

## **GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30 pm on 1 December 2011

### **Present:**

Councillor Tony Owen (Chairman)  
Councillor Russell Mellor (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Nicholas Bennett J.P., John Canvin,  
Roger Charsley, Roxy Fawthrop, John Getgood,  
Will Harmer, Gordon Norrie, Ian F. Payne,  
Charles Rideout, Diane Smith, Tim Stevens,  
Harry Stranger and Stephen Wells

### **166 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

All members of the Committee were present.

### **167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Councillors declared personal interests as members of the Council's pension scheme – Councillors Nicholas Bennett, Roger Charsley, Roxy Fawthrop, John Getgood, Russell Mellor, Gordon Norrie, Tony Owen, Ian Payne, Charles Rideout, Diane Smith, Tim Stevens and Stephen Wells.

### **168 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **169 MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The committee noted matters outstanding from previous meetings.

### **170 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received.

### **171 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONS SCHEME - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS** Report RES11145

The Department for Communities and Local Government had issued a consultation document setting out the Government's draft proposals to achieve short-term savings of £900m within the Local Government Pension Scheme by 2014-15 following an independent review by Lord Hutton. The

Committee considered a report which informed Members of the detail of the consultation, invited Members' views to inform Bromley's response and provided an update on HM Treasury's amended proposals for longer-term reform.

**RESOLVED that**

**(1) The contents of the report and the draft proposals for short-term reform be noted.**

**(2) The Local Government Group proposals be supported, with the caveat that there is concern about the administrative complexity of the proposals, and that it would be helpful if they could be simplified.**

**172 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS -  
JANUARY TO JUNE 2012**  
Report RES11120

The Committee considered a proposed schedule of Licensing Sub-Committee meetings for the period January to June 2012. It was noted that membership of the Sub-Committee for the meetings scheduled for after the Annual meeting was dependent on Committee appointments for 2012/13.

**RESOLVED that the programme of Licensing Sub-Committee meetings for January to June 2012 be endorsed, subject to any changes being made as necessary by the Director of Resources with the agreement of the Members concerned, including reviewing the proposed meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012, which potentially clashed with the GLA Election count, and to Councillor Bennett being replaced by Councillor Owen on one of the meeting dates.**

After the conclusion of the formal business, the Committee received a presentation on the Licensing spreadsheets that had now been uploaded to the Councillor Intranet site at the request of the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Russell Mellor. The spreadsheets had originally been set up by the Police at the time of the Licensing Act in 2005, but had since been maintained by the Licensing Team. Members welcomed this development, and suggested that officers should investigate whether this information could be made available on the Council's website. It was also suggested that the website information about Licensing should be reviewed to make it more useful for the public, in particular by giving more explanation about what objections could and could not be taken into account.

**173 AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011  
(EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

The Committee received the minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (excluding exempt information).

The Sub-Committee had considered new terms of reference which were reported to the Committee for approval. The terms of reference were set out in the Council's Constitution, so full Council would be asked to approve the required changes to the Constitution.

The Committee supported the new terms of reference, with one change. In the penultimate bullet point, the last phrase was amended by adding the words "...demonstrated and..." The revised terms of reference were therefore as follows –

**Audit Sub-Committee: Terms of Reference**

- Monitor internal audit's strategy, plan and performance.
- Review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies.
- Consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti fraud and anti corruption arrangements.
- Seek assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.
- Be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- Ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is demonstrated and actively promoted.
- Review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.

**RESOLVED that the revised terms of reference for the Audit Sub-Committee be approved.**

**RECOMMENDED that Council be requested to approve the amendment of the Constitution (Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions) to reflect the new terms of reference for the Audit Sub-Committee.**

**174 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES - 28 JUNE 2011 (EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Industrial Relations Sub-Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (excluding exempt information).

**175 PENSIONS INVESTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES - 14TH SEPTEMBER 2011 (EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

The Committee received the minutes of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (excluding exempt information).

**176 LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: MINUTES - (A) 14 JULY 2011; (B) 21 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Committee received the minutes of the meetings of the Local Joint Consultative Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

Councillor Diane Smith noted that her declaration of interest as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme had been omitted in minute 25 of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**177 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006 AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**RESOLVED** that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**The following summaries  
refer to matters  
involving exempt information**

**178 CONFIRMATION OF EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

**179 AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: EXEMPT MINUTES - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Committee received the exempt minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.

**180        INDUSTRIAL    RELATIONS    SUB-COMMITTEE:    EXEMPT  
                 MINUTES - 28 JUNE 2011**

The Committee received the exempt minutes of the Industrial Relations Sub-Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

**181        PENSIONS    INVESTMENT    SUB-COMMITTEE:    EXEMPT  
                 MINUTES - 14TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Committee received the exempt minutes of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The Meeting ended at 7.34 pm

Chairman