



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 4 July 2012 at Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP

Members Present: Councillors Melvyn Caplan (Chairman), David Boothroyd, Robert Davis and Tim Mitchell

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Ian Adams, Tony Devenish and Alastair Moss

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 There were no changes.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES (21.2.12) and (16.5.12)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February and 16 May 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS: UPDATE (see report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

Resolved: That the Council be recommended to approve the re-drafted Scheme of Delegations attached to the report as Appendix 1.

5. STANDING ORDER RELATING TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT (see report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

- 5.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report. He advised that the Council on 25 June 2012 agreed to adopt a new Code of Conduct for Members. As part of its consideration on the Code the Standards Committee had considered whether Standing Orders should provide that Members with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any other interest, should be required to leave the room while discussion and voting on the item takes place. Under the new Standards regime in the Localism Act 2011 this is a matter left to local authorities to deal with at their discretion.

- 5.2 The Committee considered the matter in respect of Standing Orders and agreed a slight change to the position under the previous code. The revised Standing Order allows Members and Co-opted members, with the consent of the Chairman to address meetings for the purposes of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. Once they have finished the Member or co-opted member will be required to leave the room.
- 5.3 The Committee noted that the position regarding the new Code of Conduct is to be reviewed and there will be a further report to the Standards Committee and in due course to the Committee, if a further change to Standing Orders is to be sought.

Resolved:

That the Council be recommended to adopt the following new Standing Order:

- (i) "Members and Co-opted Members who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any other interest required to be disclosed under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, shall, having disclosed the interest and subject to paragraph (ii) below, withdraw from the meeting room for the duration of the consideration of the item of business including the debate and any related vote.
- (ii) In cases where members of the public are allowed to attend a meeting Members and Co-opted Members may with the consent of the Chairman of the meeting, attend the meeting for the purposes of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. Once the Member has finished making their submission, or the Chairman of that meeting decides that they have finished, the Member must leave the room and may not remain in the room during the discussion or vote on the matter.
- (iii) Members must not when they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest seek to view or listen to the proceedings from the public gallery".

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.12pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____