



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

### **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Butt (Chair), Councillor R Moher (Vice-Chair) and Councillors A Choudry, Crane, Denselow, Hirani, McLennan, J Moher and Pavey

Also present: Councillors Chohan and S Choudhary

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mashari

#### **1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

None made.

#### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2014 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **3. Matters arising**

None.

#### **4. Order of business**

The Executive changed the order of business so as to take early in the meeting, the item for which members of the public were present.

#### **5. Deputations - proposal to permanently expand Princess Frederica School**

With the consent of the Executive, residents and parents of children attending Princess Frederica Primary School addressed the meeting expressing concern over proposals to permanently expand the school, following a statutory consultation, the outcome of which was reported in the report from the Acting Director of Children and Families and the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth. Whilst appreciating the shortage of school places in the borough it was submitted that Princess Frederica School was not appropriate for the proposed expansion given its location within a confined site, the density of the surrounding areas and lack of parental support for the plans. Other schools in the area with a wider footprint were considered more suitable for expansion.

Ms Anna Pascoe (parent) referred to the impact on the school and existing pupils during the development phase and felt that the position of these which included duration, effect on playground space and dining arrangements should be clarified prior to any agreement. She felt the quality of education would suffer and the school would lose its existing community spirit. Mr Karl Abeyasekera (parent) questioned the accuracy of the report and the extent to which the democratic process had been followed. Contrary to indications in the report, the school governing body had not agreed to the expansion but were awaiting information. He felt that the consultation was flawed and referred to what he considered to be double counting of the outside space, additionally, the completion date of pre-2015 was an underestimate.

Mr Rik Smith, speaking on behalf of Kensal Rise Residents Association and Ms Fiona Bell (local resident) expressed concern over the adverse impact on traffic in the area which was already congested. Access was limited and surrounding roads were already narrow and congested, in particular College and Purves Roads. He questioned the extent to which the new travel policy would be effective given the narrowness of pavements and absence of cycle storage and existing road layout. Mr Smith contributed that he understood the logic of expanding a good school but pointed to the adverse impact on outside play areas. Mr Smith stated that the Association had worked well with the council in the past and hoped this would continue however he could not support the plans as they currently stood. Ms Bell put that a traffic plan could not be effective as it would not be policed and would be ignored when people were in a hurry to get to work. She also felt that plans to widen the pavement would increase the traffic problems. Ms Sylvia Maxfield expressed concern over the impact of the building works on the learning environment and pupil behaviour.

The Executive then heard from the Chair of Governors, Andrew Moss who drew attention to the benefits of expansion in terms of new facilities for the school. He regretted that the proposals had proved to be so divisive and questioned the rationale behind the council's choice of schools for expansion. He concurred with views expressed earlier in the meeting regarding traffic congestion and crowded pavements and stressed the need for safe access to be identified without compromise. Mr Moss thanked council officers and members who had worked well with the school during the challenging process. Mr Moss also thanked the Diocese for its support. Mr Moss referred to the 93% who were against expansion out of 224 respondees and questioned whether they could speak for the whole community.

Ms Bunmi Bajela (parent) spoke in favour of the expansion and while acknowledging the disruption during the expansion, reminded it would be short-lived and was a normal part of an expansion process. The waiting list was growing and she reminded of the need to consider the needs of future children some of whom lived near the school but could not get a place. She stressed the need for the community to come together and for the views of the majority to be heard as well as the minority who already had places in the school. Ms Bajela paid tribute to the creativity of staff who were well placed to manage the change and reminded of the exciting plans and opportunities that would not be available without the expansion. The status quo was not an option.

The Chair (Leader of the Council) thanked presenters for their contributions.

6. **Determination proposal to permanently expand Princess Frederica CE Primary School by September 2014**

The report from the Acting Director of Children and Families and Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth informed the Executive of the outcome of the statutory proposal to alter Princess Frederica Church of England Primary School through permanent expansion from September 2014 and recommended that it be approved.

In response to deputations earlier in the meeting, the Chair (Councillor Butt, Leader of the Council) stated that the council was in the middle of a school expansion programme, with £110M to be spent on primary schools. Children had a right to fair access to schooling and to aspire to be good, productive citizens. The expansion programme would continue and the council would work with governors and parents across the borough.

Councillor Pavey (Lead Member, Children and Families) referred to the council's duty to provide high quality school places and progress made, despite shortage of funding. He paid tribute to the campaigners and the high quality of responses to the consultation. He accepted the view that Princess Frederica School was situated on a constrained site, there were other schools in the vicinity that could be better placed and felt the council should pause and consider the justification for pursuing Princess Frederica at this time. Councillor Pavey proposed that the recommendations in the Directors' report should be rejected, the council should await the production of a new school places strategy and then take a strategic review of the position on school place provision.

Councillor Crane (Lead Member, Regeneration and Major Projects) spoke in support of proceeding with the expansion proposals as the report from the Directors made clear the proposals were in keeping with central government guidance, the school had a waiting list and was very popular. He reminded the Executive of the statutory obligation to provide school places and the need to bear in mind those parents that did not have a school place for their children. Councillor Crane questioned why Princess Frederica should be treated differently to any other school that had expanded many of whom had traffic problems and were in densely populated areas. The borough did not have alternative locations and, if approved, concerns raised would be dealt with as apart from the planning process.

Councillor A Choudry (Lead Member for Crime Prevention and Public Safety) and Councillor R Moher (Lead Member, Resources) emphasised the importance of the council making every effort to provide school places for children who were on the waiting list for schools in this and other areas. Councillor Denselow (Lead Member, Customers and Citizens) while acknowledging the need to provide school places, supported the rejection of the expansion proposals and for efforts to be made to bring the community together. The Chair referred to the many children who had to travel across the borough to schools due to the shortage of places. He stated that he had listened to all views carefully and regretted the anxiety felt by some parents. While acknowledging the significance of going against officer recommendations he supported the proposal put forward by Councillor Pavey to reject the expansion proposals, devise a new school places strategy and to work with community and bring forward a revised scheme. He thanked the school and the Diocese for their leadership and support of the original proposals.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the permanent expansion of Princess Frederica C of E Primary School by one form of entry from September 2014 is not approved at this time on the grounds of the extent of the impact of the currently proposed scheme on play space at the school during construction pending the adoption by the Executive of a new School Places Strategy;
- (ii) that the hard work of school staff, the governing body of the school and the diocese in having worked with council officers on this challenging expansion scheme be recognised, assuring the school of the council's ongoing commitment to working in partnership;
- (iii) that a new School Places Strategy be developed in 2014 to provide a up-to-date and robust framework for school expansion decisions and that the expansion of the school be reconsidered in 2015 in the light of need and this new framework.

## 7. **Update on Public Health Contracts**

The report from the Acting Director of Social Services provided an update to the Executive report of 19 August 2013 on future arrangements for public health contracts that the council inherited from the NHS. It sought an exemption from Contract Standing Orders and extensions to current service provision in accordance with Contract Standing Order 84 (a) and the direct award of GUM (Genito-Urinary Medicine) services contracts.

Councillor Hirani (Lead Member, Adults and Health) stated that the WLA had expanded the potential for collaboration and improved efficiency. He outlined the services to be provided and where the contractual changes had taken place.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the progress made in developing options for the future commissioning and procurement of public health services be noted;
- (ii) that approval be given to an exemption in accordance with Contract Standing Order 84(a) from the usual tendering requirements of Standing Orders to extend the existing Public Health services contracts inherited from the NHS for the contract periods set out in paragraph 8.1 of the report from the Acting Director of Social Services, on the basis of good operational and/or financial reasons as stated within that report;
- (iii) that it be noted that residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification for substance misuse were currently spot purchased and that these arrangements would continue while officers explore the possibility of collaboratively procuring through the WLA, as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report;
- (iv) that authority be delegated to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Procurement and Chief Finance Officer, to participate in the WLA negotiation of 2014/15 Genito-Urinary Medicine

("GUM") contracts and to award direct contract(s) to existing GUM health providers, on behalf of Brent Council, and to develop arrangements to support the collaborative management of these contracts, as set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report;

- (v) that the decision of Leaders' Committee London Councils, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to fund pan London HIV prevention activity procured by Lambeth Council on behalf of all London boroughs, as set out in paragraph 4.11 of the report be noted;
- (vi) that authority be delegated to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Procurement and the Chief Finance Officer, to establish, appoint and monitor a providers' list comprising GP practices, local community pharmacies, and potentially private sector providers, for the continued commissioning of community-based services (previously referred to as "Local Enhanced Services") as set out in paragraph 7.4 of the report.

## **8. Award of tender for Connexions Service**

Councillor Pavey (Lead Member, Children and Families) introduced the report which requested authority to award a contract for the provision of education, employment, and training and careers Connexions services to the council as required by Contract Standing Order No 88. The report summarised the process undertaken in tendering the contract and, following the completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommended to whom the contract should be awarded.

Councillor Pavey welcomed the report as a success story and referred to the role played by Connexions in the borough having a relatively low percentage of 16-18 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). Councillor Pavey stated that the tendering process was rigorous and Connexions had an established track record and would continue to give quality advice and guidance. He thanked Connexions for their work.

RESOLVED:

that the contract for the provision of education, employment, training and careers Connexions services be awarded to Prospects Services Limited for an initial contract period of three years from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 with an option for the council to extend by any number of periods up to an aggregate of two years.

## **9. Tender award for Information Advice and Guidance in Children's Centres**

The report from the Acting Director of Children and Families requested authority to award a contract for the provision of information, advice and guidance services for families of children attending children's centres in Brent aged 0-5 to the council as required by Contract Standing Order No 88. The report summarised the process undertaken in tendering this contract and, following the completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommended to whom the contract should be awarded.

Councillor Pavey (Lead Member, Children and Families) referred to the valuable role played by children's centres as a play facility for children while offering advice to parents/carers. The contract price represented a small increase in funding which

would be absorbed within existing budgets. Councillor Pavey stated that while there had been only one tenderer, the usual processes had been followed.

RESOLVED:

that the contract for the provision of Information, Advice and Guidance for families of children attending children's centres in Brent aged 0-5 be awarded to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for the value of £354k (for the first two years at fixed prices for each year) for an initial contract period of three years from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 with an option for the council to extend by any number of periods up to an aggregate of two years.

#### 10. **Award of tenders for Speech and Language Therapies**

Councillor Pavey (Lead Member, Children and Families) introduced the report from the Acting Director of Children and Families which requested authority to award two individual contracts for the provision of Speech, Language and Therapy services ("SLT") for children's centres and mainstream education for the council as required by Contract Standing Order No 88. The report summarised the process undertaken in tendering these contracts and, following the completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommended to whom the contracts should be awarded. It was noted that the new arrangements would yield savings.

The Executive also had before them an appendix to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12 of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1972:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

RESOLVED:

that the Executive award contracts for the provision of Speech and Language Therapy services to Central and North West London Health Trust (CNWL) for Children's Centres and to North West London Health Trust (NWLHT) for Mainstream Education for an initial contract period of two years from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 with an option for the Council to extend for up to a further additional one year. The price for the first two years of the Children's Centres contract was £589k. The price for the first two years of the Mainstream Education contract was £656k.

#### 11. **Authority to participate in a collaborative procurement for construction professional services**

The report before the Executive advised that Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) were currently tendering a framework with three lots for various construction professional services and had agreed that the council could participate in this exercise. Accordingly, the report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth requested approval, as required by Contract Standing Order 85, to participate in a collaborative procurement to set up a framework for construction professional services for use by the Department for Regeneration and Growth. The report also requested associated approvals and exemptions under Contract

Standing Orders to maximise the ease of use of the framework in view of the high number of possible call-offs for similar services over distinct projects. Councillor Crane (Lead Member, Regeneration and Major Projects) recommended the proposals to the Executive.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that approval be given to the Council participating in a collaborative procurement exercise being run by Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) which would lead to the establishment of a framework agreement for construction professional services, as listed in paragraph 3.4 of the report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth;
- (ii) that approval be given to the collaborative procurement exercise described in paragraph (i) above being exempted from the normal contract requirements of Brent's Contract Standing Orders in accordance with Contract Standing Orders 85(c) and 84(a) on the basis that there were good financial and operational reasons as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 of the report, due to the procurement being conducted in accordance with BHP's contract standing orders instead;
- (iii) that approval be given for any call offs from the BHP framework that were the subject of the report and listed in paragraph 3.4 of the report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth to be exempt from the requirement in Contract Standing Order 86(d) to get confirmation prior to each proposed call off from the Director of Legal and Procurement that use of the framework was legally permissible.

## 12. **Burnt Oak, Colindale and The Hyde Placemaking Plan**

The Burnt Oak, Colindale and The Hyde Placemaking Plan set out a vision which aimed to maximise the opportunity associated with the area along Edgware Road (A5). The report from the Strategic Director Regeneration and Growth stated that the plan sought to guide and help catalyse development and investment and to shift the character of A5 away from that of a vehicular 'artery' towards that of a vibrant local high street through a suite of co-ordinated public realm interventions and urban design strategies to improve the area for new and existing residents, businesses and visitors.

Councillor Crane (Lead Member, Regeneration and Major Projects) recommended that the Plan be endorsed as a vision which could radically transform the area within the next 10-15 years, developed with input from the officers from Brent, Barnet, Harrow, Transport for London and the local community. It was noted that the plan had already been approved by the Planning Committee on 4 September 2013.

Councillor J Moher (Lead Member, Highways and Transportation and Ward Councillor, Fryent) drew members' attention to the area covered by the plan which, he felt, was frequently ignored. He commended the plan as an imaginative attempt to improve the area and, noting that its implementation would require funding, hoped this would be forthcoming in the future.

RESOLVED:

that the Burnt Oak, Colindale and The Hyde Placemaking Plan as a vision for the Burnt Oak, Colindale and The Hyde area as recommended by Brent Planning Committee be endorsed.

**13. West London Waste Plan**

Councillor Crane (Lead Member, Regeneration and Major Projects) presented revised draft of the proposed submission version of the Joint West London Waste Plan to be agreed for statutory public consultation across west London. The report from the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Growth asked the Executive to agree the Plan for publication and public consultation in March / April 2014 and, subject to representations made, ask Full Council to agree that it be submitted for examination. Councillor Crane reminded the Executive that discussions on the plan had been on-going since 2009 between the six boroughs involved. A number of changes had been made to the plan none of which directly affected the sites within the borough.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that approval be to the changes made to the draft West London Waste Plan detailed in the report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth including the policy wording changes and additional policy, as set out at Appendices 1 and 2, and the changes to safeguarded sites set out at Appendix 3, following the original approval to proceed with consultation in November 2011;
- (ii) that approval be given to the Proposed Submission Draft Joint West London Waste Plan for publication and public consultation in March / April 2014 and the recommendation to Full Council that, subject to representations made, it be submitted for Examination;
- (iii) that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth to make minor editing and textual changes to the Proposed Submission Draft of the West London Waste Plan after consultation with the other five London Boroughs involved;
- (iv) that approval be given to the Proposed Submission Draft of the West London Waste Plan as a material consideration for the determination of planning applications;
- (v) that approval be given to the timetable set out in paragraph 3.21 of the Director's report for publication as part of the council's Local Development Scheme.

**14. NNDR Discretionary Rate Relief**

The Council has the discretion to award rate relief to charities or non-profit making bodies. It also had the discretion to remit an individual National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) liability in whole or in part on the grounds of hardship. The award of relief was based on policy and criteria agreed by the Executive in September 2013. The

report from the Director of Regeneration and Growth detailed new applications for relief received since the Executive last considered such applications in September 2013 which Councillor R Moher (Lead Member, Resources) put forward for approval.

RESOLVED:

that the applications for discretionary rate relief detailed in Appendix 2 of the report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth be agreed.

**15. London Councils Grants Scheme 2014/2015**

The Chair (Councillor Butt, Leader of the Council) introduced the report which sought agreement to London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2014/15 and the associated level of contribution by Brent Council to the London Borough Grants Scheme. It recommended reinvesting the small one off payment to Brent from London Councils Grants Committee reserves to support work with CVS delivering further capacity building for the voluntary sector in Brent.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the recommendations made by the London Councils Leaders Committee summarised in section 3 of the report from the Assistant Chief Executive noted;
- (ii) that approval be given to the recommended budget for the London Councils Grant Scheme and the contribution of £340,854 to be paid by the Council towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2014/15;
- (iii) that approval given to reinvest a total of £31,931 in work with CVS to deliver further capacity building for the voluntary sector in Brent. This is made up of the following:
  - (a) the small sum of £1,633, which is the difference between the proposed Brent Council contribution for 2014/2015 and that paid in 2013/14
  - (b) the one off payment of £30,298 from London Councils Grants Committee reserves.

**16. Reference of item considered by Call in Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

None.

**17. Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

M BUTT  
Chair