

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of the meeting of the CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY, which was open to the press and public, held in COMMITTEE ROOM 4, LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU on WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2010 at 6 p.m.

Present

Councillors Alexander, Griesenbeck, Hall, Peake, Russell, Stamirowski Stockbridge, Walton and Wise.

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	<p><u>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</u> (page</p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor Hall be elected Chair and Councillor Walton Vice-Chair of the Constitution Working Party for the municipal year 2009/10.</p>
2	<p><u>MINUTES</u> (page</p> <p>Subject to Councillor Wise's apologies being recorded for the last meeting it was</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 5 March 2008 be confirmed and signed.</p>
3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> (page</p> <p>None.</p>
4	<p><u>PETITION SCHEME</u> (page</p>
4.1	<p>The Head of Law introduced the report. She said that there was an amendment in paragraph 4.3, '3,000' should be '13,000'.</p>
4.2	<p>Councillor Walton asked whether the scheme would have any impact on small petitions. The Head of Law said there would not be any changes to the administration of small petitions. A threshold would only be required to requisition a debate at Council or to call for evidence from a senior officer at a scrutiny meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(i) the draft Petition Scheme at appendix 1 to the report be adopted, to be effective from 1 April 2010 subject to the legislative framework being completed.;</p>
	ED Res

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(ii) the Petition Scheme be appended to the Council's Constitution on 1 April; ED Res

(iii) the Council delegate any minor amendments required to comply with the legislative framework as it emerges to the Head of Law; Head of Law

(iv) the threshold to trigger a Council debate be 8,000 signatures and the threshold to require attendance by an officer at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee be 4,000 signatures; and ED Res

(v) the application of the scheme be reviewed after it has been established. Head of Law

5 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO CATFORD
REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP LIMITED (page

The Head of Law presented the report. She said that Lewisham has the minimum number of directors under the Articles of Association. Although there was no conflict at the moment directors could change in the future.

RESOLVED that

(i) the Mayoral function should remain unchanged; and Head of Law

(ii) the review of the local choice functions be undertaken by the new administration.

6 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY FUNCTION (page

Councillor Wise said that the input from the Housing Select Committee was invaluable particularly with regard to Registered Social Landlords and should continue for at least another year.

Councillor Russell said that scrutiny had finite resources and Housing Sub Committee was a drain on those resources. He questioned whether the need was still urgent and whether the business could be absorbed into the substantive scrutiny committees.

RESOLVED that

(i) the continuation of the five permanent select committees be endorsed;

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(ii) the Housing Select Committee should continue for another year on a time limited basis and report accordingly to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and

(iii) a systematic review of the Overview and Scrutiny function be undertaken after the May 2010 elections.

The meeting ended at 7.10p.m.

Chair