

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, which was open to the press and public, held on THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2009 at LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU at 7 p.m.

Present

Councillors Hall, Peake and Robson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Britton Johnson and Paschoud

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
	<u>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR</u> (page
	RESOLVED that Councillor Robson be elected Chair and Councillor Paschoud elected Vice Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2009/10.
1.	<u>MINUTES</u> (page
	RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee, which was open to the press and public, held on 26 March 2009 be confirmed and signed.
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> (page
	None
3.	<u>ELECTORAL COMMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS</u> (page and appendices at page
	RESOLVED that the report be noted.
4.	<u>ELECTORAL COMMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR RETURNING OFFICERS.</u> (Page and Appendix at page
	RESOLVED that the report be noted.
5	<u>DEVELOPING A PUBLIC AWARENESS STRATEGY</u> (Page and appendix at page
5.1	Councillor Hall asked for the draft booklet 'Who Runs Lewisham?' prepared by Operation Black Vote to be circulated

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to all members of the Committee. He supported the initiative but considered that it must be clear who was being promoted.

- 5.2 The Chair pointed out a repetition in paragraph 1.3.2. of the appendix. The Head of Law agreed to check whether it was a repetition or whether a sentence had been omitted.
- 5.3 The Chair asked how the locations had been selected for the registration displays as set out in the action plan. The Interim Elections Manager said that it was planned that the displays would be rotated throughout the borough but would commence with the venues stated in the action plan.
- 5.4 The Chair said that the leaflets on registration and the process for registering should be promoted and distributed as widely as possible, for example to all tenants and residents' associations. The Head of Law said that information had already been included in Lewisham Life and with Council Tax bills and agreed to look at further methods of distribution.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – 4 JUNE 2009 – REVIEW (Page and appendix at page

- 6.1 Councillor Hall asked how many votes were disallowed during the verification process. The Head of Law said that, from memory, just under 3% were disallowed.
- 6.2 The Chair asked whether the recent changes of some polling stations were permanent. The Interim Elections Manager said that after the statutory review in 2007 some of the changes made for the recent European Parliamentary Elections were effectively semi permanent because of the unavailability of premises in future. He suggested that it might be timely for a mini review to be undertaken prior to the next elections. In reply to a question, he said that for the Local and possible General Elections in May, 2010 secondary schools would not be used unless a separate building away from the main school was available. This was always a problem due to examinations that take place at that time of year.
- 6.3 Members were advised that there were very few complaints about undelivered polling cards. In reply to a question he said that if there was a postal strike around the time of an election, canvass staff could be employed to deliver the cards.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

Chair