

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

At an **ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT** held at Brent Town Hall Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex on **Monday, 18th May 2009 at 7.15pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor O'Sullivan

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Singh

COUNCILLORS:

Allie	Hirani
Ahmed	Jackson
Anwar	John
Arnold	Jones
Mrs Bacchus	Joseph
Baker	Kansagra
Bessong	J Long
Beswick	Lorber
Blackman	Malik
D Brown	Matthews
V Brown	Mistry
Butt	J Moher
Castle	R Moher
Clues	Moloney
Colwill	Motley
Corcoran	CJ Patel
Crane	H B Patel
Cummins	H M Patel
Detre	Powney
Dunn	Ms Shaw
Dunwell	Singh
Eniola	Sneddon
Farrell	Steel
Mrs Fernandes	Tancred
Fox	Thomas
Green	Van Colle
Gupta	Van Kalwala
Hashmi	Wharton

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chavda, Coughlin and Mendoza.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

At this meeting there were none.

3. **Changes to the Constitution**

Members considered a report proposing changes to the Council's Constitution following the annual review of the operation of the Constitution.

A view was put forward that the Council's Constitution did not enable the majority view of councillors to prevail because of the constitutional position held by the Executive. Whilst recognising the legal framework within which the Council operated, some members felt this situation needed to be changed. However, it was submitted that such representations needed to be made to the Government if a change in the legal position of the Executive was being sought. In the meantime it was argued the Executive had a responsibility to take decisions it felt were best for the borough.

Councillor Blackman moved a motion proposing changes to the constitution. He explained that he was proposing the change concerning removing the requirement for the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee and its sub-committees to be politically balanced because this could allow a member appointed to the committee not serving on the sub-committees and thereby not fulfilling their responsibilities. When put to the vote Councillor Blackman's motion was CARRIED.

Councillor Dunwell moved a motion seeking to add an additional elected member to the membership of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees, which when put to the vote was declared LOST.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the amendments to the conditions on the exercise of chief officers' delegated powers to award contracts and agreements as set out in appendix 1 to the report be agreed;
- (ii) that the Director of Housing and Community Care be nominated to be the responsible person for the new statutory complaints procedure relating to Social Services;
- (iii) that the recent minor changes made to the Constitution by the Borough Solicitor using her delegated powers be noted;

- (iv) that the size of the General Purposes Committee be reduced to 10 seats;
- (v) that the size of the Planning Committee be increased to 12 seats;
- (vi) that the requirement in the Constitution for the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee and its sub-committees to be politically balanced be removed.

4. The Members' Allowance Scheme

Members considered a report from the Borough Solicitor recommending changes to the Brent Members' Allowance Scheme.

Councillor Sneddon moved an amendment to the recommendations which sought agreement to suspending the payment of any allowance to any member who received a custodial sentence for the duration of that sentence. This was in recognition of the fact that a member in this position would not be able to carry out their duties as a councillor. When put to the vote the amendment was LOST.

Councillor John moved and Councillor Blackman seconded a motion rejecting any changes being made to the Members' Allowance Scheme at this time except for providing for a payment to be made to the third independent member on the Standards Committee. In moving the motion it was stated that there had been no prior consultation on the recommended changes and that more consideration was required before making any changes. However, it was felt that now was not the time Members wanted to consider the matter. When put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

that this Council believes that now is not the right time to be discussing Members Allowances other than to regularise the status of independent members of the Standards Committee. The Council notes that none of the recommendations in the report would make any difference to the overall spend. Accordingly no changes be made to the Members' Allowance Scheme other than to increase the number of allowances for the independent members of the Standards Committee to three, on the basis that further changes to the scheme should not be made during the municipal year 2009/10.

5. Review of Representation of Political Groups on Committees

The Council was required to review and determine the representation of the political groups on committees and allocate committee places to political groups accordingly at, or as soon as practicable after, its

Annual meeting. The report before Members dealt with the rules to be applied on the allocation of places on committees established by the Council.

Councillor Blackman moved an amendment pursuant to the decisions taken under item 3 above which had the effect of changing the allocation of seats on the General Purposes, Planning and Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing Committees. When put to the vote this was CARRIED.

Councillor Dunwell sought to amend the allocation of seats but this was not supported.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the size of the committees to be established by the Council and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups be as follows:

Committee	Liberal Democrats	Labour	Conservatives	Democratic Conservatives
Planning	5	4	3	-
General Purposes	4	3	2	1
Audit	1	1	1	
Totals	10	8	6	1
Overview and Scrutiny	3	3	2	-
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny*	3	3	2	-
Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing	6	5	4	-
Standards	1	1	1	-

*plus 4 voting co-opted members and 2 non voting co-opted members

- (ii) to note that the allocation of seats on the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee will be:

Liberal Democrats	Labour	Conservatives	Democratic Conservatives
6	5	4	-

- (iii) to note that the political balance on sub-committees will be reviewed at the first meetings of the General Purposes Committee, Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. The Executive

Councillor Bessong moved a motion to appoint an Executive.

RESOLVED:

that the following Members be appointed to the Executive:

Councillor	Portfolio
Lorber (Leader and Chair)	Corporate Strategy and Policy Co-ordination
Blackman (Deputy Leader and Vice Chair)	Finance and Corporate Resources
Allie	Housing and Customer Services
D Brown	Transport and Highways
Colwill	Adults, Health and Social Care
Detre	Regeneration and Economic Development
Matthews	Crime Prevention and Public Safety
Sneddon	Human Resources and Diversity, Local Democracy and Consultation
Van Colle	Environment, Planning and Culture
Wharton	Children and Families

7. Appointments to committees and other bodies

Nominations for the places on committees and other bodies, including chairs and vice chairs, and outside bodies were tabled.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and membership of committees be appointed as set out in Appendix A to these minutes;
- (ii) that John Mann and Rochelle Gelman be re-appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Standards Committee;
- (iii) that the following voting co-optees be appointed to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2009/10:

Mr R Lorenzato	Roman Catholic Church
Mrs G Bondzi-Simpson	Parent Governor, Primary
Mr Akisanya	Parent Governor, Secondary
Reverend P Stone	Church of England
- (iv) that Dr J Levison, representing the Jewish faith, and Mrs Shalla Tabi, representing the Muslim faith, be appointed as non-voting

co-opted members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2009/10;

- (v) that appointments/nominations to outside bodies be made as set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

8. **Municipal Calendar of Meetings 2009/10**

The Council had before them a draft Calendar of Meetings for 2009/10 which reflected the structure contained in the Council's Constitution. Amendments to the draft calendar were suggested in a supplementary report tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the draft calendar of meetings for 2009/10, as amended by the supplementary report tabled at the meeting, be agreed;
- (ii) to note that meetings of Full Council are scheduled to take place on the following dates:-

13th July 2009
14th September 2009
12th October 2009
23rd November 2009 (first reading of budget)
25th January 2010
1st March 2010 (Council Tax and budget setting)
24th May 2010 (Annual Meeting)
26th May 2010 (Constitution and appointments)

- (ii) that the Democratic Services Manager be authorised to make any subsequent alterations deemed necessary to the calendar during the course of the municipal year, subject to the usual consultation.

9. **Children and Young People's Plan (2009-2011)**

The Council received the Children and Young Persons Plan which described the ambitions and objectives for children and young people's services in Brent over the next two years (2009-11).

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the priorities set out in the plan be endorsed and the plan be approved for publishing;
- (ii) that the plan was made available for public and partner consultation with the formal consultation period ending on 24th April 2009 be noted;

- (iii) that the plan was further discussed at the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29th April 2009 when the following was requested, be noted:
- that the role of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be recognised in the Governance section of the Plan,
 - the Teacher's Panel requested that their contribution to the CYPP be formally acknowledged in this section, and
 - that on agreement to incorporate these comments the Committee approved the priorities and agreed to recommend the CYPP for approval by Full Council.

10. **Local Development Framework**

The Council considered a report on the Council's Planning Service's public consultation exercises carried out in 2008/09 on the draft versions of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the Site Specific Allocations document.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the proposed Submission version of the LDF Core Strategy (Appendix 2 of the report) and the Site Specific Allocations (Appendix 3 of the report) documents be approved for consultation and submission following the timetable set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) that the inclusion of the Infrastructure and Investment Framework be agreed for the purposes of public consultation as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

J O'SULLIVAN
Mayor