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General Purposes Committee

Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Thursday, 29 September 2022 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Amy Foster (Chair);
Councillor Appu Srinivasan (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Jason Cummings, Samir Dwesar, Joseph Lee, Ian Parker
Ellily Ponnuthurai

PART A

1/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Fish and Pearson gave apologies. Councillors Jason Cummings and Ian Parker attended in their absence.

2/22 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of interest for any item on the evening's agenda.

3/22 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

4/22 **Review of Constitution**

Looqman Desai, Deputy Monitoring Officer, explained that a review of the Constitution was needed and so a Constitution Working Group of members should be set up. The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that it would not be a formal committee or a decision-making body, but that recommendations arising from the work it did with officers on amendments to the Constitution would be brought to the General Purposes Committee for decision before being ratified at Council.

In response to members' queries, it was stated that the arrangements for the working group would be flexible, and member led. It was also stated that the Council Procedure Rules had been identified as a priority area, and the rest of the prioritising exercise could be done by the working group itself with guidance from officers.

Members requested that some information on the work done by the previous Constitution Working Group be taken to the first meeting. Members agreed to allocate seats on the working group to three Labour members, three Conservative members, and one Green member, with the opportunity to consult with the Liberal Democrat member and other members/committees from time to time. The Chair of the General Purposes Committee would also chair the Constitution Working Group.

RESOLVED, to:

1. Agree a review of the Constitution covering the issues set out in Appendix 1 of the report and any other matters the Committee may decide; and
2. Establish a Constitution Working Group to keep the Constitution under review and inform proposals for any changes to the Constitution having regard to the issues set out in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5.
3. Agree that the Constitution Working Group will:
 - 3.1 comprise of seven members with seats allocated as follows: three Labour members; three Conservative members and one Green member;
 - 3.2 have the power to invite the Liberal Democrat member and other members/committees to participate in the review from time to time; and
 - 3.3 be chaired by the Chair of the General Purposes Committee current at the time.

5/22

General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee - Political Balance Review and Appointments

Presenting the report, the Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that a politically proportional sub-committee was needed to decide matters of urgency, and that members should be drawn from the parent committee.

In response to members questions it was stated that it would not be appropriate to have an Independent Member on the sub-committee, that the Terms of Reference for the sub-committee would be the same as those for the parent committee, and that the Committee could only appoint two reserves for each political group.

RESOLVED, to:

1. Review the representation of different political groups on the General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee.
2. Agree to increase the size of the General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee from 3 to 4 seats.
3. Agree the allocation of seats on the General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee, by applying the political balance rules, to the Conservative and Labour groups as set out in paragraph 2.10 of this report.
4. Appoint to the General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee, in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group, the 4 Members and 4 reserves as set out in paragraph 2.13.

The meeting ended at 7.18 pm

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