

## **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 **14<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

### **Present:**

Cllr. Wood (Vice-Chairman in the Chair);

Cllrs. French, Goddard, Mrs Hawes, Heyes, Hodgkinson

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillor Heyes attended as Substitute Member for Councillor Bartlett.

### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Bartlett, Kemp, Mrs Martin, Naughton.

### **Also Present:**

Cllr. Smith.

Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

## **209 Minutes**

### **Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.**

## **210 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 – New Executive Arrangements for the Council – Results of Consultation and Next Steps (Minute No. 166/9/10 refers)**

The report advised of the outcome of the public consultation exercise carried out in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and set out detailed proposals to enable the Council to move to a new style of Leader and Cabinet model with effect from the Annual Meeting after the May 2011 Local Elections. The recommendations in the report had been agreed by the Executive at its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**Recommended:**

**That:-**

- (i) the outcome of the consultation exercise be noted.**
- (ii) proposals to amend the Council's Executive arrangements to reflect the new style Leader and Cabinet model as outlined in paragraph 10 of the report be approved and published in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.**
- (iii) an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be held at the rising of the scheduled meeting of the Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to agree the formal adoption of the new Executive arrangements.**
- (iv) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to amend the Constitution to incorporate the proposals as set out within the report.**

## **211 The Duty to Respond to Petitions – A New Petition Scheme for Ashford Borough Council**

The report advised that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 required the Council to respond to petitions and in particular to make a Petition Scheme under that Act. The report set out the new duties and the amendments needed to be made to the Council's existing Petition Scheme in order to meet the requirements of the Act.

In terms of Recommendation (ii) the Committee considered the level of threshold for the different types of petition incorporated within the scheme.

**Recommended:**

**That:-**

- (i) the amended Petition Scheme as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved and adopted.**
- (ii) the threshold for signatures for the following petitions be set at the levels detailed below:**
  - (a) for "ordinary petitions" – 50 signatures**
  - (b) for "petitions requiring debate by Council" – 1500 signatures**
  - (c) for "petitions to hold Officers to account" – 750 signatures**

- (iii) **the Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to reject petitions which he considers to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate.**
- (iv) **the formal Petition Scheme be incorporated as part of the Council's Constitution and the other consequential changes to the Council's Constitution be made (Paragraph 20 of the report refers).**
- (v) **the operation of the Petition Scheme be reviewed 18 months after implementation.**

## **212 Extension of Term of Appointment of Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

The report sought agreement to extend the term of appointment of a Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

### **Recommended:**

**That the term of appointment of one of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, namely Mrs Judy Blount, be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.**

## **213 Appointments to Outside Bodies/Organisations**

The report advised of the need to make a nomination for a Member to attend meetings of the Marsh Link Steering Group. The report also advised of the expiry of the current appointments to the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities and the need to appoint two Members to these charities.

### **Resolved:**

#### **That:-**

- (i) **Councillor Mrs Hicks be nominated for the appointment of a Member representative to sit on the Marsh Link Steering Group.**
- (ii) **Councillors Hodgkinson and Koowaree be nominated to sit on the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities for the period until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

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