

Notice of Meeting

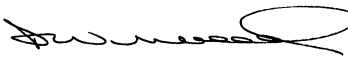
ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 15 September 2010 - 7:00 pm
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Barking

To: Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Chair: Councillor M Hussain
Deputy-Chair: Councillor J Davis

Date of publication: 7 September 2010


David Woods
Acting Chief Executive

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AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting.
3. **Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2010 (Pages 1 - 10)**
4. **Death of former Councillor Donald Hemmett (Page 11)**
5. **Appointments (Pages 13 - 14)**
6. **Parent Governor (Primary) Co-opted Member of the Children's Services Select Committee (Pages 15 - 16)**
7. **Response to Petition - Parking near Doctors' Surgery 7 Salisbury Avenue Barking (Pages 17 - 21)**
8. **Response to Petition - Traffic Management in Salisbury Avenue, Barking (Pages 23 - 26)**
9. **11th London Local Authorities Bill (Pages 27 - 30)**

10. **The Standards Committee - Appointment of Independent Member and Chair (Page 31)**
11. **Annual Report of BAD Youth Forum (Pages 33 - 35)**
12. **Motions (Pages 37 - 40)**
13. **Leader's Question Time**
14. **General Question Time**
15. **Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent**
16. **To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.**

Private Business

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Assembly, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended). ***There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.***

17. **Any confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent**

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21 July 2010
(7:00 - 8:12 pm)

PRESENT

Councillor M Hussain (Chair)

Councillor S Alasia	Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor S Ashraf	Councillor R Baldwin
Councillor L Butt	Councillor E Carpenter
Councillor J Channer	Councillor J Cleo
Councillor R Douglas	Councillor C Geddes
Councillor N S S Gill	Councillor R Gill
Councillor D Hunt	Councillor A S Jamu
Councillor I S Jamu	Councillor E Kangethe
Councillor E Keller	Councillor G Letchford
Councillor M A McCarthy	Councillor J E McDermott
Councillor M McKenzie MBE	Councillor D S Miles
Councillor M Mullane	Councillor E O Obasohan
Councillor J Ogungbose	Councillor T Perry
Councillor B Poulton	Councillor H S Rai
Councillor A K Ramsay	Councillor L A Reason
Councillor C Rice	Councillor L Rice
Councillor D Rodwell	Councillor T Saeed
Councillor A Salam	Councillor L A Smith
Councillor S Tarry	Councillor D Twomey
Councillor G M Vincent	Councillor J Wade
Councillor L R Waker	Councillor P T Waker
Councillor J R White	Councillor M M Worby

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor J Davis (Deputy Chair)	Councillor A Gafoor Aziz
Councillor G Barratt	Councillor P Burgon

8. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest

9. Minutes (19 May 2010)

Agreed.

10. Appointments

Agreed to appoint:

- (1) Councillors Channer and NSS Gill as trustees of Barking General Charities;

- and
- (2) Councillors NSS Gill and Kangethe as trustees of Barking and Ilford United Charities

It was **noted** that:

- (a) Councillor Couling will continue to be a member of the Children's Services Select Committee; and
- (b) Councillor Vincent has appointed Councillor Ogungbose as one of his deputies on the London Council's Transport and Environment Committee.

11. Response to Petition - Communal Digital / Satellite TV System

The lead petitioner, Mr K Rutter, presented the terms of a petition opposing the provision by the Council of communal TV aerial systems to tenants and leaseholders.

Mr Rutter advised that he had raised this petition after finding strangers in his garden with their equipment in his drive and an aerial being attached to his property. On questioning them, he stated that they were rude and told him they had been given permission to place the aerials wherever they wanted to.

Whilst having received in excess of 10 pages of information justifying the council's position, Mr Rutter felt that the council had been less thorough in dealing with the tenants' and leaseholders' concerns.

Mr Rutter further raised concerns as to the manner in which the council consulted with tenants and leaseholders by letter and the fact that the council took non-responses to the letter to amount to consent to the work proceeding, stating that non-responses could have been as a result of hospitalisation of the addressee or non-receipt of the letter.

Other points raised by Mr Rutter related to:

- poor maintenance of the aerials
- poor reception
- lack of consultation on the part of the contractors
- having to pay for an additional service in tandem with services that tenants had privately arranged.

Having regard to time restraints, Mr Rutter requested a meeting with the relevant officers to discuss these issues further.

The Group Manager, Landlord Services West introduced the report stating that it was important to note that government would be switching the whole of the UK's TV transmission to Digital TV by 2012, and that as a responsible landlord the council had decided to take the steps referred to in the report to ensure that residents would not be disadvantaged at the time of the switchover.

It was noted that Frances Kneller, Head of Housing and Property, Digital UK, was in attendance and available to answer questions on the government's agenda for the digital switchover and as to the responsibilities of landlords.

Councillor Worby gave her support to some of the issues raised by the petitioners, stating that in her opinion:

- how the contract has been administered has not been fully addressed in the report;
- the reason for these installations appears not to have been explained fully to the people affected;
- there seemed to have been no notification to them when the work was going to be carried out - people were returning to their homes to find that holes had been drilled in the walls;
- there appears to be no logic as to where the aerials have been placed, with individuals concerned as to why their property has had an aerial placed on it, whereas others did not.

Councillor Worby moved that this petition be referred to the relevant Select Committee to give leaseholders an opportunity for their concerns to be heard.

Councillor Hunt agreed totally with Councillor Worby, stating that she has received many enquiries from residents about the aerials. She further stated that from personal experience, she has found that it is difficult to contact the contractors to fix the aerial if the TV is not working properly.

Councillor L Waker concurred with both councillors, but also agreed that in his opinion it would be better to have one central aerial.

Councillor Channer also raised concerns as to how the residents were consulted.

Councillor P Waker, Cabinet Member for Housing, stated that the reason the contract was entered into six years ago was to avoid tenants ending up with no TV reception following the digital switchover. He agreed that if there were problems with the aerials, they have to be fixed. He also went on to state that whilst not wanting a confrontation with tenants, there should only be one aerial on each building and not individual satellite dishes for each tenant.

Councillor P Waker further stated that;

1. he was given to understand that this contract was cheaper than other boroughs were paying;
2. he would be happy to meet with Housing officers;
3. he was keen to look at what the cost of servicing the aerials is, as it may well be that in the future the council may be able to move to a lesser service charge or to no charge;
4. when this current contract comes to an end, there may be an opportunity to look at other options.

However, he agreed with Councillor Worby that this matter be referred to a Select Committee and expressed his thanks to the petitioners for their efforts in raising the petition.

Councillor Smith seconded Councillor Worby's recommendation to refer this matter to a Select Committee and asked the Assembly to support this action.

Agreed to refer the petition to the appropriate Select Committee.

12. Council Constitution

Received and noted this report presented by the Divisional Director for Legal and Democratic Services (DDLDS).

Responding to a question from Councillor Carpenter as to why the Local Housing Company had been deleted, the DDLDS advised that it currently does not exist.

The Leader of the Council concurred with this and suggested that if she wishes to, Councillor Carpenter should personally lobby government.

In response to a query regarding the petition procedure, the DDLDS advised that there is no legal requirement for the number of petitioners to be increased from 100 to 250 and it could remain at 100 households.

Agreed:

1. with immediate effect the proposed changes to the Council Constitution subject to the number of signatories to a petition remaining at 100 households (as referred to in paragraph 18 of Article 2 and paragraph 2 of Article 5C of Part B); and
2. the statutory Designated Scrutiny Officer role be assigned to the post of Scrutiny Team Manager.

13. Return of Planning Powers from London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) to LBBD

Received and noted this report introduced by Councillor McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Councillors welcomed the move to return planning powers from London Thames Gateway Development Corporation to the Council. Councillor L Waker stated that in his opinion a step in the right direction would be for the Council to have a plan and a vision for the land.

The Planning Advisory Services' offer to provide tailored training to Members of the Development Control Board was also noted.

Agreed to support the return of planning powers from London Thames Gateway Development Corporation to the Council.

14. Local Development Framework - Adoption of Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Received and noted this report introduced by Councillor McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

In response to Councillor Carpenter's concern that the Independent Inspector had recommended the deletion of the affordable housing policy, Councillor Smith stated that the Council's policy is to support council housing, to move people out of tower blocks and into houses and to ensure that the Council's Local Development Framework supports the difficulties faced by residents at this time.

Agreed to adopt the Barking and Dagenham Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

**15. Local Development Framework: Supplementary Planning Document
"Saturation Point: Addressing the Health Impacts of Hot Food Takeaways"**

Received and noted this report introduced by Councillor McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Members commended the report and congratulated Councillor McCarthy and officers for bringing it to the Assembly.

Referring to page 120 of the Agenda and the fixed fee charge of £1,000 to be sought through a Section 106 Agreement where hot food takeaways are deemed appropriate, Members requested that the outcomes of this be reviewed and reported back to the Assembly at a future date.

Agreed to adopt the "Saturation Point – Addressing the Health Impacts of Hot Food Takeaways" Supplementary Planning Document.

16. Treasury Management Annual Report 2009/10 and Amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy

Received and noted the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2009/10 introduced by the Corporate Financial Controller.

Agreed to approve revisions to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy to incorporate:

- (a) the new Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as set out in paragraph 7.1 of the report; and
- (b) provisions for the Council to make loans to external organisations in order to deliver continued value for money, in line with the powers vested in local authorities under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, as referred to in paragraph 10 of the report.

17. Motions

None received.

18. Leader's Question Time

Question from Councillor Ramsay:

"As one of the Members of the Council representing Victoria Road and in the light of the phenomenal progress made by Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club with the club's promotion last season to League 1, when just 3 seasons previously the Team was playing non-league football, I would like to ask the Leader if he would consider some recognition for the club's manager, John Still.

John has managed the team continuously since 2004, having also served as the founding manager of the amalgamated club. He is currently the fifth longest serving manager in the whole football league system. John also had a playing career, including a period when he played for Dagenham Football Club.

I feel, and many of my colleagues share my view, that his extraordinary contribution both to on the field football management and the part the club plays in the wider life of the community, requires some recognition from the Borough he has served and I would ask that the Leader considers the best way of recognising John's achievements."

Response from Councillor Smith:

"It is a welcome change to congratulate someone, and Councillor Ramsay, you have said it all. In 1985 I first went to watch them and I still have to pinch myself when I think about where we are today. If someone had told me back then that we would be in League One ...

It has been a tremendous effort from everyone at Dagenham & Redbridge FC. I have only ever met John Still twice and on one of those occasions he was sweeping the changing rooms.

I would say that what John Still has achieved has been done on a very limited budget.

The players are all ordinary people – they walk down the same streets as you and me and this coming season they will be playing against teams like Charlton and Sheffield Wednesday.

I would like to go away and speak with other colleagues to see what would be the best way of dealing with this. Managers come and go but John Still is still here. I am sure we will come back with a way of recognising John's achievements."

19. General Question Time**Question from Councillor Twomey:**

"In light of the new London Housing Allowance (LHA) reduction implemented by the coalition government limiting payments to a maximum of £400 for a 4 bedroom property, how do we as a borough propose to deal with the inevitable increase in tenants arriving from other boroughs looking for cheaper rents?

Westminster and Hackney in particular have over 6,000 properties that will be adversely affected by the LHA cap compared to approximately 5 properties in

Barking & Dagenham. What proposals will be put forward to combat this problem, ensuring that Barking & Dagenham is not flooded with tenants from other boroughs, particularly those homeless families from these boroughs who have been placed in private sector accommodation? "

Response from Councillor P Waker, Cabinet Member for Housing:

"I would like to thank Councillor Twomey for raising this important question. You may have noted that the Leader had a press release put out very quickly after the announcement and shortly after that I did an interview with Time FM about the dangers of the Housing Benefit cap for the Borough.

Partly because Barking & Dagenham has the lowest average income per household in London and therefore lower than average property prices, we are often highlighted more than most of the Outer London Boroughs that are in a similar position.

Essentially this is the latest development in the private renting nightmare that this country is now in, with high private rents that cost the taxpayer shed-loads of money in Housing Benefit.

The lack of Council house building over many years is the big factor and the real cause of the problem and I will return to this point in a minute.

The so called progressive Conservatism, as apparently practised by this Tory Government, and supported by the always Tory Liberal Democrats has decided to try to tackle the Housing Benefit burden. This is totally understandable, but typically they have merely tackled one of its symptoms – but none of its causes.

To use a phrase, they have been hard on a symptom of Housing Benefit costs, but soft on its causes.

A cap on Housing Benefit of £400 for bigger houses means that those on Housing Benefit in Inner London and areas such as Hackney and Tower Hamlets will no longer be able to pay their current rents.

So rather than be homeless they will move to areas with cheaper private sector rents.

Now, one theory is that the rents in Inner London will become cheaper and the taxpayer will not have to pay out such outrageous sums of money to, in my words, greedy grasping private landlords.

That to me would be a nice thought, but the problem with this theory, is that Inner London is the one area where wealthy people from across Britain and indeed from across the world are both willing and able to pay higher rents so as to be in or near to the centre of London.

So, while there might be, and I stress might be, a small fall in the level of private rents, the reality is that they are unlikely to fall by very much and certainly not to the level of the cap and therefore by enough to make rents more affordable in the Inner London area. To show the size of the problem the Inner London average 4

bedroom rent is around £1,000 per week at the moment, £600 per week above the new cap.

And when I say more affordable, by the way, for most people in ordinary jobs even the more reasonable private rent level of say £1,000 per month in Barking & Dagenham is not affordable for most working people living in this Borough. In 2006 I found people in my own Ward, dumped at the time by Newham, paying £350 a week for a small 2 bedroom flat. At that time, even more naïve than I am now, I didn't believe what they were saying until they showed me the paperwork.

That is why, even here in Barking and Dagenham, private renting is a disincentive to working and coming off Housing Benefit.

Having said that, many recipients of Housing Benefit are working and on low pay or at least relatively low-ish pay and do get some benefit.

And that is why it is not just the 6,000 in Westminster and Hackney that are likely to be affected by this.

London Councils have estimated that 18,645 households will be hit in the central areas of London, 14,661 with children, and that around 10,500 households will have to move, some 7,000 with children.

And while I am on figures, there are, it is estimated, 650,000 privately rented homes across London, a third of which are likely to be detrimentally affected by other changes in what is called the Local Housing Allowance.

Also, we should be clear, that this is not just about other Councils in London continuing to dump their Temporary Accommodation problems on us. It is people independently of any council being forced to up-sticks and move out of their own areas, and often people with high social care needs and extra health care needs, which is often why they are not working in the first place.

When I said that the Government has only attacked a symptom of this problem, the increasingly widely recognised fact is this - if they really wanted to save on Housing Benefit they would spend money to help us, and other Boroughs, to launch a massive programme of new council house building.

That is the way to put outrageous rents under pressure and save massively on Housing Benefit payments.

Most people who privately rent would love to be in a good quality council house and investment today in this will pay off massively tomorrow. It was the lifting of most laws on private renting in the 80s and the lack of council house building that has caused the problem and we have always said, as a Council, that the Labour Government should have tackled it when it had the opportunity.

Having finally got past the previous Tory years and then the Blair years both determined to prevent councils building houses, it was a breath of fresh air when, last year, we were able to start building again, and our 142 new house building programme is probably one of the largest in all local authorities across the country, but this Government plans to slash the money for council house building and so

the Housing Benefit problem will stagger on.

It is a stupid and short-sighted approach and the new cap just moves the problem around, from one part of London to another.

If I am honest it means that every new house built for sale will mean that another potential private renting property comes on the market.

I actually think that we now have no choice but to review our policies and look to minimising private house building in this Borough. We can't avoid some of it if we are to go ahead with our estate renewal programme, but not only does it not help us with our Council waiting list, every private sale could mean someone else from central London landing on our doorstep in an uncontrolled way, privately renting.

And even when they are not put out to private rent, many times now children of the buyers grow up and say, "I can't afford to buy like my parents did, please help me Council".

So, on top of all of this, the cap problem means that private sale places in this area, could well add to the problem and we have to think about changing policies to slow private house building and maximise Council build.

As I have said, we will have to have some for sale to get our estate renewal etc. to stack up, but I see no gain in seeing loads of for sale properties such as in Lymington, Frizlands or even on Barking Riverside, if the private renting nightmare is to continue and make things worse for the outer London areas, particularly when this Government is also trying to restrict our primary school building and our secondary school renewal.

As a council we have always said that facilities such as medical and education needs should accompany home growth, but there are now even more significant dangers for us.

Clearly, our fight for council housing is key, but we will continue to highlight the effect to the Government, we will tell the self-dubbed quiet man, Work and Pensions Secretary, Iain Duncan Smith, that we will not be quiet about this. We will also work constructively with London Councils and the Mayor to raise the issues surrounding this problem and look with them for solutions.

And finally, I would ask ALL Members of the Council, particularly those on the Development Control Board, to look critically at every proposal from house conversions to private developments to see if they are likely to add to the problem rather than house local people, and that we do all we can to develop our stock of decent housing for local people.

We will also see if we can put restrictions on the homes that are built for sale to try to stop the private renting problem. That already applies to part-buy properties to some extent, but people still get round that in my experience, so it is not necessarily the full answer.

I am sure that we will all do our best to develop our stock of decent council housing for local people and go ahead with our estate renewal. Council housing is

the real answer to cutting Housing Benefit and the best way of giving people a decent life.”

ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Death of Former Councillor Donald George Hemmett		For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that former Councillor Donald George Hemmett passed away on 15 August 2010.</p> <p>Mr Hemmett was elected Councillor for Valence Ward between July 2004 and May 2010. He stood down at the May 2010 local elections due to ill health.</p> <p>Mr Hemmett was an active member of the Dagenham Labour Party for 26 years and was also a past Director of Barking & Dagenham Disablement Association, Chair of the Vineries, Founder Member of the Becontree Swimming Club, past Secretary of the Dagenham Trades Council and a TUC Delegate.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Assembly is asked to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.</p>		
<p>Contact:</p> <p>Nina Clark</p>	<p>Title:</p> <p>Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services</p>	<p>Contact details:</p> <p>Tel: 020 8227 2114 Email: nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk</p>
<p>Report Author:</p> <p>John Dawe</p>	<p>Title:</p> <p>Group Manager Democratic Services</p>	<p>Contact details:</p> <p>Tel: 020 8227 2135 Fax: 020 8227 2171 Minicom: 020 8227 2685 E-mail: john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk</p>

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None

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THE ASSEMBLY

15 September 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Title: Broadway Theatre Company Trustees	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Broadway Theatre's Constitution allows for up to three trustees each to be appointed on behalf of the Council and the Barking and Dagenham College. However the custom has been that each appoints only one trustee on the basis that the majority are independent trustees, of which there are currently four.</p> <p>The Chair of the Trustees, has approached the Council requesting that it nominates just one trustee instead of three.</p> <p>The current appointments agreed at the May Annual Assembly are Councillor Collins as the relevant Cabinet Member plus Councillors Letchford and Perry.</p> <p>Wards Affected: None</p>	
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The Assembly is asked to appoint only one councillor to be the nominated trustee to the Barking Theatre Company Limited.</p>	
<p>Reason:</p> <p>To accord with current trustee arrangements of the Barking Theatre Company Limited.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Legal – No specific implications</p> <p>Financial – No specific implications</p> <p>Contractual - No specific implications</p> <p>Risk Management - Any delays in updating the Constitution puts at risk the normal functions and business of the Council being conducted in an effective, efficient and lawful manner.</p> <p>Staffing - No specific implications</p> <p>Customer Impact - No specific implications</p> <p>Safeguarding Children - No specific implications</p> <p>Crime and Disorder - No specific implications</p>	

Property/Assets - No specific implications		
Options appraisal - Not applicable		
Name: Nina Clark	Title: Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2114 Email: nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk
Report Author: John Dawe	Title: Group Manager Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2135 Fax: 020 8227 2171 Email: john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk

Consultees:

Paul Hogan, Head of Leisure and Arts

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Email from the Chair of Trustees

THE ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Title: Appointment of Parent Governor (Primary) Co-opted Member to the Children's Services Select Committee	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>The Primary School Parent Governor representative position on the Children's Services Select Committee is currently vacant.</p> <p>The selection of the Parent Governor representative is a two-stage process; the first being the nomination stage and the second being a ballot (assuming more than one nomination is received). All serving school parent governors are eligible to take part in the election process.</p> <p>An election process was co-ordinated by Children's Services in August 2010. Three nominations to fill the position of Primary School Parent Governor representative on the Children's Services Select Committee were received and a ballot for the role was carried out.</p> <p>The successful nominee for the Primary School Parent Governor position is Mrs Ghadeer Al-salem Youssef who is currently serving on the Governing Body of Manor Infants School.</p> <p>Wards affected: All</p>	
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to approve the appointment of Mrs Ghadeer Al-salem Youssef as the Primary School Parent Governor Co-opted Member to the Children's Services Select Committee.</p>	
<p>Reason:</p> <p>To ensure that the Council's Scrutiny function is in accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Legal – Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee to fulfil the Overview and Scrutiny function.</p> <p>Education co-opted members have a statutory right to be involved in the Council's decision making processes. However, under the legislation this only applies to Overview and Scrutiny Committees where their functions relate wholly or partly to educational</p>	

matters which are the responsibility of the Authority.

Associated regulations state that a Local Education Authority shall appoint at least two but not more than five Parent Governor representatives to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee, namely the Children's Services Select Committee. As the Council still maintains Roman Catholic schools, the total number of Church representatives to be appointed shall be one (Church of England) and one (Roman Catholic). Both Parent Governor and Church representatives have the right to vote where education matters are being considered and the right to Call-In Cabinet decisions.

Financial – None

Contractual - No specific implications

Risk Management – No specific implications.

Staffing - No specific implications

Customer Impact - No specific implications

Safeguarding Children - No specific implications

Crime and Disorder - No specific implications

Property/Assets - No specific implications

Options appraisal - Not applicable

Contact Officer: Nina Clark	Title: Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2114 email: nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk
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Consultees:

Winston Brown - Legal Partner – Corporate Law and Employment

John Dawe - Group Manager Democratic Services

Background papers:

Council Constitution

Local Government Act 2000

ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

Title: Petition for a change of use of a number of residents parking bays in Salisbury Avenue, Barking	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Council has received a petition containing 276 signatures, requesting changes to the current parking arrangements near a doctor's surgery at Salisbury Avenue, Barking. In accordance with the Council's procedures for petitions, officers consulted with the lead petitioner, Dr S N Gupta, to ascertain further information and it appears that patients with mobility problems are having difficulty accessing the surgery.</p> <p>It has been requested that a number of residents parking bays (approximately seven) near to the surgery be changed to Pay and Display.</p> <p>As lead petitioner, Dr S N Gupta has been invited to the meeting of the Assembly to present the petition.</p> <p>Due to the close proximity of the surgery to Barking town centre it is likely that any pay and display bays would be used by local shoppers or visitors to local restaurants and therefore in addition to the disadvantage to local residents who will be losing parking spaces, there would be no guarantee of any benefit from such bays to patients with mobility difficulties attending the surgery.</p> <p>Within 50 metres of the surgery there are seven disabled parking bays. Drivers displaying a valid disabled badge with a clock can park within the residents' parking bays in the area for approximately 3 hours. In addition they can park on single yellow lines near to the surgery.</p> <p>It appears that the surgery and patients have not been aware of this information and it has been agreed that officers of the Parking Service work with the surgery to ensure of increased publicity of these facts.</p> <p>There are excellent public transport links to the Barking Station area and the surgery is very close thereto. It seems clear that this petition relates to those with mobility problems and although officers do not accept that the request for Pay and Display parking bays will improve conditions, by working with the surgery and their staff it is hoped that drivers with disability badges will have a better understanding of where they can park and that this will alleviate the difficulties being encountered by them.</p> <p>Wards Affected: Abbey</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial: Costs of the recommended option can be contained within existing budgets.</p>	

Legal: In accordance with the Council's procedures for petitions, if the lead petitioner is not satisfied with the way the Council has dealt with their petition, they have the right for the matter to be referred to the appropriate Select Committee as determined by the Designated Scrutiny Officer. Should the Select Committee consider the response to the petition was not adequate, it may be referred back to the Assembly for further debate, the outcome of which will be the final decision on the matter. (The subject matter of this petition would fall within the terms of reference of the Living and Working Select Committee).

Risk Management: No specific implications.

Social Inclusion and Diversity: It does not appear to be widely known that one of the current benefits available to Blue Badge holders is that of being able to park in residential areas of a Controlled Parking Zone near to their doctor's surgery. The recommendations of this report are to assist both the surgery and the patients in understanding these benefits – and the service will consider, following working with the surgery (the subject of this petition), how best to roll this information out to the wider community.

Crime and Disorder: No specific implications.

Options Appraisal:

Two options were considered:

1. Changing the bays from controlled parking zone residents' bays to pay and display time limited bays. This would not necessarily increase parking capacity for patients with mobility issues as it is likely that the bays would be used by visitors to the town centre. Residents' capacity to park would be reduced and there would be additional costs associated with installation of pay and display machines, modification of lines and signs, and changes to the parking orders.
2. Making no changes in the use of bays but
 - (i) increase public awareness – particularly with regard to disabled users of the surgery
 - (ii) work with Dr Gupta and his staff to ensure patients were made aware of the Blue Badge scheme and how to apply if they required help
 - (iii) monitor the parking situation over the coming months.

Option 2 is recommended to the Assembly.

Recommendation(s)

- (i) To reject the application to convert Resident Parking spaces to Pay and Display in Salisbury Avenue near to Barking town centre;
- (ii) To agree that officers of Parking Services work closely with the Doctors' surgery over the coming three months to ensure that the surgery and their patients fully understand parking facilities for those with disabled badges.

Reason(s)		
<p>The provision of Pay and Display bays is unlikely to make a significant increase in parking capacity for drivers with mobility problems as they will be used by shoppers and visitors to restaurants in the area.</p> <p>It appears that drivers with Blue Disabled badges may not be aware of where they are permitted to park close to the surgery – and that parking space may already be available.</p>		
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Cabinet Member: Cllr Alexander Cllr Vincent	Portfolio: Crime, Justice and Communities Environment	Contact Details: Tel: 020 227 2116 E-mail: jeannette.alexander@lbbd.gov.uk Gerald.vincent@lbbd.gov.uk
Report Author: Gary Ellison	Title: Highways and Traffic Manager	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 3226 E-mail: gary.ellison@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 Dr Gupta (the lead petitioner) submitted a petition containing 276 signatures with addresses. Following officer discussions with the lead petitioner, it was clear that the petition was with regard to his patients with disabilities having difficulties gaining access to his surgery because of the lack of parking provision.
- 1.2 It has been requested that seven of the existing residential parking bays be changed into pay and display bays for the use of patients with mobility issues. These bays would be limited to one hour's stay. Due to public transport and car parks, those without mobility difficulties are catered for.
- 1.3 The surgery is situated in Salisbury Avenue, near to Barking Station within the Barking Town Centre controlled parking zone. Residents wishing to park in marked bays have to purchase permits for their vehicles and those of their visitors. The Zone was installed in the early Nineties after consultation with the local community to address parking problems by motorists who used Salisbury Avenue as a convenient place to park when visiting the facilities of the Town Centre. It is very close to Barking Station, Barking's shopping areas, and to many takeaways and restaurants.
- 1.3. On the 6th August 2010 the lead petitioner was visited by an officer from Parking Services who discussed with him the report that would be put to the Assembly. The lead petitioner has also been invited to attend the Assembly meeting to present the petition.

2. Report

- 2.1 The surgery is very close to Barking Town centre in Salisbury Avenue and residents in this area benefit from the Controlled Parking Zone where only vehicles with permits are allowed to park. Within 50 metres of the surgery there are a number of disabled badge parking bays that are regularly used by visitors to the town centre.
- 2.2 It is possible to install a number of Pay and Display bays in the Salisbury Avenue area with an equivalent loss of parking space for residents. It would not be possible to dedicate these for sole use by visitors to the surgery and therefore they would be available for any driver to park and pay.
- 2.3 Drivers with disabled badges are allowed to park within the residential bays for approximately three hours. This means that they can park within the Barking Town centre residential bays adjacent to the surgery without the need to make any changes to the parking restrictions. They can also park on single yellow line restrictions.
- 2.4 From discussions with the lead petitioner, it appears that drivers with disabled badges visiting the surgery may not be aware of these arrangements and by informing patients accordingly the majority of their problems could be resolved.
- 2.5 It is essential that the information given to surgery visitors, and to the public in general, is accurate and appropriate in order to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to the issue of Penalty Charge Notices (parking tickets). Therefore it seems beneficial for officers of Parking Services to work with representatives of the surgery over the coming few months to ensure that an appropriate message is being provided to their patients and to monitor progress.

3 Options appraisal

3.1 Changing the bays from CPZ resident's bays to pay and display time limited bays

It would not necessarily increase parking capacity for patients with mobility issues as it is likely that the bays would be used by visitors to the town centre.

Residents' capacity to park would be reduced

There would be additional costs associated with installation of pay and display machines, modification of lines and signs, and changes to the parking orders.

3.2 Make no changes in the use of bays but increase public awareness – particularly with regard to disabled users of the surgery.

The Council would be keen to work with Dr Gupta and his staff to ensure his patients were made aware of the Blue Badge scheme and how to apply if they required help. The Council would also monitor the parking situation over the coming few months. This option is recommended to the Assembly

4 Customer Impact

- 4.1 The potential removal of residents' bays are likely to cause an adverse reaction from residents. However parking by drivers with disabled badges in residents bays and on certain yellow line restrictions is accepted practice across the Borough. The recommended option is likely to bring benefits to disabled visitors of the surgery without any significant deleterious affect on the local community.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Petition submitted by Dr Gupta

Consultees:

Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities

Councillor Vincent, Cabinet Member for Environment

Councillor Butt

Councillor Hussain

Councillor Saeed

Andrew Yellowley, Interim Divisional Director of Environment and Enforcement Services

Ruth Du-Lieu, Waste and Street Scene Strategy Project Leader

Philip Thurgood, Parking Services Manager

Winston Brown, Legal Partner Corporate Law and Employment

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ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

Petition regarding road safety and traffic management in Salisbury Avenue	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Council has received a petition containing 130 signatures and addresses requesting measures to improve road safety and traffic management in Salisbury Avenue, Barking. In accordance with the Council's procedures for petitions, officers are to consult with the lead petitioner Mrs J Melis to ascertain further information and Mrs Melis has been invited to the meeting of the Assembly to present the petition.</p> <p>Residents are concerned about the speed of traffic travelling along Salisbury Avenue and their concerns have been heightened by a tragic accident when a young child was killed. This is the subject of a Police investigation and it is therefore inappropriate to discuss that particular issue further at the Assembly.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this point, the recommendations of this report are to immediately arrange to fully investigate the issues raised in the petition and to take full account of the Police findings once they are published and available in relation to any highway issues.</p> <p>The petition states:-</p> <p><i>“We the undersigned want Barking and Dagenham Council to strongly enforce the speed limits through the introduction of speed breakers/humps on the entire stretch of Salisbury Avenue. We further demand the Council to consult the residents of the neighbourhood over additional measures such as design revisit on no-entries, CCTV, increased patrols, etc that ensure safer roads and curb over-speeding”</i></p> <p>The Council has already introduced traffic management measures in Salisbury Avenue such that vehicular traffic is not able to enter from either Upney Lane or Station Parade. This has significantly reduced the volume of traffic using this road.</p> <p>Care always needs to be taken to ensure that any measures introduced do not have an adverse effect on adjacent roads. However, this area (bounded by Longbridge Road on the north and Upney Lane in the East) has relatively few traffic accidents.</p> <p>It is recommended that by working with residents, portfolio holders, and local ward councillors an action plan for the area should be achievable and financial bids can be based on community acceptance of such proposals.</p> <p>Wards Affected: Abbey and Longbridge</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>The cost of the review can be contained within existing budgets. Bids will be made</p>	

subsequently to achieve any implementation works that are contained in the action plan.

Legal:

The Highways Act 1980 obliges a Highway Authority to maintain the highway. This petition arises out of a specific incident. That matter is the subject of a police investigation and an inquest. As such it would not be appropriate to discuss the incident at the Assembly meeting. The debate should be limited to issues of road safety more generally.

In accordance with the Council's procedures for petitions, if the lead petitioner is not satisfied with the way the Council has dealt with their petition, they have the right for the matter to be referred to the appropriate Select Committee as determined by the Designated Scrutiny Officer. Should the Select Committee consider the response to the petition was not adequate, it may be referred back to the Assembly for further debate, the outcome of which will be the final decision on the matter. (The subject matter of this petition would fall within the terms of reference of the Living and Working Select Committee).

Risk Management: No specific implications.

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

If a review of the area is agreed, consideration of additional and/or beneficial facilities for disabled people will be contained within the scope of consideration. The Council's Access Officer and the Access Group will be asked for their opinion and this will be fed into the review findings

Crime and Disorder: No specific implications.

Recommendation(s)

- (i) To acknowledge the concerns of the residents
- (ii) To ensure that officers, ward councillors and the respective portfolio holders work with the community to prepare an action plan for road safety and traffic management proposals for the Salisbury Avenue area
- (iii) That full account be taken within the review of any findings related to highway issues deriving from the Police investigation and any subsequent inquiries.

Reason(s)

To respond to resident concerns and to ensure that the highway in the Salisbury Avenue area is as safe as reasonably achievable.

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Alexander Cllr Vincent	Portfolio: Crime, Justice and Communities Environment	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8 227 2116 E-mail: jeanette.alexander@lbbd.gov.uk Gerald.vincent@lbbd.gov.uk
Report Author: Gary Ellison	Title: Highways and Traffic Manager	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 3226 E-mail: gary.ellison@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 A fatal accident in Salisbury Avenue has compelled local residents to seek the assistance of the Council to make the Salisbury Avenue area safer in terms of traffic management. The accident is the subject of a Police investigation and therefore cannot be discussed at the Assembly.
- 1.2 Salisbury Avenue is located between Upney Lane and Station Parade in Barking. Traffic is prohibited from entering at both junctions thereby reducing the historic use of this road as a rat-run.
- 1.3 Some roads in the Salisbury Avenue area (bounded by Longbridge Road and Upney Lane) have speed humps, Salisbury Avenue does not. The Police have undertaken a traffic volume and speed survey in Salisbury Avenue. The results are awaited.
- 1.4 Accident data is available for this area which shows relatively few accidents but, as with most roads, there is always the potential to improve safety

2. Report

- 2.1 The Council is able to commit to investigating traffic arrangements in the Salisbury Avenue area to coincide with the request of residents by the petition. Following the approval by the Assembly of the recommendations in this report, officers will meet with ward councillors and the lead petitioners to consider their concerns in detail.
- 2.2 Although the main issue raised in the petition relates to vehicle speed, there is also reference to other matters that can be examined such as CCTV and junction design. The Police enforce speed limits; the Council does not have that enforcement authority, however, the Council is able to introduce measures to inhibit the speed of vehicles. Speed reduction can be achieved by the introduction of various measures such as speed humps, speed cushions, speed tables, chicanes, pinch points, etc.
- 2.3 It is usual practice for residents to be consulted on the use of these measures. It is essential in such an exercise to engage the whole community and this is also covered in the petition. Working with ward councillors, the relevant portfolio holders and the lead petitioners, officers will be able to prepare physical options for improving road safety and managing traffic movement.

- 2.4 The findings of the Police investigations and the outcome of any other reports about highway condition in the area can be fed into the review. Unfortunately we do not know when the Police investigation will be concluded and therefore it is difficult to determine in detail a programme of action. However, it is envisaged that preparatory work will be concluded by the end of the year enabling a financial bid to be made for any works agreed.
- 2.5 At that time consideration will be given to seeking funding from Transport for London via the Local Implementation Plan route or seeking funding from the Council's resources to implement the action plan.

3 Customer Impact

- 3.1 There is clear community concern at traffic and road safety conditions in the Salisbury Avenue area. The establishment of a review arrangement as set out in this report will demonstrate the Council's respect for the concerns of the community

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Petition submitted by Mrs Melis

Consultees:

Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities

Councillor Vincent, Cabinet Member for Environment

Councillor Butt

Councillor Hussain

Councillor Saeed

Andrew Yellowley, Interim Divisional Director of Environment and Enforcement Services

Ruth Du-Lieu, Waste and Street Scene Strategy Project Leader

Philip Thurgood, Parking Services Manager

Winston Brown, Legal Partner Corporate Law and Employment

ASSEMBLY**15 September 2010****JOINT REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AND THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES**

Title: Proposed London Local Authorities Bill	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>London Councils is sponsoring an amendment to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to allow greater flexibility in the eligibility times for freedom passes run by Transport for London on behalf of the London borough councils and to also introduce a provision for arbitration in the event that Transport for London and London Councils on behalf of the London boroughs could not agree on the costs of the freedom pass at any given time. (Under current arrangements Transport for London has reserve power to impose costs levels if agreement cannot be reached although such power has never had to be used).</p> <p>All London borough councils have been asked to pass a resolution (in the terms set out in the recommendations/reason section below) supporting the promotion of a Bill through Parliament to make the necessary amendments. London Councils are coordinating the effort to get the draft Bill deposited at the House of Commons by Friday 26 November 2010 which is the latest date for submission for the Bill to be considered in this Parliamentary session. Public notice of such changes is required which is being carried out by London Councils which also includes the dates which each London borough will pass the required resolution. Westminster City Council will propose the Bill on behalf of the London borough councils.</p>	
<p>Recommendation/Reason</p> <p>That Assembly pass the following resolution:</p> <p>That the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham approves the inclusion in a Bill to be promoted by Westminster City Council of provisions effecting all or some of the following purposes -</p> <p>(a) to alter the application of Chapter VIII of Part IV of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 so that different provision may be made for travel concessions in relation to different railway services and journeys on railway services on the London Local Transport Network and so as to make provision for arbitration in cases where London Authorities consider that charges notified by Transport for London under the reserve free travel scheme are excessive;</p> <p>(b) to enact any additional, supplemental and consequential provisions that may appear to be necessary or convenient.</p>	
<p>Reason(s)</p> <p>To give the Council greater flexibility in negotiating costs for the freedom pass scheme and to enable a more flexible, customer focused and value for money scheme to be operated by Transport for London on behalf of the London boroughs including Barking and Dagenham.</p>	

Implications

Financial:

There are no costs arising from supporting the proposed Bill whereas significant costs could accrue to the Council (and other London boroughs) if the current inflexible scheme remains unchanged as outlined in the report. The proposed amendments offer the Council an opportunity to better manage costs associated with the Freedom Pass

Legal:

Under section 239 Local Government Act 1972 a local authority has power to promote any local or personal Bill where it considers it expedient to do so. The local authority must signal such promotion by a resolution passed by a majority of members at a meeting of the authority. Where a Bill is being promoted 30 clear days' notice of the meeting must be given in the local press. (This statutory notice is separate from the ordinary notice of a meeting of the Assembly). After the Bill is deposited the authority must call a further meeting as soon as may be after the expiration of 14 days from the deposit of the Bill in Parliament. This second meeting is convened in the same way as the first including prior notice and unless a majority of the whole members confirms the propriety of promoting the Bill, it is withdrawn. As such members will be asked to re-affirm by resolution their promotion of the Bill at a future meeting of Assembly.

London Councils have confirmed that they published notice of this meeting on 6 August 2010.

London Councils are similarly coordinating dates of the second required full council meetings across London borough councils and fulfilling the notification requirements on their behalf.

It is noteworthy that the draft Bill is being promoted by all 32 London borough councils. Section 87 Local Government Act 1985 permits a local authority to include provisions requested by another authority subject to the notification rules as set out above. London Councils has confirmed compliance with the various obligations in this regard.

Risk Management:

If the position remains as now there is a risk (so far not materialised) that TfL could impose a fee regime for the Freedom Pass scheme on London borough councils which they do not agree to and which could occasion financial difficulty.

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

Greater flexibility in the freedom pass scheme will enable the councils to better target the needs of vulnerable groups covered by the scheme

Crime and Disorder:

None associated with this scheme.

Options Appraisal:

The council could choose not to support the proposed Bill which would be weakened in Parliament by less than unanimous support across London borough councils. The Council stands to gain from the proposals and it is considered in its best interests to support the Bill.

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Head of Service: Katherine Maddock-Lyon	Title: Head of Customer Strategy and Transformation	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8 227 5730 E-mail: Katherine.maddock-lyon@lbbd.gov.uk
Report Author: Winston Brown	Title: Legal Partner	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 3774 E-mail: winston.brown@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report relates to the freedom pass scheme managed by London Councils on behalf of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London with Transport for London (TfL) under powers granted in the Greater London Authority Act 1999 as amended by the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007. Under the scheme freedom passes are made available to older persons (male or female) who have attained age 60 (65 since 5 April 2010) and persons registered as statutorily disabled. Some London boroughs extend the pass to disabled persons who do not meet the statutory definition of disability.
- 1.2 The London focused legislation requires there to be a concessionary scheme on the London local transport network which in effect means all services operated or managed by TfL. In this regard TfL offers different categories of transport services namely bus, railway, tramway and river services. The terms and times of usage of the freedom pass is required to be the same across all categories of TfL's services. This requirement is felt to be too inflexible as it does not allow different times of eligibility to be set for different parts of the transport network or at different times. As indicated in the consultation document the planned extension of the freedom pass into morning peak hours will lead to significant cost increases to boroughs which must either extend the same provision across all services to maintain the uniformity principle or cut back eligibility times on all transport services. The proposed amendment would allow the London boroughs to negotiate different eligibility for different TfL railway services.
- 1.3 In addition under current arrangements freedom pass holders can travel outside London (to the ends of the Metropolitan and Central lines on London Underground and to Watford Junction on London Over ground) but freedom pass holders in those areas do not have any travel concessions on these rail services. London Councils note that complaints of unfairness are often received on this point. The proposed amendment would provide flexibility in arrangements arrived at.
- 1.4 A second amendment provides for an arbitration process for the reserve scheme. Under existing arrangements if TfL considers that by 1 January prior to the financial

year there is not in place a concessionary fares scheme which meets the statutory requirements it can impose a reserve scheme and set the charges accordingly. London Councils has advanced the view that it would be fairer for there to be an arbitration scheme if in the event the London boroughs and TfL could not agree and not least since the costs of the scheme are borne by London borough councils. It should be noted that to date TfL has not had to impose a scheme or level of fares as agreement has always been reached but the proposed amendment would provide an added safeguard to London boroughs and not least at a time of significant financial challenge.

- 1.5 London Councils launched a consultation on the proposed amendments in August 2010 which closes on 22 October 2010.
- 1.6 London Council's Leader's Committee agreed on 13 July 2010 to promote a private Bill to make the amendments referred to in this report. As noted by London Councils there is one opportunity each year to deposit private Bills before Parliament. The draft Bill text must be deposited with the House of Commons' private bill office by Friday 26 November to be considered in the current Parliamentary session. Further, before the Bill can be deposited every full council must pass a resolution supporting it and this meeting must be advertised. London Councils have advised all London boroughs that they have placed the advert with a list of all the relevant council meetings. To meet the earliest of these meetings London Councils placed the public notice on 6 August 2010. There is no separate requirement for Barking and Dagenham to publish any notice.

Background papers used in preparation of this report

- London Local Authorities (Travel Concession) Bill Consultation Document: August 2010
- Report presented to London Council's Leaders Committee on 13 July 2010 entitled 'Proposed London Local Authorities Bill'
- Draft London Local Authorities (Travel Concessions) Bill
- Draft public notice of the London Local Authorities (Travel Concessions) Bill

Consultees:

Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council
Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities
Councillor Geddes, Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenue and Benefits
Councillor McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Reason, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services
Councillor Vincent, Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor White, Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Human Resources
Katherine Maddock-Lyon, Head of Customer Strategy and Transformation
Nina Clark, Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services

**THE ASSEMBLY
15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND CHAIR		FOR DECISION
<p>Summary</p> <p>Following interviews on 15 July 2010, Mr Brian Beasley is recommended for appointment to the independent member vacancy on the Standards Committee which will arise when Mrs Fiona Fairweather's term of office ends on 10 October 2010. Mr Beasley meets the criteria for independent members and has signed a declaration accordingly. This includes confirmation of his political impartiality.</p> <p>The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 do not state a limit for the length of time an independent member may stand, but guidance from Standards for England is that the term of office should be long enough for an independent member to gain an understanding of the Committee, but not so long that they lose their independence. This Council has previously agreed (and it forms part of the Council Constitution) that independent members are appointed for a period of not more than four years and cannot be re-appointed to the Standards Committee until the expiry of at least two years.</p> <p>Mrs Fairweather is the Chair of the Committee. Therefore a new Chair is required from 11 October 2010. The Standards Committee will be considering nominations from amongst existing independent members at their meeting on 9 September and their recommendation will be reported verbally at the Assembly.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve the appointment of Mr Brian Beasley as an independent member of the Standards Committee with effect from 11 October 2010 for a period of four years; and (2) appoint a new Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2010/11. 		
Contact Officer:	Title:	Contact Details:
Nina Clark	Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Tel: 020 8227 2114 Fax: 020 8227 2171 E-mail: nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 and 2008

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THE ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE BAD YOUTH FORUM

Title: Annual Report of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum (BAD Youth Forum) 2009/10	For Information
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The BAD Youth Forum aims to give the Council greater contact with young people and in turn give young people a voice in local democracy.</p> <p>The Forum is an annually elected representative body of all young people aged 13 – 19 years old in the Borough, regardless of background. It is made up primarily of school students and representatives from various other youth organisations in the Borough.</p> <p>The elections for the current Forum were run in secondary schools in October 2009. The first meeting of this year's Forum took place on 20 October 2009 where the young people identified the key issues that they saw as important to champion. As a result two specific sub groups were formed covering issues of health and crime and safety, as well as a generic consultation group. The Forum as a whole is planned to meet four times a year with the two sub groups meeting more regularly to develop and deliver specific work plans based on the issues important to young people in the Borough.</p> <p>The meeting in January each year takes the form of a question and answer session at which local and regional decision makers along with officers and representatives from other public bodies are invited to attend to answer a range of questions from the Forum. This year's event which took place on 20 January 2010 was as ever a lively affair with a range of challenging and engaging questions posed by Forum Members to a Panel made up of Councillors Rocky Gill, Cabinet Member for Children, Helen Jenner, the Corporate Director of Children's Services, Bill Murphy the former Corporate Director of Resources, John Biggs, GLA Member, DI Tony Kirk, Metropolitan Police and John Strutton, Transport for London (TfL). The areas covered included truancy, school lessons, school dinners, job opportunities, voting age, use of Oyster cards, safety on public transport numbers of police on the streets, levels of youth crime and Council spending and budgets generally</p> <p>In order to further young people's awareness of issues of democracy the Forum would normally hold its April meeting as part of a visit to the Houses of Parliament. Unfortunately the event could not take place this year as it clashed with the period leading up to the Parliamentary and Local Elections in May 2010.</p> <p>The Forum also provides the opportunity to consult and inform young people, and officers from across the Council and representatives from other organisations have attended Forum meetings during the year. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Barking & Dagenham who worked with the group to develop an anti-smoking campaign aimed at young people. Discussions included effectively getting the campaign message across to young people. • Representatives from Children's Services to discuss the Children & Young People Plan (CYPP). In this meeting young people shared ideas about how B & D can be a better place to live, how young people could be healthier and what facilities young 	

people feel need improving. This will feed directly in to the CYPP.

- B & D Events Team who consulted with young people to gather their views about how future borough events could better engage young people and cater for their needs.
- Consultation with catering services on schools meals.
- Higher Education partners on accessing further education.
- Subwise regarding misuse of drugs by young people. The young people helped to develop a plan on how to advertise the Subwise service more effectively to young people.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team who completed a questionnaire with young people about youth safety. Issues raised regarding safety on public transport in the borough has prompted the Crime and Disorder Unit of TfL to attend the Children's Trust to discuss ways forward.
- Department for Education (formerly the Department for Children, Schools and Families)- discussing issues around financial support for young people e.g. Education Maintenance Allowance.

Other key activities/achievements of the Forum during the year have included:

- The election of the forum Chair and Deputy Chair, the UK Youth Parliament Representative and the Deputy Youth Parliament Representative.
- Representation at the Youth Mayor Summit facilitated by the Commonwealth Institute.
- Attending regular UK Youth Parliament regional meetings across London
- Young people have within their sub groups taken part in team building exercises.
- Production of a series of 'virals' (short films) around alcohol abuse in partnership with NHS Barking and Dagenham and Media Citizens.
- Working with a photographer, Youth Forum members have led a 'light our parks campaign' which has seen them collect 700 signatures to date from young people, to lobby for better lighting in the borough's parks so they can make full use of facilities. This has helped to dramatically raise the profile of this issue within the council.
- Receipt of the Diana Award for Excellence for their short film 'The Secret'.
- Receipt of a Positive Images award from Children and Young People Now for their film 'The Secret'.
- 15 young people working towards, and achieving, bronze Youth Achievement Awards.

Looking ahead to next year's Forum it has been decided to change the basis of electing the Forum so that in future it will run from January to December. The reasons for such a change are:

- To enable young people a longer period from returning to school to the election day in order to learn more about the Forum and their role as a potential member
- To offer more support to schools in the build up to the elections and further develop effective relationships with newly elected school councils
- To allow current members to assist and support in the election of new Forum members and be able to have a handover meeting with new members so that current campaigns/projects are able to continue with a greater level of consistency
- To give the young people longer to work on campaigns and promote the achievements of the Forum

As there is a time lag between the finish of this year's Forum and the start of the new one in January 2011 a number of the existing Forum will continue to meet. The purpose of this group will be to review the current format of sub-group sessions, election process and achievements of the Forum. The young people will have adequate time to prepare a suitable training package for the new members and work with youth workers to encourage other young people in their school and youth groups to nominate themselves. The returning group will also plan and deliver an information session for members who have nominated themselves, advising them how to write a manifesto and lead a successful campaign to become a new member of the Forum. This group will act as mentors for the new members in January 2011.

Representatives of this year's Forum, Jade Ramsey, Paul Cox, Salwa Rahman, Shekhar Seebaluck and Tommy Lee, have been invited to attend the Assembly and answer any questions Members may have about the report.

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Name: Nina Clark	Title: Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2114 Email: nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk
Report Author: John Dawe	Title: Group Manager Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2135 Fax: 020 8227 2171 Minicom: 020 8227 2685 E-mail: john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk

Consultees

The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Councillor Rocky Gill, Cabinet Member for Children and Education
- Helen Jenner, Corporate Director of Children's Services
- Nina Clark, Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services
- Erik Stein, Group Manager, Extended Schools
- Sally Allen-Clarke, Youth Worker

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Agendas and minutes of the BAD Youth Forum

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THE ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Title: Motions	For Decision
<p>The following motions have been received in accordance with paragraph 14 of Article 2, Part B of the Council's Constitution:</p>	
<p>1. Building Schools for the Future (BSF)</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Rocky Gill:</p> <p>"This Council welcomes the Government decision to continue to grant BSF funding to the Borough's two sample schools, Dagenham Park Church of England and Sydney Russell, to enable them to proceed with planned school improvements.</p> <p>However, this Council is deeply concerned by the cancellation of over £200m of the remaining BSF funding which was planned for local secondary schools in Barking and Dagenham.</p> <p>Over the next five to ten years, Barking and Dagenham will be faced with significant pressures on school places, especially with the re-development of Barking Riverside and the University of East London site. We need funding to provide first class facilities for both our primary and secondary schools. Without that finance previously earmarked for our schools, some of our young people will not get the education they deserve.</p> <p>We therefore, call upon the Cabinet and our local MPs to continue lobbying Government for the necessary funding to ensure we can meet the needs of every child, and their families, in the borough."</p>	
<p>2. Playbuilder Grants</p> <p>To be moved by Cllr Tarry:</p> <p>"This Council is dismayed at the decision of the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, to freeze Playbuilder Grants this year to councils across the country which would have provided the funding to refurbish existing playgrounds and play areas and build new play facilities for local children.</p> <p>Because of the Government's decision, locally the future of proposed new and renovated playgrounds and play areas at St Chad's, Central Park, Harts Lane, Middle Meadow, Mayesbrook Park, Pondfield Park, Barking Park and Abbey Green is now in doubt.</p> <p>Barking and Dagenham councillors believe any Government decision to scrap funding for new play schemes will be at odds with the London 2012 vision - to use the power of the Olympic games to create a healthier London.</p>	

This Council hopes, in light of the Olympics and the aim to leave a games legacy of a healthier London, that the Government sees sense and recognises that decent play facilities are not an extravagance, but a necessity.

Senior councillors intend to lobby Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee, calling on him to put pressure on Government ministers not to betray the Olympic legacy to London youngsters, by scrapping funding for new play areas in the Borough.

Councillors will also lobby Ministers and we urge local people to write to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister calling on them to rethink this short sighted decision."

The deadline for amendments to these motions is noon on Friday 10 September 2010.

For information, attached at Appendix A is the relevant extract from the Council's Constitution relating to the procedure for dealing with Motions.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to debate and vote on the above motions and any amendments.

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**Extract from the Council Constitution
Part B, Article 2 - The Assembly**

14. Motions on issues directly affecting the Borough

- 14.1 Written notice of any motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 4.00 pm on the Wednesday two weeks before the meeting. *The following provisions exclude a motion moving a vote of no confidence in the Leader of the Council (see paragraph 10 for details)*
- 14.2 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions that he/she considers are of a vexatious or derogatory nature, or contrary to any provision of any code, protocol, legal requirement or rule of the Council; or that do not relate to the business of the Council or are otherwise considered improper or inappropriate.
- 14.3 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions the content of which he/she feels forms the basis of a motion already considered at the Assembly within the previous twelve months.
- 14.4 In the event that the Member who submitted the motion is not present at the Assembly meeting, the motion will be withdrawn.
- 14.5 Any motions withdrawn as indicated above, or withdrawn at the request of the Member who submitted the motion, either before or during the meeting, may not be resubmitted to the Assembly within a period of six months. This condition will be waived where the Member, or a colleague on their behalf, has notified the Chief Executive by 5 pm on the day of the meeting of their inability to attend due to their ill health or family bereavement.
- 14.6 Motions will be listed on the agenda in the order in which they are received.
- 14.7 Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which directly affect the borough.
- 14.8 Written notice of any amendments to motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. The same criteria and actions as described in paragraphs 14.3, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 will apply in relation to any amendments received.
- 14.9 Any amendments proposed after the time specified in paragraph 14.8 will only be considered for exceptional reasons such as a change in circumstances appertaining to the original motion, in which case the consent of the Chair will be required.
- 14.10 Order/rules of debate:
1. Except with the Chair's consent, the debate on each motion shall last no longer than 10 minutes and no individual speech shall exceed two minutes.

2. The mover will move the motion and explain its purpose.
3. The Chair will invite another Member to second the motion
4. If any amendment(s) has been accepted in accordance with paragraphs 12.8 or 12.9, the Chair will invite the relevant Member to move the amendment(s) and explain its (their) purpose.
5. The Chair will invite another Member(s) to second the amendment(s).
6. The Chair will then invite Members to speak on the motion and any amendments.
7. Once all Members who wish to speak have done so, or the time limit has elapsed, the Chair will allow the mover(s) of the amendment(s) a right of reply followed by the mover of the original motion.
8. At the end of the debate, any amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were proposed.
9. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved and voted upon.
10. After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
11. If all amendments are lost, a vote will be taken on the original motion.

15. Closure Motions

- 15.1 A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another Member:
 - (i) to proceed to the next business;
 - (ii) that the question/motion be now put;
 - (iii) to adjourn a debate; or
 - (iv) to adjourn a meeting.
- 15.2 If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded the Chair will put this to a vote without further discussion on the original motion or item
- 15.3 If a motion that the question/motion be now put is seconded the Chair will call the vote on the original motion or question.
- 15.4 If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, they will put the procedural motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion the right of reply.