

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RECOMMENDATION: To make the following appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies as notified by the Whips:

- a) Councillor Allam and Councillor Oswell to replace each other on the South and Central and North Planning Committees and to be the Labour Group Leads on those Committees.
- b) Councillor Markham to replace Councillor Willmott-Denbeigh as a Member and Chairman of the Residents' and Environment Services Policy Overview Committee

6.2 URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Urgency decisions detailed below be noted

Information

1. The Constitution allows a Cabinet or Cabinet Member decision to be implemented before the expiry of the 5 day call-in provided there is agreement from the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Executive Scrutiny Committee. All such decisions are to be reported to a full Council meeting for information.
2. There have been two recent uses of the urgency provision as follows:
 - i) Brookfield Adult Education Centre – Cabinet Member decision to accept a tender to undertake building work and associated funding. The decision was deemed urgent because the works needed to be started and completed by the new academic year. The decision took immediate effect on 9 June 2009.
 - ii) Appointment of consultants to help recruit two Deputy Director posts in Education and Children's Services. This Cabinet Member decision was deemed urgent because, in the interests of the service, these two key posts could have only be left empty for the shortest time possible. The decision took immediate effect on 3 July 2009.

6.3 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the following amendment to the Constitution be approved:

Information

The Council receives many petitions each year on a variety of topics. A petition with 20 or more signatures of Borough residents is referred to the appropriate committee or Cabinet Member petition hearing for consideration. Petitions can come in a variety of formats and verification of the signatories can often be difficult and time consuming.

In order for those Members considering petitions to be able to easily verify that signatories to a petition are valid it is suggested that the following sentence be added to Part 4, B, paragraph 13 – ‘Speaking Rights and Petitions’ of the Constitution:

“10) In order for a petition to be valid the printed name, signature and address of each petitioner shall be clearly shown. In the case of electronic petitions details must be provided that clearly indicate a petitioner is a Borough resident.”