

MINUTES OF THE CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY

Thursday, 8 October 2020 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye, Kevin Bonavia, Sophie Davis and Susan Wise

ALSO PRESENT:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bill Brown

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councillor Wise was nominated and elected as Chair of the Party.

Councillor Bonavia was nominated and elected as Vice- Chair of the Party

6. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared

7. Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

8. Local Democracy Review/Constitutional Changes

The Principal Lawyer presented and summarised the report. The following points were discussed:

The report set out proposed changes to the Council's constitution, recommending the changes which had resulted from the Local Democracy Review. It was recommended that the agreed changes were to be taken to full Council. The proposed changes were around Task and Finish groups and minor changes to the Health and Wellbeing Board as a result of the creation of the new clinical commissioning group that took place on 1 April 2020.

Councillor Bonavia first thanked the Local Democracy Working Group for their work which had resulted in the Constitutional changes being proposed at the meeting, particularly the Vice Chair, Councillor Sheikh for spearheading the recommendations for reformed scrutiny. He stated that

the proposal was to give more flexibility to the Council in their scrutiny roles to give Councillors spaces to do policy development through Task and Finish groups and to enable that to happen the Constitution would need to be changed. He continued that this would also give Overview and Scrutiny the power to set up Task and Finish Groups.

Councillor Walsh wanted the reassurance that CWP remains the democratic elected body for all constitutional changes and stated that the Constitution should be reviewed annually.

The committee endorsed the recommendations set out in the report

The following was agreed:

- The current Article 6 of the Constitution, which relates to Overview and Scrutiny be replaced with that appearing at Part A of Appendix 1.
- The current Overview and Scrutiny Rules appearing at Part E of the Council's Constitution be replaced with those appearing at Part B of Appendix 1
- That the current paragraph 15 (c) of the Council's Executive Procedure Rules be replaced with that appearing at Part C of Appendix 1
- That the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) be changed with effect from 1 April 2020 so that the representative of Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is replaced by the representative of the South East London CCG and the Constitution amended accordingly
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