

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 23 MARCH 2020
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 MARCH 2020 AT 1400 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 AND 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT:

In the Room

Councillor Ian Ward in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Gareth Moore, Carl Rice, Martin Straker Welds and Mike Ward.

Phil Wright Committee Manager

Via Conference Call

Councillors Shabrana Hussain, Brigid Jones and Mike Ward.

Dawn Hewins, Director of HR
Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services
Rose Poulter, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 2962 The Chair in noting that there were no members of the press or public to record and take photographs at the meeting except where there are confidential or exempt items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2963 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

- 2964 It was noted that Suzanne Dodd, Acting City Solicitor, was in another meeting.
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MINUTES

- 2965 That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2019/20

The following report of the Acting City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Rose Poulter, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, made introductory comments relating to the report. In response to a question from the Chair she confirmed that the Panel had only looked at the new Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairs of Licensing Sub-Committees and not the other Members sitting on them.

Councillors Robert Alden and Carl Rice welcomed the report which demonstrated that the recommendations from the Independent Panel had been made in a sensible and measured way.

Councillor Gareth Moore, noting he had previously been a member of a Licensing Sub Committee, explained that they met on a weekly basis and in some situations had to meet at short notice to hear reviews requested by the Police. He requested that the Independent Remuneration Panel consider an allowance for all Members who sat on Licensing Sub-Committees later.

In response to a question from Councillor Brigid Jones the Committee was advised that no Members had declined the increase but it was not known if any had given it to Charity.

- 2966 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be received; and
- (ii) that the following motion be recommended to the City Council:

The Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on page 4 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 19 May 2020.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL'S INNOVATION NETWORK

The following report of the Leader of the Council was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

- 2967 The Chair indicated that he wished to withdraw the report.
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PETITIONS UPDATE

The following report of the Acting City Solicitor, together with an updated appendix, was submitted:-

(See document Nos 3 and 4)

2968

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

CITY COUNCIL AND CBM FORWARD PLAN

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

(See document No 5)

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny, in response to a comment from the Chair that Councillor Jayne Francis had responded to Councillor David Pears indicated that she would contact officers and update the Plan.

2969

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 6)

The Chair noted that this Item was withdrawn as the City Council meeting had been cancelled due to the Covid 19 outbreak. He also noted that the Annual Meeting of City Council in May could be rescheduled. He confirmed he would be discussing the way forward with Group Leaders.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

2970

The Chair was of the opinion that the following items be considered as matters of urgency in order to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officers to act if necessary:-

A. Dispensation for Non-Attendance of Councillors at Council Meetingns

The following report of the Acting City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 7)

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny, made introductory comments relating to report and responded to questions from Members relating to period that the dispensation was for.

2971

RESOLVED:-

That the non-attendance of all Councillors at Council meetings from 23 March 2020 until 23 September 2020 for coronavirus related reasons, pursuant to S85 Local Government Act 1972 be approved.

B. Covid 19 – Temporary Governance Arrangements

The following report of the Acting City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 8)

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny, made introductory comments relating to report.

Councillor Robert Alden commented that in relation to City Council consideration should be given to a limited attendance on a pro rata basis. He noted that in case of technology issues with streaming live meetings more comprehensive minutes should be provided. He also highlighted that in the current situation residents should still be notified of planning applications.

Councillor Gareth Moore noted the need for Planning and Licensing functions to continue and he suggested, particularly in respect to Licensing, the pooling of Members to give resilience.

The Chair noted that Councils were awaiting regulations from Central Government in which the holding of Annual Meetings would be addressed along with the introduction of having meeting remotely to allow Planning and Licensing functions to continued. Changes in the Constitution could be made on a temporary basis.

2972

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the temporary governance arrangements during the Covid 19 outbreak be note; and
 - ii) That members review (remotely if necessary) the arrangements at monthly intervals or in light of changing Government guidance.
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C. Implementation of the Foundation Living Wage 2020/2021

The following report of the Chief Executive was submitted:-

(See document No 9)

2973

RESOLVED:-

That the proposal to increase the Foundation Living Wage supplement so that, with effect from 1 April 2020, all Council employees are paid a minimum of £9.30 per hour be agreed.

D. Covid 19

In response to a comment from Councillor Shabrana Hussain, the Chair indicated that due to the do not travel instructions staff were working from home and when they undertake roles which can not be undertaken at home then appropriate guidance on how to safely carry out their roles would be issued.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2974

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 1432 hours.

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CHAIR