

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of the meeting of the CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY, which was open to the press and public, held on THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2009 at 7 p.m.

Present

Councillor Hall (Chair) Councillor Walton (Vice-Chair) Councillors Alexander, Flood, Peake, Stamirowski and Stockbridge.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Britton.

<u>Minute No.</u>		<u>Action</u>
1	<u>MINUTES</u> (page RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 10 April 2008 be confirmed and signed.	
2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> (page None.	
3	<u>MATTERS REFERRED BY THE HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE</u> The Chair advised members that this item had not been submitted to the Working Party because the most up to date information had not been received and a report would be submitted to a future meeting.	Head of Scrutiny/ Head of Law
4	<u>MATTERS REFERRED BY THE HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE</u> (Page and appendix at page RESOLVED that the Housing Select Committee's recommendations on the future of the Housing Select Committee, when making its own recommendation to Council on 1 April 2009 be noted. Specifically that: (i) the Housing Select Committee continues on a time-limited basis for the period of the 2009/10 municipal year, with the same terms of reference but with an increased focus on the implementation of the Decent Homes Standard; and (ii) this working Party will examine the Scrutiny	ED Res

Minute No.

Action

Committee Structure (the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Business Panel and Select Committees) towards the end of the 2009/10 municipal year.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT (page

5.1 The Head of Law presented the context and the Special Projects Manager presented the proposals in the report.

5.2 Councillor Walton asked whether the Constitution allows the Mayor to delegate matters to a committee. The Head of Law advised that at the present time, the Mayor can only delegate within the Executive or to officers in Lewisham.

5.3 Councillor Walton asked whether there was scope for using assemblies for some of the requirements. The Special Projects Manager said that one of the issues is that the Panel must be representative of the local community. This would be a significant task and costly. The Head of Strategy and Performance said the act was not likely to be significant in Lewisham as the public already had numerous avenues to raise issues with the Council.

RESOLVED that

(i) the process set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report be supported;

(ii) the timetable set out in paragraph 6 be agreed; and

(iii) where a decision is required of the Mayor, he be asked to consult with Council before a final decision is made.

6 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION Page and Appendix at page

6.1 The report was presented by the Head of Law.

6.2 Recommendations of the Sustainable Development Committee

Having regard to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 it was agreed that, where there is scope to do so, managerial action be taken to eliminate the printing of unnecessary paperwork.

ED Res

<u>Minute No.</u>		<u>Action</u>
6.3	<u>Member Code of Conduct</u>	
	The Code was noted and approved.	ED Res
6.4	<u>Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007</u>	
6.4.1	It was agreed that the Constitution Working Party be treated the same as the Audit Panel so that the Chair shall not be precluded from chairing any other committee or sub committee of the Council.	
6.4.2	The changes in the constitution were agreed and referred to the Council for approval. The Crime and Disorder Function Regulations are due in April and will be reported to this committee.	
6.4.3	The Head of Law said that two years ago the Independent Remuneration Panel agreed that remuneration be upgraded in April of each year by a percentage equal to the inflation pay award made to the Council's JNC officers. The JNC was last May and an increase of 2.75% was agreed. This would normally be implemented this year as a matter of course. The Head of Law asked whether in the light of the current economic climate, members wished to implement this increase. It was agreed that the matter be discussed at group meetings and that the Head of Law prepare a report for Council.	
	RESOLVED that the decisions as set out above be agreed and referred to the Council.	ED Res
	The meeting ended at 8.05.	

Chair

Minute No.

Action