

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE
Monday, 17th August 2009 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Lorber (Chair), Councillor Blackman (Vice Chair), and Councillors Allie, D Brown, Detre, Van Colle and Wharton.

Councillors Dunwell and Malik also attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Colwill, Matthews and Sneddon.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None declared at this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th July 2009 be approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

Leases of Council owned land and buildings to community and voluntary groups

Councillor Van Colle asked how many leases had now been entered into with the voluntary sector and it was agreed that a written response would be sent to him.

4. Lord Laming Report

Councillor Wharton (Lead Member for Children and Families) introduced the report which sought approval of the Council's response to Lord Laming's report, following the death of Baby Peter in Haringey, which was reported to the Executive on 16th March 2009. He drew attention to the action plan that had been produced although pointed out that most of the actions recommended by the Laming report were for other government agencies to carry out. In these cases, the Council's role was to use its influence through the two joint bodies established, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Brent Children's Partnership Board, to get its partners to take the necessary action. One of the recommendations had been for Leading Members to attend as observers the meetings of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board which Councillor Wharton reported he had begun to do.

The Leader asked what actions had been taken by the Council's partners who were affected by the Laming report and in response it was explained that it appeared that the Government, having responded to the report now expected the Children's Partnership Boards to ensure implementation of

the actions. The Leader asked that the Council's partners in the health service be asked to produce an action plan with timescales for when the issues raised by the Laming report would be addressed and then for the Council to monitor the actions being taken.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the local response to Lord Laming's report outlined in the action plan appended to the report before the Executive be endorsed;
- (ii) that the Local Safeguarding Children's Board take the lead on the actions specific to its remit and that the Brent Children's Partnership Board (Brent's Children's Trust arrangement) take overall responsibility for ensuring that all partner agencies carry out their required actions.

5. Authority to renew advice service grants to Brent Citizens' Advice Bureau and Brent Community Law Centre Limited

The report from the Director of Housing and Community Care sought authority to renew for a specified period the existing grant funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Brent Community Law Centre Limited (BCLC). As there was no provision in the Council's constitution to extend existing grant funding the renewals would amount to fresh grants.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the grant for the CAB be renewed for a further 12 months, to conclude 30th September 2010 pending the outcome of a strategic review;
- (ii) that the grant for the BCLC be renewed for a further 6 months, to conclude 30th September 2010 pending the outcome of a strategic review.

6. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inclusion Strategy.

The Housing Act 2004 and the ODPM planning circular 01/2006 mainstreamed the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities and placed a requirement on local housing authorities to:-

- (a) assess the accommodation needs of GRT communities, and
- (b) based on the findings produce a strategy and action plan to work towards providing/finding solutions for the identified need and ensure that the cultural needs of these communities are respected.

The report from the Director of Housing and Community Care presented a draft strategy and action plan covering the next five years, 2009 – 2014 and focussed on improving access to all Council/other statutory agencies'

services to work in partnership with these communities towards integration and community cohesion.

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 in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the summary of findings of the GLA commissioned Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) survey as it relates to Brent attached as Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (ii) that the draft strategy and action plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report be noted;
- (iii) that the reduction of pitches from 31 to 20 to ease overcrowding on the Lynton Close site once alternative facilities have been found be agreed;
- (iv) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive, agreeing the purchase of the identified site(s), setting out how the cost will be met and all other financial implications, whilst noting that it will be necessary for the new site to:-
 - a) meet the criteria set out in the Council's Travellers Policy,
 - b) accommodate residents moved from the Lynton Close site, and
 - c) provide additional pitches in line with the targets set in the GLA's London Plan due to be published in Autumn 2011.
- (v) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive setting out detailed costing to:-
 - a) refurbish and redesign the Lynton Close site, and
 - b) set up the new site in line with the good practice guidance issued by the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG).

7. Treasury Management Annual Report.

Councillor Blackman introduced the report before the Executive which provided information to Members on borrowing and investment activity during 2008/09. It also set out how the Council performed against prudential indicators set in the 2008/09 budget.

RESOLVED:-

that Full Council be recommended to:

- (i) approve the Treasury Management Annual Report and Annual Investment Strategy Report; and
- (ii) note the outturn for prudential indicators.

The meeting ended at.7:30pm.

P LORBER
Chair