



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Tuesday, 3 November 2009 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair), Councillor Blackman (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bessong, Beswick, Colwill, Dunwell, Sneddon and Wharton

Apologies were received from: Councillors Butt and Lorber

1. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

None declared.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2009 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising (if any)**

None.

4. **Deputations (if any)**

None.

5. **New Post - Assistant Director - Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Children and Families**

The committee agreed to take this item before the item on the polling district review.

John Christie (Director of Children and Families) introduced his report which concerned the creation and grading of a new post of 'Assistant Director – Building Schools for the Future (BSF)'. He explained that the committee were being asked to note the creation of the new post and to approve the grading of the post at Hay Grade 3.

John Christie explained that the Executive approved the submission of the Building Schools for the Future programme for approval to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in November 2008. He added that the scheme approved by the Executive provided for the appointment of a Project Director. He informed the committee that the grading of this post, due to the scale and complexity of the programme and the advice given by Partnership for Schools, had been assessed as Hay 3. It was noted that the job description and person specification for the post were attached as appendix two to the report. The Director

concluded by informing the committee that the council was due to meet with Partnership for Schools the following day and that they were very hopeful that they would be approved to enter the scheme. He emphasised that the post would not be filled until approval for entering the scheme had been given.

In the discussion which followed, it was asked whether the post was being advertised externally and if so whether this sent a message that Brent Council did not have the capability in the organisation to fill the post. In response, John Christie explained that given the nature of the post, the council needed the opportunity to recruit someone who had experience in Building Schools for the Future and that this would require the job to be advertised externally. Barbara Cleary (HR Consultant) explained that this would not prevent staff internally from applying for the post, but meant that external people could also apply. This, she added, was in keeping with the Council's current Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure.

It was noted that the recruitment process had already begun. John Christie explained that this was because of timing as it was expected that the council would be approved to enter the scheme in January 2010. He added that the post would not be filled without this committee's approval but that due to the timing it had been necessary to advertise the post in preparation. In response to an enquiry about the funding of the post, John Christie stated that the post would be funded by the council. He added that the funding for the post had been included in the Council's Revenue Budget for 2009/2010.

RESOLVED:

- i. that the creation of a new post of Assistant Director – Building Schools for the Future in the Children and Families Department be noted;
- ii. that the grading of the post at Hay Grade 3 be approved.

6. **Polling District Review**

Sean O'Sullivan (Electoral Services Manager) introduced the report, from the Democratic Services Manager, which proposed alterations to polling district boundaries to ensure that they would be brought into line with the new parliamentary constituency boundaries that would come into effect at the next General Election. He explained that further alterations to boundaries, in order to rationalise the existing layout, were also proposed in the report, as were changes to the names of polling districts to recognise the new constituencies.

The Electoral Services Manager drew attention to the Kilburn Ward recommendation that polling districts EK4, EK5 and EK6 be merged into a single district and that the polling station location for the new district be the Oxford Kilburn Club and the fact that Ward Councillor, Councillor Arnold, was of the opinion that the Salvation Army Goodwill Centre should be retained because of the distance from Oxford Kilburn Centre for some electors.

In the discussion which followed, the committee noted that change to a polling station sometimes meant that electors could have further to travel to a station and could cause some confusion for electors, but that this all needed to be weighed up

against the benefits of consolidation. The Electoral Services Manager assured the committees that polling stations would be clearly signposted and that every household concerned would be made aware of the change of polling stations.

A concern was raised about the possible confusion which could arise over the fact that electors from the Welsh Harp Ward would be voting in Fryent School which would mean that two parliamentary constituencies would be voting at the same place. The Kingsbury Town Football Club was put forward as a possible alternative and the Electoral Services Manager agreed to look into this.

A suggestion was made for Blenheim Gardens, in the Preston Ward, to be moved from NPR2 to NPR4 as electors pass NPR4 on their way to NPR2. The Electoral Services Manager agreed that this was a good idea and that Blenheim Gardens would be moved to NPR4. The committee noted that as it was only local elections that the council paid for, the amount of savings for the council from all the changes would be relatively small.

RESOLVED:

i) that the polling district boundaries be re-drawn as follows:

Alperton Ward

that polling districts SAL3 and SAL5 be combined into a single district and that Alperton Community School be the polling station for the new district.

Barnhill Ward

no change.

Brondesbury Park Ward

no change.

Dollis Hill Ward

no change.

Dudden Hill Ward

no change.

Fryent Ward

that polling districts NFR6 and NFR7 be combined and that Fryent School be retained as the polling station for the enlarged district.

Harlesden Ward

no change.

Kensal Green Ward

that polling districts EKG7 and EKG8 be merged with SKG5 and that the polling district for the new district be St Mark's Church Hall.

Kenton Ward

that NKE4 and NKE5 be merged into a single polling district and that St John's United Reformed Church be retained as the polling station for the new district.

Kilburn Ward

that polling districts EKi4, EKi5 and EKi6 be merged into a single district and that the polling station location for the new district be the Oxford Kilburn (OK) Club.

Mapesbury Ward

no change.

Northwick Park Ward

that NNP2 be merged with NNP4 and that the polling station for the new district be St Cuthbert's Church Hall.

Preston Ward

that Blenheim Gardens be moved from NPR2 to NPR4.

Queen's Park Ward

- a) that polling districts EQP3 and EQP7 be combined and that Kensal Rise School be retained as the polling station for the new district;
- b) that polling districts EQP4 and EQP5 be combined and that Salusbury School be the polling station for the new district.

Queensbury Ward

no change.

Stonebridge Ward

that EST7 be merged with SST1 and that the Children's Centre at Pitfield Way be retained as the polling station.

Sudbury Ward

- a) that polling districts NSU5 and SSU7 be combined into a single district and that St John's Evangelist Church Hall be retained as the polling station for the new district;

- b) that polling districts SSU3 and SSU6 be combined and that Sudbury Baptist Church Hall be the polling station for the new district.

Tokington Ward

that polling districts NTO6 and STO2 be combined into a single district and that St Joseph's Social Club be retained as the polling station for the new district.

Welsh Harp Ward

no change but that Kingsbury Town Football Club be considered as a possible alternative to Fryent School for the relevant Welsh Harp Ward electors.

Wembley Central Ward

no change but that further consideration be given to the boundaries of polling districts in this ward.

Willesden Green Ward

- a) that polling districts EWG1 and EWG2 be combined and that St Andrew and St Francis School be the polling station for the new district
- b) that polling districts EWG3 and EWG4 be combined and that St Mary Magdalen's School be the polling station for the new district;
- c) that polling districts EWG5, SWG6 and EWG7 be combined and that Kings Hall be the polling station for the new district.
- ii) that the polling district names be amended to reflect the new parliamentary constituencies following the principle that the first letter denote the parliamentary constituency and the next two the ward in which it is situated as indicated in the report;

7. Appointments to Sub-Committees/Outside Bodies (if any)

RESOLVED:-

that approval be given to the following changes to committee membership:-

General Purposes Licensing Sub-Committee

Delete Councillor Joseph (VC)

Insert Councillor Eniola (VC)

Staff Appeals Sub-Committee A

Delete Councillor Joseph (VC)
Insert Councillor Colwill (VC)

Insert Councillor Eniola as 1st alternate to Councillor Colwill.

RESOLVED:-

that approval be given to the following changes to outside body membership:-

London Councils Economic Development Forum

Delete Councillor Steel
Insert Councillor Detre

Learning Partnership Disability Forum

Delete Councillor Mistry
Insert Councillor Colwill

8. **Any Other Urgent Business**

There was none.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee was scheduled for the 24th November 2009

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm

A JOHN
Chair