

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Constitution Committee held on Monday 16 January 2017 at the Members' Room - Shire Hall, Gloucester.

PRESENT

Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Cllr Klara Sudbury	

Apologies: Cllr Jeremy Hilton and Cllr Roger Wilson

Substitutes: Cllr Kathy Williams

Also in attendance: Richard Blamey, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel
Cllr Sarah Lunnon
Cllr Mike Sztymiak

Officers: Jane Burns, Director of Strategy and Challenge and Monitoring Officer
Gillian Parkinson, Head of Legal Services
Simon Harper, Head of Democratic Services
Laura Gibbard, Democratic Services Adviser

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

23.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Roger Wilson and Cllr Jeremy Hilton.

23.2 Cllr Kathy Williams substituted at the meeting for Cllr Wilson.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of 10 October 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

26. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions from members were received.

27. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

- 27.1 Richard Blamey, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), presented the IRP's report to the Committee.
- 27.2 He highlighted that the Panel was pleased its recommendation to raise the Basic Allowance to £10,000 was approved by full Council in February 2016. The Committee noted that the amount was fixed for 2016-17 and 2017-18, and that the Special Responsibility Allowances had been frozen at their 2015-16 levels.
- 27.3 It was explained to the Committee that the IRP's latest examinations indicated that the Special Responsibility Allowances were set lower than at other local authorities. The IRP would review these allowances following the election in May 2017 and would bring forward revised proposals to the Committee.
- 27.4 Richard Blamey thanked Simon Harper and the Democratic Services team for their help in supporting the Panel's work. Members thanked Richard for his and the Panel's work.
- 27.5 **RESOLVED TO NOTE**
- a) *That the Basic Allowance was frozen at £10,000 for the 2017-18 financial year;*
b) *That the Special Responsibility Allowances would be reviewed following the May 2017 election.*

28. MOTION 783 - OPEN CONTRACTING

- 28.1 Cllr Sarah Lunnon presented the Motion, which was received at the full Council meeting on 7 December 2016, and was referred to the Constitution Committee for consideration.
- 28.2 She explained that her proposal for open contracting would still allow for information in contracts to be redacted, however the Open Contracting Global Principles would be used to decide what information should be redacted. She also suggested that it should be the remit of contractors to decide what information was commercially sensitive, rather than the Council's.
- 28.3 Cllr Lunnon felt that it would be beneficial to the Council to have a more transparent contracting process. Cllr Mike Sztymiak, who seconded the Motion at the full Council meeting on 7 December 2016, explained that he believed the adoption of the Open Contracting Global Principles would help the Council to engage with the public in an open and transparent manner. He added that the focus of the Motion was for information in contracts to be made open by default.
- 28.4 Cllr Lunnon proposed that a task group consider the Motion. The Committee discussed the proposal and several members voiced their support. It was therefore agreed that an advisory group would be established to assess the implications of the open contracting principles.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

28.5 In particular, it was agreed that the terms of reference for the advisory group would be to:

- Consider the current arrangements for publishing contract details within the Council;
- Seek expert advice on best practice relating to openness and transparency in respect of contracting;
- Understand the views of the commercial sector on open contracting;
- Understand other local authority practices relating to openness in contracts, including councils within Gloucestershire's family group; and
- Assess the costs and other implications of any changes to the current arrangements on the Council.

28.6 It was decided that the advisory group would be established after the election in May 2017 and would report back to the Constitution Committee. The terms of reference would be drawn up and circulated following the meeting.

Action: Laura Gibbard

29. MONITORING OFFICER CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

29.1 Jane Burns, Director of Strategy and Challenge and Monitoring Officer, presented the changes to the Pension Committee's terms of reference. The changes had resulted from the full Council decision, taken on 7 December 2016, to enter into investment pooling through the Brunel Pension Partnership, with respect to the Gloucestershire Pension Fund.

29.2 ***RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL to ratify the changes to the Constitution, as set out in the report, by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers.***

CHAIRMAN

Meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

This page is intentionally left blank