

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting of the London Borough of Waltham Forest held at Walthamstow Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 on Thursday, 21 May 2015.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Masood Ahmad, Nadeem Ali, Liaquat Ali MBE JP, Raja Anwar, Mohammad Asghar, Naheed Asghar, Millie Balkan, Peter Barnett, Angie Bean, Aktar Beg, Tony Bell, Karen Bellamy, Kastriot Berberi, Roy Berg, Paul Braham, Clare Coghill, Matt Davis, Shabana Dhedhi, Paul Douglas, Jacob Edwards, Stuart Emmerson, Caroline Erics, Marion Fitzgerald, Jenny Gray, Nick Halebi, Andy Hemsted, Jemma Hemsted, Peter Herrington, S K A Highfield JP, Tim James, Ahsan Khan, Johar Khan, Khevyn Limbajee, Sally Littlejohn, Clyde Loakes, Gerry Lyons, Asim Mahmood, Saima Mahmud, Anna Mbachu, Bernadette Mill, Simon Miller, Louise Mitchell, John Moss, Yemi Osho, Marie Pye, Sheree Rackham, Keith Rayner, Chris Robbins, Mark Rusling, Alan Siggers, Alistair Strathern, Richard Sweden, Steve Terry, Sharon Waldron, Geoff Walker, Terry Wheeler and Grace Williams

Councillor Terry Wheeler (Mayor) in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Bennett-Goodman, Patrick Edwards and Whitney Ihenachor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Clare Coghill; seconded by Councillor Ashan Khan and **RESOLVED** unanimously

that Councillor Saima Mahmud be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Waltham Forest to hold office until her successor is appointed.

Councillor Saima Mahmud (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor Wheeler invested the newly elected Mayor with the Badge of Office.

After signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Councillor Mahmud addressed the Council.

During her speech the Mayor thanked the Council for her election and

- (a) announced that her objectives would centre on equality and human rights, including addressing female genital mutilation, forced marriage and domestic violence; and Educate to Eradicate;
- (b) announced that her charities would be:
 - (i) Haven – a domestic violence survivor-led charity
 - (ii) The Kiran Project - meeting needs of women of Indian sub-continent heritage experiencing domestic violence
 - (iii) Waltham Forest Samaritans;

She would also support a major initiative investigating the factors contributing to diabetes and heart disease;

- (c) announced that Arifa Nasim would be her consort, and that a team of youth mayors was being recruited; and
- (d) announced that her spiritual advisers would be Yusuf Hansa, Father Alex Summers, Tara Khare, Councillor Paul Braham, and Kuhan.

The Mayor presented:

A past Mayor's Badge and Certificate to Councillor Wheeler.

A Badge and Certificate to Karishma Mohamed as Youth Mayoress; Shorai Shoniwa-Forchin (YIAG), Rickisha Dalson (YIAG), Katy Thompson and Jacqueline Sheehy.

5. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Chris Robbins addressed the Council.

1. The Leader gave notice that he had appointed the following persons to serve on the Cabinet

Cabinet Member

Cllr Clyde Loakes
Cllr Liaquat Ali
Cllr Angie Bean
Cllr Clare Coghill
Cllr Ahsan Khan
Cllr Khevyn Limbajee
Cllr Mark Rusling

Portfolio

Deputy Leader
Community Safety and Cohesion
Adult Services
Economic Growth and High Streets
Health and Wellbeing
Housing
Children and Young People

Junior Cabinet Members

Cllr Naheed Asghar
Cllr Sharon Waldron
Cllr Grace Williams

2. The Leader gave notice of the following delegations:

Except where specifically provided for in the Constitution, or a decision has been taken by himself or by Cabinet to delegate a decision in a particular matter to a specified individual or body, the following general arrangements shall apply in respect of matters which, under the Constitution are defined as key decisions:

- (a) Except where paragraph (b) applies, all key decisions shall be taken collectively by Cabinet;
- (b) Where a key decision relates only to a matter within a single Portfolio Holder's area of responsibility and/or has only a minimal impact on another executive portfolio in the view of the Director of Governance (or his/her representative), the decision may be taken by the relevant Portfolio Holder, subject to the Director of Governance being satisfied as to the following:
 - (i) that appropriate consultation has been undertaken on the matter concerned;
 - (ii) that all relevant matters are set out in a report that is considered by the Portfolio Holder; and
 - (iii) a proper record is published of the Portfolio Holder's decision.

3. The Leader confirmed the delegation of executive powers to officers as set out in:

- (i) the General Scheme of Delegation;
- (ii) the Council's Constitution; *and*
- (iii) as set out in item 9 of the agenda.

and that all officers with delegated powers may in turn delegate those powers to other officers in accordance with the Council's Constitution and legislation.

4. The Leader said that as executive leader, he reserved his statutory powers to make different arrangements for the discharge of executive functions to those set out above where this is desirable or necessary in the circumstances and following the receipt of legal advice, where appropriate. Portfolio holders' areas of responsibility of responsibility are set out in **Appendix A** to the minutes.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Matt Davis, addressed the Council in reply.

6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER COUNCIL BODIES 2015/16

It was moved by Councillor Steve Terry and seconded by Councillor Alan Siggers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

That the Council,

1. in accordance with **Appendix B** to the minutes:
 - (a) appoint standing Committees for the Municipal Year 2015/16;
 - (b) decide the number of seats on all committees;
 - (c) determine the allocation of seats on committees to party groups, where appropriate in accordance with the political balance rules;
 - (d) appoint councillors to sit on committees in accordance with nominations made by the Group Whips;
 - (e) appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees for 2015/16;
 - (f) appoint councillors to serve on other Council bodies;

2. and furthermore:
 - (g) agree that the terms of reference of standing committees for 2015/16 shall be as set out in the Council's Constitution;
 - (h) agree that all councillors will be appointed as supernumerary members to substitute when a named member of a committee is unable to attend a meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme for the appointment of substitute members; Group Leaders and/or Group Whips being able to agree substitutions in respect of members of their party groups, that, in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Executive members may be substituted only by other members of the Executive; and that, in respect of any Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive members cannot serve as substitutes. (Note: the supernumerary arrangements do not apply to the Cabinet);
 - (i) agree that the Mayor's Special Responsibilities Allowance will be set at £8,000 per annum with immediate effect; and
 - (j) agree the consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from these decisions are to be finalised and published by the Director of Governance.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Steve Terry and seconded by Councillor Alan Siggers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

That the Council **agree** to appoint representatives of the Council to serve on bodies and organisations in accordance with the nominations made by the Party Whips as shown in **Appendix C** to the minutes.

8. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

It was moved by Councillor Steve Terry and seconded by Councillor Alan Siggers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

That the Council

- (a) **approve** the updated Programme of Meetings as set out in **Appendix D** to the minutes for the 2015/16 civic year, and incorporated consequential amendments arising from Council's decision on the establishment of committees for the civic year.
- (b) **agree** that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Party Whips be authorised to agree any subsequent changes to the programme arising from clashes of membership following the appointment of committee memberships at this meeting.

9. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

It was moved by Councillor Chris Robbins and seconded by Councillor Matt Davis and **RESOLVED** unanimously

That the Council

- (a) **agree** the delegation of non-executive functions (as defined by the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (amended) to officers as set out in:
 - (i) the Council's Constitution
 - (ii) the General Scheme of Delegation attached to the report, and
 - (iii) Appendix 3 to the report relating to food safety and trading standards, with the addition of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Housing Act 1996;
- (b) **agree** that all officers with delegated powers have power to further delegate those powers to other officers under s.101 of the Local Government Act 1972 or as provided for by any other legislation and may agree a scheme of delegation to officers for their service areas;
- (c) **delegate** to the Director of Governance the power to make and publish the necessary changes to the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to give effect to the decisions above at 2.1 and 2.2; and
- (d) **agree** that the Management Structure at Appendix 1 to the report be incorporated into Part 11 of the Council's Constitution.

The Council rose at 8.42 pm.