

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 22 OCTOBER 2018

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 2018 AT 1400 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Ward in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Kerry Jenkins, Brigid Jones, Gareth Moore, Martin Straker Welds and Mike Ward.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 2794 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 INTEREST

- 2795 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.

APOLOGIES

- 2796 No apologies for non-attendance were received.

MINUTES

As a matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting, Councillor Robert Alden, referring to Minute No. 2791, queried whether the money from the consultants who had given poor advice had been recouped and whether they been given further work from the Council. Kate Charlton, City Solicitor, indicated that she did not have the details to hand but could confirm that the company had not received any further work relating to governance issues from the City Council since the previous advice. The Chair concurred with that position.

Councillor Mike Ward referring to the paragraph attributed to him on page 5 of 38 indicated that he had also said that he would not want good people to be

deterred from being a or becoming a Councillor because of a lack of IT skills and he wished the minutes be amended to reflect that. The Chair indicated that any Members having difficulty using IT in the 'paperless' environment perhaps because of medical issues would be considered for a different approach on a case by case basis.

- 2797 That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 August 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APPOINTMENTS

The Chair drew Member's attention to the recommendation set out on the agenda which was agreed.

Councillor Mike Ward proposed and it was agreed that Councillor Baber Baz be appointed to the Education Awards (Review) Sub-Committee in place of himself for the remainder of the 2018/2019 Municipal Year.

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, in respect of the Independent Remuneration Panel, indicated that Honorary Alderman Fergus Robinson was the Conservative nominee and she requested that the Committee note that and agreed for the appointment to be reported to City Council. That was agreed.

- 2798 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That Councillor Alex Yip be appointed to the Education Awards (Review) Sub-Committee in place of Councillor Matt Bennett for the remainder of the 2018/2019 Municipal Year;
- (ii) that Councillor Baber Baz be appointed to the Education Awards (Review) Sub-Committee in place of Councillor Mike Ward for the remainder of the 2018/2019 Municipal Year; and
- (iii) that the Council Business Management Committee recommends to City Council that the following person be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel as follows:

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Hon. Alderman Fergus Robinson	14 September 2018 – 14 September 2022 New appointment

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD

The following report of the Chief Operating Officer - Strategic Services was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Lloyd Broad, Head of European Affairs, made introductory comments relating to the report and in response to comments from Councillor Robert Alden indicated that he was not aware of any of the visits being within the 4 weeks' notice but

agreed that the urgency and reasons of such visits would be highlighted in future reports. In respect of the reference to Finance and Governance by some visits he explained that this was the paying Directorate.

Referring to the final bullet point on page 20 of 38, Councillor Robert Alden requested more detail relating to the number of meetings held. Lloyd Broad undertook to email the details of the number and nature of the meetings to Members of the Committee. In response to another observation by Councillor Robert Alden he undertook to correct typos on page 24 of 38 in future reports.

2799

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 4weeks' 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 AND CBM FORWARD PLAN

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

(See document No 2)

Councillor Robert Alden referred to the investigation into flooding and the production of a Section 19 report and queried whether Ward Councillors had been asked to provide details of known flood problems. Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny, undertook to contact relevant officer relating to that query.

2800

RESOLVED:-

That the City Council and CBM Forward Plan be noted.

COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

During a discussion it was agreed to allocate 60 minutes to agenda item 9 and therefore the meeting would finish at 1900 hours.

2801

RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the above amendments, the draft agenda be noted.

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.

All Birmingham's Children ABC Campaign

2802 Councillor Gareth Moore indicated that he believed that all Councillors had received an email from the above charity. He had concerns as to whether they had permission to use the Council's Coat of Arms and were officially supported by the City Council and the Children's Trust. It was noted that the email was a series of demands.

Kate Charlton, City Solicitor, undertook to investigate Councillor Moore's queries.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2803 **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 1413 hours.

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CHAIR