

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 9 MAY 2016

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9 MAY 2016 AT 1200 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT:

Councillors Robert Alden, John Clancy (for part of the meeting) ,Mohammed Idrees, Hendrina Quinnen, Sharon Thompson, Anne Underwood, Ian Ward and Mike Ward.

CHAIR

- 2488 At the start of the meeting, in the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair assumed the Chair for the duration of the whole meeting.

COUNCILLOR IAN WARD IN THE CHAIR

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 2489 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

- 2490 An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor John Clancy.
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MINUTES

Councillor Robert Alden commented that the minutes should reflect that apologies had been received from Councillors Robert Alden, John Clancy and Anne Underwood who had been unable to attend because they were still attending the Cabinet meeting.

- 2491 Subject to the above, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 March 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS

The following report of the Strategic Director for Change and Support Services was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

A debate ensued concerning the cost of travel to Brussels and Mike Murray, International Education and Development Manager, explained the process of signing off visits proposed in the report.

Councillor Robert Alden noted that costs were increasing year on year.

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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.

CMIS-HISTORICAL DATA CLASSIFICATION

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Prakash Patel, Head of Committee and Members Services, made introductory comments relating to and in response to comments from Members confirmed that the cost of £9,500 would be a one off cost and covered the developing, testing and deployment of the software.

The Chair commented that the project should proceed with the funding being met from the Policy Contingency Budget.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted and officer be authorised to proceed with the suggested option at paragraph 5.1 with the cost of £9,500 being met from the Policy Contingency Budget.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Stuart Evans, the City Solicitor, indicated that the Constitution was a 'living' document that would be amended throughout the year to modernise it.

A debate ensued during which it was acknowledged that making the quorum for Licensing Sub-Committees 3 was beneficial but Members should be advised of the expected length of meetings.

It was emphasised that Standing Orders for motions should be amended to allow for motions to be voted upon should time run out.

Councillor Mike Ward was concerned that the Committee was being asked to agree to something which was not set out in the report relating to Assistant Leaders. He also had concerns that the timescales for written question were been extended which would allow officers greater time to respond.

Councillor Robert Alden felt the workload for Members serving on Licensing Sub Committee, Personnel Appeals and, to some extent, Planning Committee should be acknowledged and he requested that the matter be considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Leader indicated that he was willing for that to occur.

Members noted that they normally received such reports with 'tracked changes' to allow them to see what was changing and requested that they receive a copy of the report to City Council with tracked changes in the next few days.

The City Solicitor responded to the comments made and undertook to provide a copy of the report to City Council with 'tracked changes'

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

PROPORTIONALITY

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

The Committee Manager highlighted the current situation with regard to proportionality.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLL OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 6)

2497

RESOLVED:-

That the City Council be recommended to admit former Councillors Vivienne Margaret Barton, Jeremy Evans and Anita Alison Ward to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen at a special meeting of the Council to be held at 1555 hours on Tuesday 24 May 2016.

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2016/2017

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 7)

Following a short discussion it was-

2498

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee meet on the previously agree pattern of dates, Tuesdays at 1400 hours with the exception of the June meeting being held on Friday 27 May at 0930 hours and the August date being on 31 August at 1200 hours.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR EXTRAORDINARY AND ANNUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 24 MAY 2016

The following draft agendas were submitted:-

(See document No 8)

It was-

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RESOLVED:-

That the draft agendas be noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It was agreed that the names of the Labour Members nominated would be submitted as soon as possible.

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RESOLVED:-

That Councillors (3 Lab) Robert Alden (Con) and Jon Hunt (Lib Dem) be appointed to attend the Local Government Association Annual Conference to be held from 5 July to 7 July 2016 at Bournemouth International Centre.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

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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 1240 hours.

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CHAIR