit in order to minimise noise in adjacent residential areas on event days. It was noted that the monitoring of the enhanced coverage would be via the new Brent House control room which would also link with the Stadium, QED and Metropolitan Police control rooms and would have image sharing capability with station control rooms. It was noted that Transport for London (TfL) had funded the majority of the scheme although additional funding providers would be introduced in 2006/07.

Mr Howe then outlined the procurement process proposed to deliver the project via three packages; installation of duct network, control room upgrade and the installation of columns, foundations, cameras and speakers; and linkage with control room. It was anticipated that works would be completed by May 2006 although additional Police resources would be utilised if there were any issues regarding a lack of CCTV coverage at the time of Stadium opening.

Based on a tabled plan, Members commented that there appeared to be gaps in coverage between the various CCTV packages. Mr Howe advised that these were not typically coverage gaps but were areas where the image resolution fell marginally below the ideal high performance target values. Councillor Blackman queried the rationale for determining coverage and referred particularly to the Wembley Hill Road area on the route from the Green Man public house and the area north of Wembley Park Station near to the Torch public house where there appeared to be limited coverage in a particularly residential area. John Howe confirmed that he would clarify the rationale for positioning CCTV in this area in due course. Members were advised that discussions were underway to ensure that CCTV cameras were not potentially obscured in the future as a result of future Quintain developments.

With regards to coverage around Wembley Park Station the Select Committee was advised that in addition to Brent S106 and London Underground cameras, additional coverage was provided by the camera located at the junction with Forty Lane, panning towards the station. It was noted that the bus stop area immediately prior to the station was particularly crowded even on event days. Mr Howe advised that the area would be the subject of a rationalisation of street furniture, similar to that currently underway at the Triangle, which would free up areas near the bus stop and its approaches. In response to a query regarding the granting of the Stadium Licence and linkage with the proposed works, Mr Howe confirmed that he would clarify the issues in due course.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the briefing note be noted;
- (ii) that the rationale for determining coverage, particularly with regards to where CCTV equipment had not been positioned in certain areas such as Wembley Hill Road and Bridge Road, be clarified; and

(iii) that the issue of linkage between the granting of the Stadium licence and the proposed works be clarified.

(ii) ***Relevant Area on Consultation for Admissions Arrangements***

Rajeshree Parmar (Head of Admissions, Communication and Student Support) and Councillor Lyon (Lead Member for Children and Families) were present for this item.

Rajeshree Parmar (Head of Admissions, Communication and Student Support) commented on the statutory requirement to formally consult on the area on admissions every two years. Members were advised that following a period of consultation on a proposal to retain the admissions area within Brent, there had been no opposition and consequently there would be no changes. Following some discussion Members acknowledged that the proposed report did not refer to school catchment areas and admissions arrangements but rather the right to consultation. It was acknowledged that the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel would consider the admissions arrangements within Brent. The Lead Member for Children and Families confirmed the need for future consideration of admissions arrangements with regard to the proposed development of a 2<sup>nd</sup> City Academy in Brent. He then praised the work of the Special Educational Needs Assessment Service in producing the Secondary Schools Guide.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note be noted.

(iii) ***Disposal of Land at Alperton School***

Nitin Parshotam (Head of Asset Management, Children and Families) and Councillor Lyon (Lead Member for Children and Families) were present for this item.

Nitin Parshotam (Head of Asset Management, Children and Families) provided the Select Committee with an overview of the site and the background to the proposal which, following widespread consultation would now be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Members were advised that the Council had explored a number of usage options for this site but that it had been determined that there was little viable opportunity for the Council to utilise the land and effectively develop the site due to limited access, the impact of being situated in a residential area and the lack of housing

development potential. Members noted that the land, which was owned by the school governors, was a significant distance from Alperton School. Mr Parshotam explained that the possibility of developing the land for housing or building a new pupil referral unit had been explored in depth but had not been deemed viable. Whilst Members noted that access to the site was restricted and therefore provided limited development opportunities, it was felt that the potential options for development of the site had not been sufficiently explored across the Council. Members enquired about the existing community facilities in the area and suggested that consideration be given to the possible development of a nursery or community centre.

The Lead Member for Children and Families explained that a widespread consultation had been undertaken which did not identify any viable options for future development of the site. However, he acknowledged the issues raised by the Select Committee and the specific suggestions that had been put forward, which would need to be considered in more detail. Members were advised that there were a number of significant issues that would need to be considered with regards to any potential development opportunity including the financial benefits of the Council purchasing the land and whether the school governors would be prepared to withdraw the land for disposal.

It was confirmed that the Planning Department had been involved in discussions regarding the site, particularly concerning the potential development of a pupil referral unit or private housing stock. Mr Parshotam confirmed that whilst these options had been discussed with locally based registered social landlords (RSLs), local residents had not been consulted. It was noted however that there was no requirement to do so. At this point the Select Committee requested that a thorough review take place across the Council to consider all the viable options for future use of this site including the development of a community centre, a nursery or health care facilities.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the briefing note be noted;
- (ii) that a thorough review be undertaken Council wide of all potential uses of the land at Alperton School, both corporately and with other agencies to ensure appropriate disposal if no viable options for use are identified; and

(iii) that the Executive be recommended to ensure that Alperton School gains the maximum financial gain from the disposal of land, if determined that this is the only viable option for the site.

(iv) **Section 106 Update**

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

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture) commented on the issues raised in the briefing note before Members and welcomed comments from ward councillors regarding potential works that could be undertaken through Section 106 funds. The Lead Member acknowledged the benefits of notifying ward councillors when Section 106 funds became available in an area and stressed that this kind of information sharing exercise would hopefully be improved in the future.

The Chair queried why the Section 106 report had been incorporated into another report, yet to be included on the Forward Plan and why there were no clear timescales for decision making. Councillor Jones confirmed that clarification about this matter would be provided in due course. Members of the Select Committee then stressed the need to ensure that Section 106 funds were appropriately allocated for site specific developments, thus ensuring local improvements to counter balance the impact of developments within the Borough. In acknowledgement of comments by the Select Committee regarding the need for accountability in terms of delivering schemes through Section 106 agreements, the Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture confirmed that she would clarify whether such lists could be circulated.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the briefing note be noted; and
- (ii) that the Select Committee's recommendation that Section 106 expenditure be considered in a separate report and not included in the Capital Strategy report, be forwarded to the Executive for consideration.

(v) Members were advised that the following briefing notes were outstanding following earlier requests by the Select Committee and would therefore be submitted to the Select Committee for consideration at a later date:-

- (a) Dollis Hill House
- (b) Parking Policy
- (c) Cultural Strategy

8. **The Forward Plan (*Issue 6 2005/2006*)**

Issue 6 of the Forward Plan (03/10/05 to 03/02/06) was now before Members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of Issue 6 of the Forward Plan, the Select Committee made the following requests:-

**(i) *Ground Work Trust Western Extension Consultation***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note regarding the Ground Work Trust Western Extension Consultation report to the meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Members requested that the Lead Member and lead officer for this report be requested to attend the meeting to respond to questions.

**(ii) *John Billam – Update on Progress***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note regarding this item to the meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Members requested that the Lead Member and lead officer for this report be requested to attend the meeting to respond to questions.

**(iii) *Joint Commissioning with PCT***

The Select Committee sought clarification about when this item would be considered by the Executive and requested a briefing note regarding this item to the meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005, if possible. Members requested that the Lead Member and lead officer for this report be requested to attend the meeting to respond to questions.

**(iv) *Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Academy in Brent***

Commenting on the Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Academy in Brent report, Members expressed concern that this item was placed on the Forward Plan at short notice in advance of the Executive meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 but had since been deferred to the November meeting thereby denying the Select Committee the opportunity to consider the item in advance of a decision being taken by the Executive. Members referred to the documentation regarding the Council's expression of interest and requested that these documents be circulated to the Select

Committee to ensure that Members had a full understanding of the submission. The Chair expressed particular concern that the forthcoming report to the Executive contained site specific details and that this information had not been adequately presented for pre-scrutiny. At this point the Select Committee requested that the item be referred to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005 for consideration in advance of the November Executive meeting. Members also requested that possible constitutional technicalities that were preventing pre-scrutiny also be considered further with a view to improving the scrutiny process. It was further suggested that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive outlining the Select Committee's concerns and frustrations regarding deferred/ delayed reports and issues regarding the lack of opportunity to undertake pre-scrutiny.

**(v) VA Status Lessons Learned**

The Select Committee requested that this item be referred to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005 for consideration in advance of the November Executive meeting.

**9. Items Considered by the Forward Plan Select Committee – 2004/05 and 2005/06**

Members considered a report detailing those items that had been considered by the Select Committee since May 2004. Members welcomed the tracking report and referred to a number of items where it was felt that further clarification about what action had been taken following consideration of these items by the Executive was necessary. Update information regarding the outcomes of the following items was requested:-

**(i) Youth and Community Centres**

Members were advised in July 2005 that a further report would be considered by the Executive yet there had been no further references to this item to the Forward Plan;

**(ii) Salusbury Road Car Park Site – Proposed Sale**

Members acknowledged that this report had been withdrawn from the Forward Plan and would not now be considered by the Executive. Consequently a briefing note would not be presented to the Select Committee outlining the nature of the proposed report. Councillors Nerva and Freeson requested an update to the November meeting of the Select Committee outlining the



status of the report and the issues regarding withdrawal of the item from the Forward Plan.

(iii) *Wembley Manor Tender Results*

Members noted that despite previous notification that this item would be considered as a matter of urgency at the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 meeting of the Executive, consideration was actually deferred. Members expressed concerns about being provided with sufficient opportunities to scrutinise reports in advance of consideration by the Executive and stressed the need for more stringent processes.

(iv) *Pavilion at Neasden Recreation Ground*

This item was considered by the Select Committee in September 2004. Members sought a further update to the November meeting of the Select Committee from the relevant service area concerning what action the Executive had taken following approval of the report.

(v) *Draft Air Quality Action Plan*

This item was considered throughout 2004 and finally in June 2005. Members sought clarification to the November meeting about progress to date regarding air quality issues across the Borough.

(vi) *Revised Parks Strategy for Brent 2004-2006 and a Development Plan for Allotments 2004-2008*

This item was considered in November 2004. Members sought an update on implementation of the plan and about work undertaken with other groups and/or associations that's were interested in the development of open spaces across the Borough.

(vii) *Disposal of Access Road leading to the Jewish Liberal Cemetery*

This item was considered in March 2005, at which time comments from the Select Committee were fed back to the Executive concerning the need for stringent renegotiation on the sale of the access road. Members requested an update on what action had been taken following consideration of this report by the Executive.

- (viii) Members requested that an additional column be inserted on the tracking report to allow Members to monitor the decisions taken by the Executive and any actions undertaken to date.

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

There were none.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following some discussion about the close proximity of the date of the next meeting to the Christmas period, those present suggested that the meeting be postponed to an alternative date in January 2006, subject to room and Member availability and agreement by the Democratic Services Manager. The Chair of the Select Committee acknowledged that such a postponement would mean that the re-arranged meeting fell outside of the call-in period.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee be postponed to take place on an alternative date in January 2006, subject to room and Member availability and agreement by the Democratic Services Manager; and
- (ii) that, subject to the above, notification about the date of a postponed meeting be circulated in due course.

**12. Any Other Urgent Business**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 10.20pm

R BLACKMAN  
Chair

Mins0506/scrutiny/ForPlan27ok