

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

10 September 2002

Councillors: *Rice (Chair), *GMMH Rahman Khan (Deputy Chair), Bloch, Davies, *Millar, *Patel, *Peacock and E. Prescott.

*Members present.

In Attendance: Councillor Davidson

GP8. MINUTES:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2002 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

GP9. MATTERS ARISING:

Terms of Reference

Following consideration of this item at the last meeting as requested the Acting Head of Legal Services provided some clarification with regard to the position in relation to the internal reviews of homelessness decisions. It was noted that a report was to be prepared by the Director of Housing for the next meeting of the Committee but that in the interim an urgent decision would be taken by the Director in consultation with the Chair to continue with the current arrangement whereby senior officers are responsible for the internal reviews. The report to the next meeting would correct the procedural oversight contained within the Council Constitution and this would be picked up in the forthcoming review.

RESOLVED:

1. That a report be prepared for the next meeting in relation to the internal review of homelessness decisions by senior officers with the caveat that the decisions taken be periodically reported to the General Purposes Committee in order that members have an overview of the type and number of decisions being made.
2. That, in the interim, the Director of Housing take an urgent decision in consultation with the Chair of the Committee to continue with the established practice of senior officers within the department undertaking the internal review of homelessness decisions.

GP10. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The Director of Finance gave a detailed presentation on the Council's financial statements and responded to a number of detailed and technical questions from members. On a particular issue he undertook to respond in writing to Councillor GMMH Rahman Khan. Councillor GMMH Rahman Khan requested that his objection to the overspend on the Social Services asylum budgets not being carried over be recorded. The Director of Finance undertook to include in his representations to Government the views of the Committee in respect of the ongoing difficulties faced by local authorities in adequately funding pension funds.

RESOLVED:

1. That the outturn agreed by the Executive on 16 July and attached as Appendix A to the report be noted.
2. That the changes to the financial statements described at paragraph 5.3 of the report be noted.
3. That the Council's Financial Statements be approved.

GPI 1. MEMBER LEVEL STAFF APPOINTMENTS PROCEDURE:

Members considered a report on the procedure for appointments to Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer posts. Panels would consist of between three and five members, would reflect the political balance of the Council and contain more non executive than executive members. The following protocol would also inform the selection of Councillors:

- Leader and/or Executive member for function
- Chair of General Purposes/Deputy Chair and Member of General Purposes Committee
- Opposition Member

Each Panel would elect a Chair from amongst its number.

Members were briefly appraised of the shortlisting, selection, interview and offer processes and noted that training was to be arranged.

RESOLVED:

That the recruitment procedure for Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer be agreed as submitted.

GPI 2. DESIGNATION OF NOEL PARK & NORTHUMBERLAND PARK/HIGH ROAD TOTTENHAM NI5 & NI7 AS CONTROLLED AREAS FOR DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES:

The Chair agreed to the admission of this report as urgent business. The report was late as it had only been finalised following its initial consideration by The Executive on 3 September. The report was urgent as any delay in its consideration would adversely impact on the implementation of the proposed designated areas.

Members considered the report of the Director of Environmental Services concerned with the designation of Noel Park & Northumberland Park/High Road Tottenham NI5 & NI7 as controlled areas for drinking in public places. The matter had previously considered by The Executive and recommended for approval. Members noted that the Police had given a commitment to enforce the scheme were it to secure approval.

Members noted the intention to review the operation of the scheme and its boundaries within six months of its implementation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the representations made following public consultation and the evidence relating to crime and

disorder, nuisance and anti social behaviour associated with street drinking in the areas concerned be noted.

2. That the designation of Noel Park and Northumberland Park/High Road Tottenham NI5 and NI7, areas as controlled areas for the consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places be approved.
3. That the necessary Orders under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 be made.

GP13. MINUTES OF SUB BODIES:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of

Planning Applications Sub Committee - 11 June 2002,
Licensing Sub Committee - 17 June 2002,
Pensions Panel - 17 June 2002 and
Audit Panel - 29 July 2002

be adopted.

GP14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED:

That the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the item remaining to be considered contained exempt information as defined in Section 100A of the Local Government act 1972 namely that it contained information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an office holder under, the authority.

GP15. DECISIONS TAKEN BY A CHIEF OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIR:

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Chair and detailed on the schedule submitted as 1/2002 be noted.

REG RICE
Chair