



City of Westminster

Minutes

Meeting:

General Purposes Committee

Date and time of meeting:

Wednesday 24 October 2007 at 6pm

Venue:

**Rooms 5 and 6, 17th Floor, 64 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6QP**

Attendees:

Councillors:

Robert Davis (Chairman)

Nicola Aiken

David Boothroyd

Melvyn Caplan

Christabel Flight

Tim Joiner

Tim Mitchell

Alastair Moss

Antony Mothersdale

Nick Yarker

Also Present:

Councillor Angela Harvey

Apologies:

None

Contact:

Mick Steward

Details:

Telephone: 020 7641 3134

Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1.1 Noted that Councillor Alastair Moss had replaced Councillor Edward Argar.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interests.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 The Chairman with the assent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meetings held on 13 March 2007 and 16 May 2007.

4. 10TH LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES BILL (see report of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services)

- 4.1 Councillor Angela Harvey attended and with the permission of the Chairman addressed the Committee regarding the proposals relating to soup runs. It was noted the clauses in the Bill were very much in progress which could be amended at any stage up to 27 November which is the date upon which the Bill will be deposited in Parliament.
- 4.2 In view of Councillor Harvey's concerns the Committee's attention was drawn to recommendation 4 which allowed for drafting changes to be made by the Director of Legal and Administrative Services subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member and the Chairman.
- 4.3 The Committee asked Officers to consider whether it would be possible for all the provisions to be adoptive.

Resolved:

1. That the Committee recommends to the Council that it resolves:-

That in the judgement of the Council of City of Westminster it is expedient to promote a Bill or Bills for effecting all or some of the purposes mentioned in Appendix 1 hereto and to enact any additional, supplemental and consequential provisions that may appear to be necessary or convenient and that such Bill or Bills be promoted accordingly by the Council.

2. That the Director of Legal and Administrative Services take all necessary steps to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect and that the common seal be affixed to the Petition for the Bill and to any other necessary documents.

3. That the Director of Legal and Administrative Services be authorised to amend or delete provisions as necessary subject, in the case of provisions proposed by the City Council, to consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member before a provision is deleted or amended in a way which fundamentally alters its effect.

5. REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES AND DISTRICTS (see report of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services)

Nigel Tonkin, Head of Administrative Services, introduced the report and the addendum report which had been tabled. He explained the rationale behind the proposed changes and why some suggestions submitted by Councillors were not being recommended. He referred to the tabled addendum report which addressed changes to the location of polling stations in the Abbey Road ward, which had been suggested by Councillor Barbara Grahame as an elector in the ward.

Councillor David Boothroyd tabled two amendments, one relating to Maida Vale ward which involved minor changes to the existing polling district boundaries, which was accepted by the Committee. The other amendment proposed changes to the polling districts in the Westbourne Ward, which were not supported by the Committee.

The Committee considered each of the recommendations in turn, including the amendments set out in the addendum report and the amendments tabled by Councillor Boothroyd.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following changes in polling places be agreed for the reasons given (to be effective from the publication of the new electoral register on 3 December 2007);
 - (1) ARC (Abbey Road) from St John's Wood Library to Robinsfield Infant School solely for the GLA Elections on 1 May 2008 (should the library be unavailable for those elections due to building works) but that otherwise the pattern of polling districts and polling places in Abbey Road Ward remain unchanged, for the reasons set out in the Addendum Report.
 - (2) CSB (Church Street) from King Solomon Academy to Christ Church Bentinck School (due to the redevelopment of the Academy site).
 - (3) KBC (Knightsbridge & Belgravia) from St Peter's School to St Peter's Church Hall, Eaton Square (to minimise disruption to the school and to provide a more centrally located polling place within the polling district).

(4) LVC (Little Venice) from St David's Church Hall to St Mary's Church Hall, St Mary's Terrace (as St David's Church Hall is no longer available for letting).

(5) RPA (Regent's Park) from Barrow Hill School to The Village Club, Barrow Hill Estate (off Allitsen Road) (to avoid closing the school on polling day).

(6) RPB (Regent's Park) from Rudolf Steiner House to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 100 Park Road (due to building works at Rudolf Steiner and the new location being more centrally located within the polling district).

(7) WEC (West End) from St George's School to the Grosvenor Chapel Meeting Room, South Audley Street (but only to be effective after the GLA elections as the new location is already booked for 1 May 2008, to avoid closing the school on polling day at future elections).

(8) WBC (Westbourne) from Edward Wilson School to the Stowe Centre (to restore the polling place to its previous location prior to rebuilding works and to avoid having to close the school on polling day).

(10) SJC (St James's Ward) from Westminster City School, Palace Street to the Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate (in view of building works at the school).

(b) That Maida Vale ward continues to consist of two polling districts, as follows:

(i) MVA, consisting of an area roughly north and east of a line drawn from a point on the ward boundary in the centre of the roundabout in Sutherland Avenue, and running west along the centre of Lauderdale Road to the junction of Lauderdale Road with Ashworth Road, and thence north along the centre of Ashworth Road to the junction of Ashworth Road with Elgin Avenue, and thence north along the centre of Grantully Road to the end of Paddington Recreation Ground, and thence south-west along the edge of the Paddington Recreation Ground parallel to Grantully Road, and thence north-west along the edge of Paddington Recreation Ground parallel to Morshead Road and continuing diagonally north-west from the edge of Paddington Recreation Ground adjacent to the junction of Essendine Road and Morshead Road to a point on the ward boundary in the centre of Kilburn Park Road opposite to the junction of Kilburn Park Road with Cambridge Road.

(ii) MVB, consisting of the remainder of the ward not contained in polling district MVA.

- (c) That the polling places in Marylebone High Street Ward remain unchanged, following representations from a Ward Councillor that the suggested two new locations are too far from the main body of electors in the two polling districts.
- (d) That officers continue to try and identify a possible new polling place within Hyde Park Ward to serve the northern part of the Ward (including the new residential area within the Paddington redevelopment) for further consideration by the Committee in due course.
- (e) That the current polling district boundaries within Westbourne Ward be retained (rather than create a fourth polling district and designate two new polling places within the ward).
- (f) That it be noted that the Chief Executive has delegated powers to designate alternative polling places in the event of any polling place not being available at any election, following consultation with the Party Whips and respective ward councillors.

6. MAIL FORWARDING BUSINESSES (see report of the Director of Community Protection)

The report was introduced by Sue Jones, Trading Standards-Operations Manager. In response to questions she advised that officers would expect all mail forwarding businesses to use all reasonable steps/best endeavours to obtain the required information from existing and new clients. If there was a genuine reason why this could not be done in respect of existing clients officers would consider those reasons and the steps taken by the business ahead of any enforcement action. It may be deemed acceptable, for instance, for the business to wait until the next renewal date so that it can use that opportunity to make contact with a client and obtain the required information.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Council be recommended to determine that the functions under Section 75 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 are treated as non-executive functions for the purposes of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000;
- 2. That the Council be recommended to determine 7 January 2008 as the appointed day for the purposes of Section 1(5) of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 (being the day when Section 75 will come into force).
- 3. That the Council be recommended to determine that the functions under Section 75 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 be delegated to the Director of Community Protection (currently Assistant Director).

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HEALTHCARE FOR LONDON (see report of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services)

Resolved:

That the Council be recommended to:

- (i) establish a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“the joint committee”) of London boroughs to respond to the NHS London’s recommendations in “Healthcare for London: A Framework for Action” provided the Joint Scrutiny Network (a body of which the Council is a member) so agrees to form such a joint committee.
- (ii) appoint a member to the joint committee as nominated by the Chief Whip and appointed by the Director of Legal and Administrative Services in accordance with his existing delegated authority.
- (iii) authorise the Director of Legal and Administrative Services to agree the terms of reference of the joint committee, in consultation with the Council’s nominated member.

8. ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT: FINAL PROGRESS REPORT (see report of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services)

RESOLVED: That the position against each of the Auditor’s recommendations be noted.

9. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2008/09 (see report of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services)

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Council be recommended to approve the programme for Council Meetings for the 2008/09 Municipal Year, as follows:

16 July 2008, 29 October 2008, 21 January 2009, 4 March 2009 (Council Tax), 29 April 2009 and 13 May 2009 (Annual).
- 2. That the Programme of Meetings in respect of Committees/Sub-Committees set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

10. EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING: APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE) (see report of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services)

The Chairman advised that it was necessary to consider this item as a matter of urgency in order to arrange the Extraordinary Council Meeting recommended in the report as part of the appointment process for the new Chief Executive.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to agree to hold an Extraordinary Council meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 10 December 2007 to receive a recommendation from the Appointments Sub-Committee on the appointment of a new Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service).

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.58pm.

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____