



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

CABINET MEETING – 20 May 2013

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at 7.00pm on **Monday 20 May 2013**
Committee Rooms 5, 6 and 7, 17th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street,
London, SW1E 6QP

Cabinet Members Present: Councillors Philippa Roe (Chairman), Nickie Aiken, Daniel Astaire, Edward Argar, Melvyn Caplan, Danny Chalkley, Robert Davis, Jonathan Glanz, Rachael Robathan and Steve Summers.

Also Present: Councillors Audrey Lewis, Alastair Moss and Paul Dimoldenberg.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Councillor Philippa Roe, the Leader of the Council, welcomed those present.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. ROLE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (see report of the Chief Executive)

4.1 Carolyn Beech, Director of Human Resources, introduced the report. Ms Beech explained that the current incumbent of the role of Chief Executive, Mike More, will retire from the Council at the end of 2013 and it is therefore appropriate, for any effective Council, to undertake a review of the continued need for this most senior post.

4.2 The report addressed two key questions. Firstly, whether the role of Chief Executive should be replaced? The Cabinet were informed that statute requires each Council to designate one of its officers as its Head of Paid Service. However, this does not require the title "Chief Executive" and the Head of Paid Service does not, as a matter of law, have to have an additional departmental responsibility. The Head of Paid Service role can in law be carried out by another statutory or non-statutory chief officer, and in theory it would also be possible to retain a Chief Executive role and to appoint another officer as Head of Paid Service. In short, there is no legal obligation for a local

authority to appoint a Chief Executive. Secondly, if it is resolved that the role of Chief Executive should be replaced, should this be on a like for like basis, or should the opportunity be taken either to create a shared Chief Executive post with our Tri-borough partners (whose joint Chief Executive Derek Myers is also stepping down in 2013), or are there opportunities to create a more streamlined senior structure at Westminster?

- 4.3 Philippa Roe, Leader of the Council, invited Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, Leader of the Opposition, to speak on the item. Councillor Dimoldenberg noted his thanks to Mike More for all his work as Chief Executive of the City Council. He stated that, in his view, there was a strong argument for choosing not to replace the Chief Executive's post through external head-hunters but instead to fulfil the role internally with an existing high quality candidate. Councillor Dimoldenberg noted that the Chief Operating Officer, Barbara Moorhouse, had performed her role very well to date. He subsequently suggested that the two roles of Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive be combined and Ms Moorhouse be appointed to the post. He noted that fairly recent examples could be found of previous City Council Chief Executives who had performed this combined function effectively.
- 4.4 The Leader requested that Mike More assess both roles (Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer) and investigate whether the two could be combined.
- 4.5 Councillor Melvyn Caplan noted that the report effectively explained the advantages and disadvantages of having a Tri-Borough Chief Executive. He noted that there is no council of comparative complexity and the scale of the City Council's activities and responsibilities is unique. He expressed the view that the corresponding scale and complexity of the role of a Tri-Borough Chief Executive of all three authorities would be too large a job for one person to fulfil effectively. Councillor Caplan therefore endorsed both recommendations in the report.
- 4.6 The Leader noted her endorsement of the recommendations contained in the report. She further formally noted her thanks to Mike More for all his work as Chief Executive of the City Council.

4.7 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the continued role of a Chief Executive for Westminster City Council be endorsed; and
- (2) That the Chief Executive be instructed to proceed with a detailed plan for the rationalisation of the SEB structure, along the lines outlined in the report.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 7.14pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE