

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 29 April 2003
(7:00 - 8:50 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 and Councillor T G W Wade.

Also Present: Councillor Mrs V W Cridland, Councillor J Davis, Councillor M W Huggins, Councillor T J Justice, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor Mrs V M Rush, Councillor A G Thomas and Councillor Mrs P A Twomey.

Apologies: (none)

414. Minutes (15 April 2003)

Agreed.

415. Embedding Workplace Basic Skills In London Local Authorities Project

Withdrawn.

416. Managing Members and M.P. Enquiries in Social Services

Withdrawn.

417. Attendance at Conferences

Received a report seeking approval for attendance at conferences in accordance with the Council's Conference, Visits and Hospitality Rules.

Agreed:

1. The Director of Housing and Health and two other officers to attend the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference;
2. Three delegates to attend the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Conference and Exhibition 2003; and
3. Three delegates to attend the Local Government Association Housing Conference 2003.

418. Best Value Review of School Attendance

Received a report setting out the findings of the Best Value Review of School Attendance.

Agreed to recommend the Assembly to agree the recommendations outlined in the Action Plan which will lead to significant improvements in the Access and Attendance Service, in line with the principles of best value over the next five

years.

419. Youth Support and Development Service Plan 2003/04

Received a report presenting the Youth Support and Development Service Strategic Plan for 2003/06 and Delivery Plan for 2003/04 produced in response to the new Government requirements for Local Authority Youth Services.

Agreed, in order to meet the requirements of the Department for Education and Skills' (DfES) 'Transforming Youth Work' agenda, to submit the plans to the Government Office for London.

420. Appeal System - Housing Allocation Offers and Homelessness Offers

Further to Minute 288 (28 January 2003), received a report proposing an appeal system for permanent offers of accommodation. The 2002 Homeless Act granted a further right of review for homeless applicants. This now includes appeals against the suitability of offers of accommodation.

Agreed, in order to allow officers to make decisions with the appropriate delegated authority, to:

1. The Rehousing Team Leaders for each Community Housing Partnership deciding appeals made against offers of accommodation for transfer and waiting list applicants;
2. The authority to deal with appeals against permanent offers of accommodation to homeless applicants being delegated to the existing section 202 Review Panel; and
3. The Principal Advice Manager chairing the section 202 Review Panel to decide upon the suitability of permanent offers made to homeless applicants.

421. Audit of Child Protection Services: Laming Recommendations

Following the Laming Report into the death of Victoria Climbié, Local Authorities are required to submit to the Department of Health a self-audit of their services.

Agreed, in order to comply with the requirements of the Laming Report, to submit the self audit and action plan to the Department of Health.

The Chief Executive, the Executive Director for Health and Social Care and the Director of Education, Arts and Libraries are planning an audit, during the late summer, of how children are protected in support of the Area Child Protection Committee.

422. Procurement Spend to Save

Received a report proposing a 'Spend to Save' initiative to improve the Council's procurement over the next three years. The initiative proposes increased resources to provide additional operational support, training and

guidance for procurement by the Council.

Agreed, in order to produce substantial savings through improving the Council's procurement, to:

1. Fund the proposals as set out in the report from reserves at a cost of £173,000 over three years; and
2. Receive 6 monthly reports on the savings made through this initiative.

423. Private Business

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

424. Education Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Selection of Preferred Bidder

Received a report seeking approval for the selection of the preferred and reserve bidder for the Council's Education PFI project for the new Jo Richardson Community School and the refurbishment and expansion of Eastbury Comprehensive School.

Agreed, in order to move to the next stage of negotiation, that:

1. The Council forgoes the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) stage and appoints the preferred bidder and a reserved bidder to enable price pressure to be maintained during negotiation;
2. Bouygues Education be appointed as the preferred bidder for the Education Schools PFI project, to be taken forward to the next stage of the PFI process and that officers take all relevant steps to close, as far as practicable, the current affordability gap;
3. Investors in the Community be appointed as the reserved bidder;
4. Officers seek additional PFI Credits from the Department for Education and Skills; and
5. Officers prepare an Outline Business Case for the Community Facilities to secure the PFI Credits provisionally granted to the Council by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

The designs for Jo Richardson Community School and Eastbury Comprehensive will be circulated to all members in the next available edition of 'Members Matters'.

425. Procurement of Capital Projects

Received a report detailing a number of projects contained within the capital programme for the Education, Arts and Libraries Department.

Agreed that officers proceed with the procurement routes as set out in the

report, in order to secure new build and refurbishment projects.

426. Accord LBBD Partnering Arrangement - Accord Costs for Non Inclusion

Withdrawn.

427. Accord LBBD Repairs and Maintenance Partnership - Support to Community Housing Partnerships

Withdrawn.

428. Pondfield House - Conditions of Use by the Accord LBBD Partnership

Agreed the terms and conditions under which the Accord/LBBD partnership will have use of Pondfield House as the partnership develops and to address the proposed business growth for third party works.

429. Thames Accord / LBBD Repairs and Maintenance Partnership - Conditions of Contract

Noted a report on the progress of formalising the partnership with Thames Accord Ltd. The report presented the partnering contract and a statement of principles on the transfer of employees by Accord Ltd.

430. Technical Support to the Community Housing Partnerships - Appointment of Designer

Agreed, in order to enhance resident participation and confidence in local service delivery, to appoint Stephenson Partnership Ltd for design and construction supervision services for security works to Millard Terrace at a fee levy of 10% of an estimated contract cost of £250,000

431. Land in Abbey Road - Relocation of the Canoe Club

Withdrawn.

432. Consideration of Alternative Locations for the Alcohol Advisory Service

Received a report regarding the relocation of the Alcohol Advisory Service from their existing location in Levett Road.

Agreed, in order to vacate the Levett Road site to allow progression with the expansion of Eastbury Secondary School, to:

1. Authorise the Director of Leisure and Environmental Services to serve the necessary notice to quit on the Alcohol Advisory Service at the earliest possible date; and
2. Receive a further report on proposed locations and the reasons why the Council should be supporting the service.

433. Refurbishment of Civic Centre Public and Civic Areas

Received a report seeking acceptance of a revised tender for the refurbishment of the Dagenham Civic Centre Foyer, Council Chamber and Committee Rooms.

Agreed, in order to proceed the improvement of facilities at the Civic Centre, to:

1. Accept the tender submitted by InSpace Interiors Ltd, in the sum of £1,308,323 for the schedule of works detailed in the report.;
2. The installation of comfort cooling in the Council Chamber and North Wing at the cost of £200,000 to be met from the overall budget allocation; and
3. Place the orders with Inspace Interior Ltd.

434. Regeneration of Becontree Heath

Agreed to fund a feasibility study, with a budget of around £20,000 from reserves, in order to investigate possible options for the redevelopment of land in the vicinity of Seabrook Hall and Dagenham Swimming Pool in Althorne Way, Dagenham.

435. * JNC Matters Update

Received a report asking the Executive to make a number of decisions around the recruitment of senior managers and the grading of specific posts, including recommendations to the Assembly.

Agreed,

1. The salary level for the Head of Organisational Development & Employee Relations as set out in the report.
2. To recommend the Assembly to note the new salary levels, and their implementation, for the Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Strategy and Director of Leisure and Environmental Services as set out in the report.
3. To note that Jack Knowles, Director of Leisure and Environmental Services, has agreed to postpone his retirement until 31 May 2003.
4. Councillors Fairbrass, Geddes and Thomas form the Members Panel for the recruitment of the two JNC posts in the Finance Department identified in the report.

A further report will be submitted regarding the Solicitor to the Council's additional role of Monitoring Officer.

The Executive noted that the Head of Policy and Performance has been offered a one year secondment with the Cabinet Office. A secondment to the Head of Policy and Performance post will be advertised internally, the Cabinet Office and LGA will also be approached for suitable secondment candidates.

436. * Commercial Estate Management Contract 2003-06 & Professional Services Contracts 2003-06

Agreed following comprehensive evaluation, to accept the tenders which offered the most economically advantageous solution for the Council from:

1. Glenny for the Commercial Estate Management Contract, to run for the period 1 June 2003 to 31 May 2006 with an option, subject to mutual agreement and adequate performance, to extend for a further two years.
2. Kemsley, Whiteley & Ferris for the Professional Services Contract, to run for the period 1 June 2003 to 31 May 2006 with an option, subject to mutual agreement and adequate performance, to extend for a further two years.

437. * Thames View Estate - Soil Quality

Received a report regarding soil quality tests on the Thames View Estate.

Agreed, in order to identify if the land on Thames View Estate is contaminated:

1. The immediate next steps outlined in the report; and
2. That resources for a risk assessment and legal advice of £205,000 be met from Capital reserves.

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