

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 27 AUGUST 2019

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2019 AT 1400 HOURS,
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Ward in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Gareth Moore, Martin Straker Welds, Mike Ward and Waseem Zaffar.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

2902 The Chair advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2903 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

APOLOGIES

2904 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brigid Jones and Shabrana Hussain. It was noted that Councillor Waseem Zaffar was in attendance on behalf of Councillor Brigid Jones.

MINUTES

2905 That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 June 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

A. Lord Mayor's Advisory Group

In response to Members' questions the Committee Manager explained that the change to the membership was correcting an error and that the membership of

the group was the Deputy Lord Mayor, the three next immediate past Lord Mayors who are current Councillors and the three Group Secretaries.

Following a short debate, the Chair indicated that the issue should be deferred and considered at a meeting of the Leaders.

2906 **RESOLVED:-**

That consideration of Councillor Mike Leddy replacing Councillor John Lines on the Lord Mayor's Advisory Group be deferred.

B. Personnel Appeals (Dismissals) Sub-Committee

Councillor Martin Straker Welds advised that Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq did not wish to chair the Sub Committee.

2907 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq replace Councillor Mike Leddy on the Personnel Appeals (Dismissals) Sub-Committee (but not as Chair) for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

C. Miscellaneous Appeals Sub-Committee

2908 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq replace Councillor Mike Leddy on the Miscellaneous Appeals Sub-Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD

The following report of the Director – Inclusive Growth Directorate was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

2909 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That approved Member and officer overseas travel be noted;
 - (ii) that the details of inward delegations from abroad be noted; and
 - (iii) that it be noted that with effect from 19 January 2016 authority for foreign travel by City Council Members and officers will only be granted when 4weeks' notice has been given. Visits proposed with less than 4 weeks, notice will be refused unless under EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES which will require written documentation and an extremely robust reason for travel.
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PETITION – DEMOLITION OF PERRY BARR FLYOVER

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Councillor Mike Ward proposed that the petition be debated at City Council. He felt that the proposals would impact on the travel of people in the North of Birmingham and those travelling from adjoining areas. He noted that there had been other petitions on the issue which had been submitted earlier in the year so the number of petitioners and the people affected would be greater. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Robert Alden.

The Chair did not consider it appropriate for the matter to go to City Council as a more meaningful debate with evidence could be had at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Waseem Zaffar was of the opinion that the matter should be dealt with at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in view of the fact that it had already been the subject of a Call-in. He noted that he was fully aware of the importance of the issue.

Councillor Robert Alden commented that as the issue would affect the whole of the City it should receive the prominence of a debate at City Council. Councillor Mike Ward concurred with that view adding that the City council was the representative body.

The proposal for the petition to be referred to City Council for debate was put to the vote and by 3 votes in favour to 2 votes against it was-

2910

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the report be noted; and
- ii) that the petition entitled 'Oppose the Flyover' be debated at a City Council Meeting.

PETITIONS UPDATE

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

The Chair noted the length of time some of the petitions had been outstanding and he indicated that he would be raising this with the Chief Executive. Councillor Waseem Zaffar acknowledged that he sometimes sent petition responses back to officers as he had further questions.

2911

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

CITY COUNCIL AND CBM FORWARD PLAN JUNE 2019

The following City Council and CBM Forward Plan was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, explained that it was proposed to update City Council at the November meeting on the Armed Forces covenant which would be a report of Councillor John Cotton but led by Councillor Mike Sharpe.

It was noted that on the 25 February 2020 Council Meeting was for the budget.

2912

RESOLVED:-

That subject to the above amendment the City Council and CBM Forward Plan be noted.

COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

In noting that a report relating to the Constitution was on the agenda for the City Council, the Chair made reference to issues raised by Councillor Robert Alden outside the meeting and responded appropriately to the suggestions made.

2913

RESOLVED:-

That the draft agenda be noted and this Committee recommends that the meeting be extended to 1955 hours.

(NB see the next item which amended the above decision.)

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The chair was of the opinion that the following item could be raise as a matter of urgency in order to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officers to act if necessary:

Political Assistants

Rob Connelly, Acting Assistant Director Governance, made introductory comments relating to the report which had been circulated separately to Members. It was noted that a report would need to be submitted to City Council and the item should be allocated 5 minutes.

It was-

2914

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the principle of appointing political assistants within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 be approved.
(Agreement to the principle would not commit the Groups, or in effect the Group Leaders, to making appointments, but would establish the framework within which such appointments could be made);
 - (ii) That, having approved the principle above at (i), one post be allocated each to the Labour and Conservative Groups and the procedure at paragraph 3.7 of the report be followed should a Group wish to make an appointment); and
 - (iii) That an item relating to Political Assistants be added to the Council agenda for September with 5 minutes being allocated and the meeting finishing at 2000 hours.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2915

RESOLVED:-

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1425 hours.

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CHAIR