



THE EXECUTIVE
Monday, 10th October 2005 at 7.00pm
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Executive Members:

Portfolio:

Councillor Peter TRUESDALE -	Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor John WHELAN -	Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew SAWDON -	Community Safety, Regeneration & Transport
Councillor Anthony BOTTRALL -	Education
Councillor Clare WHELAN -	Environment
Councillor Ashley LUMSDEN -	Finance
Councillor Keith FITCHETT -	Housing
Councillor Roger GIESS -	Social Services & Health

Also present: Councillors Clive BENNETT, June FEWTRELL, Sharon MALLEY and Toren SMITH.

*Action
Required
by**

1. MINUTES (12.09.05)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th September 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

The agenda was reordered to accommodate members of the public and non-Executive Councillors in attendance.

The Executive welcomed Mike Suarez to his first meeting and wished him well as Executive Director of Finance during his time at Lambeth Council. The meeting also wished Mrs Hynes a speedy recovery.

**3. JOINT SERVICE CENTRES: JSC ROADMAP (All Wards/All Areas)
(item 5 - report 220/05-06) (Key Decision - call-in period ends at 5pm
on Friday 21st October 2005)**

The Executive Member for Finance introduced the report stating that the Council was pursuing the development of its three main channels of access with its customers namely:

- By Telephone – The Lambeth Service Centre (LSC)
- By Web – The Council's web pages including online payments
- In person – The Joint Service Centres (JSC)

The Council had initiated a pilot JSC in Streatham and the main thrust of the report was to speed up the delivery of the JSC programme. The funding and delivery elements of the project were to be revisited. The main benefits of the JSCs were to join up services in one location, working with partner organisations to providing seamless access to public services within the borough.

The Executive Member for Housing advised that the Council's Housing Caller Centre had won the European Call Centre of the year, competing with organisations both in the public and private sector. This demonstrated a step change in the Council's ability to improve service delivery to meet the needs of its customers. The Authority also needed clarity of how call centres within the Council would be merged and how the customer transfer process from first level service to service specialists within departments would be managed.

The Executive Director of Corporate Services confirmed that plans were being developed to take the programme forward, which would be reported to the Executive in due course.

RESOLVED:

*EDCS
(DDCS)*

- (1) That the Executive approves in principle the development of a JSC on the ground floor of Olive Morris House, Brixton Hill subject to consultation including with the Brixton Area Committee and Area Forum, as set out in section 5 of the report.
- (2) That the Executive notes that costings for a JSC in Olive Morris House are being finalised pending investigation of the availability of funds within existing budgets. This may result in a bid for additional capital through the Council's annual budget-making process.

- (3) That the Executive notes the options and plans in development for JSCs in Clapham, Norwood and North Lambeth as part of the Revitalise programme.
- (4) That the Executive confirms the principle of transferring front office operations and staff to JSCs and to any resulting office closures, as indicated in Appendix B of the Olive Morris House business case in relation to the Brixton JSC.
- (5) That the Executive notes the delays in reaching financial close of the LIFT Company and the impact this has on the Gracefield Gardens scheme and the JSC pilot in Streatham.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE CLAPHAM PARK DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GUIDELINES AND PROPOSED ADOPTION (Thornton and Streatham Hill Wards / Clapham and Stockwell.Area) (item 7 - report 222/05-06)

The Executive Member for Community Safety, Regeneration & Transport introduced the report and explained the need to recommend detailed amendments to the proposed planning guidance for recommendation to Council (because of its length, this amendment is incorporated only in the final resolution below).

Councillor Fewtrell advised that the retention of the Knights Hill Youth Centre was welcomed and was considered an invaluable and scarce resource within the area. The funding given to the development should be spent to benefit all those living on the estate and not just the Council tenants. The Council should maintain its scrutiny of the financial arrangements for the project.

Mr George Sewell, representing some non Council tenants affected by the changes – the Clarence Avenue Homeowners Association, stated that these residents considered the consultation process to have been inadequate and unresponsive to their needs. There was concern that the drive behind the development was focussed on the large blocks of flats and would not provide any benefit to the small pockets of home owners on the estate. Some owners were unaware of how their properties would be affected by the development.

The Executive Member for Finance thanked planning officers for providing a briefing for Members and encouraged planning officers, the Clapham Park Project and residents to further discuss the issues highlighted at the meeting. The thrust behind the development and its planning guidelines was to ensure that the changes would provide long term benefits for all residents.

The Executive Member for Housing stated that it was important to recognise the context of the amendment (from the Executive Member for

Community Safety, Regeneration & Transport), which was the very real concern of residents, many of them just outside the NDC boundary, who wished to retain open green space amenity in the area between Tierney and Montrell Road. The Executive shared their concerns and the effect of this amendment was to signal its clear expectation to officers that they will negotiate vigorously with the NDC to preserve an open green space amenity in that area.

In response to the proposed amendment proposed on the Baytree Centre, it was clarified by the Executive Member for Finance that the governing body had requested the amendment in order to provide flexibility. However, this would be subject to further discussion prior to the Council meeting.

The Executive Member for Housing drew attention to the importance of accurate audit trails in reports.

RESOLVED:

*EDCS
(ADP)*

- (1) That the consultation on the Development Plan Consultation Guidelines be noted, including List of Consultees at Appendix 1.
- (2) That the responses to the consultation are noted; that the proposed changes to the Development Planning Guidelines set out in Appendix 2 be agreed; and that the following changes to the DPG are also made:

Page	Amendment	Reason
Where appropri P 21	the development should demonstrate how negative impact on the local area, surrounding Figure 8	
P 29	Local Centres Re-provision	

	<u>Parade</u>	provision of local centres.
P 31	<p>Parking</p> <p>Objective 3, 2nd Column, New 1st Bullet Point at top of page, to read</p> <p><u>It will be necessary for the outline planning application and subsequent detailed planning applications to provide an assessment of parking demand, and demonstrate how it will be controlled and managed ,in relation to demand.</u></p> <p>2nd Column, existing 3rd Bullet Point, Delete 1st Sentence</p> <p><u>“On street parking to be controlled through a residents permit system”</u></p> <p><u>add new bullet point;</u></p> <p><u>“It will be necessary to submit an assesement of how the needs of cyclists are met.”</u></p>	<p>Clarification of approach the Council will wish to adopt.</p>
P 32	<p>Knights Youth Centre</p> <p>Objective 4, under Leisure Community Facilities,</p> <p>Add in 2nd Column, 1st Para, last sentence</p> <p><u>“The Knights Youth Club is currently located on the South Circular, this is a well used and popular facility. <u>The Council would wish to retain the use of the current site as a youth centre.</u></u></p> <p>Change in 2nd Column, new Para 2</p> <p><u>“A new youth facility should be provided in Clapham Park West to meet the additional demand from the new development.”</u></p> <p>Delete in 2nd Column Para 3</p> <p><u>“relocated”</u></p>	<p>To safeguard the current level of community facilities in this location and to serve the current catchment area.</p>
P 35	<p>Knights Youth Centre</p> <p>1st Column, 7th bullet point delete and replace with</p> <p><u>The Council wishes to retain the site of the existing Knights Youth Centre for use as a youth facility.</u></p>	<p>To safeguard the current level of community facilities at this location and to serve the current catchment</p>

P 35	Maytree Centre	area.
	Objective 4, 2 nd Column, 3 rd Bullet Point, delete; <i>“with 52 full time places”</i>	Text too prescriptive.
P39	New Local Park	
	Objective 5, Column 1, add new 2 nd bullet point: <i><u>The physical form of the new local park should be such as to be readily identifiable in form and character as a public park, and be accessible and for wider local needs of the adjoining area not just those of Clapham Park</u></i>	To ensure the new park is perceived and used as a genuine local park for all residents in the area
P39	Open Space facing South Circular between Tierney and Montrell Road	
	Objective 5, add new bullet point <u>The retention of an area of open space facing onto the South Circular between Tierney and Montrell Road will be required in order to maintain an open and green aspect together with the retention of important trees on the site. This does not involve amendment to the boundary of the area covered by this planning guidance, nor to the boundary of the proposed new deal project.</u>	To retain current amenity use as identified by local ward Councillors.

(3) That the amended Development Planning Guidelines for Clapham Park in Appendix 3 be agreed by the Executive, and submitted to full Council (23.11.05) for approval.

**5. BRIXTON CENTRAL SQUARE PROJECT (Coldharbour Ward/Brixton Area) (item 4 - report 219/05-06 plus Appendices)
(Key Decision - call-in period ends at 5pm on Friday 21st October 2005)**

The Executive Member for Community Safety, Regeneration & Transport
MOVED:

Delete recommendations (1)-(6) and add:

The Executive supports the unification of Brixton Oval and Windrush Square with the closure of Rushcroft Road, in a cost-effective way, and requests that further discussions take place with residents and interested parties on the design and landscaping and that pre-application discussions and consultation take place between Lambeth Planning and Transport for London (TfL) with a view to an application being submitted

for the necessary consents. The Executive however, rejects the proposals for changes to Effra Road.

He indicated the Executive's support for recommendations (7) – (8) from Brixton Area Committee.

Councillor Toren Smith expressed his dissatisfaction over the tabled proposed change to the recommended scheme. The recommendations contained in the report had wide consensus and would address issues of public realm in central Brixton. The £8 million funding from Transport for London (TfL) would also see a positive change in the community safety issues. Councillor Sharon Malley added that the proposals had been consulted upon over a long period and that the amendment would fundamentally change the scheme to the extent it would probably not be supported by TfL.

Further representations were provided to the Executive including:

- Mr Benjamin feared that the amendment would have a negative impact on the development of the Black Cultural Archives and Windrush project.
- Mr Thompson stated that he had been involved in the project from the very start in 1999. He considered that the funded and recommended scheme would transform the area and make safer roads.
- Mr Moore was concerned over the consultation process and urged the Executive to consider what was best for Brixton. He also considered that the amendment should have been disclosed earlier to resolve any crime and safety issues that may be adversely affected.
- Mr Hall, of Black Cultural Archives endorsed the original recommended plans stating that they would reduce crime, provide best access to Raleigh Hall and develop the public space in central Brixton.

Mr Tony Ball of TfL advised the Executive that the transport authority and the Council had been working on the proposals for two years and that a successful business case had been developed for the scheme which would lead to a reduction in both crime and traffic. It had been anticipated that TfL approval would have been given imminently following Council approval. He could not be certain, but without the closure of Effra Road the business case was unlikely to be sustainable.

The Executive Member for Housing welcomed the joining of the public spaces and also stated that he hoped that further plans would address the closed public toilets. He welcomed the move of Black Cultural Archives (BCA) to the part of Raleigh Hall not disposed of by the previous administration, and hoped that the proposed open space would be properly landscaped and would compliment the Council's Revitalise programme.

The Executive Member for Finance also gave his support to the joining up of the public spaces and to the BCA project. He welcomed the continued support from TfL and stated that the Council would look to fund the scheme if they withdrew support. He also reiterated that it was important that the Council invested in the Central Square scheme to compliment existing development schemes such as Revitalise.

Councillor Anglin stated that having a world class open space would draw many benefits for the town centre and the closure of Effra Road had always been controversial. It was important to ensure that the Council and TfL were able to maintain a dialogue to find a compromise in being able to meet the needs of both parties.

RESOLVED:

*EDCS
APDR)*

- (1) The Executive supports the unification of Brixton Oval and Windrush Square with the closure of Rushcroft Road, in a cost-effective way, and requests that further discussions take place with residents and interested parties on the design and landscaping and that pre-application discussions and consultation take place between Lambeth Planning and Transport for London (TfL) with a view to an application being submitted for necessary consents. The Executive however, rejects the proposals for changes to Effra Road.
- (2) That local resident groups, ward councillors and representatives of the Brixton Area Forum, should be involved in agreeing a public safety management plan for the Square during detailed design stage of the project. The management plan should be reported back to a future meeting of the Brixton Area Committee.
- (3) That a central Brixton public realm group should be set up with representatives from the Executive, Area Committee and Area Forum to consider improvements to the pedestrian environment in the wider area. The terms of reference for the group to be agreed by the Chair of the Brixton Area Committee and the Executive Member for Environment.

**6. THE LAMBETH BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (All Wards/ All Areas)
(item 3 - report 218/05-06)
(Key Decision - call-in period ends at 5pm on Friday 21st October
2005)**

The Executive Member for Environment emphasised one main theme behind the action plan of enabling work with the Council partners such as Network Rail to ensure the preservation of the environment. It was also contained within the plan that enforcement action was pursued not only by the Council but by its partners – e.g. to reduce dumping and other pollution.

The authority's plan linked into both the London and the national biodiversity plans. The Executive noted that the Council was working with neighbouring boroughs and on a national basis.

RESOLVED:

EDEC

- (1) That The Executive formally adopts the Lambeth BAP as a tool for protecting and managing the Borough of Lambeth's natural assets and biological diversity.
- (2) That The Executive recognises the pivotal role of the Environment Theme Partnership (ETP) of the Lambeth Strategic Partnership ('Lambeth First') in developing the Lambeth BAP and in its delivery and implementation.
- (3) That The Executive recognises the considerable consultation that has already taken place in developing the Lambeth BAP, including with members of the ETP and the Lambeth Parks Forum.
- (4) That The Executive encourages further work by officers and other stakeholders to implement the Lambeth BAP and ensure its integration into key policies and strategies, especially those relating to the protection and improvement of Lambeth's natural environment to benefit people and wildlife alike.

7. REFERENCE FROM BRIXTON AREA COMMITTEE (07.09.05): HERNE HILL FORUM (Brixton Hill, Coldharbour, Ferndale, Herne Hill & Tulse Hill Wards/ Brixton Area) (item 6 - report 221/05-06)

The Executive Member for Finance commended the work of the Herne Hill Forum.

In relation to the specifics of the reference, officer support allocated to the forum rested with the Brixton Town Centre Office. He offered to meet with the Area Committee, Town Centre Manager and the Forum members to discuss a way forward in relation to the allocation of resources from the BAC budget if that would assist.

The Deputy Leader also offered to write to Southwark Council to seek financial support given that the work of the Forum crossed the borough borders.

RESOLVED:

EDACS:
BTCM

- (1) That the good work of the Herne Hill Forum be noted.
- (2) That the reference be noted.
- (3) That the following offers of assistance be noted:
 - a) Executive Member for Finance to meet with the Forum Committee, Brixton Town Centre Manager and BAC Chair to discuss support resources for the Forum.
 - b) That the Deputy Leader to write to Southwark Council to seek financial support for the Forum.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 8:27pm

CHAIR
The Executive
Monday, 7th November 2005

Date of Despatch: 14th October 2005
Call-In Period: ends at 5pm on Friday 21st October 2005
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