

Public Document Pack

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
7 September 2011 (7.30 - 7.40 pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group Frederick Thompson (Chairman), Robert Benham, Osman Dervish, Steven Kelly, Eric Munday, Roger Ramsey, Michael White and +Billy Taylor

Residents' Group Gillian Ford and +Barbara Matthews

Labour Group Keith Darvill and Paul McGeary

**Independent Residents
Group**

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors: Clarence Barrett, Becky Bennett and Jeffrey Tucker.

+Councillor Barbara Matthews substituted (for Clarence Barrett) and +Councillor Billy Taylor substituted (for Becky Bennett)

All decisions were taken with no votes against.

There were no declarations of interest.

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

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

2 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Committee considered a report from Electoral Services concerning its recent review of polling station provision. A Member raised concerns about the recommendations to have voters within the Havering Park (HP) Ward 5 relocate to HP4. The Interim Monitoring Officer reminded Members that the Boundary Commission Report was due to be published within the next week and invited the Committee to accept the report (if there were no further issues) except those relating to this particular element.

RESOLVED:

1. **To delete recommendations 6c and 6d and accept the remainder of the report without amendment and**
2. **To require Election Services to review elements 6c and 6d and allow any revision to be accepted by a Chairman's Decision.**

3 OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS - THE LUCAS PLAYSITE TRUST

Members received a report detailing the reappointment of Councillors to the Board of the Lucas Children's Play Charity.

RESOLVED:

To reappoint Councillors Andrew Curtin and Linda Hawthorn for the term of office from November 2011 to November 2015

4 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT - 08

The Committee **NOTED** the Monitoring Officer's report concerning amendments to the Constitution relating to the Criminal Records Bureau and Trading Standards.

5 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT - 09

The Committee **NOTED** the report of the Monitoring Officer concerning amendments to the Constitution relating to the renaming of IT, Exchequer and Financial services.

6 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

The Committee received the Monitoring Officer's report on amendments to the Constitution relating to changes to the section concerning Town and Country Planning and Planning Control by the addition of a new paragraph and to amend the delegated powers of the Head of Development and Building Control relating to Temporary Stop Notices.

RESOLVED:

To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the addition of a new paragraph 11A to the Constitution and amend the delegated powers of the Head of Development and Building Control be accepted.

7 **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

The matter was considered urgent under Section 100(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as it was necessary for the Committee to determine what course of action should be taken at the earliest opportunity.

The Leader raised concerns about events which had occurred during the last Annual Council and which he and the Leader of the Opposition Group agreed had adversely affected the dignity of the occasion and brought disrepute upon the Council. He asked the Committee to agree to Officers providing a report to find ways of ensuring that such a situation could not reoccur in future. Members of the Committee were unanimous in supporting this proposal.

RESOLVED:

That officers report to the Committee in the near future with recommendations on ways to ensure that future Annual Councils would be free of unseemly and vexatious incidents.

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank