

Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee held in Committee Room No.1 (Fougères Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **9th March 2017**.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllr. Bell (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bennett, Burgess, Galpin, Mrs Martin, Murphy, Ovenden, Shorter.

Also Present:

Cllr. Chilton.

Senior Solicitor (Strategic Development), Senior Member Services Officer.

323 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Clarkson	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of the ABC Property Company.	325
Shorter	Made Voluntary Announcements as a Director of Kent Play Clubs and as a Director of the ABC Building Consultancy Company.	325

324 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 8th December 2016 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

325 Changes to the Responsibility for Functions

The report recommended amendments and additions to the Responsibility for Functions in the Constitution, in order to remove gaps in the delegations and to clarify provisions.

In response to questions from a Member the Senior Solicitor (Strategic Development) ran through the proposed changes and explained how the proposed new wording differed from the existing Constitution. It was clarified that the main

purpose of the report was to simplify and clarify the wording to avoid misinterpretation and ambiguity.

A Member asked about paragraph 4.10 of the report which proposed a change to the delegation to the Head of Corporate Property and Projects on the terms of new leases and said he considered the Cabinet Member should be involved somewhere in the process. It was agreed that the delegation in Part 3, Appendix 5, Paragraph 13.10 of the Constitution be amended to read "To negotiate the terms of new leases and (subject to consultation with the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder, Head of Finance and the Corporate Director (Law and Governance)), to authorise completion of such new leases".

Recommended:

That the changes to the Constitution set out in Paragraphs 4.1 – 4.11 of the report be made, subject to the amended wording of Paragraph 4.10 discussed at the meeting and outlined above.

326 Amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme

The Senior Member Services Officer introduced the report which advised that a recent internal audit of Members' Allowances had identified some minor inconsistencies within the Scheme which would benefit from review and clarification. The report presented minor amendments to the Scheme to reflect those recommendations by Internal Audit.

In response to a query the Committee was advised that the amounts payable at Schedule 1 of the Scheme, and the list of approved organisations/bodies at Schedule 2 Paragraph 1.12, would be updated on the 1st April 2017 to reflect the new totals and current position.

Recommended:

That the minor amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme (as shown in the track changed version appended to the report) be approved.

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