

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
7 MAY 2019**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 7 MAY 2019 AT 1400 HOURS,
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Ward in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Shabrana Hussain, Brigid Jones,
Gareth Moore and Mike Ward.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

2855 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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2856 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Robert Alden indicated that he was Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association.

APOLOGIES

2857 An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Martin Straker Welds.

MINUTES

2858 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 March 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD

The following report of the Director – Inclusive Growth Directorate was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Lloyd Broad, Head of European Affairs, made introductory comments relating to the report and highlighted that, if the cost of the Gold Coast visit was taken out of the figures for 2018/2019, the costs of visits were similar to those in 2017/2018.

Councillor Robert Alden made reference to the visit to the “PULSE Horizon 2020” project in Luxembourg which was to contribute to the City Council’s wish to improve air pollution. He therefore queried if such visits could not be replaced by video conferencing or other digital interventions.

2859

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 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 for travel.

CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2019/2020

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny, made introductory comments relating to the report. The Chair was of the opinion that it should be possible to report any changes to the Council Tax Support scheme to the December 2019 City Council meeting. Emma Williamson undertook to ask officers if that was possible. The Chair continued that in the meantime the City Council date should be moved to 7 January 2020.

Councillor Robert Alden was of the opinion that the 19 December 2019 allowed too much gap between submission of written questions and he suggested that the date should be 30 December 2019 not 27 December as indicated in Paragraph 3.3. Emma Williamson indicated that the date could be changed to 30 December 2019.

It was agreed that the date for the submission of written Questions be 30 December 2019 and that City Council meet on 7 January 2020.

Council Business Management Committee – 7 May 2019

2860

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the dates for meetings of the City Council in 2019/2020 as set out in the report be agreed, noting the amendment of the January date from 14 January to 7 January; and
 - (ii) That the deadline for the written questions for the January 2020 meeting be 30 December 2019.
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PROPORTIONALITY

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

The Committee Manager advised that Standards Committee was now out of proportionality.

2861

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

The following report of the City Solicitor together with appendix B tabled was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

The Chair advised that there may be some changes to Overview and Scrutiny Committees portfolios but it was not intended to increase the number of the said Committees.

2862

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to any further amendments that may be made, nominations be submitted to the next meeting of City Council of representatives to serve on the bodies detailed in Appendix B to the report.

CITY COUNCIL AND CBM FORWARD PLAN MAY 2019

The following City Council and CBM Forward Plan was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, made introductory comments relating to the plan and undertook to contact officers in respect of the outstanding responses to oral questions from February City Council.

Council Business Management Committee – 7 May 2019

It was noted that in light of the previous discussion the Council the Council Tax Support scheme should be allocated to the December 2019 City Council meeting.

2863

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the above amendment, the City Council and CBM Forward Plan be noted.

DRAFT AGENDA CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING ON 21 MAY 2019

The following draft Council agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 6)

The Committee Manager responded to a query in respect of the announcement of the death of former Councillor Delphine Roe

2864

RESOLVED:-

That draft Council agenda for the annual meeting be noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Councillor Mike Ward indicated that he would advise the Committee Manager of the the nominee from the Liberal Democrat group.

Following nominations it was:-

2865

RESOLVED:-

That Councillors Paulette Hamilton, Tristan Chatfield, Mike Sharpe, Robert Alden and 1 Liberal Democrat be appointed to attend the Local Government Association Annual Conference to be held from 2 July to 4 July 2019 at Bournemouth International Centre.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2866

RESOLVED:-

That it be noted that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 28 May 2019 at 1400 hours in the Council House.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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

Independent Remuneration Panel

2867

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, explained advertisements had been placed for citizen representatives on the Independent Remuneration Panel. She sought clarification as to whether it would be appropriate for the two citizen representatives to be replaced at the same time. The Committee agreed to consider this.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2868

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 1419 hours.

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CHAIR