

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor K Wakefield in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, A Blackburn,
J Blake, J L Carter, R Finnigan, S Golton,
P Gruen, M Lobley (as substitute for A
Carter), A Lowe, J Procter and N Taggart

Apologies Councillor A Carter

35 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

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

36 Exempt Information - possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

37 Late items

There were no late items added to the agenda. However supplementary information had been received by the Committee with regards to Agenda item 9 – The Chief Planning Officer Delegation report. The supplementary information had been circulated for greater clarification.

38 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Finnigan declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – (Minute 43 refers) as a Member of the Morley Borough Independent Party which had instigated the boundary review.

39 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor A Carter.

40 Minutes Of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5th November 2010 were approved as a correct record.

41 Matters Arising

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) confirmed that in relation to Minute 33, Petitions Scheme, that an electronic petitions facility has been introduced by the Council although the legislation requiring this is now likely to be repealed.

42 Police Accountability White Paper

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) presented her report which detailed the response of the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice to the White Paper Resolution in respect of the Police Accountability White Paper approved at the Council meeting on 15th September 2010.

Members of the Committee discussed the response of the Minister for State for Policing and Criminal Justice and agreed that the comparison between the proposed West Yorkshire's Policing arrangements and London's was unfair as London still maintained the Metropolitan Police Authority.

RESOLVED – Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to respond to the Minister for State to convey their dissatisfaction with his reasoning and to highlight the areas of difference between the proposed arrangements for West Yorkshire and those already in place in London.

(At 9.10am during the discussion of this item Councillors Lobley and Taggart entered the meeting.)

43 Aligning Ward and Parish Boundaries

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) presented her report which presented the recommendation of the Electoral Working Group to align ward and parish boundaries and in particular to make amendments to parish boundaries in Morley North and Morley South.

Members raised the importance of ensuring that voters were allocated to the nearest polling station to their residence.

RESOLVED – Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to:

- (a) agree the proposals of the Electoral Working Group to review the parish boundaries in Morley North and Morley South;
- (b) agree the involvement of the Electoral Working Group undertake a community governance review as proposed in the report;
- (c) agree the terms of reference for the community governance review attached to the report
- (d) agree that final recommendations should be considered and agreed by the General Purposes Committee; and
- (e) agree the timetable for conducting the community governance review as attached at appendix A.

44 Chief Planning Officer Delegation Scheme

The Head of Development and Regulatory (Legal, Licensing and Registration) presented a report of the Chief Planning Officer. The report proposed amendments to the constitution in respect of the delegation to the Chief Planning Officer.

The Committee discussed the proposed changes in detail. Members particularly discussed the importance of ward Members being able to recommend planning applications to be heard at Plans Panel. Members also debated the '21 day representations rule' and the difficulties in submitting representations within this deadline, but that the proposed amendments allow for representations to be made after this deadline.

Members also discussed Section 3 (f) of Appendix 1 where the word 'technical' had been removed from the sentence. It was considered that the term 'statutory technical consultee' should be maintained as is.

RESOLVED – Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend to full Council to approve the amendments to the delegation to the Chief Planning Officer as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, as amended by the supplementary information and also subject to the term 'statutory technical consultee' remaining unchanged.

45 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.