

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 18 OCTOBER 2016
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT:

Councillors Robert Alden, John Clancy, Mohammed Idrees, Gareth Moore, Ian Ward and Mike Ward.

ABSENCE OF THE CHAIR

2538 In the absence of the Chair Councillor Ian Ward as Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

2539 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.

APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMITTEE

2540 The resolution of the City Council appointing Councillor Gareth Moore to the Council Business Management Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/2017 in place of Councillor Anne Underwood was noted

APOLOGIES

2541 No apologies were received.

MINUTES

2542 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 31 August 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD

The following report of the Strategic Director for Change and Support Services was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Mike Murray, International Education and Development Manager made introductory comments relating to the report and responded appropriately to Members comments and questions.

Councillor John Clancy attended the meeting at 1403 but did not assume the Chair.

Members highlighted the continuing need to make visits to promote Birmingham in light of the 'Brexit'. It was suggested that substance allowances should not be paid as people would have had to pay for food whether they were on a trip or not. Officers noted that comment. The use of new technology such as Skype should be explored further.

2543

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.

FUTURE COUNCIL WORKFORCE SAVINGS

The following report of the Chief Executive was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Claire Ward, Assistant Director Workforce Strategy, made introductory comments relating to the report and responded to comments and questions from Members relating to the consultation, the ability to make some of the proposed savings and DBS checks.

Councillor Ian Ward commended the work undertaken by officers in relation to the proposals in the report and asked that the Committee's thanks to officers. Councillor John Clancy noted the role of the Deputy Leader in the work undertaken.

2544

RESOLVED:-

That the Chief Executive be delegated authority to:

- (i) Finalise negotiations with the trade unions with a view to securing a collective agreement on a set of changed terms and conditions as outlined in Appendix D of this report. If agreement is reached then it is recommended to proceed with implementing the revised contract and policy amendments as outlined in Appendix D of this report.
 - (ii) If a collective agreement cannot be secured it is proposed to proceed to implement the proposals outlined in Appendix E of this report. Implementation will need to be by means of a process of voluntary offer and then if necessary dismissal and reengagement.
 - (iii) In either instance on completion of the consultation and review of JNC pay and grading, bring a further report to CBM making recommendations.
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PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

(See document No 3)

During the debate it was noted that Assistant Leaders should not allowed to ask questions of Cabinet Members or other Assistant Leaders, nor should they be able to ask questions of the Leader and Deputy Leader. The proposed changes to the Constitution should reflect that.

It was-

2545

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Committee notes the proposed changes to the City Council's Constitution set out in paragraph 3 and in the appendix, as revised by the amendments proposed in the forgoing preamble, to this report; and
 - (ii) that the Committee notes and approves inclusion of this report and appendix, as revised by the amendments proposed in the forgoing preamble, in the full agenda for the full Council meeting on 1 November 2016.
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PETITIONS UPDATE

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

(See document No 4)

2546

RESOLVED:-

That report be noted.

COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

It was agreed to increase the time for agenda item No 10 to 35 Minutes.

2547

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the above, the draft agenda be noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair was of the opinion that the following item should be considered as matter of urgency in view of the need to expedite consideration thereof and to instruct officers if necessary:-

Appointments to Outside Bodies

2548

Kate Charlton, Interim City Solicitor, explained that following an issue at Cabinet concerning appointments to outside bodies it was proposed that a review of appointments be undertaken and whether City Council or Cabinet should make such appointments.

During the debate reference was made to the role of Districts Committees and Members at Ward level in making appointments to organisations in those communities. It was emphasised that consistency in appointments across the city was important. Any such review could also look at the length of the terms of office to ensure that they appropriate.

It was-

RESOLVED:-

That a review of appointments to outside organisations be undertaken.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2549

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 1444 hours.

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CHAIR