

Late Sheet

Society, Environment and Council Development Executive Advisory Board

13 July 2017

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**SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT
EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

13 JULY 2017

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AGENDA ITEM 5: REVISED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS: 12 MONTH REVIEW

At its meeting on Monday evening, the Borough, Economy, and Infrastructure Executive Advisory Board considered the recommendations outlined in the report, and agreed to submit the (amended) recommendations set out below to full Council on 25 July 2017. Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered the report at its meeting on Tuesday evening and concurred with the Borough EAB.

- (1) That **the Council continues** the public webcasting of meetings of the Executive Advisory Boards. ~~be discontinued with immediate effect.~~
- (2) That ~~an annual/~~ **a** bi-annual meeting between **all members of the Executive Leadership** and the EAB and O&S Committee chairmen and vice-chairmen (**together with one representative from the Corporate Management Team**) be established to discuss topic areas for future work programmes and to discuss how the EABs and O&S Committee could make a more effective contribution to the decision-making process.
- (3) That, in order to improve the arrangements for topic selection and agenda planning, the Executive/CMT be requested to provide suggestions for topic areas for EABs drawn from the (revised) Corporate Plan Action Plan for consideration at future work programme meetings and to have a CMT (as well as Executive) representative attend those meetings.
- (4) That the approach to development of the O&S Committee work programme be broadened, by amending O&S Procedure Rules to introduce a more flexible approach to topic selection through replacing the topic selection flow chart in O&S Procedure Rules with the PAPER tool.
- (5) That, **in addition to raising questions at meetings**, O&S Committee members should have an opportunity for putting written questions to lead councillors attending O&S Committee meetings in advance so that written answers may be prepared.
- (6) That lead councillors should normally present matters (**with officer support supported by officers as appropriate**) for discussion at EAB meetings and engage actively in a dialogue with the EABs regarding those matters, and that the terms of reference of the EABs be amended accordingly.
- (7) That EABs be encouraged to set up task groups to research and review areas for policy development, **subject to consideration of implications for staff resources and to the appropriate lead councillors attending meetings of such task groups in an ex officio capacity.**
- (8) ~~That the focus for public engagement should be aimed more at O&S than EABs.~~
- (9) That more proactive measures for public engagement in respect of the work of the O&S Committee **and the EABs** be established by:

- (a) inviting suggestions for the O&S work programme from the public and partners as well as officers and councillors; and
 - (b) alerting the public about O&S **and EAB** agenda topics on days leading up to the meeting, on the day of the meeting and action agreed at the meeting through press releases/social media.
- (10) That progress on matters previously considered by EABs be reported back to them ~~periodically~~ **when appropriate**.
- (11) That a briefing note be provided to those officers invited to attend O&S Committee meetings to ensure there is full comprehension of the process, including the role of scrutiny and the Scrutiny Officer.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRESS ON COUNCILLOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PREPARATION
OF THE BUDGET**

At its meeting on Monday evening, the Borough, Economy, and Infrastructure Executive Advisory Board nominated Councillors Nils Christiansen, Colin Cross, Mike Piper and Matthew Sarti for appointment to the Joint EAB Budget Task Group for 2017-18.

Councillors Gunning, Quelch, Reeve and Reeves have been put forward as prospective nominees from the Society, Environment and Council Development Executive Advisory Board.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PROGRESS ON ITEMS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE EAB

Since the publication of the agenda for this meeting, please note the following updates on progress:

Date of Meeting	Item	Lead Officer	Lead Councillor	Action Agreed	Progress to date
7 April 2016	The Future of the Electric Theatre	<p>James Whiteman Peter O'Connell (Director of Environment)</p>	Cllr Geoff Davis (now Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith)	<p>The Board fully supported the recommendations for Executive's consideration.</p> <p>The Board suggested that detailed specifications for community use of the Electric Theatre, as well as a break clause, should be included when setting out the terms and conditions as part of the procurement exercise</p>	<p>On 19 April 2016, the Executive authorised the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Lead Councillor, the Director of Corporate Services and the Electric Theatre and Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To agree the precise form of the procurement exercise b) To agree the criteria to be used in the procurement exercise (including the nature and extent of the community use to be secured) c) To agree the nature and form of any disposal of The Electric Theatre pursuant to the procurement exercise d) To carry out the procurement exercise e) To report back to the Executive at the conclusion of the above and prior to the award of any contract and/or disposal of The Electric Theatre <p>On 03/01/07 the Executive resolved to award the lease of The Electric Theatre, subject to the terms of their offer and relevant negotiations, to the Academy of Contemporary Music; to negotiate any reasonable amendments with the ACM regarding the lease or other terms; and to facilitate the mobilisation of the theatre in</p>

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					preparation of handing over to the ACM as expeditiously as possible. Update 13/07/17 – the ACM has signed a 20-year lease on the Electric Theatre, and existing GBC staff have transferred to ACM as part of the move.
21 November 2016	Business Planning – General Fund Outline Budget 2017-18	Claire Morris (Head of Financial Services)	Councillor Michael Illman	<p>The Board submitted the following comments to the Executive:</p> <p>a) no comment on the medium term financial strategy</p> <p>b) In relation to the variances in section 11 and Appendix 3 between the 2016-17 budget and the 2017-18 outline budget, the Board expressed concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over the inference from paragraph 11.10 of the report that the Council is pushing the solution to the funding gap into the future by identifying the necessary savings of around £5m over the five-year period to 2020-21; • that some of the potential actions for reducing the funding gap listed (a) to (h) in paragraph 11.17, for example, adjusting some of the 	The General Fund Budget was considered by the Executive on 24 January and full Council at the budget meeting on 8 February 2017. Council approved the General Fund Capital Estimates, and the Minimum Revenue Provision policy, together with the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2017-18 to 2021-22.

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				<p>assumptions, do not give the impression that real savings will be achieved. Officers responded by acknowledging that the funding gap is being addressed by the Council's transformation programme but that proposals arising inevitably take time to introduce. The Lead Councillor for Finance accepted the need to face up to the significant financial challenges facing the Council in the future.</p> <p>c) The Board supported the proposed growth bids and proposals for savings or income</p> <p>d) The Board supported the proposed use of the new homes bonus, business rates equalisation and budget pressures reserves as described in the report</p> <p>e) In relation to the suggested ways, outlined in paragraph 11.17 that officers proposed to balance the budget for 2017-18, the Board expressed concern that some of the potential actions for reducing</p>	

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				<p>the funding gap listed (a) to (h) in paragraph 11.17, for example, adjusting some of the assumptions, did not give the impression that real savings would be achieved.</p> <p>) In relation to the proposed fees and charges, the Board expressed concern that the proposed increase in burial charge for an earthen grave 6ft x 3 ft (children's section) was 10.6% (£85), the highest percentage increase in all the proposed cemetery charges.</p>	

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