

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 8th July 2010

Present:

Cllr. Bartlett (Chairman);
Cllr. Wood (Vice-Chairman);
Cllrs. Clarkson, Claughton, Mrs Hawes, Hodgkinson

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillors Clarkson and Claughton attended as Substitute Members for Councillors French and Mrs Heyes respectively.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Davison, French, Goddard, Mrs Heyes.

Also Present:

Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Senior Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer.

92 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 4th May 2010 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

93 Constitutional Amendments

The report set out proposed amendments to three areas of the Constitution. Namely:
- to remove some anomalies which excluded the rights of Members who were not Members of a Group etc to attend those meetings as this was inconsistent with an existing Procedure Rule; to provide for the establishment of new 'Participative Groups' to enable Members and Officers to work more closely together on issues referred to them; and to delete the reference which allowed Members and Officers to travel first class in certain circumstances.

With regard to the reference that Participative Groups prepare a summary of their work at least once every six months, the Vice-Chairman explained that it would be for the Group itself to decide what form this took and the key phrase in the paragraph was "as it considers appropriate".

In response to a question the Chairman explained that it was unclear why the reference to Members and Officers being able to travel first class by train was in the Constitution and to his knowledge it had never been used. It was considered that this

provision was inappropriate in the current economic circumstances and that it should be deleted. With regard to High Speed 1, the Chairman said that he would encourage any Member to use this service and that the Council would reimburse the full amount as the time saved more than made up for the small extra cost.

With regard to Participative Groups, Members reported that, subject to the agreement of this Committee and Full Council the following week, the first three such Groups had been set up namely: - the ABC Five Year Plan Member Sounding Board; an ABC Environmental Group; and a Group to examine how the Council communicated with the public.

Recommended:

That the Head of Legal & Democratic Service be authorised to amend the Constitution in respect of the three areas set out in (i) (ii) and (iii) below: -

- (i) The deletion of the footnotes set out in the Terms of Reference of the various meetings detailed within the report as they relate to the attendance of non Committee Members.**
- (ii) The incorporation of a mechanism which will provide for the establishment of 'Participative Groups' and their broad operational guidelines as described in Paragraphs 8-15 of the report.**
- (iii) The deletion of Section 1(d) of Schedule 3 of Part 6 of the Constitution regarding first class travel.**

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Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Danny Sheppard:
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