



City of Westminster

Minutes

Meeting:

General Purposes Committee

Date and time of meeting:

Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 6.00pm

Venue:

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

Attendees:

Councillors:

Melvyn Caplan (Chairman)

Nicola Aiken

David Boothroyd

Robert Davis

Tim Joiner

Guthrie McKie

Tim Mitchell

Nick Yarker

Contact:

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1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to the Membership of the Committee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. It was noted that, as a matter of law, Members did not have a prejudicial interest in the Members' Allowances item.

3. MINUTES (21.10.09)

- 3.1 The Chairman with the assent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meetings held on 21 October 2008 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. CITY OF WESTMINSTER BILL (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

- 4.1 The Head of Legal Services introduced the report. He outlined the current position in respect of progress through parliamentary procedure including how it was proposed to deal with the petitions and other objections. He advised that a further report would be submitted, with a recommendation to the Council that the Bill be formally promoted.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

5. CHANGING COUNCIL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

- 5.1 The Head of Legal Services introduced the report. He advised that Officers had drafted the proposed response to the consultation on the basis that there had been no interest shown in changing the governance arrangements.
- 5.2 During discussion it was suggested that the disruption caused by the uncertainty of the process should be included in the response.

Resolved: That approval be given to the proposed response to the consultation paper as set out in Section 3.2 of the report subject to the Head of Legal Services being authorised to include the issue referred to in paragraph 5.2 above in the response.

6. NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

- 6.1 The Head of Legal Services confirmed in response to questions that it was proposed to use the Council's website as a tool in the consultation process.

Resolved:

- (i) That officers be authorised to consult on the options set out in the report.
- (ii) That the consultation as outlined in paragraph 3.11 and 3.12 of the report, be agreed.
- (iii) That the formal approval timetable associated with this process, as set out in paragraph 3.13 of the report be approved.

7. ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT: FOLLOW UP (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

Resolved:

- 1. That the report be noted.
- 2. That, notwithstanding the terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee in this instance, the Standards Committee be asked to undertake the responsibility for the Ethical Governance Audit and for considering any recommendations arising.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

Resolved:

That the Council be recommended to appoint the Independent Members to the Standards Committee, as follows:

Mrs Elizabeth Peace to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011.
Lord Dennis Stevenson to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011
Lord Richard Best to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2012.
The Very Reverend John Hall to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2012.

9. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2009/10 (see report of the Head of Administrative Services)

Resolved: That the Council be recommended to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme attached to the report for 2009/10, with effect from 1 April 2009.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.18pm.

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____