

MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE
Tuesday 1st May 2007 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Coughlin (Chair) and Councillors Hirani (alternate for Jackson), J Long and Powney.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackson and Leaman.

Also present was Councillor Van Colle (part).

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

2. Deputations

None.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 27th March 2007

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2007 be received and approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Progress report – One Stop Shops and Tricycle Theatre

Members referred to the Committee's request for a progress report on the status of the One Stop Shops and of the Tricycle Theatre and asked when this would be provided. The Democratic Services officer advised members of the Committee that the relevant lead member and lead officer would be contacted for an update regarding the development of this report.

West London Waste

Councillor Van Colle informed the Committee that the Mayor of London had sought leave to appeal against the recent judicial review which had found on the side of West London Waste, but that he had been refused. It was not yet known whether the Mayor would choose to pursue an oral appeal.

5. Call-in of Executive Decisions from the meeting of the Executive on Monday 16th April 2007

There were none.

6. The Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Monday 16th April 2007

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Monday 16th April 2007 be noted.

7. Briefing notes/information updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of Version 11 (2006/07) of the Forward Plan

(i) *Wembley Security Proposals*

Councillor Van Colle (Lead member for Environment, Planning and Culture) and Richard Saunders (Director of Environment and Culture) were present for this item. They attended to update and answer any queries members had regarding the briefing note. Councillor Van Colle then explained that the report had been rescheduled for presentation to the June meeting of the Executive. In response to members' comments regarding the limited length and detail in the briefing note, Richard Saunders advised that it had not been possible to include more detail in the briefing note as confidential discussions were ongoing with the Metropolitan police. Richard explained that this information was currently restricted due to the inclusion of counter-terrorism proposals in the discussions. Members were then advised that until these discussions had concluded, only a limited amount of information could be made publicly available, but that it would be possible to fully discuss the Safety Certificate for the stadium should members have any queries on this issue. It was noted that the Safety Certificate fell within the Council's remit, whereas responsibility for wider security proposals outside the stadium itself was primarily the remit of the Metropolitan police, with the Council taking an enabling role in the process.

The Chair then invited further questions from members. Some members voiced concern that, in light of the ongoing discussions related to the security proposals there had not to date been adequate provision for public safety. In response, Richard Saunders explained that both the Council and the Metropolitan police were satisfied for the stadium to function under the current arrangements. Richard stressed that the issues under discussion related to longer term arrangements, and that it was hoped that the proposals involved could be made available for scrutiny by members at a later date.

Members enquired whether, under current arrangements, provision for public safety had been made in the event of a bomb threat or an evacuation during a football match. Richard Saunders confirmed that there were arrangements in place to provide an adequate response in the event that such a situation were to arise.

The Committee discussed the information available, and several members expressed the view that there was insufficient information yet

available in the public domain to allow thorough scrutiny. The Chair sought agreement to the proposal that a regular briefing note be provided to the Committee at each meeting, to keep members regularly updated with new information. In the event there was no new information, the words 'no update' were to be added to the most recent briefing note and supplied to the Committee. Members unanimously agreed this proposal.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the briefing note be noted;
- (ii) that further briefing notes be provided at each future meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee to keep members updated with any new information.

(ii) *Bulky Household Waste Charging System*

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted and that the relevant lead member and lead officer be requested to attend the meeting of Tuesday, 5th June and respond to members' questions.

(iii) *Proposed Community Primary and Nursery Schools Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 update report*

RESOLVED:

that the briefing note be noted.

8. *The Forward Plan (Issue 12 14/05/2007 – 14/09/2007)*

Issue 12 of the Forward Plan (14/05/2007 – 14/09/2007) was before members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of Issue 12 of the Forward Plan, the Select Committee made the following requests:-

Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 5th June 2007. 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.

People Strategy

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 5th June 2007. 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.

Bulky Household Waste Charging System

The Select Committee requested that the relevant lead member and lead officer be asked to attend the meeting of the Select Committee on 5th June 2007 to respond to members' questions.

Vacant Site corner of Park Road and Rucklidge Avenue, Harlesden (Petition requesting that the site be acquired by the Council and brought back into more productive use)

The Select Committee requested that the relevant lead member and lead officer be asked to attend the meeting of the Select Committee on 5th June 2007 to respond to members' questions.

Barham Park Estate Redevelopment Options

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item. This briefing note was requested for the meeting of the Select Committee on 5th June 2007. The Committee then requested that if further information on this item was not available in time for presentation to the next meeting, that a detailed reason as to why there had been considerable delay in presenting this report be provided to the Select Committee.

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

- Sponsor for the Wembley Academy (report from the Director of Children and Families)

The Committee discussed the information contained in the report. The Chair noted that the information contained in the Absolute Return for Kids' (ARK) financial accounts concluded in September 2005, and enquired why more current financial information had not been made available.

Councillor Powney then made reference to an email issued by the Leader, dated 1st May, which had contained further information on school sites in the borough and voiced concern at the tone of the email. He also expressed disappointment that the information contained in the email was not more factually accurate.

RESOLVED:

that the Committee regrets the failure of the Executive in delaying the construction of a new school by more than a year to the detriment of the borough's school children and to the quality of the education in Brent.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee is currently scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 5th June 2007, subject to agreement of the

Council's calendar of meetings at the Annual meeting of the full Council on 21st May 2007.

11. **Any Other Urgent Business**

None.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

Councillor D Coughlin
Chair