

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
24 August 2022 (Times Not Specified)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group	Osman Dervish, Jason Frost, David Taylor, Damian White and Ray Best
Havering Residents' Group	Ray Morgon (Chairman), Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson and Gerry O'Sullivan
Labour Group	Mandy Anderson and Keith Darvill
East Havering Residents Group	Martin Goode

All decisions were taken with no votes against.

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillors Joshua Chapman (Ray Best substituting) and Gillian Ford (Gerry O'Sullivan substituting).

14 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 June and 10 August were before the Committee for approval. It was noted that Councillors G Ford and Morgon were present at the meeting held on 22 June.

The minutes of both meetings were otherwise agreed as a correct record.

16 OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee agreed to adopt the new procedure for appointments to Outside Bodies, as set out in the report. Appendix 1 to these Minutes lists the Non-Executive appointments that were agreed at Governance Committee and subsequently at Council on 7th September 2022.

It was agreed that details of the remaining vacancies should be circulated to all Councillors. In the event that more than one Member expressed interest in being appointed, the organisation would be invited to select the most suitable candidate. It was hoped that in this way, expertise and experience could be more closely matched with the role and purpose of the organisation.

The Committee agreed that several organisations should be removed from the list of formal Council appointments to Outside Bodies (attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes). It was noted that these organisations could still benefit from Councillor involvement and officers would continue to circulate details of any representation that was required. However, future nominations would not need to be ratified by Governance Committee and, in the unlikely event that it is required, Councillors sitting on these organisations would not be able to avail themselves of indemnity insurance cover. In addition to the organisations listed, officers were asked to clarify the position with the Havering Theatre Trust and Romford Combined Charities, to establish whether or not the Constitutions and Terms of Reference for these two bodies would allow for appointments to be made independently of the Council process.

17 **CONSTITUTION REVIEW**

A report presented to the committee a number of changes to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer under her powers as well as a series of other changes that would require the approval of full Council. The report also recommended that a cross party working group be established to undertake a full review of the Constitution.

It was noted that the proposed Constitution wording re the People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee would need amending slightly at paragraph 4.4 as it was not mandatory that members of the Sub-Committee would automatically become members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

It was hoped to complete any review of the Constitution by the end of the municipal year and periodic reviews of the Constitution would follow after that point. It was felt that this would give an opportunity to modernise the Constitution and make it clearer.

It was **AGREED**:

- 1. That the changes made by the Monitoring Officer in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.**
- 2. That the proposed changes to the Constitution as shown in appendix 2 of the report be approved and recommended to Full Council.**
- 3. That a cross party working group (“the Constitution Review Working Group”) be established with a membership as recommended in paragraph 1.5 of the report, to undertake a full review of the Constitution.**

18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was agreed that the public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it was likely that, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

19 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

The Committee noted further information it had requested about the appointment process for the Deputy Director – Legal and Governance position.

Chairman