

**Joint Meeting of the Alexandra Park & Palace  
Statutory  
Advisory Committee and Consultative Committee**

**on 14th April  
2015**

Report Title: **Governance – Joint Committee**

Report of: **Chief Executive**

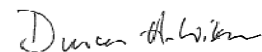
**1. Purpose:**

1.1 To seek views of Joint Committee on formalising Chairmanship arrangements

**2. Recommendations:**

2.1 That the arrangement whereby the Chair of the Consultative Committee assumes the chairmanship of the Joint Committee is formalised

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive**



Contact Officer: **Duncan Wilson, Alexandra Palace & Park, Alexandra Palace  
Way, Wood Green, N22 7AY Tel No: 020 8365 4335**

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1. The procedure for appointing a Chair of the Joint Committee has never been formalised. By custom and practice it is assumed by the Chair of the Consultative Committee. This preserves the separate position of the Statutory Advisory Committee whilst promoting better coordinated advice to the main Board.

3.2 The attached note from Colin Marr suggests (inter alia) that this arrangement be formalised to avoid possible confusion. In practice this would mean that Chairs for both the SAC and the CC should be appointed at the start of the Joint Meeting on each occasion. If the regular Chair was not present then a deputy or stand-in should be appointed. The Chair of the Joint Meeting would then be the Chair of the CC for the evening, ex officio.

3.3 Colin's other recommendation is that a written constitution for the Joint Committee be further considered. I will give this further attention before my departure and see how far I can get, at least in considering the major points for discussion at a future meeting.

**4. Reasons for any change in policy or for any new policy development (if applicable)**

4.1 N/A

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

5.1 N/A

**6. Legal Implications**

6.1 The Council's Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments.

**7. Financial Implication**

7.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

**8. Appendix**

**8.1 Letter from Colin Marr to Chief Executive**

The Joint SAC-CC – the need to look at its constitution

I wasn't at the last Joint SAC-CC meeting, but I see from the minutes there was some confusion about chairmanship. Having been closely involved in developing the working arrangements for the Joint committee I think it is time to clarify some aspects – hence this message. Also, it is timely to look at this now because of new members, some of whom will probably not know how these things evolved.

The joint committee idea grew out of the APP governance review in 2010. Hitherto, the SAC and the CC met separately although mostly with the same agenda, with residents groups having different representatives on each committee, and with the CC under the chairmanship of the Chair of the Board. It was widely agreed this was cumbersome, inefficient and a waste of resources. The idea of bringing the SAC and the CC together in a single joint committee was to meet a number of needs:

- The statutory role and status of the SAC should be retained

- The expanded attendance would give SAC members the benefit of discussions involving members of the Board, who would not otherwise be present
- The voice of stakeholders (residents groups and others) could be more readily presented to and considered by the Board
- With an independent (non-councillor) chairman the joint committee would have more credibility as a quasi-independent committee of the council.

The idea of the joint committee was welcomed and supported by the then chair of the Board (Matt Cooke) and the general manager (Andrew Gill), and after a trial period early in 2011 the joint working arrangements were adopted. Although often clunky in operation, it has worked reasonably well and certainly better than the previous arrangements with two separate committees.

From the outset it was intended that the joint committee's status should be recognised by formalising its constitution to include the statutory elements that are bound up in the SAC. Although it was recognised that this would not be a simple matter and might require legislation, or at least an Order. In reality, this has not been progressed. Both the SAC and the CC still have their separate constitutions. Only in the case of the CC has this been amended to allow for an independent (non-councillor) chairman.

As yet there has been no attempt to draw up a separate constitution for the joint committee and its working procedures have simply developed with experience. It is overdue that some resources are devoted to produce such a draft constitution.

With regard to chairmanship, the practice that was first adopted was for the joint committee chair to be taken by the chair of the CC, with the chair of the SAC as deputy. In this way the balance of interests between the hitherto separate committees was maintained, as was its quasi independence. I think it would be appropriate now to incorporate this practice into the evolving modus operandi of the joint committee. A simple extension to this would be that in the absence of both the nominated chair and deputy chair, the position should be taken by the deputy CC or deputy SAC chairs.

In summary, please can we:

- Look again at the need to formulate a constitution for the joint committee and what might be needed to way of legislation

- Agree on the approach to chairmanship and deputy chair as outlined above
- Clarify all of this for the benefit of new members who may not be aware of how things have evolved.

Colin Marr 19 January 2015