

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Castle (Vice Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Bessong (alternate), Beswick (alternate), Detre, Dunwell, R Moher and Thomas.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sneddon.

**1. Minute Silence**

Members of the Committee observed a minute silence in memory of the Committee's Chair, Councillor Dorman Long who passed away on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

**2. Change of Order of Business**

Councillor Castle commented on Councillor Dorman Long's sad death and reflected on his long service with the Council for over 33 years. He reflected on Councillor Dorman Long's contribution as a ward councillor in Roundwood Ward, Wembley Central Ward, Church End Ward and Stonebridge Ward and commented on the senior positions in which he had served, particularly during turbulent times as Leader of the Council between 1987 and 1990. Councillor Dorman Long's service at Brent was characterised by diligence, enthusiasm and integrity and he would therefore be greatly missed.

In the circumstances the Vice Chair proposed that the items of business on the agenda be deferred to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which was scheduled to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

RESOLVED:-

that given the recent death of Councillor Dorman Long, the items of business on the agenda be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

**3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

There were none.

**4. Minutes of Last Meetings**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007 be received and approved as accurate records.

**5. Matters Arising**

There were none.

## 6. **Appointments to Sub-Committee**

Councillor Castle proposed a number of changes to the Liberal Democrat appointments to the Forward Plan Select Committee as set out below:-

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Councillor Valerie Brown replace Councillor Corcoran as a Member of the Forward Plan Select Committee;
- (ii) that Councillor Bessong be appointed as first alternate for Councillor Valerie Brown on the Forward Plan Select Committee; and
- (iii) that Councillor Shah be appointed as second alternate for Councillor Valerie Brown on the Forward Plan Select Committee.

## 7. **Deputations (if any)**

There were none.

## 8. **Tributes to the late Councillor Dorman Long**

Councillor Beswick paid tribute to Councillor Dorman Long for his selfless and long standing commitment to the Council and reflected on their shared Afro Caribbean origins. It was stressed that Councillor Dorman Long served with the Council during turbulent and often difficult times yet he remained committed to making a difference to residents' lives and promoting a more efficient and effective organisation. Commenting on Councillor Dorman Long's background in local government and his particular interest in HR and personnel issues, it was noted that he had retained a very real sense of appreciation for staff across the Council and of the issues affecting them. It was noted that Councillor Dorman Long recently reminisced about, and praised officers for their hard work, dedication and support. Whilst a full tribute would be paid at the meeting of Full Council on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007, Councillor Beswick felt that a tribute should be paid to the late Chair of Overview and Scrutiny for his contributions to developing the organisation and more specifically to promote and develop the overview and scrutiny function in Brent.

Councillor Detre served with Councillor Dorman Long between 1976 and 1986, specifically on the Housing Committee. Councillor Detre stated that Councillor Dorman Long brought great dignity to the Council and was one of the first Afro Caribbean councillors to be elected to serve the borough. Councillor Detre was proud to have known and worked with Councillor Dorman Long.

Councillor Thomas was also proud to have known and worked with Councillor Dorman Long. He suggested that history would reflect the impact that Councillor Dorman Long had on the development of both the organisation and the borough and would reflect his commitment to improving people's lives. Councillor Thomas explained that upon moving to Brent from Newham, he had

benefited from Councillor Dorman Long's knowledge and experience in terms of securing a political nomination in the borough. Thereafter they served together as ward councillors for 8 years in Church End, during which time Councillor Dorman Long was like a mentor. Councillor Thomas reflected on Councillor Long's impressive memory and his ability to refer in detail to countless events, people and places.

Councillors Dorman Long and Thomas had served together on Fortune Gate Community Housing Board and during this time Councillor Dorman Long was able to broker compromise on even the most contentious of issues and in the most difficult of circumstances. Councillor Dorman Long never rushed and took time to consider, reflect and explain everything. Commenting on Councillor Dorman Long's Afro-Caribbean origins, Councillor Thomas stressed that his ethnic background was particularly significant as he was possibly the longest serving BME councillor on record.

A tribute was then paid to Councillor Dorman Long's family who had supported him in making such a lengthy and much appreciated commitment to the Council.

Councillor Dunwell stated that his professional relationship with Councillor Dorman Long was based primarily on their interactions before he became a councillor in May 2006. However, he stressed that Councillor Dorman Long had always come across as a fair minded man of the people and that he was an example to all given his long service.

Councillor Bessong explained that having become a new councillor in May 2006, he had not known Councillor Dorman Long particularly well. However, he appreciated Councillor Dorman Long for his advice and encouragement upon his arrival at the Council. It was noted that Councillor Dorman's Long's death represented a great loss to the borough as a result of his long service as an experienced BME councillor.

Councillor R Moher agreed with the many tributes paid to Councillor Dorman Long and explained that as a result of his wonderful sense of humour he did not take anything personally. As a result of these fine characteristics, Councillor Dorman Long was able to stand firm in the nicest possible way, even during particularly turbulent or difficult times. Councillor R Moher referred to Councillor Dorman Long as a quiet, interesting and intelligent man who was prepared to listen to people – a skill that not everyone possessed. As a result, Councillor Dorman Long had been a great ward councillor and he would be greatly missed.

## 9. **Date of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee take place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

10. **Any Other Urgent Business**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 7.56 pm

A CASTLE  
Vice-Chair in the Chair