

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2016</b>
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## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 1200 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor John Clancy in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Mohammed Idrees, Hendrina Quinnen, Sharon Thompson, Anne Underwood, Ian Ward and Mike Ward.

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### **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 2463      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**

- 2464      Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sharon Thompson and Anne Underwood.
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### **MINUTES**

- 2465      The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 January 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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### **LIVING WAGE**

The following report of the Chief Executive was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Claire Ward, Assistant Director, made introductory comments relating to the report and, in response to a question from Councillor Robert Alden, confirmed the proposals would cover both school and council staff.

2466

**RESOLVED:-**

That the proposal to increase the Living Wage supplement so, that with effect from 1 April 2016, all Council employees are paid a minimum of £8.25 per hour be agreed.

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**PROVISIONAL CITY COUNCIL AND COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES 2016/2017**

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Councillor Mike Ward suggested that it be considered whether City Council meetings could be held bi-monthly.

Councillor Ian Ward noted that the CBM date of 31 May 2016 was the Tuesday after a bank holiday and he suggested that the meeting be moved to 1 June 2016 to be consistent with the August date which was agreed.

2467

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the following provisional dates for meetings of City Council in 2016/201 be agreed:

To be held on Tuesdays at 1400 hours unless otherwise stated.

<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
14 June	10 January
12 July	7 February
13 September	28 February
1 November	4 April
6 December	23 May (Annual meeting 1600 hrs)

- (ii) that the following dates for Council Business Management Committee meetings in 2016/2017 be agreed:

To be held on Tuesdays at 1200 hours unless otherwise stated.

<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
1 June (Wednesday)	24 January
28 June	14 February
31 August (Wednesday)	21 March
18 October	9 May
22 November	
13 December	

(NB After the meeting it was subsequently identified that there was an error in the report and the CBM date of 1 September 2016 (Wednesday) should have

read 31 August 2016. The above resolution has been amended for ease of reference)

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**COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following draft agenda was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Councillor Robert Alden suggested that there was insufficient time for consideration of agenda 7 relating to the creation of the Combined Authority and felt that the matter be considered at the April meeting as he did not wish to reduce the time for the Budget debate.

The Chief Executive explained that amongst the West Midlands Authorities there was an agreement that the appropriate decisions would be made in March. He added that the report was complementary to the budget process. During further comment the Chair indicated that it would be appropriate for the agenda item to remain on the agenda as it was important for Birmingham to be seen to be making the decision in March.

It was further noted that reference to Councillor Valerie Seabright on the agenda should be replaced by Councillor Sharon Thompson and that agenda item 8 is allocated 5 minutes not 15 minutes as stated on the agenda.

It was-

2468

**RESOLVED:-**

That, subject to the amendment referred to in the foregoing preamble, the draft agenda be noted.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

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. Proposed Changes to the Constitution**

The following report of the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Stuart Evans, City Solicitor, made introductory comments relating to the report.

Councillor Robert Alden did not agree with the proposal as he had concerns that it would raise the limit £2.5m to £10m. He felt that such amounts should not be approved by officers without Members having the opportunity to consider it.

Councillor Ian Ward noted that the proposal would not prevent Member involvement as report listing decisions would be made available and could be called in.

Councillor Alden noted that at that at that stage in the process the decision was already signed off he went on to make reference to the fact that there was also a tolerance of 18% included.

Officers responded to the debate by explaining the new procedures in particular the tolerance figures

The recommendations were put to the meeting and, by 5 votes for to 3 votes against, it was-

2469

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the proposed changes to the City Council's Constitution set out in paragraph 3 and the appendices to this report be approved; and
- (ii) that the inclusion of this report and appendices in the full agenda for the full Council meeting on 1 March 2016 be approved.

Councillors Robert Alden, Anne Underwood and Mike Ward wished to be recorded as having voted against the above resolution)

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**B. Creation of Combined Authority and West Midlands Devolution Agreement**

The following report of the Chief Executive was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

The Chief Executive and Tony Smith, Policy Executive, made introductory comments relating to the report and, in response to a comment from Councillor that it was inappropriate for delegations to be made to the Chief Executive and the Leader as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report as he felt that should be a matter for consideration by Members, highlighted timetabling and technical issues. In particular the order creating the post of elected mayor and the election in May 2017 was approved as part of the devolution agreement.

Councillor Robert Alden reiterated his concerns and the City Solicitor indicated that officers would review the wording in paragraph 3.8 and amend accordingly.

2470

**RESOLVED:-**

That the inclusion of the following reports and motions in the agenda for the full City Council meeting on 1 March 2016 be approved:

- Approval to the order for the West Midlands Combined Authority and delegation of Authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to approve any minor amendments that may be necessary

- Note the contents of the draft Combined Authority Constitution.
  - Approval to the West Midlands Devolution Agreement and delegation to the Chief Executive, acting in consultation with the Leader to give any consequential consents required by the Secretary of State to bring about its implementation.
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**C. Salary Submission from Senior Coroner for Birmingham and Solihull**

The following report of the Acting Strategic Director Place was submitted:-

(See document No 6)

2471

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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**D. Committee Management Information System (CMIS)**

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Councillor Mike Ward commented that on CMIS documents relating to meetings before 15 June 2015 were all private and therefore not accessible unless officers were contacted to release them. He sought assurances that this would be changed.

The Committee was advised that when CMIS was introduced to replace the previous system, which was no longer supported, it was found that the old documents could not be made public without officer input. Whilst there was the possibility that all documents could be transferred there would be a cost. Officers could deal with the 3-4 requests a month from members of the public.

The Chair expressed concern and felt immediate access should be made.

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**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.

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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**RESOLVED:**

That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

(Paragraphs 1 and 4)

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