

Decisions of the Constitution and General Purposes Committee

16 January 2020

Members Present:-

Councillor Alex Prager (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillor Geof Cooke
Councillor Richard Cornelius
Councillor Alison Moore

Councillor Barry Rawlings
Councillor Helene Richman
Councillor Anthony Finn
(In place of Councillor Melvin Cohen)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting dated 7 October 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Melvin Cohen for whom Councillor Anthony Finn was substituting.

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION (IF ANY)

Details of the questions asked and the answers provided were published and circulated at the meeting. Verbal responses were given to supplementary questions at the meeting.

6. MEMBERS ITEM (IF ANY)

None.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CHANGES REVIEW

The Head of Governance introduced the report which sought to clarify the process through which the amendments to the Public Participation Rules were approved. Further included in the report at Appendix 1 was a review of the impact the changes.

Councillor Prager, duly seconded by Councillor Richard Cornelius proposed the following:

- That the rule relating to having up to two questions per agenda item, with each question being limited to 100 words is retained, along with the opportunity to ask a supplementary question.
- In addition, a new rule permitting up to two comments per agenda item, with each comment being limited to 100 words is incorporated. The comment(s) would be noted at the meeting.

The Committee confirmed that a resident can only make one comment per agenda item and that there would be a maximum of two comments per agenda item in total.

The Head of Governance proposed that to ensure the additional provisions relating to public comments are clear in Article 3 of the Constitution, drafting of the final wording to be reported to Council should be delegated to the Head of Governance in consultation with the Chairman.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- 1. Note the decision-making process for the amendments to public participation as set out in sections 1.1 to 1.4 of the report.**
- 2. Note the impact of the amendments to public participation.**
- 3. Agree to delegate to the Head of Governance, following consultation with the Vice-Chairman, the drafting of the amended wording of Article 3 changes proposed by Councillor Prager.**
- 4. That the following the Vice-Chairman's agreement of the amendments, a revised Article 3 (Public Participation) is reported to Council on 28 January 2020 for approval.**

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND - ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BARNET COUNCIL - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Assurance introduced the report which set out the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) final recommendations for the future electoral arrangements for Barnet Council.

The final recommendations proposed that:

- Barnet should have 63 councillors (the same as at present)
- Those councillors will represent 15 three-councillor wards and 9 two-councillor wards across the borough.
- The boundaries of all wards will change, none will stay wholly the same.

The proposed changes will be implemented in time to take effect at the Local Government elections scheduled in May 2022.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee noted the final published recommendations from LGBCE on the future electoral arrangements for Barnet Council.
2. That the Committee noted that, following Parliamentary approval of the LGBCE recommendations, Electoral Services officers in consultation with Barnet's Returning Officer, will undertake a programme of work to propose a complete new set of polling districts and polling places to facilitate the administration of statutory elections within the new ward boundaries. The new polling district and polling place proposals will then be brought to committee for approval in good time for them to take effect ahead of the Local Elections in May 2022.

9. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Director of Assurance introduced the report which provided details on the arrangements proposed by the London Borough of Barnet's Returning Officer for polling districts and polling places to be used at the London Mayoral and Greater London Assembly elections on 7 May 2020 and for any other statutory elections or referendums that should take place within the borough before May 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Committee approved all polling place arrangements as proposed by the Returning Officer and laid out in Appendixes A, B and C.

10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development introduced the report.

With regards to section 6.1 of the Policy on Gender Pay, the Chairman clarified that a further report will be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee **[Action: Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development]**

With regards to the issue on Performance Related Pay raised by Members this will be reported back to the June meeting of the Committee **[Action: Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development]**

RESOLVED - That the Committee recommends that the Council approve the Pay Policy Statement (Appendix A) on 28th January 2020.

11. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

RESOLVED - That the Committee approved the appointment of Deborah Hinde as the Council's Director of Commercial and Customer Services.

12. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED - That the Committee note the forward Work Programme with the following updates;

Meeting	Report title
1 April	Pay Policy Statement A report providing accurate Gender Pay data.
23 June	Performance Related Pay A report detailing the development of a performance related pay scheme for those staff assessed for two consecutive years as outstanding through the annual appraisal scheme.

13. ANY ITEM(S) THAT HE CHAIRMAN DECIDES IS URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 7.36 pm