

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)
Wednesday, 24th November 2004 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair), Councillor Coughlin (Vice-Chair) and Councillors R Colwill, Kagan, D Long, H B Patel and R S Patel.

Councillor Duffin was also present.

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors R Blackman and Lyon.

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 8th November 2004

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th November 2004 be approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Deputations

None.

5. Statement of Accounts 2003/2004

The Council's external auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) had reported their opinion on the 2003/2004 Statement of Accounts. There were no qualifications. The report now before Members asked that the revised accounts be noted including the amendments to those accounts originally submitted to General Purposes Committee on 4th August 2004

Councillor HB Patel sought clarification on various items presented in the Statement of Accounts including capital funding, Pension Fund liabilities, debtors and long term borrowing. The Deputy Director of Finance, Peter Stachniewski, clarified the issues that were raised by the Councillor.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Schedule of Significant Amendments at Appendix 1 to the report from the Director of Finance be noted;

- (ii) that the audited 2003/2004 Statement of Accounts at Appendix 2 to the report be noted;
- (iii) that the officers of Corporate Finance be thanked for their exemplary work and for having again completed the audit ahead of the statutory deadline.

6. **Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure**

The Pensions Act 1995 required that the trustees or managers of a pension scheme have in place a two-tier procedure for resolving disputes. The Committee had before them a report detailing changes to the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure brought about by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2004 and informing Members of the two-tier procedure in place in the Council. The report also asked Members to agree that the Director of Finance have power to designate "Specified Persons" for the purposes of stage 1 of the procedure and to determine how decisions under stage 2 of the procedure will be made.

The committee agreed an amended version of recommendation (iii) in the report. Debra Norman (Legal Services) explained that that new recommendation described the authority to be delegated to the Deputy Director of Corporate Services in determining 'stage 2' applications in greater detail for the purposes of clarity..

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the current procedure in appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) that the Director of Finance be authorised to nominate additional or alternative individuals to be "Specified Officers" under Regulation 98(5) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 (the "Regulations") for the purposes of the Internal Dispute Resolution procedure from time to time;
- (iii) that authority be delegated to the Deputy Director of Corporate Services to determine "stage 2" applications under regulation 102 of the Regulations, on behalf of the Council, as Administering Authority and as employer in the case of discretionary matters covered by the Local Government (Early termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2000 and earlier equivalent regulations.

7. **Polling Districts Review**

The Committee received a report summarising responses to consultation following the June elections on the current polling district

arrangements and seeking consideration of changes that would benefit electors in Brent.

Sean O'Sullivan (Electoral Services Manager) noted the comments made by the Councillor Kagan regarding the location of the polling station for electors in Frontenac.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Magnolia Court transfer from polling district NBA2 to NBA1;
- (ii) that the existing arrangements for polling districts SBA5 and SBA6 be retained subject to St Davids Close transferring to SBA5 district and the boundary line between the two districts being re-drawn to take account of redevelopment in the area;
- (iii) that polling districts EBP3 and EBP4 be merged into one district;
- (iv) that EDU4 district be divided into two districts by drawing a boundary line along the rear of the houses at the western side of Park Avenue North;
- (v) that NFR district be divided into two districts as proposed in the map at Appendix 5 and a new polling place established on Wakeman's Hill Avenue;
- (vi) that the boundary between EMA1 and EMA2 districts be re-drawn as suggested on the map at Appendix 6 of the report;
- (vii) that the two polling districts NPR4 and NPR5 be merged into one;
- (viii) that NWH2 district be divided as suggested on the map at Appendix 8.

8. Minutes of Sub-Committee

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the Brent Pension Fund Sub-committee heard on 28th September 2004 be noted.

9. Sub-Committee Membership Changes

None.

10. Appointments to Outside Bodies

None.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that it be noted the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee would take place on Wednesday, 23rd March 2005.

12. **Any Other Urgent Business**

None.

The meeting ended at 7:55 pm

A JOHN
Chair

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