

General Purposes Committee

Meeting of held on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Sean Fitzsimons (Chair);
Councillor Appu Srinivasan (Vice-Chair);
Councillor Samir Dwesar, Lara Fish, Patricia Hay-Justice and Stella Nabukeera

Also Present: Councillors Fatima Zaman (Online) and Joseph Lee (Online)

Apologies: There were none.

PART A

27/22 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

28/22 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

29/22 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2023 and those of the previously named General Purposes and Audit Committee held on the following dates as accurate records of the proceedings:

- 16 September 2021
- 20 October 2021
- 25 November 2021
- 16 February 2022.

30/22 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

31/22

Proposed Change to the Constitution - Appointments and Disciplinary Committee

The Deputy Monitoring Officer, Looqman Desai, presented the report which proposed changes to the constitution to triple the number of substitutes that could be appointed to the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to enable other cabinet members to participate in recruitment processes relating to their portfolio.

He informed the Committee the changes were recommended by the Constitution Working Group following their consideration and deliberations on 16 November 2023 and advised that Members recommend the changes to Council for approval.

The Chair advised that the proposed changes and the corporate training for Members being organised by the Learning and Development Panel would make the recruitment process more robust.

RESOLVED:

To recommend to full Council the proposed changes to the Constitution relating to the number of substitutes to the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee as set out at paragraph 5.6 of the report.

32/22

Draft Council Calendar 2024-25

The Committee was informed of some errors in Appendix A and officers were advised that the necessary amendments be made to correct the errors and reflect the Committee's decision after the meeting and before approval by Council.

The Chair proposed that pre-council political group meetings dates should be included in the calendar.

Members asked questions about contingency plans in the case of clashes with general election and additional meeting dates for planning committees.

It was explained that contingency plans included rescheduling meetings or the withdrawal of sensitive items from committee agendas during the "purdah" period and additional dates could be added by any committee as and when needed.

Members were informed that an additional meeting of the committee was needed to review the changes to polling stations and districts.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 To note the Cabinet meeting dates for the municipal year 2024-25 as stated in Appendix B.
- 1.2 To recommend that Full Council approves the meeting dates for all other committees for the municipal year 2024-25 subject to the amendment of Appendix A and the inclusion of pre-council group meetings on the draft calendar.
- 1.3 To approve 17 January 2024 as the date of the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.05pm.