



# LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

## MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLAN SELECT COMMITTEE Wednesday, 6 January 2010 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Castle (Chair) and Councillors V Brown, Mistry, HB Patel and Powney

Also Present: Councillors Van Colle (Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture) and Wharton (Lead Member for Children and Families)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Long and Tancred

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

None declared.

### 2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 2nd December 2009**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 3. **Matters Arising (if any)**

None.

### 4. **Call-in of Executive Decisions from the Meeting of the Executive on Monday, 14th December 2009**

Decisions made by the Executive on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 in respect of the report below were called-in for consideration by the Forward Plan Select Committee in accordance with Standing Order 18.

#### **Future Acquisition Strategy for Brent Transport Fleet and Authority to Tender for Provision of a Leased Maintained Vehicle Fleet**

The reasons for the call-in were:-

- There seem to be too few partners for a framework agreement to be worthwhile
- It is unclear whether the scheme is value for money
- There is no provision for alternative fuels

Councillor Wharton (Lead Member for Children and Families) was present to answer Members' questions.

Councillor Powney then raised a number of issues in respect of the call-in. He began by enquiring if there had been consideration of the reduction in carbon emissions and savings achievable if alternative fuels were used. He suggested that as there were a number of short journeys made by Brent Transport Fleet vehicles, that it would be appropriate to use electric powered vehicles for such trips. He added that as two-thirds of the fleet needed to be replaced within four years, it would be prudent to begin purchasing vehicles that ran on alternative fuels from this point. In acknowledging that the Council had signed up to the 10/10 Campaign, he queried whether the aim of a 10% cut in carbon emissions could be achieved in 2010, suggesting that a 3% cut was the very most that could be expected from this year and 6% by 2011/12. Councillor Powney also suggested there be consideration of installation of electrical charging points in the Civic Centre and that such a measure should be eligible for green tariff discounts. He felt that the strategy agreed contradicted the Council's parking and Civic Centre policy. Councillor Powney also queried whether during the replacement of the fleet, the same number of vehicles would be needed and he sought clarification as to whether only one partner had expressed an interest in being involved in a framework agreement.

Councillor Mistry felt that there were not presently enough electrically powered vehicles on the market for the Council to seriously consider acquiring such vehicles at this stage. Councillor H B Patel added that it was not appropriate to acquire electrically powered mini buses as they did not provide the necessary disabled access, however he felt that obtaining electrically powered vehicles for other uses could be considered. The Chair commented that the use of electric vehicles was not being out ruled and that if future technology developments meant suitable vehicles became available then these would be seriously considered.

In reply, Councillor Wharton advised that there were no vehicles that used alternatives fuels currently on the market that were appropriate for the uses of the Brent Transport Fleet. Furthermore, a number of vehicles needed to be replaced in the next ten months and replacement vehicles would be leased on a four to five year basis. As a result, the Council needed to consider purchasing mass produced vehicles that were presently on the market which were predominantly those using fossil fuels. Councillor Wharton advised that electrical vehicles by design required high floors as batteries tended to be located beneath and such a format was not suitable for mini buses, particularly in terms of providing disabled access. Members noted that the present mini bus fleet had low floors. Councillor Wharton noted Councillor Powney's comments with regard to using electrically powered vehicles which could be considered in future and he suggested that other alternative fuels, such as vegetable oils, could also be investigated. Councillor Wharton stressed that any electrical buses with appropriate practical qualities would be considered if they became available in the future. Members noted that maintaining the same number of vehicles in the future was neither necessary nor specified in any agreement. The Select Committee heard that the London Borough of Hillingdon had indicated their interest in a future framework agreement and it was possible that other local authorities would do in the future. In the long term, such a collaborative arrangement was desirable and a four year vehicle supply and maintenance framework agreement allowed for such a future possibility. Councillor

Wharton advised that the Brent Transport Service had already achieved significant carbon emissions reductions through changes to the taxi service involving a 40% reduction in overall mileage achieved through use of taxi companies being used to provide escorts.

Members then decided not to agree Councillor Powney's suggestion that no contract be awarded to supply vehicles until consideration of electrically powered vehicles had been undertaken. At the request of Councillor Powney and in accordance with Standing Order 65 (d) and 65 (e), voting on this suggestion was as follows:

FOR: Councillor Powney (1)

AGAINST: Councillors V Brown, Castle, Mistry and H B Patel (4)

RESOLVED:-

that upon considering the report from the Director of Children and Families, the decisions made by the Executive be noted.

**5. The Executive List of Decisions for the Meeting that took place on Monday, 14th December 2009**

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive List of Decisions for the meeting that took place on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 be noted.

**6. Briefing Notes/Information Updates requested by the Select Committee following consideration of Issue 8 (2009/10) of the Forward Plan**

**6.1 Inspiring Brent : Brent's Action Plan for the London 2012 Games**

Councillor Van Colle (Lead Member for Environment, Planning and Culture) and Zerritha Brown (2012 Manager, Environment and Culture) were present to respond to questions from Members.

Councillor Powney stated that he understood that Transportation Unit were to introduce a 'Streets for People' scheme in Harlesden Town Centre in 2012 and he sought views about the possibility of co-ordinating this scheme with the 2012 London Games Action Plan in view of the advantages such an approach would provide. He enquired if there had been any consultation with residents concerning the 2012 London Games Action Plan and in particular whether certain ethnic groups in the Borough had been approached with a view to boosting tourism opportunities. Councillor Powney also asked if the Council's website would promote the 2012 Olympics in different languages as another means to attract visitors to Brent. The Chair commented that encouraging tourism was part of the Action Plan brief.

Councillor Mistry commented that communities in Brent were directly attempting to encourage athletes and other visitors to the area for the 2012 Olympics as well as contacting relevant organisations overseas. She suggested that functions could take place near Olympic events that were taking place in Brent in order to attract

more visitors. Councillor H B Patel asked whether any country competing in the Olympics had expressed an interest or confirmed use of any training and sports facilities in Brent. He also enquired if there was any possibility of receiving funds from the Government or the Government Office for London to increase such facilities in Brent in time for the Olympics.

In reply to the issues raised, Councillor Van Colle acknowledged the benefits of co-ordinating the 2012 London Games Action Plan with the Harlesden Town Centre 'Streets for People' scheme, however he stressed that the Harlesden scheme was not an Olympic related spend. He explained that the Harlesden Town Centre scheme funding was allocated to be spent in the financial year 2012-13 and although efforts would be made to co-ordinate spending and implementation of the scheme, it could not be guaranteed that the scheme would be in place by the start of the Olympics. With regard to the possible Olympics use of venues in Brent, Councillor Van Colle warned that there was concern amongst Olympics organisers that athletes would not be able to arrive at venues such as Wembley Stadium in good time for events in as they would be based in Stratford. However, he agreed that efforts should be made to attract visitors to the area during the Olympics. The Select Committee noted that the Council's 2012 Team were seeking to attract funding to the area to provide opportunities during the Olympics.

Zerritha Brown added that there were no plans at present to approach particular ethnic groups to help increase visitors to Brent during the Olympics. Members heard that training camps were being set up at sports centres to encourage sports participation amongst local residents and athletes were being encouraged to visit Brent. Zerritha Brown advised that Visit London was co-ordinating plans to increase visitors to London during the Olympics and the Council was compiling information about various communities in Brent to submit to Visit London. The Select Committee noted that promoting tourism was a broad objective under the Council's regeneration aspirations and not specifically an element of the London 2012 Games Action Plan. The possibility of hosting functions was also being considered during the lead-up to the Olympics. Zerritha Brown advised that India had been approached about their Olympics Team using sporting and training facilities in the Borough and the Indian community in Brent was actively involved in this initiative. The Brazil Olympics Team had confirmed that they would not be using facilities in Brent after an approach from the Council. Members noted that there was no indication that funding from the Government and the Government Office for London to boost sporting facilities would be made available.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on Inspiring Brent: Brent's Action Plan for the London 2012 Games be noted.

## **6.2 2009 Residents Attitude Survey Feedback**

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on the 2009 Residents Attitude Survey Feedback be noted.

## **6.3 Building Schools for the Future Project Initiation Document**

Councillor Powney requested a further briefing note on this item detailing what primary schools would benefit from the Building Schools for the Future programme.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the briefing note on Building Schools for the Future Project Initiation Document be noted; and
- (ii) that a further briefing note be provided at the next meeting of the Select Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 detailing what primary schools will be benefit from the Building Schools for the Future programme.

**6.4 Early Years Single Funding Formula and Policy for the Allocation of Full Time Places**

Councillor Mistry requested that she receive direct clarification of the length and the reasons for the delay to the Full Time Place Allocations Process.

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on Early Years Single Funding Formula and Policy for the Allocation of Full Time Places be noted.

**6.5 Controlled Parking Zones Progress Report**

RESOLVED:-

that the briefing note on the Controlled Parking Zones Progress Report be noted.

**6.6 Telecoms Aerials on Residential Buildings**

In noting that a briefing note had not been provided to the Select Committee, Councillor Powney requested that the Executive report on this item be provide to Members at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:-

that the Executive report on Telecoms Aerials on Residential Buildings be provided at the next meeting of the Select Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**7. Briefing Notes/Information Updates requested by the Select Committee from earlier versions of the Forward Plan**

***Petition for Changes to the Consultation Process***

Councillor H B Patel requested a further briefing note at the next meeting providing clarification of the consultation process in relation to multiple responses from a single household.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the briefing note on Petition for Changes to the Consultation Process be noted; and
- (ii) that a further briefing note be provided at the next meeting of the Select Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 providing clarification of the consultation process in relation to multiple responses from a single household.

**8. The Forward Plan - Issue 9**

Issue 9 of the Forward Plan (12.01.10 to 02.05.10) was before Members of the Select Committee. Following consideration of Issue 9 of the Forward Plan, the Select Committee made the following request:-

***Carbon Reduction Commitment***

The Select Committee requested a briefing note on this item explaining how the carbon reduction emissions targets are to be achieved. Lead Member and lead officer attendance was also requested to respond to Members' questions. The request was made by Councillor Powney.

**9. Items considered by the Executive that were not included in the Forward Plan (if any)**

None.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30 pm.

**11. Any Other Urgent Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

A CASTLE  
Vice Chair in the Chair