

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 13 January 2004
(7:00 - 8:15 pm)

Present: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor S Kallar, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor B M Osborn, Councillor J W Porter, Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade.

Also Present: Councillor Mrs K J Flint, Councillor M A McCarthy and Councillor Mrs V M Rush.

Apologies: Councillor G J Bramley.

250. Minutes (23 December 2003)

Agreed.

251. Community Empowerment and Engagement Policy Commission

Noted the contents of the final report of the Community Empowerment and Engagement Policy Commission, prior to its submission to the Assembly on 4 February 2004, and placed on record our thanks to those Members and officers who participated.

252. Corporate Performance Assessment Performance Indicators

Received a report setting out an action plan for The Management Team to improve the critical Performance Indicators (PI) that constitute the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) service scores on all areas of council services. The Action Plan also contained information on the latest performance on each of these indicators where available.

Agreed to support the emphasis set out in the Action Plan across the critical basket of CPA Performance Indicators in order to improve performance on those areas that positively impact upon the CPA score.

Attached to these Minutes is a breakdown of those PIs on Education and Social Services, which impact upon the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) scores, which were not circulated with the agenda.

253. Home Office Consultation Paper - Policing: Building Safer Communities Together

Received a report summarising the proposals contained within the Government's consultation paper on policing - *Building Safer Communities Together*, which looks at modernising and reforming the Police Service through developing strong connections between local communities and the Police.

We discussed the proposals set out in the report; and

Agreed that a final response be drafted and agreed by the Leader and Lead Member for 'Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer', Councillor McKenzie, in order to convey this Council's views on the strategic functioning of a reformed Police Service, and how its impact upon crime and disorder in Barking and Dagenham can be maximised.

The response will be circulated to all Executive Members prior to its submission to the Association of London Government and the Home Office within the consultation deadline.

We have also placed on record our thanks to the Community Safety team for their work in helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the Borough.

254. * 2004 / 2005 Council Tax Base

Received a report setting out the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2004 / 2005. The report also set out information on new powers available to the Council to reduce discounts for second homes and long-term empty property, and to award locally determined discounts.

Agreed, in order to comply with statute and assist in the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for 2004 / 2005:

1. That the report on the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for 2004 / 2005 be approved and that, pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council as its Tax Base for the year 2004 / 2005 shall be 51,055.3 Band 'D' properties;
2. That the discounts for second homes or long-term empty properties are not reduced for 2004 / 2005; and
3. To recommend to the Assembly that locally determined discounts should not be awarded for 2004/2005.

255. Private Business

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

256. Homelessness Act and Houses to Transfers

Deferred.

257. Mayor, Members and Fleet Transport

Further to Minute 325 (25 February 2003), received a report outlining the actions required to the Mayor, Members' and Fleet Transport service in order to achieve, as far as possible, the budgetary savings agreed at that time of £10,000 in the current financial year and up to £70,000 from 2004 / 2005 onwards.

Noted that the current year's savings can be met through better budgetary controls, but, in order to save an estimated total of £53,500 in the coming year from the budget in question.

Agreed, that with effect from the new financial year:

1. The in-house Members' transport service cease (except for civic functions) but that special arrangements are made through a local mini cab firm for those Members who are eligible for a Disabled Blue Badge, as set out in Option 2 of the report; and
2. The Members' home delivery service be reduced to Fridays only.

258. Award of Residential Respite Care Beds Contract

Received a report highlighting the temporary reduction of residential care beds to provide planned respite care following the re-provision programme for transforming Kingsbridge Residential Care Home to a Nursing Home. The report also outlined the tender process undertaken in accordance with the Constitution (Contract Rules) in order to meet the demands of the service.

Agreed to award the Respite Care Beds contract to Angel Lodge for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2006 at an overall value of £171,029 per annum, in order to establish a consistently managed provision of planned residential respite care beds enabling carers to take planned breaks.

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