

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Governance & Constitution Committee**
held on Monday, 9th March, 2009 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor A Ranfield (Chairman)
Councillor D Topping (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs S Bentley, D Cannon, R Cartlidge, Mrs S Jones, A Kolker,
Mrs G Merry, A Moran, R Parker, R Walker, R West and P Whiteley

Substitute

Councillor P Findlow

In attendance

Councillor A Richardson

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Asquith.

86 OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Flynn, Governance Lead Officer
Brian Reed, Democratic Services Manager
Carol Jones, Democratic Services Officer C&NBC
Julie Zientek, Democratic Services Officer CBC

87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

88 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no speeches or questions from members of the public.

89 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2009 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the name of Councillor Mrs S Bentley in the list of apologies for absence.

90 **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Outside Organisations Task Group, which had been established at a meeting of the Governance and Constitution Committee on 14 July 2008 in order to “devise a work programme and develop recommendations to deal with appointments [to outside organisations] and implement best practice.”

The report reiterated the criteria in respect of making appointments to outside organisations which had been adopted by the Governance and Constitution Committee on 6 October 2008 and recommended the addition of a criterion where an organisation was ward-specific.

The report outlined issues which the Task Group considered should be taken into account when making appointments to outside organisations, including political proportionality, continuity of representation, Members’ interests and terms of office. It also recommended a procedure for dealing with casual vacancies in the event of appointments becoming vacant between annual appointments.

In addition, the report proposed nominations for appointment to the Category 2, 3 and 4 organisations, which fell within the remit of the Governance and Constitution Committee.

RESOLVED - That the procedure for making appointments to outside organisations, as detailed in paragraph 8 of the report, be approved, subject to the following:

- (a) That the additional criterion “*Where an organisation is ward-specific, the Member appointed should be the appropriate Ward Member*” be approved as part of the criteria to be adopted when making appointments to outside organisations.
- (b) That the appointments made by the Cabinet to the Category 1 organisations, as detailed on the amended schedule tabled at the meeting, be noted.
- (c) That appointments be made to the Categories 2, 3 and 4 organisations, as indicated on the schedules attached to the report, subject to the following amendments:

56 Cheshire Community Action Executive Committee – the nomination be A Ranfield in place of T Jackson

62 Community Transport (Dial-a-Ride) – the nominations be A Thwaite, D Bebbington and D J Cannon

70 King’s School, Macclesfield – the nominations be E Gilliland, P Findlow and W Livesley

92 University of Manchester General Assembly – the nomination be P Findlow in place of S Jones

93 Weaver Valley Regional Park – the nominations be D Topping and R Cartlidge

99 Alexandra Soccer & Community Association Trust - the nomination be T Beard

100 Alsager Leisure Centre Advisory User Panel – a third nomination be made, namely S Jones

103 C & N Gymnastics & Community Activities Association – A Moran be nominated as the deputy

113 Macclesfield College of Further Education – the nomination be H Davenport in place of D Neilson

124 Reserve Forces and Cadets Association – the nomination be G Baxendale, and should a second place become available it be taken by T Beard

125 Sandbach Partnership – the nomination be B Moran in place of E Alcock

- (d) That, in general, appointments be made for a term of office which is commensurate with the requirements of the organisation.
- (e) That appointments to outside organisations be reviewed on an annual basis.
- (f) That, notwithstanding (d) and (e) above, the term of office for this first tranche of appointments will terminate in May 2011 to coincide with the elections.
- (g) That Members' interests and expertise, together with the rules of proportionality, be taken into consideration when making appointments.
- (h) That, in view of the special nature of Trusteeships, Members who are to be appointed are briefed on their roles, responsibilities and liabilities in advance of taking up appointment.
- (i) That, if practicable, a training day/session be held for Members, prior to taking up appointment.
- (j) That the protocol for dealing with casual vacancies, identified in paragraph 6 of the report, be adopted.

- (k) That the procedure for making appointments to outside organisations be adopted with effect from 1 April 2009.
- (l) That the Outside Organisations Task Group be reconvened in order to make recommendations on a mechanism by which Members will be required to report on the activities of the outside organisations to which they are appointed.

91 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer relating to the initial report and recommendations of the Remuneration Panel on the Members Allowances Scheme which would apply from April 2009.

A scheme of Members Allowances was required for Day One, to apply for the whole of Year One and to form the basis of the Scheme thereafter. On 1 December 2008, the Governance and Constitution Committee had formally appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel of five independent persons to consider and make recommendations on the Scheme's provisions.

RESOLVED – That Council be recommended to adopt the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel:

- by the adoption of the allowances arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- by the adoption of the Shadow Council's current levels of travelling and subsistence allowances, outlined in Appendix 2 to the report, subject to an adjustment (if necessary) for inflation (RPI) with effect from 1 April 2009;

and that these arrangements should apply to the Council from 1 April 2009 for the year 2009/10.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.00 pm

Councillor A Ranfield (Chairman)