

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 19TH MARCH, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor J Blake in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, J Blake, S Golton,
P Gruen, G Latty, J Lewis, J Matthews,
E Nash, J Procter and M Rafique, R Lewis
(as substitute for A Lowe) L Yeadon (as
substitute for K Wakefield) and T Leadley
(as substitute for R Finnigan)

Apologies Councillor R Finnigan, M Lobley, K
Wakefield, A Lowe, S Golton

90 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

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

91 Exempt Information - possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

92 Late items

A late item was submitted to the agenda for consideration minute 96 refers.

93 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations made at this point or any other point during the meeting.

94 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lowe, Lobley, Wakefield, Finnigan and Golton.

95 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16th February 2012 be approved as a correct record.

96 Late Item - Amendments to the constitution in relation to governance arrangements and the proposed circulation of factual information relating to referendum

The Head of Governance Services introduced a report of the Chief Executive and the City Solicitor. The report asked the Committee to consider the City

Solicitor's proposed amendments to Sections 2A (full council functions) and 2C (officer delegation scheme) of Part 3 of the constitution, to reflect legislative changes. The report also asked Members to consider a leaflet being considered for circulation by the Chief Executive (under the proposed delegations outlined in the report) to the electorate in respect of the Mayoral Referendum.

The Head of Licensing and Registration and the Chief Executive were in attendance to answer Members' questions and concerns

In relation to the proposed delegation Members expressed concern at the broad scope of the proposed delegations and were of the view that decisions taken by the Chief Executive under the delegation should be subject to terms and conditions, to the effect that, any matters requiring a decision be subject to timely consultation with General Purposes Committee in advance of any action being taken. Members were also of the view that the delegation be reviewed as soon as practicable.

The Chief Executive outlined the challenging timescales imposed by DCLG and the regrettable implications this has had in terms of officers ability to consult widely with Members on the content of the proposed leaflet and the arguments for and against distribution. The Chief Executive apologised to Members of the Committee for the circumstances which had led to the Committee being consulted at the 'eleventh' hour and undertook to ensure that DCLG were made aware of the unacceptable timescale that had been presented by them.

A motion was put by the Chair to determine whether there was support for the Chief Executive's proposal that the leaflet be distributed. A majority of Members expressed a vote in favour of distribution of the leaflet.

RESOLVED – The General Purposes Committee resolved to:

- (a) endorse the amendments proposed to be made by the City Solicitor under her delegated authority to Section 2 A of the constitution as set out at Appendix 1 to the report;
- (b) endorse the amendments proposed to be made by the City Solicitor under her delegated authority to the delegation to the Chief Executive under the officer delegation scheme (Council (non executive) Functions) in the constitution as set out at appendix 2 to the report with the proviso that the delegation includes terms and conditions which require the Chief Executive to consult with General Purposes Committee in a timely fashion in advance of any action being taken under the delegation ;
- (c) endorse the Chief Executive's view that a leaflet in respect of the Mayoral referendum should be distributed to the Leeds electorate as set out at appendix 3 to the report;
- (d) request a review of the delegation scheme of the Chief Executive as early as practicable as agreed at resolution (b) ; and
- (e) request that a press release concerning the leaflet be issued.

97 Implementation of the 2012/13 Pay Policy Statement

The Head of HR presented a report of the Director of Resources which sought Members' views on the draft Pay Policy Statement (attached at Appendix 1 to the agenda) and requested Members of the Committee to make recommendations to full Council to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the 2012/13 financial year.

Members of the Committee considered the report and questioned the Head of HR on the differences between the draft Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1 to the report to what currently happens.

Members sought further clarification in the policy to ensure that the Employment Committee will appoint to all chief officer posts.

RESOLVED – Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to:

- (a) recommend to full Council that the Pay Policy Statement as attached at Appendix 1 to the report for the 2012/13 financial year be adopted by the Council subject to Section 2 being amended to state that all Chief Officer appointments will be made by the Employment Committee; and
- (b) receive a further report on how the Pay Policy Statement can be reviewed.

98 Work Programme

The Director of Resources submitted a report notifying Members of the work programme.

The Committee reviewed its forthcoming work programme.

RESOLVED – Members of the General Purposes Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the contents of the work programme;
- (b) request the review of the City Solicitor's delegation scheme on the work programme; and
- (c) include previously requested items on the published work programme schedule from the previous meeting 16th February 2012 to which minute 89 refers.