

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE 8 JUNE 2002

Councillors *Meehan (Chair), *Irwin (Deputy Chair), *Adje *Basu, *Bax, *Bull, *Canver *Dillon, *Dodds, and *Sulaiman.

Members present.

Also present Councillors Featherstone, Diakkides, B Harris and Rice.

TEXT1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: An apology for lateness was submitted on behalf of Cllr Bull

TEXT2. MINUTES OF POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2002 be approved and signed.

TEXT3. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (OD) – Agenda Item 5):

RESOLVED:

That the establishment of the following Executive Committees for the 2002/03 Municipal Year and their terms of reference be noted –

Procurement Committee

E-Government Advisory Committee

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Race Equality Joint Consultative Committee

Housing Forums

Housing Management Board

That the membership of the Committees be as follows:-.

Procurement Committee - Councillors Meehan, Irwin, Dodds and Adje

E-Government Advisory Committee - Councillors Meehan, Adje, Bull, and Basu

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee- All Members of the Executive and community group representatives as appropriate.

That the quorum for the Procurement Committee and the E Government Advisory Committee be 4/5.

TEXT4. POPULATION TRANSIENCE AND COMMUNITY COHESION (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) – Agenda Item 7)

We received a joint presentation from the Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Partnerships highlighting the issues of population transience and outlining potential actions we could take to reduce the problem. The fundamental issues were the high degree of mobility amongst the borough's population resulting in an instability at neighbourhood level that mitigated against the sustainability of local communities, neighbourhood renewal and positive relations between the diverse communities that made up Haringey.

There had always been a high degree of population turnover in parts of Haringey, however in the last decade the scale of population mobility appeared to have increased, especially in the east.

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Five key issues were identified

- The pressures - what is the extent of the problem
- The impact upon services
- Reducing the supply of people being placed into the borough
- Managing the legacy of policies which placed people into the borough
- A long term approach to tackle the factors which made us a suitable destination

There were some steps we could press for that might make Haringey less attractive or seek the agencies to act more responsively. These were:-

- Support ALG attempts to manage out borough placements that would lead to a reduction in pressure on Haringey by other boroughs and increase the number of homeless placed in other boroughs by the London borough of Haringey with their agreement.
- Lobby NASS/Refugee Council to reduce the proportion of asylum seekers placed by them in TA in Haringey. Ensure they actively manage the placement programme so that no borough has disproportionate placements. This was an important issue for us as potentially by being housed here the asylum seekers established a local connection and we had a duty to house them if they were granted leave to stay and meet our need criteria.
- Monitor the location of TA and seek to encourage placing authorities not to make excessive use of particular neighbourhoods to ensure as broad a distribution as possible across Haringey.
- Seek to expand on the new statutory requirement to notify cross borough placements, by seeking financial support from, (or charging,) placing boroughs and agencies to cover the additional demands placed on local services such as education, advice and benefits. This would need legal clarification on our powers to do this.
- Increase, in line with other LA's the proportion of people we place outside Haringey. We could do this as per the ALG model, or by targeting suitable properties in other boroughs or placing outside London, where this were not open to challenge.
- Seek DTLR and NASS recognition of the additional costs of TA in the west of the Borough just as there was some recognition of the extra costs imposed on central London borough of their substituting out borough placements with more expensive in Borough ones. This would enable the problem to be more evenly shared across the borough.
- Get the Housing Corporation to actively intervene if borough's with high levels of homelessness and high housing stress did not get access to the agreed proportion of nominations through its regional investment programme.
- Pursue the attempt to increase the percentage of nominations the Council received from RSLs so we could reduce the demand for temporary accommodation but this might be at the cost of putting more high need people into disadvantaged areas.
- Increase resources and pursue more vigorously our "moving of London " initiative within a new London wide ALG framework.

We noted that undertaking a lobbying campaign of this size would have resource implications to be effective and it would need to be high profile and intensive. It would also be far more likely to succeed if there was a coalition of agencies and local authorities pressing for these changes.

RESOLVED:

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1. That the report be noted.
2. That there be a lobbying campaign around reducing placements in to the borough and attracting additional funding to meet the extra need created.
3. That a meeting be arranged with NASS/ Refuse Council with a view to seeking to reduce the proportion of asylum seekers placed by them in temporary accommodation in Haringey.
4. That the ALG be lobbied in order to manage placements fairly across boroughs.
5. That Planning Officers be requested to look at the use of hotel annexes for placements and to take enforcement action as necessary.
6. That a meeting be arranged with Letting Agents to agree a protocol for operation.
7. That induction packs be developed in a range of languages to people newly housed in the Borough.
8. That the Government be lobbied with regard to seeking an agreement to the right to buy legislation to prohibit properties being let immediately after purchase.
9. That it be agreed to participate in the ALG research on population mobility.
10. That a further report be presented to us in due course.

5. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2002/03 (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive Organisational Development – Agenda Item 8)

Noted that the BVPP would be rigorously audited by the District Auditor to ensure that it had been reviewed and published in accordance with statutory requirements and guidance.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Best Value Performance Plan 2002/03 be endorsed.
2. That the emerging themes from the provisional outturn BVPIs for 2001/02 be noted and the proposals to support improvement be considered.
3. That the proposals for new best value reviews in education and social services for 2002/03 be approved.
4. That the Leader and the Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the document for submission.

6. forward.programme@haringey 2002 -INCORPORATING THE LGIP REVIEW TEAM FINDINGS AND PLANNED ACTION (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Organisational Development – Agenda Item 9)

forward.programme@haringey was designed, both at Member and Officer level, to significantly improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and value for money of Council services and lead to the Council becoming one of London's higher performing Council's. The Improvement Plan incorporated contributions, suggestions and opinions of the Executive, Partners, Residents and Officers.

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We noted action being taken on the Communications audit and strategy. Also the importance of public perception of Haringey Services was noted.

RESOLVED:

1. That the updated organisational development programme set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed.
2. That the actions for improving services be agreed.
3. That the implementation of actions be monitored every six months.
4. That Councillors Adje and Bull look at possible improvements to Haringey's Web site.

TEX7. HARINGEY COUNCIL POST OFSTED ACTION PLAN (Report of the Director of Education Services - Agenda Item 10)

The recommendations of the OFSTED report were welcomed. We noted that work was in progress all the recommendations. With regard to the EMB we were pleased that the membership of the body was to be increased to include Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies and to be more open.

RESOLVED:

That the Post - OFSTED Action Plan, in particular those sections which have specific corporate implications be noted.

TEX8. EDUCATION MANAGEMENT BOARD - MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2002 (Report of the Chair of the Education Management Board - Agenda Item 11)

We were delighted to note that the new EDP had been allocated a grade I rating. It was thought that there were about six (out of 150) EDP's in the country which had been awarded this level of grading.

With regard to White Hart Lane School we were pleased to note that the school was no longer considered to have serious weaknesses.

Hornsey and Highgate Wood Schools had put forward a successful joint application for Performing Arts status and St Thomas More had succeeded in a bid for Sports status.

A development of significance was the contribution by Education to the corporate agenda. This included the Director contributing to the Member induction currently taking place. Subsequently there would be an Education element in the new Member development programme.

We noted that the OFSTED 16-19 Area inspection published earlier this week had significant issues for Haringey.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2002 be noted
2. That the monthly report of the Director be noted.

3. That the Director, Deputy Director -School Improvement and Inclusion and the Chair of the EMB and their staff be thanked for their work on the Action Plan and other associated work.
3. That the draft School Organisation Plan for consultation be noted.
4. That the draft Special Educational Needs policy and strategic plan for consultation be approved.
5. That the consultation on the closure of Greenfields School go ahead.
6. That the closure of Parkhurst Infant and Down Lane Junior Schools, and the opening of Mulberry Primary School be approved.
7. That the restructures of the Youth and Play, ICT and Quality and Development services be approved.
8. That the delivery of the post Ofsted Action Plan to the DfES be approved.
9. That the Leader write to White Hart Lane School to congratulate them on their positive progress in no longer being considered to have serious weaknesses.

EX9. BOROUGH SPENDING PLAN (BSP) 2003/4 (Report of the Director of Environmental Services – Agenda Item 12)

It was noted that Muswell Hill was not to be included in a CPZ scheme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Borough Spending Plan be supported as the basis for the Council's bid to Transport for London.
2. That powers be delegated to the Executive Member, Environment and the Director of Environmental Services to approve the full bid.

EX10. PROGRESS WITH E-GOVERNMENT (Report of the Director of Support Services – Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made be noted.
2. That the Executive Member for Resources in consultation with the E-Government Advisory Committee be authorised to oversee the completion of a portfolio of technology strategies and drafting of the new Implementing Electronic Government statement for agreement by the Executive in September 2002.
3. That the Director of Support Services complete a review of progress to date and lessons for the future and the future staffing capabilities and structure for the Corporate Information Technology Service.

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4. That the Executive Member for Resources inform the Government of our support of the national strategy.
5. That consideration be given as to how to improve access for the community.
6. That it be noted that we were working with seven other boroughs on a citizens relationship strategy.

TEX 11. FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2003/04 TO 2006/07: POLICY DISCUSSION (Report of the Director of Finance – Agenda Item 14)

There were four key organisational themes which would help to define financial policy for the administration: the agreed Council vision to 2005, the Manifesto, the development of a Community Strategy, and the government's new Performance Assessment Framework. National resourcing and resource allocation factors would also be important. The Council would need to determine key financial policy factors in respect of council tax, education passporting, and the budget setting process. Each of these had implications in respect of the key organisational themes which the Council faces.

We agreed that the Council must continue to maintain its sound financial base.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the Executive Member for Resources and the Director of Finance give consideration to review of budget heads and monitoring of expenditure.

TEX 12. URGENT ACTION TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER, LEAD MEMBERS, THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (Report of the Chief Executive – Agenda Item 15)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**TEX 13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS
IMPROVING SOCIAL SERVICES** (Report of the Chief Executive – Agenda Item 17)

The Chair agreed to accept the report as urgent business. The report was late because the star ratings were not received until 30 May and there was a need to take urgent action to improve services. The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because improvement measures needed to be implemented before the next Executive meeting.

The Executive Member for Health and Social Services gave a presentation on the key issues facing the Children's Services. The accompanying report proposed a series of actions in response to the Children's Services' targeted Re-inspection that took place in February 2002 and the SSI's annual review meeting letter of 10 May 2002, which would address workforce stability, raise standards and enhance performance.

The SSI had identified that sustaining progress in Haringey would depend on achieving a stable and experienced staff group who were capable of carrying forward the initiatives needed to deliver high

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port of the quality services to local people. It was therefore proposed that action be taken to attract experienced high calibre managers and staff to a number of vacant posts currently covered on an agency basis. At the same time, it would be important to retain existing staff and position Haringey as a top paying authority in London recognising the challenging environment particularly in Children's Services. Also identified were a number of areas where a temporary increase in resources could deliver "quick wins" prior to the next round of government returns in October 2002.

port of Other resource increases were proposed to deliver longer term change in performance in both quantitative terms (as measured by Performance Indicators) and qualitative terms. We noted that in respect of the current year an additional £2.1m was required and for 2003/04 an additional £2.5m.

unity g and We were advised that the verbal feedback from the SSI was encouraging. We also received verbal comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 June 2002.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposals to stabilise staffing and the consequent changes to salary scales set out in Appendices 3 and 4 be agreed.
2. That it be noted that there was an expectation that in agreeing to increase the salary scales for Social Care Staff an increase in output was expected and it be noted that poor performance would not be tolerated.
3. That the overall approach to service improvement set out in the report be agreed and that the detailed implementation be overseen by a panel of the Executive comprising the Leader and the Executive Members for Social Services and Health, Resources and Equality and Performance.
4. That a sum of £2.1m be added to Social Services cash limits for 2002/03 by transfer from reserves.
5. That the consequences of the proposed budget adjustment for financial strategy for 2003/04 and future years be noted.
6. That the cost pressures in respect of children's commissioning budgets and hospital discharge issues be noted, along with the potential implications for financial strategy.
7. That in future all comments or references from other Committees must be submitted in writing.

TEXT 14. LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR HARINGEY MANAGERS (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Agenda Item 19)

This item was the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as it contained exempt information relating to the terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed approach to commissioning the leadership Programme be endorsed.

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2. That the funding of the programme be agreed.
3. That a further report be presented on partnership workings.

TEX15. THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER PROGRAMME (Report of the Director of Housing Services -Agenda Item 20)

RESOLVED:

1. That Members agree to accept the revised offer price to the Council of £4.285m, from Ridgehill Housing Association, for the Potters Bar Estate.
2. That the results of the Cheshunt and Waltham Cross estates ballots on transfer to Aldwyck Housing Association, be noted.
3. That Members agree for the transfer of the Potters Bar estate, to Ridgehill Housing Association, to be progressed to completion.
4. That Members agree for the transfer of the Cheshunt estate, to Aldwyck Housing Association to be progressed to completion.

GEORGE MEEHAN
Chair