

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 19 JANUARY 2016
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2016 AT 1200 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT:

Councillor John Clancy in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Mohammed Idrees, Hendrina Quinnen, Sharon Thompson, Anne Underwood and Mike Ward.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 2453 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
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APOLOGIES

- 2454 An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ian Ward.
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MINUTES

It was noted that Councillor Sharon Thompson had been appointed to the Lord Mayor's Advisory Group in place of Councillor Valerie Seabright.

- 2455 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 January 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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The Chair proposed and it was agreed that item 7A be considered at this point in the meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair was of the opinion that the following item be considered a matter of urgency in order to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officers to act if necessary.

A. Review of the City Council's Constitution

The following report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

During the ensuing debate, Members made reference to other issues in respect of the Council meetings such as the provision of food and drink if the length of meetings was extended and the possible need to undertake a complete review of the Constitution. Councillor Mike Ward felt that the removal of public questions was a retrograde step and they should remain in the same place on the agenda. Councillor Robert Alden agreed that no change should be made to public questions and suggested that any time increase to the length of the meeting should be given over to discussing Policy Plans.

The Chair acknowledged that there appeared to be no agreement to the proposals, in particular the deletion of the 'Public Questions' from Council agendas. He explained that he had discussed the issue with Cabinet Members who were supportive of having a bi monthly webcast of 'Public Questions' as an alternative of them being part of the Council meeting.

It was suggested that the Constitution be left as it is at the present and that a further report be submitted to a future meeting.

2456

RESOLVED:-

That the changes to the City Council's Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report are not agreed and no recommendation be made to City Council to adopt them

The Chair proposed and it was agreed to return to the original order of the agenda.

COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

In light of the decision made in the previous item, the Committee was advised that the time for the item 'Motions for Debate From Individual Members' remains at 90 minutes and the meeting would therefore conclude at 1845 hours. The Committee noted that if necessary the time for certain agenda items could be extended at the meeting to allow it to finish at 1900 hours.

It was-

2457

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the amendment to times referred to in the foregoing preamble, the draft agenda be noted.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

The following report of the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Mike Murray, International Unit, made introductory comments relating to the report and drew Members' attention to recommendation 2.3 which he hoped would result in the ability to make savings and avoid the higher cost of late bookings. He emphasised that for any trips to Brussels the option of Eurostar was considered first. In response to a comment from Councillor Robert Alden relating to the fact that the figures on page 33 did not add up, he explained that there was often a difference due to the way the figures were collated.

2458

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the approved Member and officer travel be noted;
- (ii) that the details of inward delegations from abroad be noted; and
- (iii) that with effect from 19 January 2016 authority for foreign travel by City Council Members 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 to travel.

SUTTON COLDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CIVIC REGALIA

The following report of the Service Director Localisation was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Ifor Jones, Service Director Localisation, made introductory comments relating to the report.

Councillor Anne Underwood made reference to the condition of the chains Mayoral robes and mace. She indicated that the robes in particular were of no use to Birmingham City Council and were only in storage.

2459

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That this Committee authorises release of the Sutton Coldfield mayoral chains, mayoral robes and mace to the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council and for the future ownership of and responsibility for these items to pass to the Parish Council; and
 - (ii) that an event be held on 1 March 2016, in the Council Chamber, to acknowledge the significant landmark of the establishment of the Parish of Sutton Coldfield and the interim Parish Council and for the formal handover of the civic regalia to the Parish Council to take place.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (continued)

The Chair was of the opinion that the following item be considered a matter of urgency in order to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officers to act if necessary.

B. Revised Directorate Structure and Increased Senior Capacity

The following report of the Chief Executive and Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

The Chief Executive made introductory comments relating to the report and in particular highlighted the reasoning for the recommendations. He responded to Members comments by emphasising that he did not foresee any further changes that would need to be reported to the Committee.

2460

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That agreement be given to implement the following Directorate structure with effect from 1 February 2016:
 - Place Directorate
 - People Directorate
 - Economy Directorate
 - Corporate Resources Directorate
 - (ii) that the previous agreement to the creation of the position of Managing Director of the Joint Economic Unit (JEU) and that ongoing discussions regarding the Combined Authority and the JEU have meant that we have not been in a position to progress with the joint appointment be noted;
 - (iii) that agreement be given to create a temporary position of Strategic Director (SD) of Economy for up to twelve months;
 - (iv) that agreement be given to change the title of the Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Economy to the Chief Executive;
 - (v) that agreement be given to appoint the SD Economy position on an interim basis by a meeting of the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer Appointment Sub-Committee using an internal ring fence;
 - (vi) that the advice in respect of ring fencing outlined in section 4 of the report be noted; and
 - (vii) that it be noted that there are increased costs of approximately £26,000 which will be absorbed within the current Economy budget. However it should also be noted that the SD Major Projects will be self-funding during 2016/17.
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C. Education Awards (Review) Sub Committee

Following a nomination from Councillor Sharon Thompson it was-

2461

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mariam Khan be appointed to serve on the Education Awards (Review) Sub Committee in place of Councillor Martin Straker Welds for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2462

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 1242 hours.

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CHAIR