

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

20th October, 2015 at 6.00 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: The Mayor (Councillor B Price);
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Webb);

Councillors Ahmed, Allcock, Allen, Bawa, Cherrington, Cooper, Costigan, Crompton, S Crompton, Dr T Crompton, S Davies, Y Davies, Dhallu, Downing, Eaves, Edis, Edwards, Eling, Frazer, Frear, Garrett, Gavan, Giles, Gill, Goult, Hackett, Hadley, Haque, Hartwell, L Horton, R Horton, S Hosell, P M Hughes, P Hughes, Hussain, Dr Jaron, Jarvis, I Jones, O Jones, S Jones, Khatun, Lewis, Lloyd, Marshall, Meehan, Melia, Millard, Moore, Phillips, Piper, Preece, R Price, Rouf, Rowley, Shackleton, Sidhu, Taylor, Tipper, Tranter, Trow, Underhill and Worsey.

Apologies: Councillors Ashman, Carmichael, K Davies, P Davies, Hevican, D Hosell, Sandars and Tagger.

87/15 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2015, be confirmed as a correct record.

88/15 **Mayor's Announcements**

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Millard on his recent election to the Council as a member for the Blackheath Ward and welcomed him to his first meeting of the Council.

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Details of Mayoral engagements since the last meeting of the Council had been circulated to members.

Many events had been attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. In particular, the Mayor referred to Civic Sunday at St Giles Church, Rowley Regis on 13th September, 2015.

89/15 **Petitions Under Standing Order No. 5**

No petitions were received under Standing Order No. 5.

90/15 **Questions Under Standing Order No. 6**

No questions were received under Standing Order No. 6.

91/15 **Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2014-15**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the Chair of the Looked After Young Persons' Board and the Chair of the Care Leavers' Forum who, with the agreement of the Mayor, he had invited to attend Council and present the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board 2014-15.

The Corporate Parenting Board comprised six elected members and representatives of the children and young people being looked after by the Council. The Board was accountable to full Council and its purpose was to ensure that the Council effectively discharged its role as Corporate Parent for all of the children and young people in its care.

The driving statement behind the work of the Board had been "What if this was my child? What would I want for them?"

The hard work of the Looked After Young Persons' Board had been commended by the receipt of the prestigious Diana Award, which was a nationally recognised accolade. In March 2015 the Board was honoured with the Diana Champion Volunteers Award for its commitment and work over the past year.

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This year the Board had hosted a major event to review the Looked After Children Strategy and the promises the Council had made to looked after children to ensure that the strategy and promises were fit for purpose.

Although the promises in the Looked After Children Pledge and the Care Leavers Charter remained unchanged, the Strategy had been revised in line with the Children's Services Improvement Plan 2015-17.

The Board remained responsible for driving the delivery of the Looked After Children's Strategy and a key priority over the next few months was to revise governance, membership and the terms of reference of the Board.

Following a visit to the Board in February, Ofsted inspectors gave a positive response in its published report stating that the Board was well established with representatives who were enthusiastic about their role and received strong support from the participation officer.

The Looked After Children Strategy 2015-17 would be submitted to Cabinet in December 2015. To ensure continued progress a report would also be submitted to a future meeting of Council to revise the membership and terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services wished to place on record his thanks to the Chair of the Looked After Young Persons' Board and the Chair of the Care Leavers' Forum, the Vice Chair and members of the Corporate Parenting Board and other agencies who had provided support.

In response to a question, the Chair of the Care Leavers' Forum confirmed that there was adequate support in place from the Council, with procedures and appropriate contacts in place should any issues need addressing.

Following a question regarding what they wished to change/how they would make a difference, the Chair of the Looked After Young Persons' Board stated that there was a requirement for a direct action plan on what the Board intended to do which should provide focus and outline aims, how these aims would be achieved and who to involve to ensure that the aims were achieved efficiently.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2014-2015 be received;
- (2) that the Looked After Children Strategy 2015-17 be submitted to Cabinet in December 2015;
- (3) that a report be submitted to Council in due course to revise the membership and terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Board.

92/15

Scheme for the West Midlands Combined Authority

At its meeting on 21st July 2015, full Council gave approval to the continued pursuit of the Council's interest in the creation of a Combined Authority for the West Midlands and, in order to progress those interests, Council had committed to the establishment of a Combined Authority Shadow Board and authorised the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to agree all matters appropriate to their respective position that were required to progress the development of a Shadow Board and secure the delivery of a combined authority (Minute No. 70/15 refers).

Progress had been made by the Shadow Board towards the next stage of establishing a Combined Authority, including undertaking the Governance Review agreed by Council and drawing up and consulting on a proposed scheme for the new body ahead of the submission to the Government in October.

The draft of the Governance Review had been used as the basis for an engagement process during August, involving writing to a representative sample of 465 stakeholders, comprising key private sector employers, public sector bodies and third sector organisations, the establishment of an on-line survey, which was completed by over 300 respondents, and a number of briefings with the business and third sector communities.

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The feedback from the engagement exercise was broadly positive with 60% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the Combined Authority purpose and proposals. In conclusion, the recommendation of the Governance Review was that the functional economic area of the West Midlands would be best served by a Combined Authority model of governance, bringing together local authorities, local enterprise partnerships and other partners to drive growth. The feedback from consultation so far was overwhelmingly positive.

The Secretary of State would consider the scheme and undertake a wider formal consultation later in the Autumn. If satisfied with the proposals, a draft order would be laid before both Houses of Parliament for adoption by affirmative resolution.

The third and final consideration by full Council would be around April 2016 when final approval would be sought to become a constituent member of a Combined Authority.

Members noted that a Combined Authority was not a merger or a takeover of existing local authority functions nor would it be a 'Super-Council'. It would seek to complement local authority functions in economic development, regeneration and transport and enhance the effectiveness of the way these functions were discharged. In particular, it was the enhancement of decision making and information sharing at a strategic level that were most frequently cited as the advantages of such a body.

The Leader stressed that there had been a lot of misleading information in the press. Sandwell Council would remain as a Metropolitan Borough Council under its own leadership and would not lose its individual identity. A Combined Authority would share many of the same powers as the Council held and would operate these at the regional level as an authority in its own right, but did not automatically result in those powers being removed from the Council at the district level.

In response to a question regarding the set up costs in bringing the Combined Authority proposal together, the Leader confirmed that the details had been made available at the meeting on 21st July 2015 (Minute No. 70/15 refers) and these had been £250,000 per authority at this stage and, in view of the potential benefits in future, the Leader considered that this represented good value for money.

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With regard to voting rights, the Leader confirmed that each constituent member (the four Black Country authorities, Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull) had an equal vote. The rumours that Birmingham, as the largest authority, would have a greater say were not true, the partners would vote on an equal and non-political basis with a common interest which would result in better outcomes for the region.

In response to a question in relation to a Metro Mayor, the Leader stated that no decision had been made on this matter and, in any event, approval would be sought from full Council prior to any decisions in relation to a Combined Authority and the way forward. The Leader had made his views known on Metro Mayors, however, the devolution deal would stipulate how the Authority would have to operate.

It was unanimously **resolved**:-

- (1) that the Council confirms its commitment to become a constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority and endorses the draft Scheme for the Combined Authority and the Governance Review as the basis for the submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government;
- (2) that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to agree, on behalf of the Council, the version of the Scheme for the Combined Authority which will be submitted to Government for consideration;
- (3) that, in order to further progress the Council's interests in the creation of a Combined Authority, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to determine all matters appropriate to their respective position, that are required to progress the development of a Combined Authority;
- (4) that the authority vested in the Leader of the Council to determine and commit the Council to joint decisions required to be made by the Shadow Board as necessary to secure the delivery of a Combined Authority be reaffirmed;

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- (5) that, should it prove necessary in order to meet required timescales, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of receiving the final proposals and to determine if the Council should become a constituent member of the Combined Authority.

93/15

Establishment and Membership of West Midlands Rail Ltd

Approval was sought to the proposed governance arrangements for the development and oversight of the West Midlands Rail Franchise through West Midlands Rail Limited, the Council's membership of West Midlands Rail Limited and the appointment of directors to the board.

Rail devolution provided an opportunity for increased local involvement and influence over local rail services. Over the last two and a half years, the Council had been working with the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, Centro and all other West Midlands metropolitan, shire and unitary authorities to develop a proposal for increasing local involvement and influence over local rail services through the franchise letting process.

The West Midlands Leaders' Rail Group was established in September 2014 and had indicated that a separate body should engage with the Department for Transport on the letting of the West Midlands Rail Franchise and participate in the management of the Franchise. It was therefore proposed to set up the West Midlands Rail Limited company limited by guarantee and owned by the partner authorities.

A formal Partnership Agreement would be negotiated between West Midlands Rail Limited and the Department for Transport to govern the relationship between the two organisations, and would set out the rights and obligations of both parties.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the proposed governance arrangements for the development and oversight of West Midlands Rail Limited be approved;

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- (2) that Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council become a member of West Midlands Rail Limited;
- (3) that the Leader of the Council be appointed as a principal director on the Board of West Midlands Rail Limited and Sandwell's lead member for transport be appointed as the substitute director on that Board;
- (4) that the Director - Governance enter into or execute such legal documents as are necessary to give effect to the decisions referred to in (1), (2) and (3) above.

94/15

The Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Principles

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) required the Council, as the licensing authority, to prepare and publish every three years its own Statement of Principles for how it intended to carry out its licensing functions under the Act. The current Statement of Principles was approved by Council on 4th December 2012 (Minute No. 123/12 refers).

The current three year period required the authority to prepare and publish a policy statement by 3rd January 2016, with it coming into force by 31st January 2016.

Consultation on the proposed statement was conducted in August and September 2015. All council members, local MPs and MEPs had been consulted. Interested parties had also been consulted and the document was also widely published via social media. Technical changes had been made to the policy as a result of feedback.

Under the provisions of Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities were able to pass a resolution stating it would not be issuing any new casino premises licences. A resolution not to issue casino premises licences would only affect new casinos and would not affect the ability of existing casinos from continuing to operate.

The Council in December 2012 resolved that new casino premises licences would not be issued and Council was now asked to reaffirm this.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that a 'no casino' resolution be passed for the three year period commencing 31st January 2016 and that this be included within the Statement of Principles;
- (2) that the Statement of Principles, as amended to take account of resolution (1) above, be approved and adopted with effect from 31st January 2016 in order to ensure the Council, as the Licensing Authority, meets its legal duties and responsibilities under the Gambling Act 2005.

95/15

Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2014-15

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Councillor Sidhu, presented the annual report of the Audit Committee for 2014-15.

The purpose of the Committee was to provide independent assurance to the Council of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It also provided independent review of the governance, risk management and control frameworks, overseeing the financial reporting/annual governance processes and internal and external audit, which helped to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements were in place.

In order to review its effectiveness the Committee undertook a self-assessment exercise in January 2015 based on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy toolkit for local authority audit committees.

The Committee had provided additional assurance for the Council throughout the year by effective challenge and questioning of officers through the review of specific tasks and the use of the strategic risk register and assurance map in order to seek assurance that risks were being appropriately mitigated and improving its knowledge base through consideration of the Chartered Institute's regular audit committee updates. The Committee had also raised the profile of risk and internal control issues across the Council and the importance of implementing audit recommendations.

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Resolved that the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2014-15 be received.

96/15

Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-15

Councillor P Hughes presented the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014-15.

The report outlined the scrutiny arrangements for Sandwell, outcomes achieved by scrutiny during the year, regional scrutiny work and highlights from major scrutiny reviews, as outlined below.

To bring Sandwell in line with Birmingham, the Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group wished to reduce the number of In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) cycles that individuals could access from two to one. Members did not want Sandwell residents to see a reduction in services because Birmingham had a lower level of provision. After rejecting the proposals, and following mediation and a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Birmingham, Sandwell residents would continue to receive two free cycles of IVF treatment.

The Housing, Jobs and Economy Scrutiny Board had considered the draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The Board made recommendations to include community energy and utilisation of the neighbourhood governance arrangements to allocate parts of the funds received from the levy. The Cabinet agreed the proposals and instructed the relevant director to submit the schedule to the Planning Inspectorate, taking into account the recommendations of the Board. The Planning Inspectorate had, subject to minor amendments, agreed the schedule for use in Sandwell.

The levy would provide an income stream to the Council from new residential and supermarket developments across Sandwell and retail developments in West Bromwich.

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The Children's Services Scrutiny Board had conducted a series of visits to front line services to meet with and hear the concerns of staff. The visits included the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, Multi Agency Enquiry Team, Care Management, Looked After Children, Early Help and Family Solutions. The Board developed recommendations arising from the evidence gathered, which included a review of staffing arrangements to ensure adequacy of support to social workers and ensuring all members were kept up to date on key issues in Children's Services, and these were welcomed and agreed by the Cabinet Member.

Training and development was provided for scrutiny members to ensure that scrutiny in Sandwell continued to deliver effective outcomes that contributed to the Council's scorecard priorities. Training had been delivered on Care Quality Commission, questioning techniques, development workshops for Children's Services Scrutiny Board and an overview and scrutiny introduction for new members.

Through the work of the Children's Services Scrutiny Board development workshops for all elected members were delivered to raise awareness about the Council's and members' responsibilities for corporate parenting and safeguarding children.

Scrutiny members met in May 2015 to develop the work programme for each scrutiny board in 2015-16 which would deliver improvements to the Council and its partners and assist in the delivery of the Council's scorecard priorities.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-15 be received.

97/15

Report from the Lead Member on the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Edwards, the member nominated pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 to report on the activities of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, presented an update on the work of the Authority. With the agreement of the Mayor, the Chief Fire Officer was invited to attend and address Council.

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Councillor Edwards made particular reference to the following:-

- Government grant and business rates income made up 62% of the Fire Authority budget;
- the service had suffered Government grant reductions of £28m during the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 which had been achieved through reductions in firefighter numbers, closure of one fire station, a reduction in management and administration, reductions in fire safety staff and collaboration with other public service providers;
- further grant reductions of £14m were anticipated over the 2016/17 to 2018/19 period and work had, therefore, focussed on changes to operational staffing arrangements and ongoing collaborative opportunities to produce the required level of efficiency savings;
- linked with collaborative opportunities, the service was seeking to be commissioned for work linked to health and wellbeing;
- firefighter recruitment had been suspended and, with a loss on average of 60 firefighters each year, numbers were falling rapidly and would continue to do so through a further period of significant reductions in government formula grant;
- the service was working with its strategic local authority partners, blue light responders and care agencies to identify possible opportunities to be commissioned to provide care and wellbeing services on behalf of, and in partnership with, these public bodies;
- emerging workstreams being explored were; telecare/falls response service, accident and emergency hospital discharge follow up visits, out of hours/walk-in patients follow up visits, ambulance welfare visits and frail and elderly winter warmth NHS challenge. Having a needs led approach would help many vulnerable people to remain independent and, if commissioned, could potentially reduce costs to the NHS and partner agencies associated with lack of movement, hospitalisation and reliance on social services.

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In response to a question in relation to diversifying to health related areas, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that over the last ten to fifteen years prevention measures had been vital to saving lives and a great deal of intelligence had been gathered. Home safety checks had evolved from fitting detectors and providing advice in homes to crime prevention and health information. Health and wellbeing seemed a natural evolution of the service including issues such as mobility, mental health and early onset dementia.

Following a question in relation to the Young Firefighters Association, the Chief Fire Officer stated that it was becoming difficult to maintain this service due to the reductions in budget and there was a real threat that the service would not continue purely due to capacity.

98/15

Report of the Lead Member for the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority

Councillor R Horton, the member nominated pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 to report on the activities of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (Centro), presented an update on the work of the Authority and in particular made reference to the following:-

- Centro were working with local bus companies, Sandwell Council and other stakeholders on a network development plan for the area. The results of the first stage consultation process were being considered by the partnership ahead of a further consultation phase in the Autumn which would ask for views from existing and potential passengers as to whether the bus network met their demands;
- Cradley Heath interchange had opened in July 2015 providing greatly improved passenger facilities;
- Centro had started work to improve access to Bescot Stadium station including CCTV, lighting and walking routes. Centro had facilitated talks between the rail company and Sandwell Council for improvements to be made on the public right of way path leading to the station;

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- to mitigate issues with Tamebridge station car park, due to it being on a slope causing difficulties in the winter, an anti-skid surface was being laid in order to allow the car park to remain completely open during adverse weather;
- Centro were due to commence an update of CCTV and lighting at all car parks across the network, including a move to digital CCTV and LED lighting;
- the Rowley Regis park and ride extension and cycle hub had been successfully delivered creating a much needed additional 360 spaces;
- the rollout of Swift smart ticketing continued with more than 3.5m journeys undertaken using a Swift card. Further products and functions were being rolled out to complement the system. A new supplier had also been employed to help develop and deploy new and innovative smart ticketing solutions through Swift going forward;
- Smarter Network Smarter Choices – the programme which aimed to tackle congestion, reduce carbon emissions and strengthen the economy by improving and promoting walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing options;
- the continued introduction of new trams into service on Metro line 1 and the construction of the Birmingham Centre extension was well underway.

In response to a question in relation to where the steel was sourced from for the new track, Councillor Horton undertook to find out and report direct to the member in question.

In relation to CCTV, Councillor Horton confirmed that all cameras were linked to Central House and were monitored.

Following a query regarding payment options, Councillor Horton stated that the Swift system was being built upon and alternatives to pay by cards, phone, etc. would be introduced.

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With regard to park and ride, Councillor Horton would continue to look at the concerns and also made reference to a new approach involving the use of elevated decking areas where space was limited.

Councillor Horton also confirmed that he would continue to push for new buses to replace the ageing vehicles running in Sandwell.

99/15

Update from the Council's Representative on the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

The Council's representative on the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Cooper, Leader of the Council, provided members with an update on the work undertaken by the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel.

For 2015/16 the Panel had agreed to take matters relating to the budget and the Police and Crime Plan and scrutinise these through the year, in addition to carrying out specific statutory duties. Topics would include:-

- estates hidden capital;
- hidden crimes;
- the local role in responding to national threats;
- performance data;
- restorative justice.

The Panel also proposed to scrutinise partnership working. The proposed focus would be to examine how the Police and Crime Commissioner was strengthening engagement with partners to achieve objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. In particular, this would consider the current community safety funding model and possible alternative approaches.

The Panel had a duty to raise awareness with key stakeholders, the public and the media. Efforts had continued to engage the public by meeting across the region and through the introduction of public question time. This approach raised issues in a timely manner and questions had been asked on the closure of Police front desk offices in the West Midlands and the role of the Commissioner in dealing with complaints. However, public attendance had been disappointing.

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As the Panel's work programme shaped for 2015/16 and the impact, actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner were assessed, there were opportunities for further dialogue and closer working with local scrutiny committees.

Elected members from all parties were encouraged to raise issues relating to policing and crime with the Police and Crime Panel members.

In response to a question in relation to budget reductions, the Leader stated that representations had been made to the Home Office regarding fairer funding and this had been partially successful with an additional allocation to West Midlands Police.

100/15 **Minutes and Policy/Strategic Recommendations of the Cabinet**

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 15th and 22nd July, 5th and 19th August and 2nd and 16th September 2015.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet on the following matters of strategic significance:-

100/15(a) **Regional Devolution – A Combined Authority for the West Midlands (Key Decision Ref. No. L010)**

Minute No. 70/15 (Council 21st July, 2015) refers.

100/15(b) **Senior Management Review – Adult Social Care, Public Health and Homes and Communities (Key Decision Ref. No. FR006)**

Resolved:-

- (1) that the re-alignment of the current services within the Homes and Communities directorate, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved;

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- (2) that the permanent re-alignment of the current services within the Street Scene directorate to the Assistant Chief Executive, Regeneration and Economy and Neighbourhood Services directorates, in line with the current temporary arrangements, be approved and the Chief Executive be authorised to determine the realignment of those services which currently remain with the Director – Street Scene, at a time that best meets the Council’s needs;
- (3) that the transfer of relevant budgets, financial, staffing and other associated resources and physical assets, across the realigned services, as referred to in resolutions (1) and (2) above, be approved;
- (4) that the following changes to the establishment of the senior management structure, as set out in Appendix 2, be approved:-
 - (a) the deletion of the current posts of Director – Homes and Communities and Director – Street Scene, with effect from a date to be determined in each case by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
 - (b) the re-grading and re-designation of the post of Director - Adult Social Care to Director - Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing at a salary in line with the remuneration of the post of Director - Children’s Services and otherwise on the terms and conditions of employment of chief officers of the Council;
 - (c) the designation of the post of Director - Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing as the statutory Director of Adult Social Services;

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- (d) the establishment of a new post of Chief Operations Officer - Adult Social Care, temporary for two years in the first instance, at a salary in accordance with the salary scale for chief officers and otherwise on the terms and conditions of employment of chief officers of the Council, with effect from a date to be determined by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
- (e) the establishment of a post of Service Manager – Housing Strategy at a salary in accordance with the salary scale for Service Managers and otherwise on the terms and conditions of employment for officers of the Council, with effect from a date to be determined by the Chief Executive;
- (5) that the application for voluntary redundancy of the current holder of the post of Director – Street Scene be approved, from a date to be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
- (6) that the current holder of the post of Director - Homes and Communities be placed at risk of redundancy with immediate effect;
- (7) that, subject to the Chief Officer Terms and Conditions Committee being satisfied as to the suitability of the person for the role, the current holder of the post of Director – Adult Social Care be offered the post of Director - Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing;
- (8) that the Service Manager – Governance be authorised to reassign the functions currently delegated to the affected posts under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, to the relevant chief officer posts in the new structure, upon deletion of the posts referred to in resolution (4)(a) above; and,

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- (9) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council, be authorised to take all other action necessary to give effect to the senior management review.

101/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board**

In the absence of the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board, Councillor P Hughes presented the summary of matters considered at the meeting of the Board held on 27th August, 2015.

No questions were asked of Councillor P Hughes.

102/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board**

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board, Councillor Underhill, presented the summary of matters considered at the meeting of the Board held on 24th August, 2015.

No questions were asked of the Chair of the Board.

103/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board**

The Chair of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board, Councillor L Horton, presented the summary of matters considered at the meeting of the Board held on 19th August, 2015.

In connection with the Corporate Parenting Board annual report presented to Council (see Minute No. 91/15), the Chair highlighted the scrutiny work being undertaken around care leavers. In light of the recent Ofsted inspection, the scrutiny board chairs had agreed to look at how scrutiny could demonstrate its commitment and support to the Children's Services improvement journey.

No questions were asked of the Chair of the Board.

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104/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board**

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Lloyd, Vice-Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board, presented the summary of matters considered at the meetings of the Board held on 6th and 20th August, 2015.

No questions were asked of the Vice-Chair of the Board.

105/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Housing Scrutiny Board**

The Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board, Councillor P Hughes, presented the summary of matters considered at the meeting of the Board held on 8th September, 2015.

No questions were asked of the Chair of the Board.

106/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board**

The Chair of the Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board, Councillor S Jones, presented the summary of matters considered at the meeting of the Board held on 18th August, 2015.

No questions were asked of the Chair of the Board.

107/15 **Summary of Matters Considered at the Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector Scrutiny Board**

The Chair of the Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector Scrutiny Board, Councillor Ahmed, presented the summary of matters considered at the meeting of the Board held on 17th August, 2015.

No questions were asked of the Chair of the Board.

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108/15 **Proposals to Depart from the Local Development Plan at Crystal House, Smethwick**

At the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29 July, 2015, consideration was given to planning application DC/15/58098 which sought approval for the proposed change of use from offices to a gym including a new front entrance and associated car parking at Crystal House, Smethwick.

The Planning Committee was minded to approve the planning permission subject to the conditions recommended by the Director - Regeneration and Economy.

The site was allocated as potential strategic high quality employment land in the Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document. It was, therefore, necessary for the Council to consider whether or not to grant an exception to its policy to allow the application to proceed.

Resolved that an exception to the Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document and local development plan be allowed in respect of planning application DC/15/58098 (Proposed change of use of former offices (B1) to gym (D2) including new front entrance and associated car parking - Crystal House, 1 – 7 Crystal Drive, Smethwick.

109/15 **Minutes of the Audit Committee**

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Councillor Sidhu, presented the minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 23rd July and 24th September, 2015.

No questions were asked of Councillor Sidhu.

110/15 **Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**

The Chair of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, Councillor Dhallu, presented the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 10th August, 2015.

No questions were asked of Councillor Dhallu.

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111/15 **Minutes of the Standards Committee**

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Lewis, presented the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 11th September, 2015.

No questions were asked of Councillor Lewis.

112/15 **Appointments to Committees, Boards and Other Fora 2015-16**

At its annual meeting on 26th May 2015, the Council approved the constitution of committees, boards and other fora for the 2015-16 municipal year and assigned members to these roles and bodies.

By-Election

Following the by-election for a single vacant seat in the Blackheath Ward on 10th September 2015, there was a duty on the Council to review proportionality and to consider the appointment of the newly elected member to seats on the Council's committees, boards and other fora.

As proportionality was unaffected, and rather than remove elected members from committees at this point in the municipal year, it was proposed to increase the Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board by one additional seat to accommodate the newly elected member.

Deputy Town Lead

As West Bromwich was the largest area in the Borough it contained a large number of organisations and community groups that the Town Lead and Deputy Town Lead Members met with. In terms of time commitment and availability, this was proving difficult for existing members. In order to meet the demand for engagement with members at Town level it was proposed to establish a second Deputy Town Lead for West Bromwich.

Meeting of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council –
20th October, 2015

Land and Asset Management Committee

The Council had established a Land and Asset Management Committee at the annual meeting on 26th May 2015. It was now considered that the Committee would benefit from a change in membership to draw on the experience of Councillor Eling (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources). It was therefore proposed to change the membership of the Committee and replace Councillor Crompton (Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment) with Councillor Eling.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board be increased by one additional seat for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (2) that Councillor Millard be appointed to the Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (3) that Councillor D Hosell be appointed as second Deputy Town Lead member for West Bromwich for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (4) that the membership of the Land and Asset Management Committee be revised by the replacement of Councillor Crompton (Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment) with Councillor Eling (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources).

(The meeting ended at 7.42 pm)

Contact Officer: Trisha Newton Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3193

Proposed Re-distribution of Services

Current Location	Service	Proposed Location
Homes and Communities	Housing and Partnerships	Regeneration and Economy
Homes and Communities	Regulatory Services - Environmental Health and Trading Standards	Public Health
Homes and Communities	The Quality Housing Team	Public Health
Homes and Communities	The Customer Support team and database support	Public Health (subject to further review following transfer)
Homes and Communities	Home Improvements	Adults
Homes and Communities	Partnership Management (Housing)	Neighbourhoods
Homes and Communities	Asset Management	Neighbourhoods
Former Street Scene	Waste Improvement Partnership	Neighbourhoods
Former Street Scene	Passenger Transport	Children and Families
Former Street Scene	Taxi Licencing	ACE (Legal)

Proposed Structure

