



Supplementary Paper: Standards Committee

Thursday 28 September 2017 at 6.00 pm

Board Room 2 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Allie (Chair)
Kabir (Vice-Chair)
Ahmed
Krupa Sheth
Colwill

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Dixon, Hylton, Moher and Nerva

Councillors:

Kansagra

Co-opted Member:

Sheila Darr
Robert Cawley
Karen McArthur
Margaret Adenike Bruce

For further information contact: James Kinsella, Governance Manager
020 8937 2063, james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: **democracy.brent.gov.uk**

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Agenda

Item		Page
5	Update on Standards Matters: Supplementary Paper – Appendix to Decision Notice regarding a complaint against a councillor	1 - 6

Attached for members consideration, is an appendix to the decision notice on the complaint against a councillor, which has already been circulated as part of the Update report for the Committee.

Ward Affected: All Wards

Contact Officer: Debra Norman, Chief
Legal Officer
020 8937 5178
debra.norman@brent.gov.uk



Please remember to switch your mobile phone to silent during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.

From: Chohan, Councillor Bhagwanji
Sent: 26 June 2017 15:36
To: Downs, Carolyn <Carolyn.Downs@brent.gov.uk>
Cc: All Councillors <AllCouncillors@brent.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Request for a special/extraordinary meeting of the council.

Dear Carolyn

Thank you for your helpful advice.

I think a discussion about fire safety issues concerning high rise blocks in Brent should be dealt with as a formal agenda item at the meeting of Full Council already scheduled for 10 July 2017, accompanied by a detailed officer report.

At that meeting, I would support the suspension of standing orders for this item so that all councillors can participate in the discussion of all relevant issues. That seems to me to be the most sensible and appropriate approach for the council to take.

If 5 councillors sign a requisition asking me to call an extraordinary meeting I will consider their request very carefully before making my decision.

Finally, I encourage Members to attend the additional briefings being arranged between now and our meeting on the 10 July.

Cllr Bhagwanji Chohan
Mayor of Brent
Civic Centre
Wembley
HA9 0FJ

07944 209496

On 26 Jun 2017, at 15:01, Downs, Carolyn <Carolyn.Downs@brent.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Mayor

I am writing to give you my advice regarding the request for an extraordinary/special council meeting.

Firstly the request was made last night by Cllr Duffy and to date I and other officers have seen confirmation by email from Councillors Warren, Stopp and Pavey. This as it stands is not enough.

According to the legal and constitutional rules, a special meeting can be called by the Mayor. Alternatively, a requisition **signed** by 5 councillors can be presented to the Mayor. If a special meeting is not called by the Mayor within 7 days, the requisition itself will trigger a extraordinary meeting. A requisition need not be sent to the mayor personally. It can be sent to Tom Cattermole, the Head of Executive and Member Services.

The constitution further requires that any requisition must be accompanied by notice of the motion or motions to be debated at the meeting. We have received a motion from Cllr Duffy.

This means that even if a valid requisition is received today then the mayor has 7 days to decide whether to call the meeting. If you took seven days then the earliest possible date for a special meeting of the council would be 13/7/17.

If you were to agree today then 5 clear working days will be needed before the meeting can be held and so the earliest it could be held is 4/7/17. Our next scheduled Council meeting is 10/7/17.

The reason we held a member drop in session last week was to enable members to answer road by road and block by block questions with the relevant officers present as this is a very technical matter. 11 members attended of which 2 were Cabinet members. Cabinet were briefed additionally and Cllr Shahzad arranged a separate briefing for himself.

We will need to ensure that a discussion at a full council meeting is managed to ensure that it does not cause additional anxiety for residents in the Borough. We need to ensure that we retain the calm and professional environment in which the council, the fire brigade and other registered providers are managing this situation. We also need to ensure that information is shared in a way in which the public can understand it. Last week's member briefing and our web site give relevant information. I believe that our council has responded well locally alongside putting c30 officers into the response to Grenfell Tower.

This is a very important topic and all members will no doubt wish to be present at the Council meeting that discusses it and for the sake of 3 working days it is surely appropriate to have the discussion on a date that has been in all members' diaries for some time.

My suggestion to you is that we hold another drop in session for councillors followed by a collective discussion of a less technical and more tactical and policy nature. I also suggest that officers write all of this up and make it publicly available as a part of the papers for the full council meeting. We can do this later this week or on 3/7/17 when I know a lot of Councillors have a group meeting arranged anyway.

We can then have a major discussion at our programmed full council meeting based on the facts and a report circulated in advance. We have, in the past, had back bench sponsored debates and we could, with the agreement of members, suspend the rules around those to enable a fuller and longer discussion, have a panel of technical officers available for any questions and also ensure that Councillors are able to take a full part in the discussion for as long as is necessary. I would ensure relevant officer and also seek Fire Brigade attendance.

Clearly the decision to have the meeting before the 10/07/17 is your decision but I thought it transparent to share with all Councillors my advice to you. I hope no-one will see this advice as being unhelpful and obstructive. It is intended to be quite the opposite.

If you do agree to an earlier and special council meeting with the revised motion proposed by Cllr Duffy I still think it important that officers prepare a full report in advance, that we invite the fire brigade and technical officers and that we hold another drop in session to give members the opportunity to ask detailed and technical questions in advance.

Yours ever

Carolyn

Cc. All Councillors

Carolyn Downs
Brent Council
www.brent.gov.uk

From: Duffy, Councillor John

Sent: 26 June 2017 16:29

To: Downs, Carolyn <Carolyn.Downs@brent.gov.uk>

Cc: Chohan, Councillor Bhagwanji <Cllr.Bhagwanji.Chohan@brent.gov.uk>; All Councillors <AllCouncillors@brent.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Request for a special/extraordinary meeting of the council.

Sorry sent to fast now finished fat fingers

Sent from my iPhone

On 26 Jun 2017, at 18:21, Duffy, Councillor John <Cllr.John.Duffy@brent.gov.uk> wrote:

The CEO behaviour is disgraceful and out of touch with reality. She says it's not her decision but clearly she is trying to manipulate the Mayor and the situation.

She is well aware there was more than enough members support for a special meeting but she has decided to ignore that.

The Labour group should not stand by while she swans off to "gold"
(Personally I do not think they are doing a good job, the evacuation in Camden was a shambles) telling everybody else what to do, while she neglects Brent residents and thinks a bosses bulletin will suffice for our residents and local councillors. Her first loyalty should be to Brent.

Disgraceful behaviour and what I have come to expect from this CEO who is out of touch with Brent residents and seeks to enhance her own reputation instead allowing Brent residents information

Sent from my iPhone

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Yours ever

Carolyn

Cc. All Councillors

Carolyn Downs
Brent Council

www.brent.gov.uk

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/illegalrubbishdumping>
@Brent_Council #CrimeNotToCare

Want to get the latest Brent news and events, and have the chance to win £250 of London Designer Outlet shopping vouchers? [Sign up to YourBrent today!](#)

