

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 21 OCTOBER 2019
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 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, Martin Straker Welds and Mike Ward.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 2916 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

- 2917 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

- 2918 There were no apologies.

MINUTES

- 2919 That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 August 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

A. Personnel Appeals (Dismissals) Sub-Committee

- 2920 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Mary Locke becomes a Chair of the Personnel Appeals (Dismissals) Sub-Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

B. Lord Mayor's Advisory Group

2921

The Chair indicated that he questioned the need for the group to continue and therefore proposed that it be reviewed by the Group Leaders. Robert Connelly, Acting Assistant Director Governance indicated that he would wish to take the review a bit further and include the Lord Mayor's Office.

During further discussion it was suggested that the reason for the establishment of the group should be identified and whilst the Group Secretaries provided party representation on the group, cross-party representation had reduced due to the recent Lord Mayors being from the same party.

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 it was-

2922

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.
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REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

The following report of the Head of Electoral Services was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Robert Connelly, Acting Assistant Director Governance, made introductory comments and undertook to look into issues raised by Members in respect of Pye Hayes and Sheldon Wards.

2923

RESOLVED:-

That it be noted that there are no recommended changes to the current Polling Districts boundaries or the designated Polling Places on this occasion, as they

were last comprehensively reviewed following the citywide ward boundary changes which were approved by this Committee in October 2017.

There are, however, some suggested polling station venue changes arising as a result of the consultation for which this Committee is not required to agree, but merely note as part of the statutory review of Polling Districts and Places.

FAMILY FRIENDLY POLICIES

The following report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Craig Scriven, Assistant Director Human Resources, made introductory comments relating to the report and responded to Members comments and questions.

2924

RESOLVED:-

That the contents of the report, work undertaken to date and the intention to bring together and update the current leave policies into one family friendly policy, along with the Council's commitment to Thrive at Work and Workplace Wellbeing is noted.

CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 2020 DATE AND DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following report of the Acting Assistant Director, Governance was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Robert Alden commented that changing meeting dates caused problems for Members who had to cancel other commitments.

2925

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the January 2020 date of the City Council be amended from 7 January to 14 January and;
 - ii) That the deadline for written questions for the January 2020 meeting is amended to reflect this change.
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CHANGES TO THE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The following report of the Acting Assistant Director, Governance was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

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

Councillor Robert Alden suggested that the West Midlands Mayor and the Police Commissioner be invited to attend future Council meetings. In relation to Early Day Motions (EDMs) he suggested that in paragraph 2.1 of appendix 2 the words after 'duties' be deleted. He thought paragraphs 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 were contradictory and suggested that paragraph 3.1.4 should end with the word 'made'. The Chair suggested that in paragraph 4.4.2 EDMs should remain for open for signature for 3 months. These changes were agreed.

The Chair proposed that the Chair of Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed to the Committee as an additional Member.

2926

RESOLVED:-

That Council Business Management Committee (CBM):

- Agrees the list of Lead Members to report to Full Council and the proposed programme as set out in paragraph 3.2;
- Agrees the revised order of notices of motions, as set out in Appendix 1;
- Agrees the process for piloting Early Day Motions (appendix 2), subject to the changes referred to in the forgoing preamble, and that this commence from 25th November 2019;
- Agrees that the Chair of Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed to CBM Committee in addition to existing members.
- Agrees the report formats for future Full Council and CBM Committee meetings

CITY COUNCIL AND CBM FORWARD PLAN OCTOBER 2019

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

(See document No 6)

2927

RESOLVED:-

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

COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 7)

The Chair noted that at the City Council meeting appointments to the Safety at Sport Grounds Advisory Groups in respect of Aston Villa Football Club,

Birmingham City Football Club and Warwickshire County Cricket Club would be made on a 1-1-1 plus local Ward member basis.

2928

RESOLVED:-

That the draft agenda be noted

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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

Independent Lay Members of Standards Committee

The following report of the Acting Assistant Director, Governance was submitted:-

(See document No 8)

Rob Connelly, Acting Assistant Director Governance, made introductory comments relating to the report.

It was-

2929

RESOLVED:-

That it be recommended to City Council that the following be appointed to the Standards Committee as follows:

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Stephen Atkinson	6 November 2019 – 31 October 2019
Alastair Cowan	6 November 2019 – 31 October 2019
Mohammed Khan	6 November 2019 – 31 October 2019

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

2930

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