

Selection and Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held in No. 2 Committee Room (Bad Münstereifel Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **5th March 2009**

Present:

Cllr. Clokie (Chairman);

Cllrs. Ayres, Davison, Goddard, Miss Hodgkinson, Kemp, Packham, Wells, Wood

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillors Packham and Wood attended as substitute members for Councillors Davidson and Mrs Heyes respectively.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bartlett, Bradberry, Davidson, Mrs Heyes, Mrs Martin

Also Present:

Cllr. Howard

Chief Executive, Member Services and Scrutiny Manager

448 Declarations of Interest

| Councillor | Interest | Minute No. |
|------------|--|------------|
| Ayres | Code of Conduct – Personal but not Prejudicial – Member of Ashford Twinning Association | 451 |
| Howard | Code of Conduct – Personal but not Prejudicial – Member of Ashford Twinning Association | 451 |
| Wells | Code of Conduct – Personal but not Prejudicial – Treasurer of the Ashford Twinning Association | 451 |

449 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on the 11th December 2008 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

450 Annual Governance Statement – Progress on Remediating Exceptions for 2007/2008

The report advised that under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 the Council was required to review, at least once a year, the effectiveness of its systems of

internal control and include a statement on internal control with the Council's Statement of Accounts. This report was the third quarterly update on progress that had been made so far in remedying the exceptions of the Annual Governance Statement. The Audit Committee on the 3rd February 2009 had considered the report and had raised no particular issues of concern.

In response to a question from a Member regarding progress on the review of the Race Equality Scheme, the Chief Executive advised that he was not aware that the situation had changed since the preparation of the report but he undertook to provide an update of the current situation within the Minutes of the meeting.

Post Meeting Note: For a number of reasons it had not proved possible to identify a suitable person to take this forward at this stage.

A Member advised that the Audit Committee had also discussed the issue of whether in terms of debt recovery a minimum value on any demand should be set as for certain figures it would be uneconomic to pursue recovery proceedings. Following a brief discussion the Chief Executive advised that he would ask officers to examine this issue.

Resolved:

That the progress to date on resolving the exceptions identified in the 2007-2008 Annual Governance Statement be noted.

451 Civic Twinning – Member Champion

The report advised that the Executive at its meeting on the 6th March 2008 had agreed that a Member be appointed to Champion the Twinning Concordat between the Ashford Twinning Association and the Borough Council for a term of three years which coincided with the European cycle of Twinning Visits. It was noted that Councillor Howard had subsequently been appointed to this role. The report sought the Committee's approval to extend the Member Champion role to also include the Council's twin town of Hopewell in Virginia, USA.

Resolved:

That the role of the Member Champion for Twinning be extended to include the Council's twin town of Hopewell in Virginia, USA and that Councillor Howard incorporate this additional duty within his existing role as Member Champion.

(KRF/VS)
SCRX0910

Queries concerning this agenda? Please contact Keith Fearon:
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