

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 5 MAY 2020</b>
---

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020 AT 1400 HOURS,  
AS AN ON-LINE MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ian Ward in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Shabrana Hussain, Brigid Jones, Gareth Moore, Carl Rice, Martin Straker Welds and Mike Ward.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 2975 The Chairman advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.civico.net/birmingham](http://www.civico.net/birmingham)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs at the meeting except where there are confidential or exempt items.

---

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2976 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**

- 2977 There were no apologies submitted.

---

**MINUTES**

- 2978 That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 March 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

---

**OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD**

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

(See document No 1)

Lloyd Broad, Head of European Affairs, made introductory comments relating to the report and in response to a query from Councillor Robert Alden relating to an inward visit on the 12 March from 4 countries including Spain who he thought was in lockdown by that date, undertook to establish whether Spain sent any visitors. .

2979

**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 4 weeks' 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.

---

**COVID 19 – TEMPORARY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The following report of the Interim City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Catherine Parkinson, Interim City Solicitor, made introductory comments relating to the report and responded to a question from Councillor Robert Alden on the holding of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Chair agreed that the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee which he had been involved in would have been a good meeting to be a formal one but at the time the new system for livestreaming was still being finalised to work satisfactorily. He noted that it was the intention to hold more formal meetings but that there were limitations.

Catherine Parkinson, Interim City Solicitor, explained that the producer who enabled the meeting to be live streamed had to be in the Council House to take advantage of the network link which overcame the technical difficulties experience in the first meeting. She emphasised that only one meeting at a time could be live streamed and time had had to be put aside for meetings of Licensing Sub-Committees which previously did not get streamed. It was the wish to get meetings on-line but there were restrictions with the capacity of teams

Councillor Carl Rice agreed that the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee would have been a good one to be live given the subject matter. It would have been a good message for the public and media to pick up. He felt that a more proactive approach was required to show the public how politicians and Chief officer were making decisions. He therefore hoped to have another Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, which would be live, in the near future.

The Chair noted the need to keep under review the holding meetings at both this Committee and at Group Leaders.

2980

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) To note the temporary governance arrangements during the Covid 19 outbreak. and
- (ii) for members to review the arrangements at monthly intervals or in light of changing Government guidance.

---

**APPOINTMENTS**

2981

No appointments were made.

---

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2982

**RESOLVED:-**

That it be noted that the next meeting of the Committee is provisionally scheduled to take place on Thursday 28 May 2020 at 1400 hours as an on-line meeting.

---

**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

2983

There was no items of Other Urgent Business.

---

**AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

2984

**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 1414 hours.

.....  
CHAIR