

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 2ND JULY, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor D Coupar in the Chair

Councillors D Blackburn, Amanda Carter,
D Coupar, B Gettings, H Hayden,
D Jenkins, J Pryor, J Taylor and F Venner

1 Election of Chair

Due to the absence of Councillor James Lewis, a nomination was sought to appoint a Chair for the meeting.

A nomination was made and seconded on behalf of Councillor Debra Coupar.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Coupar be elected as Chair for the meeting.

2 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

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

3 Exempt Information - possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

4 Late items

There were no late items.

5 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

6 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Arif, D Cohen, J Lennox and J Lewis

Councillors J Dowson and M Rafique were in attendance as substitutes.

7 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

8 Proposal to Amend the Schedule of Sites Governed by The Council's Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces

The report of the Director of City Development advised the Committee of the outcome of public consultations and the outcome of an application by the Council to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to amend the Council's byelaws and to make a recommendation to approve the amendments detailed in respect of eight Council owned properties subject to ratification, as required in law by Full Council.

Approval of the Committee was sought to the proposed amendments to the byelaws being taken forward by the City Solicitor to Full Council for consideration seeking approval, as required by statute, to the amendments detailed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the statutory assessment following the consultation responses be noted.
- (b) That support for the amendments of byelaws as outlined be noted.
- (c) That the amendments of the byelaws be recommended to Full Council with a recommendation that they be approved.

9 Changes to Council Functions following Directorate Changes

The report of the City Solicitor proposed amendments to the officer delegation scheme. The proposed amendments were highlighted in the appendices to the report. The amendments would transfer responsibility for the regulatory functions in respect of caravan sites to the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment from the Director of Resources in line with recent organisational changes. Both Directors had been consulted and were content with the proposal.

RESOLVED – That a recommendation be made to Full Council that the amendment to the following documents (as set out in the report and shown in the appendices) should be approved.

- a. Part 3 Section 2C Officer Delegation Scheme (Council (non-executive) Functions)
 - i. Director of Resources (appendix 1)
 - ii. Director of Communities, Housing & Environment (appendix 2)

10 Local Authority Meetings

The report of the City Solicitor updated the Committee on the position in respect to formal meetings of Committees, Boards and Panels of the authority following the curtailment of regulations to permit remote meetings.

The report summarised guidance presented to all Chairs and Lead Officers of Committees on how committee business could be safely transacted.

The report also sought endorsement for the extension of live webcasting for all meetings of committees held in Committee Room 6/7 and the Council Chamber and the option for remote consultative meetings, held in lieu of formal meetings, to also be webcast.

The report presented Leeds City Council's response to the Government 'Call for Evidence' on the use of arrangements which have allowed local authorities to hold meetings remotely or in a hybrid format during the coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the current position with regards to meetings of the Authorities Committees, Boards and Panels be noted.
- b) That the approach set out in respect of the permanent extension of Webcasting as set out in the report be endorsed.
- c) That the submission made by Leeds in response to Government 'Call for Evidence' be noted.

11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Friday, 3 September 2021 at 11.00 a.m.