

MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE
Wednesday 25th October 2006 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor D Coughlin (Chair), Councillor Leaman (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Jackson, J Long, Malik and Powney.

Also present was Councillor J Moher.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sneddon.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

There were none.

2. Deputations

There were none.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 26th September 2006

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2006 be received and approved as an accurate record subject to an amendment to the word 'extracted' under resolution i), page 5, which should read 'enacted'.

4. Matters Arising

Executive Response

Commenting on the Executive Response, Members expressed concern about the lack of a formal written response from the Executive regarding the Select Committee's views. The Chair advised that a response had been made available for circulation at this meeting, and that officers had been requested to include this with the agenda for all future meetings.

(i) 2006/07 Revenue Budget Monitoring

Councillor Blackman's apology for being unable to be present at the previous meeting was noted, as was his written communication with the Chair, giving an explanation to his whereabouts. Members noted that the view of the Executive was that the planned budget reductions would not result in a reduction in services to users.

(ii) Promoting Day Opportunities for Adults with Disabilities

Members heard that the Executive had noted the views of the Select Committee.

5. **Call in of Executive Decisions from the meeting of the Executive on Monday 9th October 2006**

There were none.

6. **The Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Monday 9th October 2006**

Councillor J Long expressed significant concern regarding a recent Executive decision concerning the Local Development Framework (LDF). Councillor Long expressed her strong disagreement with the actions of the Executive when making its decision. She stated that this item had already been considered by the Planning Committee, at which time a member of the Planning Committee had proposed a number of amendments which had been rejected by the Planning Committee. Subsequent to this meeting, the same member of the Planning Committee had proposed that the Executive consider the amendments, a number of which were then agreed by the Executive. Councillor Long put forward the view the Executive had wrongly bypassed the decision-making of the Planning Committee in this matter.

Other members agreed with the view expressed by Councillor Long, and commented that members of the Planning Committee had the opportunity to raise their concerns or objections to items on the Planning agenda at the meetings of the Planning Committee, which was the appropriate place to do so. The Chair commented that he felt the Executive had circumvented the decision-making powers of the Planning Committee by acting in this manner, expressed serious concerns about the possible precedent this incident had set for future decision-making and invited members' views.

Members requested that the Executive provide a detailed briefing note to explain why the proposed amendments had been accepted at the meeting of the Executive, after having been ruled out by the Planning Committee. The Committee also resolved that Councillor Powney should write to the Borough Solicitor to request advice as to whether the Executive had acted appropriately in this instance.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Executive be informed about the comments made by the Forward Plan Select Committee concerning the manner in which amendments were made to Local Development Framework;
- (ii) that the Executive be asked to provide reasons as to why amendments previously ruled out by the Planning Committee had been accepted;
- (iii) that the Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on 9th October 2006 be noted.

7. **Briefing notes/information updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of Version 6 (2006/07) of the Forward Plan**

(i) A Business Case for a new Civic Centre

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted.

(ii) I.T. Strategy 2006

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted.

(iii) Draft Parking and Enforcement Plan (PEP)

Members discussed the draft policy and the information contained in the briefing note. Some members expressed concern that there was not enough room for sufficient public consultation in the current strategy. The Committee agreed that there would be consideration of the need for any further action to be taken following publication of the report and any decision reached by the Executive.

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted.

(iv) Air Quality Management Area Review

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted.

(v) Barham Park Estate Redevelopment Options

Members noted that this report was scheduled for presentation to the Executive in January 2007 and commented that this report had previously been scheduled for presentation on an earlier date. There was discussion amongst members regarding the change of date and Councillor J Long expressed concern as to whether the Decent Homes standard would be met. The Committee agreed that there would be consideration of the need for any further action to be taken following publication of the report and any decision reached by the Executive.

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted.

(vi) Wembley Security Proposals

The Chair advised members that he had received an apology from the Director of Transportation, Phil Rankmore, which explained that it had not been possible to provide the Committee with the requested briefing note on this topic as negotiations remained ongoing with the police. Mr Rankmore confirmed that members would be updated once the negotiations had been concluded.

RESOLVED:

that this information be noted.

8. The Forward Plan (Issue 6 2006/2007)

Issue 6 of the Forward Plan (06/11/06 to 09/03/07) was now before members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of Issue 6 of the Forward Plan, the Select Committee made the following requests:-

Wembley Vision

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. The relevant lead member and lead officer were not requested to attend this meeting and respond to members' questions, subject to the level of detail contained in the briefing note.

School Places

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item to provide further information on the available sites for a second academy in Brent and to give further detail on the preferred site. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. Members asked that the lead member and lead officers, specifically John Christie, be requested to attend the meeting to respond to members' questioning.

Small Homes Project

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item to provide further information as to why the Executive was being asked to exempt the project from the tender process. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. The relevant lead member and lead officer were not requested to attend this meeting and respond to members' questions, subject to the level of detail contained in the briefing note.

Wembley Toilet Enhancement

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item, specifically providing an explanation as to whether this was a separate toilet strategy specifically for the Wembley area, or whether in fact this replaced the previous toilet strategy. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. The relevant lead member and lead officer were not requested to attend this meeting and respond to members' questions, subject to the level of detail contained in the briefing note.

Award of Waste Management Contract

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item, with further information regarding any recommendation or views reached by the Executive at the meeting scheduled for Monday 13th November 2006. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. Members asked that the lead member and lead officers be requested to attend the meeting to respond to members' questioning.

Tackling Idling Engines

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item outlining whether this campaign was aimed at bus drivers as well as the drivers of private vehicles, specifically what was meant by 'approve a campaign' and how it was planned that any penalties be enforced. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. The relevant lead member and lead officer were not requested to attend this meeting and respond to members' questions, subject to the level of detail contained in the briefing note.

Review of Carlyon and Worksteps/RLSB

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 28th November 2006. The relevant lead member and lead officer were not requested to attend this meeting and respond to members' questions, subject to the level of detail contained in the briefing note.

RESOLVED:-

that the above requests be noted.

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

There were none.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 28th November 2006

11. **Any Other Urgent Business**

The Chair advised the members that this was the last meeting of the legal advisor to the Committee, Sharlene Atkins, who would shortly be moving to Canada with her fiancée. The Chair, on behalf of members of the Committee, thanked Ms Atkins for her hard work and wished her well for the future.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

D Coughlin
Chair