

## **ASSEMBLY**

Wednesday, 30 March 2011  
(7:00 - 9:15 pm)

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Davis  
(Deputy Chair in the Chair)

Councillor J Davis	Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor S Ashraf	Councillor A Gafoor Aziz
Councillor G Barratt	Councillor P Burgon
Councillor L Butt	Councillor E Carpenter
Councillor J Channer	Councillor J Clee
Councillor H J Collins	Councillor R Douglas
Councillor N S S Gill	Councillor R Gill
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 T Perry
Councillor B Poulton	Councillor A K Ramsay
Councillor L A Reason	Councillor C Rice
Councillor L Rice	Councillor D Rodwell
Councillor T Saeed	Councillor A Salam
Councillor S Tarry	Councillor D Twomey
Councillor G M Vincent	Councillor L R Waker
Councillor P T Waker	Councillor J R White
Councillor M M Worby	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor S Alasia	Councillor R Baldwin
Councillor L Couling	Councillor C Geddes
Councillor D Hunt	Councillor M Hussain
Councillor J Ogungbose	Councillor H S Rai
Councillor L A Smith	Councillor J Wade

#### **65. Chief Executive**

On behalf of the Assembly, the Deputy Chair welcomed the new Chief Executive, Stella Manzie.

#### **66. Declaration of Members' Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 67. Minutes (23 February 2011)

**Agreed**

## 68. Appointments

Received and noted this report presented by the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services (CDACS) in the absence of Councillor Smith, the Leader of the Council.

It was noted that the CREATE annual arts festival is funded by the Olympiad but that beyond the 2012 Olympic Games it will be for the Council to consider what resources it will provide.

**Agreed** to the appointment of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Sport to the Board of Directors of the CREATE festival company as from the date of its incorporation.

## 69. 2011/12 Treasury Management Strategy

Received and noted this report introduced by the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (CDFR).

It was further noted that:

- (i) the authorised borrowing limit of £257m was not the amount of money that would be borrowed in 2011/12 but that determining a borrowing limit is a legal requirement pursuant to Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003;
- (ii) the indicators did not include the Housing Revenue Account nor funding for decent homes;
- (iii) the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) is a statutory body that provides loans to local authorities. As part of the Government's Spending Review, the lending rate was increased by 1%, creating a situation where the private sector is offering similar rates.

**Agreed** to approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2011/12 (this document) and within this document the following:

1. The current treasury position for 2010/11 and prospects for interest rates:
2. The Authorised borrowing limit of £257m for 2011/12, which will be the statutory limit determined by the Council, pursuant to section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003;
3. The Borrowing Strategy, Borrowing Requirement Strategy, Borrowing Requirement Debt Rescheduling Strategy and Policy on borrowing in advance of need for 2011/12;
4. The Minimum Revenue Policy Statement for 2011/12 which sets out the

Council's policy on repayment of debt;

5. The Annual Investment Strategy and creditworthiness policy for 2011/12 (Appendix B to the report), which outlines the investments that the Council may use for the prudent management of its investment balances. It also includes details of benchmarks set for external managers. The power is delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to change these benchmarks as required;
6. The Treasury Management Indicators and Prudential Indicators for 2011/12 (Appendix A to the report);
7. Treasury Management Principles, areas of responsibility and frequency as required by the Revised Code of Practice for Treasury Management 2011/12 (Appendix C to the report) as well as the key reporting requirements as required by the Code (Appendix D to the report); and
8. The Housing Reform and effects on treasury management Housing Revenue Account Reform and Impact on Treasury Management.

## **70. Child Protection Practice and Policy in Schools Scrutiny Review**

The Lead Member of the Children's Services Select Committee, Councillor L Rice, presented the Select Committee's in-depth review of child protection practices and policies in the borough's schools, which had been presented to the Cabinet on 15 March 2011.

She offered her thanks to Members and officers for their contribution to the review.

It was noted that the Select Committee recognised recent improvements that had been made in children's services across the borough and the 30 recommendations put forward were intended to build on those improvements.

The Lead Member added that the underlying theme of the recommendations was to encourage better understanding and working between the agencies involved, such as the school staff, Governing Bodies, the Police and the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education introduced the Cabinet's comments on the report. He thanked the Lead Member, the Select Committee Members and officers and made particular reference to the report highlighting the importance of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

The Corporate Director of Children's Services (CDCS) introduced her response to the report.

She welcomed the report's challenges and reported that an action plan would be formulated, the first draft of which will be presented to the Select Committee in June 2011 and monitored six monthly thereafter.

The CDCS further advised that a five day peer review of services had just been completed by the Local Government Information Unit. An independent survey of 100 people in the borough was undertaken as part of this process with "91% of

survey respondents very confident or mostly confident that multi-agency safeguarding procedures are working well”.

Whilst this is a high percentage, it did mean that 9% were concerned about child protection, and it is these such concerns that would be acted on.

Following questions, the CDCS stated that:

1. Some of the recommendations would be implemented immediately;
2. In its use of the CAF, the borough was seen as an example of best practice;
3. The borough's intervention work in Multi Agency Locality Teams (MALTs) had been recognised nationally;
4. Progress on unauthorised absence was an agenda item at the termly meetings with the schools; school attendance has improved, so that it now matches national levels;
5. Whilst any knife crime is a problem, it was lower in this borough than other London boroughs. There was a level of safety in school, and officers worked closely with the Police regarding safety outside of school.

**Agreed** to adopt the Children's Services Select Committee's recommendations as set out in the report and to note the comments of the Cabinet (as set out in Appendix B to the report) and the response of the Corporate Director of Children's Services (as set out in Appendix C to the report).

## **71. Community Cohesion Scrutiny Review**

The Lead Member of the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee, Councillor Rodwell, presented the Select Committee's in-depth review of community cohesion, which had been presented to the Cabinet on 15 March 2011.

He recorded his thanks to officers and to the local community and voluntary groups for the outstanding support they had given to the Select Committee throughout the review. He noted the wide range of work already undertaken by the Council and partners in promoting a cohesive Barking and Dagenham and stated that he saw this report and the 21 recommendations as the initial step in a continuing review process.

The Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities introduced the Cabinet's comments on the report, stating that the Lead Member had provided the clarification sought in relation to Recommendations 2 and 9, as set out in Appendix B.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education referred to the examples in the report of the work undertaken by a number of schools in the borough in building community cohesion. He further acknowledged the role of school governors in terms of opening up school facilities to the community and stated that Members, in their capacity as school governors, should give particular consideration to recommendations 18 and 19.

In response to a question as to the available resources to continue resident surveys as set out in recommendation 1, the Chief Executive advised that some surveys were carried out nationally, but that this was something that we as a Council should continue to look at to identify where progress is being made, and that she would consider the resource implications.

**Agreed** to adopt the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee's recommendations as set out in the report and to note the comments of the Cabinet (as set out in Appendix B to the report).

## **72. Fly Tipping Scrutiny Review**

In the absence of the Lead Member, the Deputy Lead Member of the Living and Working Select Committee, Councillor Perry, presented the Select Committee's in-depth review of Fly-Tipping Services, which had been presented to the Cabinet on 15 February 2011.

The Deputy Lead Member stated that the underlying theme of the 11 recommendations was the need to work together with partners, other local authorities and especially the borough's residents.

He recorded his thanks to Members and officers for the support that they had given to the Select Committee throughout the review.

In responding to Member questions, the Corporate Director of Customer Services advised that:

1. Rubbish left by fly-tippers costs in excess of £100 per tonne to dispose of;
2. The Council worked with VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) in stopping commercial vehicles that drive along River Road to ensure that the vehicles were securely sheeted, carrying the correct load, and going to the correct destination;
3. The Council operated:
  - (a) a free bulk waste service, for which residents may have to wait 3-5 weeks; and
  - (b) a priority service (3-5 days) costing between £12.50/£17.50
4. During this current year:
  - (a) 38 fly-tippers have been prosecuted;
  - (b) 61 fixed penalty notices have been issued
5. Due to the high cost of waste disposal, which was paid for via Council Tax, it was important that waste volume is kept in check. This borough's residents were disposing of more waste than any other London borough, and it was for this reason that wheelie bins were introduced; to give residents the opportunity to compost and recycle.

The Corporate Director of Customer Services invited Members to meet with him outside this meeting to discuss specific concerns about discarded litter in their Ward areas.

**Agreed** to adopt the Living and Working Select Committee's recommendations as set out in the report.

### **73. Smoking Cessation Scrutiny Review**

The Lead Member of the Health and Adult Services Select Committee, Councillor Twomey, presented the Select Committee's in-depth review of smoking cessation, which had been presented to the Cabinet on 15 March 2011.

He recorded his thanks to everyone who had participated in this review, giving particular thanks to Glen Oldfield, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

It was noted that many of the Select Committee's 16 recommendations related to discouraging young people from smoking. The Lead Member stressed the importance of denying young people access to adult proxy purchasing of tobacco products.

Referring to the sale of illicit tobacco, he asked that Members, in their capacity as school governors, publicise recommendations 11 and 12 in the borough's schools.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, Councillor Reason, presented the Cabinet's comments on the report. She emphasised the Lead Member's foreword to the report which stated that in our community one person died every day from a smoking related disease.

Members commended the report, having particular regard to the following recommendations:

6. peer-led interventions in schools
7. Members on school governing bodies ensuring that good quality tobacco education is given high priority
8. a Youth Stop Smoking Service
9. the removal of tobacco vending machines
10. discouraging adult proxy purchasing
11. publicising high profile prosecutions to deter sellers of illicit tobacco products
12. encouraging local businesses to address the sale of illicit tobacco in the workplace.

**Agreed** to adopt the Health and Adult Services Select Committee's recommendations as set out in the report and to note the comments of the Cabinet (as set out in Appendix B to the report).

### **74. Withdrawal of Permitted Development Rights for Homes in Multiple Occupation**

Received and noted this report presented by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Following debate, it was **agreed** that the Cabinet Member would provide a written reply to Members regarding questions raised in connection with:

1. possible compensation claims, and
2. the level of housing benefits paid to families living in properties that have been converted to multiple occupation dwellings.

**Agreed** to make a non-immediate Article 4 Direction, covering the whole borough, withdrawing permitted development rights for changes of use from use class C3 (dwelling house) to use class C4 (house in multiple occupation).

## **75. Adoption of Borough-wide Development Policies Development Plan Document**

Received and noted this report presented by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Responding to questions the Cabinet Member advised that:

1. Regarding bullet points 4 and 6 of paragraph 1.2 of the Cabinet Report:  
  
Policy BR1 - "exceptional circumstances"(where the Environmental Building Standards in Policy BR1 may not be appropriate) would be reported to and challenged by the Development Control Board;  
  
Policy BR6 – this paragraph should be taken as read. Should any planning applications be received from the operator at Marks Warren Farm, in depth discussion would take place between officers and the operator prior to it being reported to the Development Control Board. Ward members would be notified accordingly.
2. Chadwell Heath Station was within the London Borough of Redbridge. TfL review bus routes regularly and officers in the Regeneration department would be asked to write to TfL on this. Crossrail would not be operational until 2017/2018.

## **76. Members' Allowances 2011/12**

Received and noted this report introduced by the Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

Referring to paragraph 2.3(iii) of the report in respect of the proposal to replace the set allowance of the Deputy Chairs/Deputy Lead Members to an ad hoc meeting based payment, Councillor Twomey pointed out that members had reflected on the role and had concluded that if carried out correctly it amounted to more than simply deputising for the Chair at meetings. He further noted that this special responsibility allowance along with all other allowances had been frozen for the past two years.

Councillor Twomey moved that the special responsibility allowance payable to

Deputy Chairs and Deputy Lead Members of £1571 should continue to apply.

**Agreed:**

1. that no increase be applied to Members' basic and special responsibility allowances for the 2011/2012 municipal year, representing a freeze in allowance levels for the third year in succession;
2. to incorporate the position of Independent Adviser to the PAASC in the overall Scheme and, in view of the current economic situation, to set the allowance payable for 2011/12 at £300 per meeting; and
3. that the draft Members' Allowances Scheme for the 2011/12 municipal year attached to the report at Appendix A take effect from 19 May 2011 (the day after Annual Assembly), with the exception of the proposed change to the Mayor's Purse, which will take effect from 21 May 2011 (the day after the 2011/12 Ceremonial Council meeting), and subject to the continued payment of the Deputy Chairs' and Deputy Lead Members' special responsibility allowance of £1571.

**77. Motions**

None

**78. Leader's Question Time**

None

**79. General Question Time**

**General Question 1 from Councillor Carpenter:**

“Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) are being withdrawn by the Conservative-led Government from September 2011. In Barking and Dagenham College of Further Education, 41% (1,234) of 16-18 year olds currently in learning are in receipt of an EMA. I am very worried about the negative impact this will have on our younger learners being able to remain in learning and training from September 2011 when EMAs are withdrawn. The College has successfully used the payment of EMAs to motivate youngsters to stay in learning and to improve their attendance. This helps our young people to develop positive attitudes to learning and to achieve good results. Many of their families also depend upon this money in order to keep these youngsters in learning. We also know that unemployment amongst young people is growing. What work is the Barking and Dagenham Partnership doing to assess the implications of this change on the number of potential NEETS in Barking and Dagenham (those young people not in education, employment or training)? Will our NEETS numbers spike even higher? What can the Partnership do to help our young people in these difficult circumstances? What plans are the Partnership putting in place from September 2011 to mitigate the impacts of this?”

**Response from Councillor R Gill, Cabinet Member for Children and Education:**



The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Carpenter for a very detailed question on a very important issue.

He stated that in the last financial year £580m had been allocated to EMAs but that the revised scheme, announced by the Secretary of State for Education, had an allocation of £180m, of which £156m would be made available to schools and colleges to support low income families.

Students who received EMAs in 2009/10 would continue to receive the same payments until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.

Students who started courses in September 2010 and qualified for the £30 per week payments would continue to receive support of at least £20 per week until the end of the academic year.

Referring to the impact of the loss of EMAs, the Cabinet Member stated that through the 14-19 Partnership, the borough's secondary schools and the Barking and Dagenham College were currently undertaking a detailed review of all courses and qualifications to ensure that they are appropriate, robust and provided good opportunities for progression.

There also continued to be a good supply of local part-time work, which provided young people with valuable work experience.

Referring to NEETs and youth unemployment, at February 2011 data showed a further reduction in unemployment of young people from 7.9% to 6.9%, which was in line with other east London boroughs.

There was concern about unemployment rates for 18-24 year olds, which stands at 17.3% against the national average of 20.1%. A specialist 18-24 Job Broker was currently being recruited in partnership with Elevate.

The Skills Centre, which was due to be completed on 23 July 2012, would provide authentic workplace learning in key local employment sectors such as construction, ICT, business, hospitality and catering, hair and beauty.

The focus on apprenticeships continued to be maintained:

- recruiting 12 with Elevate
- 30 within the Council's workforce
- 16 through procurement of major construction contracts
- a further 50-60 in the pipeline

Officers continued to work closely with other private sector partners and the Council would be pursuing the new funding for apprenticeships that was announced in the Budget.

High quality work experience placements were important and the Council's own work experience placement team had been recognised by the recent Award for Education Business Excellence.

The Council were working to ensure a comprehensive fit for purpose 14-19 curriculum and also to further improve the quality of information available to young people to enable them to make the right choices at the right time. The Council also had an LBB Prospectus website which could be accessed by young people who own smart phones.

It must still be remembered that £400m has been cut by the Government.

**General Question 2 from Councillor Twomey:**

“The powers given to teachers in the new education bill around the confiscation of mobile phones in schools, has recently been condemned as disproportionate and reckless by the NASWUT teaching union. This is evidence once again of this Government's inability to engage in proper, meaningful consultation.

I recognise the fact that mobile phone usage can be, and often is, a problem within our schools, in terms of distraction and inappropriate behaviour. I acknowledge that as a council we do not have the power to directly address these issues within our schools, however I would like to ask what steps are we, the Council, taking to guide our local head teachers in terms of developing a consistent and uniform approach to these issues across the borough?”

**Response from Councillor R Gill, Cabinet Member for Children and Education:**

The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Twomey for this question, saying that it was something about which there has been much discussion.

He stated that there had been consultation with the secondary school head teachers, and that all of the secondary schools had policies, the general principle of which is the same, that mobile telephones should not be visible during lessons.

Referring to the Council's strong partnership with the police and head teachers, the Cabinet Member said that he was confident that the head teachers would take a fair approach.

He also gave his personal undertaking to raise this issue with the secondary head teachers.

**General Question 3 from Councillor Channer:**

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children and Education please outline the capital investment programme earmarked for our schools over 2011/2012? And what plans are in place to continue investing in our schools over the coming years in light of the drastic and unnecessary cuts being forced upon us by the Tory led coalition government?”

**Response from Councillor R Gill, Cabinet Member for Children and Education:**

The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Channer for raising such an important question.

Whilst noting that the £270m programme for Building Schools for the Future had been scrapped by the Government, it was important to remember that thanks to this Council lobbying the Secretary of State for Education, we have received funding for works on Sydney Russell and Dagenham Park Schools, which will be completed in 2012.

Through the Department for Education, the Council had been allocated £14m for 2011/12 to invest in providing new school places and to respond to basic need. This is the highest allocation of all London boroughs and recognises the particular demands we have in this borough. A programme is currently being drawn up to ensure the delivery of sufficient school places by September 2012 and this is due to be considered by Cabinet next month.

A further allocation of £3.8m has been received to invest in existing Children's Services properties. Priorities for this investment are to ensure that the £51m backlog of condition items that are mainly in schools are addressed.

Lobbying will continue for additional funding to support the building work that is needed at secondary school level.

Representation had been made to Government to seek a review of the allocation made to this borough and we had had a visit from Department for Education officials to enable them to make an assessment of our needs and impacts. Only five other councils nationwide received such a visit.

The Cabinet Member advised that head teachers were predicting a continued rise in outcomes for our young people and that he will provide an update on this in future meetings.

#### **General Question 4 from Councillor Tarry:**

A child's life chances are significantly bound to education and the socio-economic position of their parents. The Evening Standard this year printed its child poverty findings, which highlighted that Barking and Dagenham is at 39%, the 9<sup>th</sup> worst in the UK. We obviously have a desperate need for greater funding to ensure our young people have the life chances they deserve, especially in the first five years which ultimately shape their future.

Despite this we have seen the London Mayor under-fund us in job creation and transport, and the Government cut much of the means to provide top class education for young people at every stage right through to University.

In light of this could the Cabinet Member for Education please outline the steps being taken to lobby both the London Mayor and the Government for extra direct funding to help our young people fulfil their aspirations?

And what we are doing as a borough to ensure no child is left behind?"

#### **Response from Councillor R Gill, Cabinet Member for Children and Education:**

The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Tarry for raising this question.

He said that Children's Services were acutely aware of the impact on children and young people of living in poverty and that the central theme of the Children and Young People's Plan is to tackle this issue.

With regard to funding, the Cabinet Member advised that:

- The Young People's Learning Agency and the Skills Funding Agency had been actively lobbied for increased funding; and
- three bids had been lodged to secure European Social Funds to work with our NEET young people.

Over the last seven years, many of our young people, having been supported by the AimHigher programme, have progressed to university or moved into high education through vocational routes.

The Olympics and its legacy would provide many residents with a route into work.

The Cabinet Member noted that the scale of need in the borough was great but stated that we should be proud of the initiatives that we had launched such as the cash cards for students, the breakfast and after school clubs, and emphasised the importance of the Multi-Agency Locality Teams.

**General Question 5 from Councillor Butt:**

"The NHS is undergoing the most radical shake-up since its inception in 1947. Despite the pre-election promise that it was in a safe pair of hands, and that all funding would be ring-fenced, the Conservatives have slashed £20billion from its budget. This has gone cap-in-hand with plans to privatise many of the services that individuals have received on the NHS for free for the last sixty years.

We are seeing the effects of this first hand with the uncertain future surrounding the Accident and Emergency Unit at King George's Hospital, which in February of this year London Mayor, Boris Johnson, refused to oppose the planned closure.

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services please outline:

- (a) the impact that the changes to the NHS will have on the people of Barking and Dagenham; and
- (b) the likely effect of the closure at King George's Hospital?"

**Response from Councillor Reason, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services:**

The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Butt for raising such an important question at this time.

Referring to the Coalition Government having promised that the NHS was safe in their hands, the Cabinet Member then spoke of the Secretary of State for Health's vision for a better health service in that we could expect:

- local communities to get the power to stop forced and unwanted closures of A&E and maternity services;
- Some real democratic legitimacy into the NHS, through Health and Wellbeing Boards; and
- 'nothing about me without me' – a chance for us all to be involved in the decisions made about our care.

The Cabinet Member went on to say that in this borough the management and Board of our local Primary Care Trust (PCT) were both changing and that the Board would then meet jointly with Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Havering Councils and be supported by the same single cluster management team (the Outer North East London team)

She said that we were close to agreeing borough-focused jointly commissioned services with the PCT. However, to find savings for the 2011/12 budget, the agreements were being unpicked, though no further information has been provided to the Council.

Referring to the Office for Budget Responsibility, the Cabinet Member said that for the first time since records began, NHS England spending would fall in real terms for the next two consecutive years and that the Outer North East London team was looking for budget savings of £12m, which was more than in other areas of the country.

She said it had been expected that people would be cared for and treated closer to their homes and there would be focus on their health and wellbeing in order to prevent them from becoming ill. However, the cluster management team was now proposing that:

- the Broad Street Walk-in Centre will be closed
- GP surgery hours will be reduced
- integrated care funding will be reduced
- funding will be withdrawn for the development of a new community hospital in east Dagenham

She said that these proposals would increase the pressure on the already overstretched A&E services at Queen's and King George's Hospitals, and referred to data from Dr Foster Health that showed both hospitals as being two of the ten worst hospitals for death rates. This had been confirmed by the regulator, the Care Quality Commission, who had further raised serious issues regarding the maternity services at Queen's Hospital.

The District Auditor had issued a Public Interest Report to draw attention to his concerns as to the financial problems at our local hospitals.

The Cabinet Member stated that the Council had made it clear that there should be no closure of any services at King George's Hospital until Queen's Hospital was able to provide good quality service.

She also referred to the campaign for babies to be born in Barking again and to the state of the art birthing unit at Barking Hospital that was not being used due to lack of staff.

Concerns had been raised with the Secretary of State for Health and an independent review was expected in the next few months into the Health4NEL proposals.

The Cabinet Member concluded by saying that the two issues raised in this question were some of the most critical issues facing the borough at the moment, and that the Council would do all that it could to ensure that the NHS changes will be good for the people of Barking and Dagenham.

Councillor Worby, at the Chair's discretion, endorsed the Cabinet Member's response. She confirmed that she would cease to be Chair of the NHS Trust with effect from 31 March and stated that it had been a privilege to have been able to provide local health services for local people. She was concerned that the new Board would not be working in the interests of local people and concluded by saying that she was pleased to be in this Council Chamber to work with the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services to ensure that local people had local health care.

**80. Nina Clark - Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer**

The Deputy Chair announced that Nina Clark, the Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer would be leaving the Council at the end of this month after 24 years' service.

The Assembly placed on record their appreciation of the service Ms Clark has given to this Council and wished her well for the future.

**81. Children's Services - LGC Award**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education recorded the Assembly's congratulations to Children's Services in winning the prestigious LGC award.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services acknowledged the award as testament to the young people in the borough and to the officers in youth services who work with them. She explained that the award was for the work done to shape services in partnership with children and young people.

She further recorded her thanks to the Councillors for their continued support of the young people.