

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, 21st May 2007 at 7.15pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor H B Patel

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Fox

COUNCILLORS:

Ahmed	John
Anwar	Jones
Arnold	Joseph
Mrs Bacchus	Kansagra
Baker	J Long
Beswick	Lorber
Blackman	Malik
D Brown	Matthews
V Brown	Mendoza
Butt	Mistry
Castle	Moloney
Chavda	Motley
Clues	O'Sullivan
Colwill	Pagnamenta
Crane	CJ Patel
Cummins	H M Patel
Detre	Powney
Dunn	Singh
Dunwell	Sneddon
Eniola	Steel
Farrell	Tancred
Hashmi	Tullett
Hirani	Wharton
Jackson	

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bessong, Coughlin, Corcoran, Mrs Fernandes, Leaman, D Long, J Moher, R Moher, Shaw, Thomas and Van Colle.

Council asked for its best wishes for a speedy recovery to be sent to Councillor Dorman Long.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

At this meeting there were none.

3. **Proposed Revisions to Brent's Constitution**

The Borough Solicitor introduced her report which set out proposed changes to the Constitution following consideration by the Constitutional Working Group (CWG). It was pointed out that some changes were required to be made as a result of legislative change.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the financial limits in the property delegations set for the Head of Property and Asset Management be increased to the amounts shown:
Rental £100,000
Acquisition/disposal £ 300,000;
- (ii) that authority to set the fees for applications under the Gambling Act 2005 be delegated to the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee and to note the other changes required to be made to the Constitution by the Gambling Act 2005;
- (iii) that the name of the Disability and Mental Health Forum be changed to Brent Disabled User Forum;
- (iv) that all other changes to the Constitution recommended in the report from the Borough Solicitor and/or shown in the appendix to the report be agreed;
- (v) that it be noted that Members' allowances are dealt with in a separate report to Council;
- (vi) that it be noted that a further report on neighbourhood working may be brought before Members in due course;
- (vii) that it be noted that a further report on the recent changes to the Model Code of Conduct will be brought before Members in due course.

4. **The Members' Allowance Scheme**

The Borough Solicitor introduced her report which set out recommended changes to the Brent Members' Allowances Scheme, following consideration by the Constitution Working Group (CWG).

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the following changes to the Brent Members' Allowances Scheme be made to take effect from 1st June 2007:
 - a. increase the Basic Allowances by 3.5% from £7,245 to £7,498;
 - b. reduce the allowances for the members of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committees from £3,500 to £1,987;
 - c. abolish the allowance for the Chair of the General Purposes Licensing Sub-Committee;
 - d. award an allowance of £2,981 to members of the Planning Committee;
 - e. award an allowance of £2,981 to members of the Adoption and Permanency Panel;
 - f. award an allowance of £2,981 to members of the Fostering Panel;
 - g. award an allowance of £1,987 to the Chair of the Audit Committee;
 - h. reduce the allowance for the chairs of the Service User Consultative Fora from £4,492 to £1,987;
- (ii) that it be noted that the Youth Matters 2 and the Children Forum were abolished and the Youth Parliament was created by Full Council in November 2006 and that an allowance of £1,987 be awarded to the co-chair of the Youth Parliament;
- (iii) that the indexation provisions by reference to the LGPS be retained for a further 4 years;
- (iv) that it be noted that a further report on Members' allowances will be submitted to the next meeting of the Council to deal with further changes to the scheme currently being considered by the CWG.

5. **Review of Representation of Political Groups on Committees and Appointments to Committees**

The Council is 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.

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	Lib Dem	Lab	Cons
Planning	4	3	3
General Purposes	5	4	2
Audit	1	1	1
Totals	10	8	6
Overview and Scrutiny	3	3	2
Children and Families	3	3	2
Overview and Scrutiny*			
Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing	6	5	4

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

- (ii) that the appointments to the Northwick Park Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be made on the basis of one member from the Liberal Democrat Group and one member from the Labour Group;
- (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 on the following basis:

Sub-Committee	Lib Dem	Lab	Cons
General Purposes Licensing	2	2	1
Pension Fund	3	2	2
Senior Staff Appointments	2	2	1
Staff Appeals A & B	2	2	1
Schools Disciplinary	2	2	1
Health Select	3	3	2
Performance and Finance Select	3	3	2
Forward Plan Select	3	3	2

Budget Panel	3	2	1
Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing x3	1	1	1

NOTE: the appointment of chairs and vice-chairs and members and alternates to all committees is dealt with under minute no. 7 below.

6. The Executive

Councillor Sneddon 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
Clues	Human Resources and Diversity, Local Democracy and Consultation
Colwill	Adults, Health and Social Care
Matthews	Crime Prevention and Public Safety
O'Sullivan	Regeneration and Economic Development
Van Colle	Environment, Planning and Culture
Wharton	Children and Families

7. Appointments to committees and other bodies

Councillors Blackman and John moved a motion appointing chairs and vice chairs and additional councillors for the Service User Consultative Forums.

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 2007/08;

Mr R Lorenzato	Roman Catholic Church
Mrs G Bondzi-Simpson	Parent Governor, Primary
Dr N Kumar	Parent Governor, Secondary
Reverend P Stone	Church of England

- (iv) that Dr J Levison, representing the Jewish faith, and Mr Y Al-Khoei, 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 2007/08;
- (v) that appointments/nominations to outside bodies be made as set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

8. **Municipal Calendar of Meetings 2007/08**

The Council had before them a draft Calendar of Meetings for 2007/08 which reflected the structure contained in the Council's Constitution. Amendments to the draft calendar were moved in the name of Councillor Sneddon.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the draft calendar of meetings for 2007/08 as amended below be agreed, subject to any further changes found necessary to make prior to publication of the Council's diary:
 - Standards Committee to meet on 4th July 2007 and not 27th June
 - SUCF Chairs and Lead Managers to meet on 31st January 2008 and not 15th January
 - ACF Chair and Lead Managers to meet on 7th May 2008 and not 30th April
 - Kilburn and Kensal ACF to meet on 6th May 2008 and not 29th April
 - to note that the GLA Elections and Count will take place on 1st and 2nd May 2008 respectively and not 8th and 9th May.
- (ii) to note that meetings of full Council are scheduled to take place on the following dates:-

25th June 2007
 10th September 2007
 29th October 2007
 26th November 2007 (First reading of budget)
 21st January 2008
 3rd March 2008 (Council Tax and budget setting)
 14th May 2008 (Annual Meeting)
 19th May 2008 (Constitution and appointments)

The meeting ended at 8.03pm

HB PATEL
Mayor