

MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 23rd September 2008 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Long (Chair), Castle (Vice Chair) and Councillors V Brown, Mistry, Powney and Tancred.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coughlin and H B Patel.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Castle and Long declared personal interests as Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) board members in respect of item 7 (ii), however they did not consider their interests prejudicial and remained present for discussion on this item.

2. Deputations

None

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 23rd August 2008

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2008 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 Tuesday, 9th September 2008

There were no call-ins.

6. The Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Tuesday, 9th September 2008

The Chair referred to the approval of the Domestic Vehicle Footway Crossover Policy and the Select Committee agreed to her suggestion that the Executive be requested to review the Policy within 6 months of its implementation.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Tuesday, 9th September 2008 be noted; and
- (ii) that the Executive be requested to review the Domestic Vehicle Footway Crossover Policy within 6 months of its' implementation.

7. **Briefing notes/information updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of Version 3 of the Forward Plan (2008/09)**

(i) Delegation of Anti-Social Behaviour Order Functions to Brent Housing Partnership

Councillor Castle noted that the Executive report would not consider implications for staffing within the Community Safety Team once the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) functions were delegated to Brent Housing Partnership (BHP). He felt that this was an important issue that needed to be addressed and he requested that further information in relation to this be provided at the next meeting and the lead officer attend to respond to queries from Members.

The Chair commented that BHP had indicated their satisfaction with the proposals.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the briefing note be noted; and
- (ii) that a further briefing note updating Members with regard to the Community Safety Team's role once ASBO functions have been delegated to BHP and the attendance of the Lead Member and Lead Officer be requested at the next meeting of the Select Committee.

(ii) Strategic Review of Sports Centre Provision in Brent

Councillor Mistry, in noting that the Planning for Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Strategy in Brent 2008-2010 consultation had been completed, enquired what consultation had taken place other than that undertaken at the sports centres. She stated that she had requested this as an item for the next meeting of the Kingsbury and Kenton Area Consultative Forums (ACF) on the 5th November 2008 and she felt that it should be presented at all the ACFs. She questioned why disabled persons had not been given the opportunity to provide feedback and whether outdoor watersports facilities included swimming pools. Councillor Mistry commented that although free swimming and free buses to sports facilities were available in the north of the Borough, she felt that sports provision for older people in the area was lacking, whilst not all younger people had good access to the free bus service. She requested Lead Member and Lead Officer attendance at the next meeting to respond to Members' queries.

It was noted that Increasing Participation in Sport through Sports Clubs, a report produced by a Task Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, would also be considered at the next meeting of the Executive.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the briefing note be noted; and

- (ii) that Lead Member and Lead Officer attendance be requested at the next meeting of the Select Committee to respond to Members' questions.

8. **The Forward Plan – Issue 5 (2008/09)**

Issue 5 of the Forward Plan (29.09.08 to 06.02.09) was before members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of Issue 5 of the Forward Plan, the Select Committee made the following requests:-

(i) ***IP Telephone Procurement***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item informing Members on the implications for the Civic Centre and the Green Travel Plan. The request was made by the Chair.

(ii) ***North Circular Road Regeneration Area***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item informing Members if Council-owned properties were to be demolished, were compulsory purchase orders planned, where would the demolished homes be relocated, to provide details of the consultation to be undertaken and what policy has been determined in respect of the regeneration. The request was made by Councillor Castle.

The relevant Lead Member and Lead Officer for this item were requested to attend the meeting to respond to Members' questions.

(iii) ***Climate Change Strategy***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item providing Members with details of the consultation that had been undertaken and to highlight any budgetary implications with regard to the Action Plan. The request was made by the Chair.

(iv) ***Passenger Taxi Procurement***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item providing details of how many bids for the tender had been received and had the tender remained within budget. The request was made by the Chair.

Members then discussed consultation arrangements for some of the items on the Forward Plan. Councillor Castle expressed concern that consultation was not always as comprehensive as was desired and cited the North Circular Road Regeneration Area and the Strategic Review of Sports Centres within Brent as possible examples. The Select Committee then agreed to a recommendation suggested by Councillor Powney with regard to requesting that the Executive ensure that all future consultation take place prior to the taking of the decisions.

RESOLVED:-

that the Select Committee is concerned that public consultations on Council decisions (such as the North Circular Road Regeneration and Strategic Review of Sports Centres within Brent) often seem to occur after the decisions have been effectively made. The Select Committee believes that all Council consultations should be genuine and transparent and that at present this does not always seem apparent. The Select Committee requests that the Executive ensure that all future consultations take place prior to the taking of the decisions.

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

There were none.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee would take place on Thursday, 30th October 2008.

11. **Any Other Urgent Business**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm.

J LONG
Chair