



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

:
Council
Date: 28 November 2005

Item No.

Directorate:
Finance, Governance and Citizens

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**CONSTITUTION AND
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Purpose of Report

To seek Council's approval and to seek ratification of various decisions and actions taken by the Improvement Board and Chief Executive.

Recommendations

- (1) To ratify the decisions made by the Improvement Board.
- (2) To ratify the delegated decisions of the Chief Executive.
- (3) To approve an increase in the seats on Licensing Committee to 15 (total 56 seats to which proportionality applies).
- (4) To appoint Councillor Concannon to the Licensing Committee.
- (5) To appoint Councillors to the Local Joint Committee.

Summary

Council adopted various changes to the Council's constitution on the 29 September 2005.

However, at the September meeting, a number of unresolved matters were delegated to the Improvement Board for decision. This report confirms the decisions made by the Improvement Board.

Further, it was necessary, in order to make the structures work, for the Chief Executive to exercise a number of her delegated powers contained in part 8 Clause 1 of the NBC Constitution.

This report confirms and seeks ratification of those delegated powers.

Procedure Rules

Councillors will recall that the report presented to Council on 29 September 2005, suggested amendments to procedural rule 5.2, which would have required 12 calendar days notice for questions. Council delegated powers to the Improvement Board to decide an appropriate notice period for questions. The Improvement Board considered the issue on 20 October and took a view that 12 days was too long. The Improvement Board resolved that rule 5.2 be amended to require 5 calendar days notice. The effect of the decision is to immediately amend procedure rule 5.2 to require 5 calendar days notice for questions. The Improvement Board resolved to review the workings of this rule in approximately 4 months. Following the review in 4 months, if changes are suggested, amendments will be brought back to full Council for ratification.

Outstanding Appointments to Committees

The Improvement Board was given delegated powers to nominate appropriate members to some Committees. The Improvement Board confirmed the Labour nomination of Councillor Pritchard to the Standards Committee.

Increase in Council Seats and nomination to Licence Committee

The Improvement Board considered the nomination of Councillor Concannon to the Licensing Committee. To enable this to occur requires Council to approve an additional seat on the Licensing Committee. This will take the Licensing Committee from 14 seats to 15 seats. This means that the proportionality rules will apply to 56 Council seats as opposed to 55. When the appointment of Councillor Concannon was considered by the Improvement Board he was then an Independent Councillor. Therefore, the proportionality rules did not apply to him. However, it has now been formally confirmed that Councillor Concannon is a member of the Liberal Democrat Group. As such, his nomination to the Licensing Committee engages the proportionality rules. With a 15 member Committee the composition of the Licensing Committee would be 6 Conservative, 6 Liberal Democrat and 3 Labour. Given that the Liberal Democrat Group will increase by 1, giving them an entitlement of 17 seats in total, the nomination of Councillor Concannon to the Licensing Committee just about maintains proportionality for this Committee through a rounding error.

Delegations

The following delegated powers were exercised pursuant to part 8, Clause 1 of the NBC Constitution, by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the 3 group leaders.

- (1) The appointment of Councillor Arthur McCutcheon onto the Planning Committee (delegated power exercised 6 October 2005).

- (2) The appointment of Councillor Lee Mason onto the Planning Committee dated 12 October 2005.

Local Joint Committee

Council on 29 September did not appoint Councillors to the LJC. There is now a need for the appointments to be made. The Committee has a total of 8 Councillors sitting on it; 3 Conservative, 3 Liberal Democrat and 2 Labour.

The Conservative members have been confirmed as Councillors Palethorpe, Larratt and Tavener.

It is proposed that, as far as possible, Councillors currently on the Committee continue on it. This would mean that the Liberal Democrat Group would have Councillor Hollis and Mathews on the Committee. However, there is a Liberal Democrat Group vacancy because Cllr Beardsworth is now the Mayor. The Labour group would have the following Councillors on the Committee: Councillors Barron and Roy.

Background Papers

Improvement Board file FF

Delegations file



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