

Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee held in Committee Room No.2 (Bad Münstereifel Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the 11th February 2016.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);
 Cllr. Bell (Vice-Chairman);
 Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Burgess, Chilton, Galpin, A Howard, Mrs Martin, Ovenden, Shorter

Also Present:

Cllrs. Miss Martin, Michael, Smith

Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development), Member Services & Scrutiny Manager.

294 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Clarkson	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of the ABC Property Company.	297
Shorter	Made Voluntary Announcements as a Director of Kent Play Clubs and as a Director of the ABC Building Consultancy Company.	297

295 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 3rd December 2015 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

296 Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review – Ashford 2016/17

The report advised that the Local Government Boundary Commission was about to commence an electoral review in Ashford which would examine two principal issues – Council size (i.e. how many elected Councillors the Borough Council should have as from the 2019 elections) and warding patterns (and names) for the Borough. In order to facilitate the work of the Officer team established to undertake the research and work required by the review, the report recommended the establishment of a small Member Task Group to receive reports from the Officer team and to in turn make recommendations on to both this Committee and Full Council.

The Chairman advised that Group Leaders, and then all Members, would receive presentations from the Local Government Boundary Commission on their plans for the Electoral Review on the 18th February. He further advised that the review would not examine any changes to the external boundary of the Borough or the external boundaries of individual Parish Councils.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the Committee establish a Task Group to receive reports from the Officer team and make recommendations on Council size and warding matters to this Committee and Council.**
 - (ii) the Task Group consist of five Members, namely the three Group Leaders (Councillors Clarkson, Chilton and Ovenden), the Portfolio Holder/Deputy Leader Councillor Bell and Councillor Clokie.**

297 Changes to the Delegations to Officers

The report of the Monitoring Officer recommended additional and amended delegations to Officers in order to remove gaps in the Scheme of Delegations and to increase efficiency. The Chairman directed the Committee's attention to an update report which had been tabled and which contained details of an additional recommended delegation.

A Member referred to the proposed paragraph (k) at paragraph 16.9 and said that this new paragraph had the potential to cut across Health & Safety matters. The Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development) advised that this was a planning function but it would be a matter for the Head of Development, Strategic Sites & Design to consult with the Head of Health, Parking & Community Safety and her team.

Another Member referred to an issue with Southern Water and it was suggested that this was a matter that would best be dealt with by the Policy & Compliance Task Group.

Recommended:

That the changes to the Constitution set out in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 to the report and in the update report be made.

298 Constitutional Amendments

The report gave details of some proposed additions to Article 2.03 of the Constitution.

The Portfolio Holder for Information & Communications advised that there would shortly be an on-line Member's resource portal which could house information from Members briefings and training events.

Recommended:

That the addition to Article 2.03 (vi) of the Constitution and additional notes (a), (b) and (c) as outlined in the report be agreed.

299 Committee Membership

The report asked the Committee to note some changes to the Committee Membership of the Labour Group.

Resolved:

That the changes of membership to Committees, Groups and Forums as indicated by Group Leaders be noted.

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