

## **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, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7.15pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Fox

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor O'Sullivan

### **COUNCILLORS:**

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Crane, Dunn and Joseph.

2. **Announcement**

The Mayor announced with sadness the death of former councillor Cyril McGovern.

As a mark of respect the Council stood for a minute's silence.

3. **Seating Plan**

Councillor Colwill moved that as a result of Councillors Dunwell and Malik leaving the Conservative Group they should take seats away from the other Conservative members.

RESOLVED:

that Councillors Dunwell and Malik move to seats 58 and 59 for this meeting of Council.

Councillors Dunwell and Malik duly moved to their reallocated seats.

4. **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Bessong moved a procedural motion relating to the item - Award of Contract for a Cook on Route Meals Service. Upon reaching the item Members re-considered the procedural motion and following clarification of what was being proposed, agreed it as follows -

RESOLVED:

that in respect of Summons item 9, Award of Contract for a Cook on Route Meals Service, the time allowed to debate the item be up to 30 minutes with members speaking for up to 3 minutes each in accordance with the usual rules for debate at the conclusion of which the Council to vote on any alternative recommendations to the Executive that may have been moved.

5. **Declarations of Interests**

At this meeting there were none.

6. **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.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the changes to the composition of the Standards Committee, as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 be noted, and to note that the Standards Committee will, at its first meeting, appoint two sub-committees to be known as a) the Standards (Initial Assessment) Sub-Committee and b) the Standards (Review) Sub-Committee;
- (ii) that the Constitution be amended so that alternates may be appointed to the Standards Committee and sub-committees for both elected members and independent members;
- (iii) that the Constitution be amended so that more than two independent members may be appointed to the Standards Committee;
- (iv) that the allowance for an independent member of the Standards Committee be increased to £400 per annum plus an additional £100 per meeting for any sub-committee meetings that independent members attend, subject to officers identifying appropriate budgetary provision;
- (v) that Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in relation to the sealing of contracts, Framework Agreements and the provision of goods and services be amended as shown in appendix 1 to the report;
- (vi) that the terms of reference for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Health, as shown in appendix 1 to the report, be agreed;.
- (vii) that the limit on the amount of the grant that officers can make in relation to funds received from the Edward Harvist Trust be increased from £5,000 per annum to £7,000 per annum;
- (viii) that all other changes to the Constitution as shown in appendix 1 to the report be agreed;
- (ix) that the Borough Solicitor be delegated the power to make any consequential changes required to be made to the Constitution as a result of the amendments agreed by members.

**7. 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.

The Borough Solicitor reported that as a result of Councillors Dunwell and Malik leaving the Conservative Group and forming a group to be known as the Democratic Conservative Group and one member being suspended from the Liberal Democrat Group, the political balance of the Council was now:-

Liberal Democrat 26 seats  
 Labour 20 seats  
 Conservatives 14 seats  
 Democratic Conservatives 2 seats  
 Other 1

This affected the political balance on committees to the effect that the number of seats allocated to the Conservative Group on Planning Committee was reduced by 1 and that seat was to be allocated to the Democratic Conservatives.

**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:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservatives</b>	<b>Democratic Conservatives</b>
Planning	4	3	2	1
General Purposes	5	4	2	-
Audit	1	1	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
Overview and Scrutiny	3	3	2	-
Children and Families	3	3	2	-
Overview and Scrutiny*				
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 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:

## 8. The Executive

Councillor Bessong moved a motion to appoint an Executive.

Councillor Dunwell moved a motion to appoint Councillors Malik and himself to the Executive in place of Councillors Detre and Van Colle. The Council first voted on Councillor Bessong's motion which was CARRIED. Consequently Councillor Dunwell's motion fell.

RESOLVED:

that the following Members be appointed to the Executive:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
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

## 9. Appointments to committees and other bodies

Nomination lists 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 2008/09:

Mr R Lorenzato	Roman Catholic Church
Mrs G Bondzi-Simpson	Parent Governor, Primary
Mr Akisanya	Parent Governor, Secondary

- (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 2008/09;
- (v) that appointments/nominations to outside bodies be made as set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

## 10. **Municipal Calendar of Meetings 2008/09**

The Council had before them a draft Calendar of Meetings for 2008/09 which reflected the structure contained in the Council's Constitution. Amendments to the draft calendar were moved in the name of Councillor Bessong.

### RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the draft calendar of meetings for 2008/09, as amended below, be agreed:
  - Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board to meet on 24<sup>th</sup> July and not 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008
  - Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board to meet on 1<sup>st</sup> December and not 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008
  - Black and Minority Ethnic Service User Forum to meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009
  - Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to meet on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009
  - Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 to be deleted
  - Performance and Finance Select Committee to meet on 8<sup>th</sup> December and not on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008
  - Staff Awards evening on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008
- (ii) to note that meetings of Full Council are scheduled to take place on the following dates:-
  - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008
  - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008
  - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008
  - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (First reading of budget)
  - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 (Council Tax and budget setting)
  - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (Annual Meeting)
  - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (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.

**11. By Election Result held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

RESOLVED:-

that the election of Councillor Simon Green to represent Queen's Park Ward be noted.

**12. Award of Contract for a Cook on Route Meals Service**

This item was reported to Full Council by the Executive in pursuance of standing order 22, following receipt by the Democratic Services Manager of a notice signed by more than 10 Members referring it to Council.

Councillor R Moher asked why the decision had been taken to award the contract to a company with what she viewed as having a poor record of service delivery. She stated that the Council should be looking to ensure the provision of a good service not just a cheap one. Councillor Moher moved to defer a decision on awarding the contract until the Transport Review had been reported on and considered by Full Council.

It was pointed out that full consideration of the item by Overview and Scrutiny had not been possible because the Lead Member had not been in attendance. There were concerns that the priority had been to save money rather than ensure a quality service when letting the contract. Given that the Transport Review was due to be produced in June it was questioned why a decision on the contract could not be deferred. Questions were asked about the operation of the service such as what would happen if delivery of the meals was delayed due to traffic conditions. Reference was made to consideration of this item by Forward Plan Select Committee when it was felt to be clear that the results of an earlier pilot showed that there had been cross-contamination of food, dirty conditions and a lack of assistance by the contractor. The lack of effective competition at the tender stage was felt to be too important to ignore and another six month's trial was needed to be sure the contract could be properly delivered.

In response it was submitted that the new contractual arrangements brought clarity of responsibility for the delivery of the service and that it was more appropriate for the Transport Review to have to take account of the contract rather than the other way round. The implications for Brent Transport Services were marginal and that service would be facing other major changes. It was stated that a decision on the contract was needed now so that the Transport Review could be considered in light of that. The Lead Member for Adults, Health and Social Care, Councillor Colwill, responded by urging members to

endorse the award of the contract which he felt offered the chance to improve the service. He submitted that the questions included in the reasons for referring the item to Full Council had been answered at the Forward Plan Select Committee and therefore there was no reason to further delay a decision on the matter. The Council stood to save £528,000 in a full year from the contract and this represented good value for money. The contract followed a method used by other councils and had been subject to a full appraisal. He submitted that the award of the contract should be confirmed.

The motion moved by Councillor R Moher asking that the Executive defer taking a decision on the matter until the outcome of the Transport Review had been reported was put to the vote and declared LOST.

RESOLVED:

that no alternative recommendations be submitted to the Executive.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

R FOX  
Mayor