

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE 2
APRIL 2024**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024
AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor John Cotton in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Baber Baz, Sir Albert Bore,
Ray Goodwin, Katherine Iroh, Gareth Moore, and
Chaman Lal.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

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

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

273 No declarations of interests were made.

APOLOGIES

274 An apology for lateness was submitted on behalf of the Lord Mayor,
Councillor Chaman Lal. An apology for absence was submitted on
behalf of the Deputy Leader Councillor Shaon Thompson.

MINUTES

275 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2024 were confirmed
and signed by the Chair.

COMMISSIONER’S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON AGENDA

276

There were no comments from the Commissioners for any of the items on the agenda.

PETITIONS UPDATE

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the item and drew the attention of the Committee to the information contained in the report highlighting the key points.

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer then informed the Committee that there have been some improvement as we now have only three outstanding petitions. It was noted that we were still awaiting the petition from the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, which has been outstanding since November 2023.

The Chair informed the meeting that he had spoken with the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities who had advised that she had sent the petition through. Councillor Sir Albert Bore commented that there ought to be an understanding that a petition had to be submitted at the meeting which had always been the case and that it should be submitted to Committee Services within 24 hours of it being accepted at Full Council.

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer undertook to investigate the issue. In relation to the petition submitted by Councillor Adrian Delaney, it was uncertain why there was no commentary, but that this would be picked up.

The Chair stated that he had spoken with Committee Services concerning a petition he had submitted but that he is still awaiting a response. He undertook to forward the email concerning the petition to the Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer for a response to be provided.

It was-

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RESOLVED:-

That the Committee;-

- a. Noted the progress made in relation to the responding to and discharging of petitions;
- b. Noted the number of outstanding petitions attributed to each directorate as outlined at paragraph 4.3 of the report; and

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- c. That the Committee determined if any additional measures were required to ensure the continuing progress relating to the responding and discharging of petitions is maintained.

DISPENSATIONS FOR NON-ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the item and drew the attention of the Committee to the information contained in the report and highlighted that paragraph 3.3 of the report should read:-

If Councillor Saima Ahmed attends any City Council or Committee meeting in advance of 12 April 2024.

He advised that Councillor Saima Ahmed for personal reasons had not been able to attend any meetings in the last six months and that a dispensation of an additional 2-month was being sought in order that the situation could be reviewed. The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer stated that in drafting the report the concern was that if the Committee were comfortable in allowing the dispensation for an extra six months this would mean that the Member would not be able to represent her constituents for a whole year and that the Commissioners had raised some concerns about that. Hence the reason we had gone for the 12 June for the next review date.

Councillor Alden commented that it was appreciated that the Member might be in a difficult position, but there was no information in the report, and it was not known what the issue was. A brief discussion concerning the issue of the Member's absence then ensued.

Councillor Gareth Moore enquired what support was being given to the Member, the residents in that Ward who were down a Councillor representative as this was a situation that would not be resolved before June. The Chair advised that this would be raised at the Labour Group for a support process to be put in place.

It was-

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RESOLVED:-

The Committee agreed for Council to grant a dispensation that Councillor Saima Ahmed need not attend any council meetings until 12 June 2024 pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND CITY
COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the item and drew the attention of the Committee to the information contained in the report. He stated that he had checked the dates as he was aware that the Committee had in the past voiced concerns about having meetings during the school holidays. It was noted that the City Council's school term starts on the 2 September so there should be no problems with the scheduled meeting dates.

Councillor Alden referred to paragraph 3.1 of the report and stated that this did not fully reflected that from our Group perspective. We thought that the same should be for having less Scrutiny meetings and from knocking off a Full Council meeting. Councillor Sir Albert Bore commented that the problem was having a meeting which was because of the holiday period – Christmas and New Year – having something immediately into the New Year because of the agenda send out dates etc. particularly with the Commissioners around extending that from seven days to 14 days with Christmas and New Year intervening. These arrangements whereby you have something later in January and therefore early in February worked well in respect of the problems we currently have. This did not dealt with Councillor Alden's point but in terms of sequencing this was a better arrangement.

Councillor Alden stated that there were not any actual reports that came to Full Council that were ready for the Christmas period before the January meeting because the reports that came to Full Council had already been through a process. There was not anything that required people to do anything over that period.

The Chair stated that he had undertaken a quick check of how many Full Council meetings the other core cities had and Birmingham had the most. The nearest was Manchester which had between seven and nine per year, whilst others were lower down. Nottingham had only six, so Birmingham still had sufficiently high number of Full Council meetings. It was important that we have that opportunity for all members to come together on a regular basis and this got us to the right place given the budget challenges.

It was noted that Councillor Alden did not agreed with the recommendation.

It was-

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RESOLVED:-

That Council Business Management Committee considered and noted the proposed dates for meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the item and drew the attention of the Committee to the information contained in the report. He highlighted that for April's agenda it was previously agreed that we would not have any Motions in order to ensure that we had ample time to do all the other reports including the Improvement and Recovery Plan report.

In the ensuing discussions that followed the Committee agreed the revised timing for the following:

- Improvement and Recovery Plan Report – 75 minutes
- Executive Business Report – Housing and Homelessness - 30 minutes
- Scrutiny Inquiry – Child Criminal Exploitation – 45 minutes
- Audit Committee Annual Report – 30 minutes.

It was

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RESOLVED:-

- a. That the Committee discussed and agreed the agenda items for consideration at the 16 April 2024 City Council meeting; and
- b. The Committee discussed and agreed the time allocated to each agenda item.

CITY COUNCIL AND CBMC FORWARD PLAN

The Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the item and drew the attention of the Committee to the information contained in the report . He informed the meeting that the Council as Trustee meeting that was scheduled for April will now not be going ahead as we were awaiting some additional confirmation between lawyers.

Councillor Sir Albert Bore stated that he had a request from the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee had undertaken an enquiry on active travel which had an engagement with a number of stakeholders. Rather than simply present that to Committee there was a request that it comes to Full Council in June/July if that was possible.

The Chair stated that he had no objections to the suggestion being made concerning the Scrutiny report. Councillor Bore stated that Scrutiny had agreed last year in terms of if there were issues we could

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come to this Committee and request that the matter be placed before Full Council.

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RESOLVED:-

That the Committee:-

- a. Discussed and noted the forward plan of agenda items related to meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council;
- b. Discussed and noted the forward plan of agenda items related to meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council for the upcoming 2024/25 municipal year;
- c. Agreed any changes (if required) to the forward plan of agenda items related to meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council; and
- d. Noted the updates provided in relation to City Council Resolutions.

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2024

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The Committee noted the Council Business Management Committee dates for 2024:

To be held on Mondays at 1400 hours except where specified as follows:-

2024:

7 May

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

283

Action Tracker

The Lord Mayor suggested that there be an Action Tracker so that the Committee would know what actions were outstanding. Robert Connelly undertook to take this point away.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Councillor Kathryn Iroh stated that given that former Councillor Brigid Jones had left the Council it was suggested that Councillor Liz

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Clements become the Leader's substitute on the West Midlands Finance Board. The Leader stated that this point needed to be picked up under appointments at Full Council

The meeting ended at 1425 hours.