

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 20th February 2008 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair), Blackman (VC) and Councillors Bessong, Beswick, D Brown, Castle, Colwill, Corcoran (for Wharton), Lorber and Van Kalwala.

Apologies were received from Councillor J Moher.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 13th November 2007 be received and approved as an accurate record.

3. Polling Places and Stations – Queen’s Park By-Election

Members considered this report, which sought the approval of the Committee to the replacement of Manor Special School as a polling place at the Queen’s Park ward by-election on 13th March 2008 with Kensal Rise Methodist Church Hall.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Manor Special School be replaced by Kensal Rise Methodist Church Hall as the polling place for polling district EQP1 at the Queen’s Park ward by-election on 13th March 2008;
- (ii) that the polling places for the remaining polling districts in Queen’s Park ward as set out in paragraph 3.5 be noted;
- (iii) that authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager to make any further changes required to the polling places and stations for this by-election, in consultation with the three Party Leaders.

4. Appointments to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Councillors Eniola and Malik step down as representatives on the Brent Housing Partnership Board in accordance with the changes made to the constitution of this organisation on 12th November 2007; and that Councillors Castle, Hashmi, Long and O’Sullivan remain;

- (ii) that Councillor Malik step down as representative on the Refugees Into Jobs Board in accordance with the changes made to the Articles of Association in line with this organisation becoming a registered charity;
- (iii) that Councillor Mendoza's term of office as representative on the Edward Harvist Trust be extended until 2010 in line with the term of office for trustees serving on this organisation.

5. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

6. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED:

that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting as the matter to be discussed was exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 namely:

Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

7. Single Status Pay Review

Tracey Connage (Deputy Director, Human Resources and Diversity) introduced this report, which sought members' agreement to the proposals for the trade unions to implement the provisions of the 2004 National 'Single Status' Pay Agreement. Martin Coopey (Single Status Consultant) advised that following a lengthy and positive consultation process, the unions were very supportive of the proposals. He also advised however that further negotiations were required regarding recommendation 2.1.(2); namely the proposal that the monthly pay date for employees be changed from the middle to the last working of the month and that consequently members were asked to approve designated powers for officers to negotiate this aspect of the agreement subsequent to this meeting.

Members then discussed the proposed review of London allowances with a view to harmonisation of such allowances in the future, and expressed support for such a review. Some members queried the procedure for those members of staff retiring or leaving the service during the implementation period of the overall proposals, and Martin Coopey confirmed that staff who left the service during the initial six month period would receive an entitlement.

There was discussion regarding the re-evaluation of non-teaching schools based staff roles and it was noted that any proposal regarding the funding for this would be presented to the Executive for agreement and not the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Committee agrees the proposals set out in Appendix 1 as the basis for a formal offer to the Trade Unions to implement the 2004 National Single Status agreement within Brent;
- (ii) that the Committee agrees in principle a proposal to change the monthly pay date for employees within scope of the Single Status agreement from the middle of each month to the last working day of each month, as part of savings to offset single status implementation costs;
- (iii) that the Committee agrees that authority be delegated to the Director of Human Resources and Diversity or her representative to negotiate with the Trade Unions regarding the proposal to change the monthly pay date for employees;
- (iv) that the Committee notes that the current Council procedures for application of recruitment and retention (market) payments will be reviewed as a consequence of implementation of single status and that a detailed report with recommendations will be presented to the Committee in late spring/early summer 2008.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm.

A JOHN
Chair