

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
Havering Town Hall  
5 July 2011 (7.30pm – 7.50pm)**

**Present:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

<b>Conservative Group</b>	Frederick Thompson (in the Chair), Becky Bennett, Steven Kelly, Eric Munday, Michael White, +Barry Oddy and +Jeff Brace
<b>Residents' Group</b>	Clarence Barrett
<b>Labour Group</b>	Keith Darvill
<b>Independent Residents' Group</b>	Jeffrey Tucker

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Benham, Osman Dervish, Roger Ramsey and Gillian Ford,

+Councillor Barry Oddy substituted for Councillor Osman Dervish and Councillor +Jeff Brace substituted for Councillor Roger Ramsey

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

**54 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**55 PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER – REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received a report at the request of the Leader for a review to be undertaken to allow members of the public to sit in the Members' area of the Council Chamber during Cabinet meetings. Since 2006, it had been the practice of limiting members of the public to peripheral seating in the Lobby, the Side Gallery or the Balcony. This had come about due to difficulties staff had experienced in trying to move or relocate a member of the public from a place needed by someone else.

Since web-casting commenced in 2009, Members had become conscious that the area could appear sparse and this relaxing of the seating arrangements had been proposed to ensure that any negative perception might be countered by filling the space.

Members discussed the various models contained within the report.

**RESOLVED:****That**

1. The rules governing the seating of members of the public in the Members' Area of the Council Chamber which had been in force since October 2006, be relaxed.
2. The preferred style for use in Cabinet meetings in future should be that used by the Regulatory Services Committee at its meetings.
3. Members of the public should also be permitted to sit along the side area if numbers demanded its use.

**56 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS TO SCHOOLS, PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS AND ACADEMIES**

The Committee received a report outlining changes to the *terms of reference* governing the appointment of LA Governors to a wider range of establishments than had been the case. The report also proposed to update the *terms of reference* in relation to the nomination of governors to the panel and ratify arrangements for LA governor appointments.

Members were asked to approve the changes contained within the report.

**RESOLVED:****That**

The changes outlined in the appendix to the report be implemented in full once the reference to the Association of Havering Governors had been amended to read: Havering Governor Forum.

**57 URGENT BUSINESS**

A member raised a query relating to the previous minutes (he had not been present in the room when the Minutes had been approved and signed at the start of the meeting). He stated that at the previous meeting he had asked for a statement made by the Head of Legal Services to be recorded in the Minutes. He was reminded that the issue had indeed been recorded in the Minutes, but his contention was that it had not been recorded in detail in the Minutes and the Chairman had said that it would be.

The committee agreed that the following addendum be appended to these Minutes:

Following a query raised by Councillor Tucker, the Committee was advised that officer's recollection was that Councillor Michael Deon Burton had been

**Governance Committee 5 July 2011**

suspended from the Orchard Place Neighbourhood Management Board. This was disputed by Councillor Tucker. As the information needed to resolve the issue was not immediately available the Chairman suggested - and the Committee agreed - to move on to the next matter.

.....  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**7 September 2011**

