



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday 8 December 2016 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Colwill, Hirani, Mashari and Southwood

Also present:

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors W Mitchell Murray

1. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 May 2016 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Deputations (If Any)

There were no deputations received.

5. Calculation of Council Tax Base 2017/18

Conrad Hall (the Council's Chief Finance Officer) presented the report which set out and explained in depth, the Council Tax Base calculations to be used for 2017/18. The Committee heard that the level of Council Tax Base set was a fixed formula of multiplying the number of Band D equivalent properties in the Borough by the estimated rate of collection. It was noted that the report had been prepared in line with regulations which required the Council Tax Base to be set by 31 January prior to the start of the financial year.

Conrad Hall highlighted that the Council's ability to collect Council Tax funds had continued to improve each year. He noted that this had allowed scope for the collection rate assumption to be increased slightly for 2017/18.

Members of the Committee welcomed the report and the continued improvement in the rate of collection. It was noted that the Council should aim to work with those residents having difficulty paying their Council Tax in full rather than take Court

action against them from the onset of the case. It was felt that the Council's plans for a new in-house bailiff service may assist with this and give the Council greater control over the level of enforcement action required.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The content of the report be noted;
- (ii) The collection rate for the Council Tax for 2017/18 be set at 97.63%; and
- (iii) In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax base for 2017/18 be set at £93,319.

6. Representation of Political Groups

Councillor Butt drew Members' attention to paragraph 3.7 within the Representation of Political Groups report and it was **RESOLVED** that seats on the General Purposes' Sub-Committees be allocated as follows:

Committee	Sub Committee	Size of Sub-Committee	Labour (88.88%)	Conservative (6.35%)	Brent Conservative (3.17%)
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	7	6	1	0
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0
	Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0

7. Appointments to Sub-Committees / Outside Bodies

Councillor Butt drew Members' attention to the nominations for appointments on the General Purposes Committee and the General Purposes Sub-Committees and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, be appointed as a substitute Member of the General Purposes Committee;
- (ii) Councillor Davidson be appointed as a substitute Member of the General Purposes Committee;
- (iii) Councillor Aden be appointed as a Member of the Pensions Sub-Committee;

- (iv) Councillor A Choudry be appointed as a Member of the Pensions Sub-Committee;
- (v) Councillor Davidson be appointed as a Member of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee;
- (vi) Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, be appointed as a substitute Member of the Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee;
- (vii) Councillor Colwill, be appointed as a Member of the Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee; and
- (viii) Councillor Colwill, be appointed as a Member of the Staff Appeals Sub-Committee.

8. Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm

M BUTT
Chair