

**MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Long (Chair), Councillor Castle (Vice Chair) and Councillors V Brown, Butt (alternate for Councillor Coughlin), Mistry and Powney.

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

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

None declared.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 be received and approved as an accurate record subject to the following amendment:-

Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> line, replace (Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Development) with (Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture).

**3. Matters Arising**

*Sustainable Communities Act*

Members sought clarification with regard to the possibility of signing up to the Sustainable Communities Act. Councillor Powney commented that there was not presently a forum identified for agreeing the proposal to sign up to the Act. The Legal Adviser agreed to clarify the issue with Members.

Members then agreed to the Chair's recommendation that the Executive investigate as a matter of urgency a way to ensure that the Council signed up to the Act before the deadline and to refer to other boroughs to identify the appropriate forum for consultation on this issue.

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive be instructed to urgently investigate a way of ensuring that the Council signs up to the Sustainable Communities Act prior to the deadline on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and to refer to other boroughs to identify the appropriate forum for consultation.

*North Circular Road Regeneration Area*

The Chair commented that Members were still awaiting the response to the Forward Plan Select Committee's recommendations from the Executive.

*Supporting the Achievement of Fairtrade Borough Status for Brent*

Councillor Powney felt that this item should be included in the Forward Plan and he requested a briefing note providing an explanation as to why it was not included and when was it likely to appear on the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED:-

that a briefing note be provided at the next meeting explaining why it is not on the Forward Plan and when it is likely to be to appear on the Forward Plan.

4. **Call-in of the Executive Decisions from the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

There were none.

5. **The Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

The Chair noted that the decisions with regard to the Authority to Participate in a Collaborative Procurement of the Provision of Occupational Services were not included in the document.

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be noted.

6.a **Briefing notes/information updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of Version 12 of the Forward Plan (2008/09)**

*(i) Drug and Alcohol and Offender Services Contract*

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on the North Circular Road Regeneration Area be noted.

*(ii) Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inclusion Strategy*

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inclusion Strategy be noted.

6.b **Briefing notes/information updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of earlier issues of the Forward Plan (2008/09)**

(i) ***Travel Plan***

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on the Travel Plan be noted.

(ii) ***Domestic Vehicle Footway Crossover Policy***

The Chair commented that as some properties would be sub-divided, there may be some difficulty in identifying who was responsible for breaching the policy. She also enquired whether any priority was given to areas where pavements were damaged. Councillor Mistry commented that the enforcement process seemed very lengthy and added that any violations needed to be reported quickly so that Transportation officers could obtain the necessary photographic evidence. Councillor Butt also felt that the timescale for enforcement was a lengthy process and felt that further clarification of timescales would be useful. Councillor Powney enquired whether the Council was able to identify an owner to each vehicle. Councillor V Brown commented that enforcement was sometimes complicated by the fact that some of those who were in breach of the Policy may be short term tenants.

Members then agreed that a further briefing note at the next meeting be provided providing details on how enforcement was undertaken where properties were sub-divided or under short term tenancy agreements, clarification of timescales, whether the Council was able to cross reference vehicles to their owners and whether priority was given to areas where pavements are cracked.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the briefing note on Domestic Vehicle Footway Crossover Policy be noted; and

(ii) that a further briefing note providing details of how enforcement is undertaken where properties are multi-occupied/sub-divided or under short tenancy agreements, clarification of timescales, whether the Council is able to cross reference vehicles and is priority given to areas where pavements are damaged, be provided at the next meeting.

(iii) ***Housing Strategy 2009 - 2014***

Members noted that the briefing note indicated that the Council did not favour extending the Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing Scheme as a means to improving the quality of accommodation.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on the Housing Strategy 2009 – 2014 be noted.

## **7. The Forward Plan – Issue 2 (2009/10)**

Issue 2 of the Forward Plan (15.06.09 to 05.10.09) was before members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of Issue 2 of the Forward Plan, the Select Committee made the following requests:-

### ***(i) Treasury Management Annual Report 2008/09***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item updating Members on the progress of the report, to include details of how much money was expected to be recovered from the Icelandic banks deposits and when was the money likely to be returned. The request was made by Councillor Powney.

### ***(ii) Policy for Allocating Full Time Nursery Places***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item providing details of the potential impact on working parents, what progress could be made in this area where full time provision was not available and the impact on a child's educational achievement. The request was made by the Chair.

### ***(iii) Planning Enforcement: Review of Priorities for Action***

The Select Committee requested Lead Member and Lead Officer attendance at the next meeting to respond to Members' questions. The request was made by Councillor Powney.

### ***(iv) Reorganisation of Assistant Directors in Environment & Culture***

Members requesting a briefing note on this item providing an explanation for the delays in defining the roles of the remaining Assistant Director posts. The request was made by Councillor Powney.

### ***(v) Transfer of Funds for Learning Disabilities***

Members requested a briefing note on this item providing information on the amount of funds involved and the reasons for the transfer. The request was made by the Chair.

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

There were none.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

10. **Any Other Urgent Business**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

J LONG  
Chair