

CIVIC AFFAIRS

16 May 2011
6.00 - 6.47 pm

Present: Councillors Boyce (Chair), Rosenstiel (Vice-Chair), Benstead, Herbert and Ward

Councillor McGovern attended as the alternate for the seat held by former Councillor Pitt.

Officers

Chief Executive – Antoinette Jackson
Head of Legal Services – Simon Pugh
Committee Manager – Martin Whelan

Also Present

Representatives of the Audit Commission – Paul King and Neil Gibson
Councillor Sian Reid
Councillor Margaret Wright

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

11/20/Civ Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor McGovern attended as the alternate for the seat formerly held by Councillor Pitt.

11/21/Civ Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2011 were approved as a true and accurate record.

11/22/Civ Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11/23/Civ Public Questions

There were no public questions.

11/24/Civ Draft Audit Fee Letter 2011/12

The committee received the draft audit fee letter 2011/12 from the District Auditor and the Audit Manager. The District Auditor explained how the fee was calculated, the audit process and the mechanism for adjusting the fee in year if required.

Cllr Reid attended and spoke under Council procedure rule 39.2 (3), and asked whether the reduced budget and workforce of the City Council was reflected in the revised fee. The District Auditor explained that there was no direct correlation between the size of the budget and the audit fee. It was noted that it was the intention of the Audit Commission (subject to affordability) to refund part of the 2010/11 fee, which would be offset against the 2011/12 fee.

Resolved (unanimously) to note the Draft Audit Fee Letter for 2011/12 and thank the Audit Commission for their ongoing work.

11/25/Civ Delegations to Officers

The committee received a report from the Head of Legal Services regarding updating the scheme of delegation to reflect the corporate restructure.

The committee agreed to recommend that the specific references to the Head of Human Resources and Head of Strategy and Partnership, within the definition of Directors in section 1.1. (a) of the appendix to the committee report should be removed. It was also agreed that delegations by the

Executive to officers should be expressed as delegated “by the Executive”, rather than attributed to individual members of the Executive.

The Committee suggested that the following references were made:

Under powers delegated to the Chief Executive: Climate Change.

Under powers delegated to Director of Environment: Nature Reserves

The committee noted that it was intended to undertake a major review of the delegations in the near future, but that minor interim changes to clarify the responsibilities for climate change and nature reserves were agreed.

Resolved (Unanimously) subject to the points mentioned above, to

- i. Recommend to Council the approval of the draft scheme of delegation in relation to powers delegated by the Council.
- ii. Recommend to the Executive the approval of the draft scheme of delegation in relation to powers delegated by the Executive.

11/26/Civ Nominations for Leader of the Council

The committee received one nomination for the Leader of the Council, Councillor Sian Reid.

Resolved to recommend to Council that Councillor Sian Reid be elected Leader of the Council.

11/27/Civ Proposed Changes to Executive Responsibilities

The committee received a report from the Head of Legal Services and the Democratic Services Manager regarding proposed changes to executive responsibilities.

The Leader explained the proposed changes and the reasons underlying the proposed changes.

Cllr Herbert acknowledged that the configuration of portfolios was a decision for the Executive, but challenged the rationale for splitting responsibility for the Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) and sustainable transport between portfolios. Cllr Herbert also questioned whether the proposed changes to tree management arrangements would improve the quality of decision-making.

Cllr Wright attended and spoke under Council procedure rule 39.2 (3) and echoed the concerns raised by Cllr Herbert. Cllr Wright also suggested that there should be greater clarity on which portfolio was responsible for liaising with County Council on highways matters.

The committee agreed to amend recommendation 2.1 to replace “endorse” with “notes”.

Council is recommended to

- i. Note the changes to executive responsibilities.
- ii. Approve the recommended changes to scrutiny arrangements as set out in the committee report.

11/28/Civ Nominations for Committees for the Municipal Year 2010/11

The Committee considered a paper setting out the proposed size of committees, the allocations by party and the nominations received.

The Committee considered the rules on political balance set out in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 in developing the recommendations set out below.

Committee also noted that the Standards Committee would be asked to appoint its Chair and Vice-Chair; the Chair was required to be one of the External members and that best practice indicated that the Vice Chair should also be an External Member.

Resolved (Unanimously) to recommend to Council to agree the size and membership of the committees as follows:

Scrutiny Committees:

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	NOMINATION(S)	NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	NOMINATIONS
Community Services [with up to 3 co-optees nominated by HMB and a nomination from the PCT]	Liberal Democrats	6 (1)	Al Bander, Blackhurst, Brown, Kerr, Kightley, Reiner Alt: Tucker
	Labour	3 (1)	Moghadas (Arts/Sports/Public Places Spokes), Todd-Jones (Housing Spokes), O'Reilly (Community Development Spokes) Alt: Dryden
		9 Total	

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	NOMINATION(S)	NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	NOMINATIONS
Environment	Liberal Democrats	5 (1)	Kightley, Saunders, Tucker, Tunnacliffe, Znajek. Alt: Kerr
	Labour	3 (1)	Marchant-Daisley (Planning and Sustainable Transport Spokes), Owers (Environment Spokes), Herbert. Alt: Ashton
	Green	1 (1)	Wright. Alt: Pogonowski
		9 Total	

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	NOMINATION(S)	NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	NOMINATIONS
Strategy Resources &	Liberal Democrats	5 (1)	Al Bander, Boyce, Brown, Nimmo-Smith, Rosenstiel. Alt: Saunders
	Labour	3 (1)	Herbert (Strategy and Climate Change Spokes), Benstead (CSR Spokes), Ashton. Alt: Owers
	Green	1 (1)	Pogonowski Alt: Wright
		9 Total	

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	NOMINATION(S)	NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	NOMINATIONS
Housing Management Board [plus 6 elected tenants/leaseholders]	Liberal Democrats	5 (1)	Blackhurst, Brierley, Pippas, Rosenstiel, Znajok. Alt: TBC
	Labour	3 (1)	Blencowe, Price, Bird. Alt: Todd-Jones
	Green	1 (1)	Pogonowski Alt: Wright
		9 Total	

Regulatory Committees:

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
PLANNING	Liberal Democrat	5 (1)	Brown, Saunders, Stuart, Tunnacliffe, Znajok. Alt: Tucker

	Labour	3 (1)	Blencowe (Spokes), Dryden, Marchant-Daisley. Alt: Moghadas
	Independent	1	Hipkin
		9 Total	

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
JOINT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Nimmo-Smith, Smart, Tunnacliffe, Znajek. Alt: Pippas
	Labour	2 (1)	Blencowe, Dryden. Alt: Herbert
		6 Total	

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
LICENSING [Sub-Cttees appt. during Annual Meeting]	Liberal Democrat	7 (1)	Brierley, Pippas, Reiner, Rosenstiel, Saunders, Smith, Stuart. Alt for main Committee: Boyce
	Labour	4 (1)	McPherson (Spokes), Benstead, Blencowe, Hart. Alt for main Committee: Owers
	Green	1 (1)	Pogonowski Alt: Wright
		12 Total	

Other Committees:

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
CIVIC AFFAIRS	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Boyce, Brierley, Rosenstiel, Stuart. Alt: Ward
	Labour	2 (1)	Herbert (Spokes), Marchant- Daisely. Alt: Benstead
		6 Total	

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COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
EMPLOYMENT APPEALS SUB	Liberal Democrat	5	Pippas, Rosenstiel, Saunders, Smart, Stuart
	Labour	3	Price, Owers, Mcpherson.
	Vacant	1	
		9 Total	

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Stuart, Swanson, Taylor, Tucker. Alt: Boyce
	Labour	2 (1)	McPherson (Spokes), Dryden. Alt: Ashton
	External Members	3	
		9 Total	

The External Members (3) will be recommended for re-appointment

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	NOMINATIONS
CAMBRIDGE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AREA JOINT COMMITTEE	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Brown, Rosenstiel, Tucker, Tunnacliffe. Alt: Pippas
	Labour	2 (1)	Bird, Marchant-Daisley. Alt: TBC
		6 Total	

11/29/Civ Nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees

The committee received nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees.

Resolved (unanimously) to note the nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees as follows:

Committee	Lib Dem Nomination		Labour Nomination	
	Chair	Vice Chair	Chair	Vice Chair
Community Services	Kerr	Kightley	Todd-Jones	-
Environment	Kightley	Saunders	Herbert	-
Strategy and Resources	Boyce	Rosenstiel	Ashton	-
HMB	Tenant Rep	Blackhurst	-	Bird
Planning	Stuart	Tunnacliffe	Dryden	-
JDCC	Nimmo-	-	-	N/A

	Smith (Lead)			
Licensing	Smith	Rosenstiel	-	-
Civic Affairs	Boyce	Rosenstiel	Marchant- Daisley	-
Employment Appeals Sub Committee	Smart	-	-	-

11/30/Civ Nominations for Honorary Councillors

Resolved: (unanimously) to recommend to Council the appointment of the following former Councillors as Honorary Councillors

- David White
- Philippa Slatter
- Mike Dixon

The meeting ended at 6.47 pm

CHAIR