

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor K Wakefield in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, A Blackburn,
G Driver (as substitute for J Blake),
S Golton, P Gruen, M Lobleby (as substitute
for A. Carter), A Lowe and J Procter

Apologies Councillors
A Carter, J L Carter and J Blake

26 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

27 Exempt Information - possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

28 Late items

There were no late items added to the agenda.

29 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made either under this item or at any stage during the meeting.

30 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Carter and Councillor L. Carter.

31 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meetings held on 6th September 2010 and 23rd September 2010.

32 Amendments to the Constitution

The Trainee Solicitor (Legal Licensing and Registration) presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) the report proposed an amendment to Article 9 of the constitution and also to the Council Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED - Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend to full Council to approve:

- amendments to Article 9 as set out in appendix 1 to the report; and
- amendments to the Council Procedure Rules as set out in appendix 2 of the report.

33 Petitions Scheme

The Principal Officer (Corporate Governance) presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance). The report provided an overview of the authority's duty to adopt a petitions scheme and provide a facility for submitting electronic petitions. The report asked the Committee to recommend a petition scheme for approval by full Council, together with necessary constitutional amendments.

Members of the Committee discussed the report in detail, particularly focussing on the importance of members of the public being able to become involved in the process of local democracy by having the opportunity to raise local issues with the Council.

Members noted in particular the existing avenues already available within the Council's arrangements to receive deputations and that petitions should be received in the same way. They also noted that petitions are currently dealt in accordance with the corporate standards for dealing with correspondence.

RESOLVED – Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved:

- that with the exception of the e-petition element, the Council's constitutional and administrative arrangements already meet the requirements of the legislation in relation to petitions, and that a further scheme was not therefore required to be considered by full Council;
- to ask the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) to consider whether further clarification of the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules was required to reflect the duties in relation to petitions and to make such points of clarification as may be required; and
- to ask the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) to implement an electronic petitions facility.

34 Work Programme

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted a report notifying Members of the draft work programme for the 2010/11 municipal year.

RESOLVED - Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to agree that the draft work programme for 2010/11 be noted.