

## 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 2, LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU on WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2010 at 6 p.m.

### Present

Councillors Daby, Griesenbeck, Hall, Onuegbu, Owolabi - Oluyole, and Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allison, Stockbridge and De Ryk.

<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 Wise Vice-Chair of the Constitution Working Party for the municipal year 2010/11.</p>
2	<p><u>MINUTES</u> (page</p> <p>The Chair confirmed the new administration intended to conduct a review of the scrutiny function within a relatively short timescale in light of the financial circumstances which now faced the Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 17 February 2010 be confirmed and signed.</p>
3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> (page</p> <p>None.</p>
4	<p><u>PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION</u> (page</p> <p>The Head of Law introduced the report and highlighted the ten areas of revision outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report.</p> <p>In answer to a question from Councillor Onuegbu, the Head of Law said she would investigate whether the Council made direct appointments to SLAM and consider, if required, on what basis they might be added to the Constitution.</p> <p>The Working Party debated the submission of amendments to council motions and accepted that in cases of the submission of multiple amendments the successful alteration of a motion was likely to render subsequent amendments redundant. However</p>

Minute No.

Action

the Working Party was anxious to retain as much flexibility as possible while still having advanced notice of amendments. The Working Party received confirmation from the Head of Law that the Constitution contained provision for amendments to be debated in the round with possible sequential votes. The Working Party concluded that the current flexible arrangements should be maintained as far as possible and properly codified in the Constitution. The Head of Law was asked to consider if she should make a slight revision to Section 16 of the Council Procedure Rules to reflect current practice.

The Working Party also considered the non statutory local practice of allocating select committee chairs and confirmed that the practice adopted at the AGM of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to allocate chairs to minority parties based on their strengths on a proportionate Overview and scrutiny Committee be continued.

RESOLVED that the amendments proposed in the appendix to the report be agreed for submission to the Council

The meeting ended at 6.56p.m.

Chair