

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  
BUSINESS  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE  
23 OCTOBER 2023**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 OCTOBER  
2023 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,  
Des Hughes, Brigid Jones and Chaman Lal.

---

**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

218 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**

219 No declarations of interests were made.

---

**APOLOGIES**

220 Apologies were received from Councillors Gareth Moore and Miranda Perks.

---

**MINUTES**

Councillor Robert Alden informed the Committee that at the meeting held on the 17 August, both he and Councillor Gareth Moore had not agreed to the adjournment of the meeting and subsequent deferral of the pay equity system agenda item to a future meeting.

## **Council Business Management Committee – 23 October 2023**

The Committee noted that the public and exempt minutes of the reconvened extraordinary meeting held on 1 September 2023 would be submitted to the 20 November meeting for consideration and approval.

221 Subject to the above points, the minutes of the meetings held on 26 June 2023, 17 August 2023 (extraordinary meeting), 29 August (reconvened extraordinary meeting) and 29 August 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

---

### **COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON AGENDA**

The following report outlining the Commissioner's review of the meeting agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

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

The Committee noted that a review by Commissioners of the City Council Constitution was a possibility.

The Committee further noted that any potential future changes to the Constitution would likely be managed in the same way, with Commissioners working alongside Members to discuss and agree any potential amendments.

Members noted that the Commissioners had indicated they would engage with the work undertaken by Professor Colin Copus around the role and function of City Council.

It was-

222 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Committee noted the comments outlined by the Commissioners in relation to the meeting agenda.

---

### **PETITIONS UPDATE**

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

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

The Committee expressed concern that several petitions submitted several months ago had not yet been responded to and discharged.

## Council Business Management Committee – 23 October 2023

Members noted that Committee Services staff continued to work with all directorates to ensure that petitions were responded to and discharged within a timely manner.

Due to the number of outstanding petitions which had been submitted several months previously having not yet been discharged, the Committee agreed that a Petitions Update report should be brought to each Committee meeting until further notice.

It was-

223

### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the Committee noted the progress made in relation to the responding to and discharging of petitions.
- (ii) That the Committee agreed to receive petitions update reports at each Committee meeting until further notice.

---

### **EQUAL PAY – CITY COUNCIL REPORTING OPTIONS**

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

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

Following discussions on the options presented in the report, the Committee agreed that they should be responsible for scheduling quarterly reports (via the Committee and City Council work programme) on equal pay to meetings of the City Council. This approach was outlined as option 1 within the report.

It was-

224

### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) The Committee agreed to schedule equal pay reports on a quarterly basis as part of the agenda planning process for each meeting of the City Council which (undertaken at each Council Business Management Committee meeting). Officers would work with Members in this regard to ensure quarterly equal pay updates are scheduled accordingly.
- (ii) The first quarterly update report on equal pay would be submitted to the 5 December City Council meeting

---

### **COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

## **Council Business Management Committee – 23 October 2023**

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

A meeting of the Council as Trustee was required to take place on 7 November 2023. This would be to consider matters related to Highbury Hall.

The Committee agreed that this meeting should commence at 1330 on 7 November.

The Committee agreed that it was still appropriate to facilitate a 30-minute break at City Council meetings.

The Committee further noted that no announcements from the Lord Mayor were expected at the 7 November meeting.

The Committee noted that a one minutes silence would not take place at the 7 November meeting in respect of the current situation in Gaza. Observed silences at meetings of the City Council were only observed when any significant national issues (including natural disasters) had occurred.

Because the equal pay item would constitute a 60-minute slot at the 5 December meeting, the Committee agreed that the Scrutiny Inquiry - Children and Young People's Mental Health item would be moved to the January 2024 meeting.

The Committee agreed to the following timings for the 7 November Council meeting:

Lead Member Report: West Midlands Police and Crime Panel (45 minutes).

Lead Member Report: West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee (45 minutes).

225

### **RESOLVED:-**

(i) That a meeting of the Council as Trustee take place on 7 November 2023 at 1330.

(ii) That the agenda for the meeting of the Council on 7 November 2023 be noted taking account of the timings as outlined above.

---

### **CITY COUNCIL AND CBMC FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee noted that an officer would be invited to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss the work being undertaken in relation to exempt accommodation.

## **Council Business Management Committee – 23 October 2023**

This would not constitute a standalone agenda item, rather the officer would speak to this matter as part of the wider discussions held on the Committee work programme as this was where any updates in relation to Motions agreed at City Council meetings were outlined.

Members agreed to discharge the Motions which had been actioned.

- 226 The Committee noted the City Council and CBMC Forward Plan.  
(See document No 5)

---

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2023**

- 227 The Committee noted the Council Business Management Committee dates for 2023/24:

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

**2023:**

20 November

18 December

**2024:**

22 January

12 February

2 April

7 May

---

### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 228 There was no urgent business.

---

### **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

- 229 **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 14:45