

## THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 9 November 2004  
(7:00 - 8:09 pm)

**Present:** Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade

**Also Present:** Councillor Ms M G Baker and Councillor Mrs V M Rush

**Apologies:** Councillor C Geddes and Councillor S Kallar

### 177. Minutes (26 October 2004)

**Agreed.**

### 178. Amendment to Employment of Children Bylaw 1988

Received a report outlining the need to amend the Employment of Children Bylaw 1988 following the publication of the Care Standards Act 2000.

**Agreed** to amend section 3(n) and 16 of the Employment of Children Bylaw 1988 in order to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000 and to enable the Child Employment Officer to monitor the employment of children in markets more clearly.

### 179. Crossrail - Response to Consultations on the Main Scheme and Draft Safeguarding Direction

Received a report setting out the current position with respect to the Crossrail scheme and the implications for Barking and Dagenham, including regeneration and transport benefits. The report also outlined proposals for safeguarding land necessary for the construction and operation of Crossrail.

**Agreed**, the following in order to support the Council's Community Priorities of "Regenerating the Local Economy" and "Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer":

With respect to the main consultation on the Crossrail project:

1. To support the Crossrail scheme in view of its likely overall benefits to the Borough, particularly with regard to regeneration and transport;
2. That Officers continue to work with Crossrail on mitigating localised impacts and that further reports on this issue are brought back to the Executive in due course;
3. That the Council's preference for an alignment via Barking, as set out in section 4 of the report, is reiterated;

4. That to maximise the potential benefits of Crossrail a full review of complementary/feeder public transport networks be undertaken by and with the relevant agencies such as Transport for London; and
5. To refer this report and agreed recommendations to Cross London Rail Links Ltd in response to consultation on the Crossrail scheme;

With respect to consultation on the proposed new safeguarding Direction:

6. No objection be raised other than that Purchase Notices should not be served on the local planning authority (London Borough Barking and Dagenham) but on the scheme promoter Cross London Rail Links Limited; and
7. This report and agreed recommendation be referred to the Department for Transport with respect to the draft safeguarding Direction.

### **180. More Choice in Lettings Allocations Policy**

Received a report presenting a draft copy of the new housing allocations policy, 'More Choice in Lettings', which complies with the amendments to Part VI of the Housing Act 1996, introduced by the Homelessness Act 2002 and which will replace the existing complex points system.

**Agreed**, in order to comply with the requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002 and produce a lettings system which is more open and transparent, contributing to the Community Priority of "Developing Rights and Responsibilities with the Local Community", to:

1. The new allocations policy, 'More Choice in Lettings', to be implemented on 1 April 2005;
2. Open the scheme to all applicants aged 16 or over;
3. Abolish the current practice of dealing with homeless, waiting list and transfer applicants differently in line with the legislative requirements;
4. Authorise transitional protection for category 'A medical' priority cases, but otherwise review all existing applications under the new criteria; and
5. Set the effective date of an application by the date at which the need arose.

### **181. New Conditions of Tenancy**

Received a report presenting the final draft of the proposed new Conditions of Tenancy for approval prior to printing and distribution to all tenants with a final Notice of Variation.

**Agreed**, in order to bring all tenants up to date in regard to the legal conditions of their existing and future tenancies with the Council, to:

1. Submit the new Conditions of Tenancy to the Plain English Campaign for Crystal Marking;

2. Recommend the revised Conditions of Tenancy to the Assembly for approval;
3. The new Conditions of Tenancy being printed and distributed to every tenant in the Borough following approval by the Assembly; and
4. A further report on the enforcement of the new Conditions of Tenancy be submitted to the Executive in due course.

## **182. Private Business**

**Agreed** to exclude the public and press for the remainder of the meeting, as the business was confidential.

## **183. Financial Outlook 2005/06 - 2007/08**

Received a report summarising the currently projected financial position and the budget process and timetable necessary to address an estimated gap between pressures and resources as set out in the report.

**Agreed**, in order to begin the budget process for 2005 / 2006, that:

1. The initial budget outlook, as summarised in Appendix A of the report, be noted;
2. The budget pressure areas identified in Appendix B of the report are reduced to the minimum sustainable level;
3. There is not a growth exercise at this stage of the process but that certain essential growth may need to be considered later in the Budget process;
4. There will be a savings options exercise in the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) block, whilst protecting "Cleaner, Greener and Safer" service provision;
5. There is an examination of which non pay budgets are exempted from being cash limited;
6. Fees and charges across all Departments are reviewed and have regard to a minimum 2.5% increase as allowed for in the financial outlook figures in the report;
7. Education is funded at Formula Spending Share (FSS);
8. Social Services is funded at FSS, in principle, in respect of front line service provision but with consideration of making particular savings in back office, transport and legal costs and other support services which could be used towards the EPCS;
9. Highways spending continues at £300,000 below FSS;
10. A review of the Capital Programme is undertaken with a process of capital submissions for new schemes from Departments;

11. This report be used to develop the Budget Strategy for 2005 / 2006 to 2007 / 2008;

12. The timetable, as set out in Appendix E of the report, be used for consideration of the budget; and

13. Representation be made at the next Local Government Pension Scheme review for an increase in employee contribution.

#### **184. Concierge Charges and Associated Security Requirements For All Departments**

Received a report regarding the funding of new concierge schemes from service charges. The report also raises the potential procurement strategy for security concierge provision and, in accordance with recommendations of the recent Gershon Report on Procurement in Local Authorities, proposes that other aspects of contracted security services be tendered jointly with other departments and, if practical, with other London Boroughs.

**Agreed**, in order to provide security services as well as meet the recommendations of the Gershon Report, to:

1. Non-discounted service charges for dispersed concierge schemes;
2. Authorise officers to jointly contract with other departments and, if practical, with other London Boroughs, for the externalisation of the concierge provision, static security guards, night-time mobile patrol security provision and responsive security dog patrols for the whole Council;
3. Authorise officers to extend the current security contracts with Tag-K9 and The Guards until the new contract is let; and
4. Nominate Councillor Smith to participate in both the packaging and evaluation process of the bids.

#### **185. John Smith House - Community Housing Office and Health Centre**

Received a report setting out the background to the redevelopment of 145 - 207 Bevan Avenue (John Smith House) and current final cost projection, which highlights an overspend against the original scheme budget.

**Agreed**, in order to provide primary care health facilities and improved access to local housing services, which will directly contribute to the Community Priority of "Improving Health, Housing and Social Care", to:

1. Increase the capital budget for the development of John Smith House to a maximum of £1,990,000;
2. Reduce the capital programme budget for Private Sector Housing renewal by £329,000, or such lesser sum as is required to finance the deficit; and

3. Grant a lease direct to the Primary Care Trust's nominee in place of the Primary Care Trust, subject to sufficient safeguards being included to protect the Council's interest.

#### **186. Future Involvement by the Council in Regeneration Partnerships**

Received a report reviewing the Council's role within London Riverside, formerly known as Heart of Thames Gateway.

**Agreed**, in order to ensure the most effective delivery of economic regeneration in the Borough, to:

1. Support in principle the continuation of London Riverside Ltd in their role in relation to the skills and employment agenda and a contribution of up to £50,000 for to cover a period of 12 months, to be met from existing budgets, subject to a similar contribution being made by the London Borough of Havering and the London Development Agency, and also subject to a satisfactorily agreed business plan containing specific outputs and outcomes of benefit to the Borough;
2. A review being undertaken of the London Riverside in 12 months time;
3. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Environment to agree the specific amount of funding subject to it being a maximum of £50,000 per annum;
4. A further report to be presented to the Executive prior to making any formal commitment to funding; and
5. A further report to be presented to the Executive reviewing those regeneration partnerships which the Council's is involved with, to include details of partners, scope of work and value of continued membership.

#### **187. Structural Repairs and Major Refurbishment at 1-43 Kilsby Walk**

Further to Minute 367 (13 April 2004), received a report seeking to award a contract for major structural repairs, refurbishment to all communal areas, new PVCu windows, external doors, kitchens and bathrooms to 1 – 43 Kilsby Walk.

**Agreed**, in order that Phase 2 of the refurbishment works at 1 - 43 Kilsby Walk can proceed, to award a contract to Apollo London Ltd for the sum of £1,240,573 and that works commence works at the earliest opportunity.

\* Item considered as a matter of urgency with the consent of the Chair under Section 100 (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972