

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE 22
JANUARY 2024**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 22 JANUARY
2024 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL
HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor John Cotton in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden (attended via MS Teams and so could not vote but could participate in debate), Baber Baz, Sir Albert Bore, Ray Goodwin, Katherine Iroh, Brigid Jones, Gareth Moore, Sharon Thompson and Chaman Lal.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

258 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

259 No declarations of interests were made.

APOLOGIES

260 There were no apologies for absence.

MINUTES

261 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

COMMISSIONER’S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON AGENDA

262

The Committee noted the comments submitted by Commissioners in relation to agenda item 6 ‘Petitions Update’. The comments submitted by Commissioners were included in a document which was available for public view as part of the agenda pack for this meeting.

PETITIONS UPDATE

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

(See document No 1)

Ben Patel-Sadler, Senior Committee Manager made introductory comments relating to the report.

The Committee noted that following the previous meeting, the Strategic Director of the City Operations directorate, Craig Cooper, had been invited to attend and was present via MS Teams.

During his address to the Committee, the Strategic Director, City Operations acknowledged the importance of responding to and subsequently discharging petitions submitted by Councillors. He conveyed apologies that petitions submitted to City Operations had not been responded to within the agreed timelines.

Members noted that the directorate would be discussing the petitions attributed to it at all future department management team meetings moving forwards to ensure they were responded to and discharged within the agreed timelines. All staff within the directorate had been briefed in relation to the importance of responding to and discharging Member petitions.

The Committee further noted that the directorate would be seeking to clear all outstanding petitions by the end of February 2024. An aspirational stretch target was that all petitions attributed to City Operations would be discharged by 1 February 2024.

The Chief Executive, along with Commissioners, would be reviewing petitions at a Corporate Leadership Team meeting in February 2024 to ascertain if significant improvements had been realised to negate the need for a revised petitions scheme to be adopted.

The Committee thanked Craig Cooper for his attendance and were reassured that petitions assigned to the City Operations directorate

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would be responded to and subsequently discharged within the agreed timescales moving forwards.

It was-

263

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee:

- 1.) Noted the Petitions Update report.
- 2.) Noted the comments made by the Strategic Director of the City Operations Directorate.

BUDGET COUNCIL 2024 – VERBAL UPDATE

During the discussions in relation to the 2024 Budget Council meeting, the following points were noted:-

It would be important for the Lord Mayor to consider the proportionality of the Council when selecting speakers at the meeting to ensure that Members received a fair opportunity to speak during the debate.

Members acknowledged the importance of a balanced and proportionate debate as part of budget considerations.

The Lord Mayor addressed the Committee and advised that it was always his aim to ensure that debates in the Chamber were proportionate based on the number of seats held by each Group. He would retain this approach at the 2024 Budget Council meeting.

Members broadly agreed that the same approach as used in 2023 would be adopted for the 2024 Budget Council meeting in terms of speaking time for Members.

Further discussions in relation to the 2024 Budget Council meeting would take place on 12 February at the next Committee meeting.

It was-

264

RESOLVED:-

- 1.) That the Committee noted the comments made by Members during discussions in relation to the 2024 Budget Council meeting.
 - 2.) That further discussions would take place at the 12 February 2024 Committee meeting.
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LORD MAYOR NOMINATION 2024/25 – VERBAL UPDATE

The Committee had a brief discussion around the Lord Mayor nomination for the municipal year 2024/25.

It was-

265

RESOLVED:-

That Council Business Management Committee:

- 1.) Noted that the meeting in relation to the 2024/25 Lord Mayor Elect would take place in the Council Chamber at 1345 on 6 February 2024.
 - 2.) Noted that Committee Services would circulate a meeting invitation to all Members to reflect the above date and time.
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DECISIONS NOT ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THOSE AUTHORISED FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION

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

(See document No 2)

Christian Scade, Head of Committee and Scrutiny Services made introductory comments relating to the report.

It was-

266

RESOLVED:-

- 1.) That the Committee noted the report and agreed it should be included on the agenda for consideration by Full Council on 6 February 2024.
 - 2.) The Committee agreed that these quarterly reports should continue to be considered at meetings.
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COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

During the ensuing discussion on the Council agenda the following was agreed/noted:-

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City Council was required to approve a member allowances scheme before the end of the current municipal year.

Members noted that the report on Member allowances was proposing a modest increase over the next two years.

Discussions would take place between Groups to ensure that an agreed cross-party approach to Member allowances could be agreed in advance of the 6 February City Council meeting.

It would be the decision of Council to determine if the recommendations as outlined in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel would be agreed and adopted.

The Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel would be invited to attend the 6 February City Council meeting to address the Council in relation to Member allowances.

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee would now be considered at the April 2024 meeting.

The SACRE constitution report would now be considered at the April 2024 meeting.

Due to the number of items scheduled for the April 2024 meeting, the Committee agreed that Motions would not be considered at this meeting (as per discussion held at previous meetings also). The Groups scheduled to submit Motions at the April 2024 meeting would instead now submit their Motions to the June 2024 meeting.

Scrutiny Business Report: 40 minutes.

Member Allowances Report: 25 minutes.

Reports not on the Forward Plan Report: 10 minutes.

267

RESOLVED:-

That the agenda for the meeting of the Council on 6 February 2024 be noted taking account of the timings as outlined above.

CITY COUNCIL AND CBMC FORWARD PLAN

The Committee further noted as per discussions held during the previous agenda item that there would be no notices of Motion at the April 2024 meeting due to the number of agenda items scheduled for consideration.

The Committee noted that the Executive Business Report scheduled for April 2024 may cover a different subject area/portfolio – this would be confirmed at a future date.

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- Members agreed to discharge the Motions which had been actioned.
- 268 The Committee noted the City Council and CBMC Forward Plan.
(See document No 4)
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COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2024

- 269 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:**
- 12 February
 - 2 April
 - 7 May
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 270 There was no urgent business.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

- 271 **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.
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The meeting ended at 14:47