



Minutes of the meeting of the DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES SUB-COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2000 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor K Wilson (Chair)
Councillors Ellis, I Henderson, Miles, Morsley and Tallack

Officers: H Miller (Chief Executive), J Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services), C Godfrey (Senior Administration Officer - Environment) and S Heap (Members' Services Manager)

Apology: Councillor Day

Also Present: Councillors Edwards and White

DS58/00 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 3 April 2000, be approved and signed by the Chair as correct record.

DS79/00 LOCALITY WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Sub-Committee received details of the outcome of consultation with Parish, Town and Neighbourhood Councils on the options for locality arrangements in Milton Keynes.

The Sub-Committee considered possible models which could be adopted which were consultative fora; area committees; further devolution; or a combination of the various models.

RESOLVED -

That the following be provided for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee:

1. a list of powers and duties available to Parish Councils;
2. a model for a Consultative Forum;
3. details of possible functions which could be undertaken by a local joint decision making committee; and
4. a timetable for the pilot models.

DS80/00

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - INTERIM SCHEME

The Sub-Committee considered an interim Scheme of Members' Allowances to reflect the new democratic structures, pending the work of the independent panel which was to be established.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances be amended to reflect the revised rates as set out in the **Annex** to these Minutes.
2. That the Chairs of the Development Control, Licensing and Standards Boards be allocated the 3 Special Responsibility Allowances identified for quasi-judicial Chairs.

DS81/00

PROTOCOLS/MEMBERS' ROLES, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sub-Committee noted that work had not progressed sufficiently on the draft Protocols or Members' Roles, Rights and Responsibilities for them to be submitted to the Sub-Committee.

It was reported that as the relationship between the Protocols, Roles, Rights and Responsibilities and Procedural Standing Orders was key, work could not be finalised until further work had been carried out on Standing Orders.

DS82/00

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2000/01

The Sub-Committee received a further revised draft of the Calendar of Meetings for the Council year 2000/01, which not only took account of school holidays and major local government conferences, but also only set the dates for the Cabinet, Business Management Group and Scrutiny Boards for the first quarter of the year, in order to allow those bodies to determine their own frequency of meeting necessary to support their work programmes.

DS83/00

PROCEDURAL STANDING ORDERS

It was noted that the Standing Orders Group had met the previous Friday and would also be meeting the following day.

It was reported that it was intended to submit the Standing Orders to the next meeting before final approval by the Annual Council on 23 May 2000.

It was suggested that to enable Members to give consideration to the new Procedural Standing Orders an informal meeting of all Council Members should be held after the Elections and before the Annual Meeting. This meeting could also be used to brief Members on the new democratic structures.

A copy of the draft Terms of Reference for Member Bodies was circulated for comment.

RESOLVED -

That an informal meeting of the Council be held after the Elections in May in order to brief all Members of the Council on:

1. the revised procedural Standing Orders; and
2. the new democratic structures.

DS84/00 DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE APPEALS

Further to Minute DS7/00, the Sub-Committee noted the current arrangements for Member involvement in Staff Disciplinary and Grievance Appeals and considered whether Members should continue to be involved.

RESOLVED -

That Member involvement in Staff Disciplinary and Grievance Appeals be continued.

DS85/00 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Further to Minute PR126/00(f), the Sub-Committee noted a list of partnerships in which the Council was involved, particularly those considered strategic.

DS86/00 PROJECT PLAN

The Sub-Committee noted the updated Project Plan.

DS87/00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Sub-Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 27 April 2000 at 4.00 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 5.15 PM