# CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

15 May 2006
(6.00pm- 6.45pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Rosenstiel (Chair), Boyce, Bradnack, Hart, Stebbings, Ward.
Also present: The Leader, Councillor Nimmo-Smith

**FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

## 06/CIV/20 HONORARY COUNCILLORS

The Committee received nominations from Councillors Bradnack, Hart and Durrant that former Councillors Richard Smith and Terry Sweeney be appointed Honorary Councillors.

**Resolved**

To recommend to Council that former Councillors Richard Smith and Terry Sweeney be appointed Honorary Councillors.

## 06/CIV/21 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Committee agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be held on 20th June at 6pm to consider the Planning Inspector's Report on the Local Plan.

The meeting ended at 6.45pm

**CHAIR**

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(6.00pm- 6.45pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Rosenstiel (Chair), Boyce, Bradnack, Hart, Stebbings, Ward.
Also present: The Leader, Councillor Nimmo-Smith

**FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL**

## 06/CIV/15 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee noted a report from the Head of Legal & Democratic Services that detailed changes required to the Constitution. The Liberal Democrat Group tabled proposals regarding Executive Councillor portfolios.

The Committee noted that some changes to the Members Allowances Scheme would be required and a small saving on the budget would result (details to be tabled at Council). The Independent Remuneration Panel had been consulted and any comments would be reported to Council.

Regarding the statutory changes to Access to Information categories, the Chair expressed a concern that the Council's approach to openness first is maintained. The Head of Legal & Democratic Services stated that officers were aware of members' views that the default was to report in the public domain and that there were opportunities during the agenda preparation process to address any member concerns. He noted the Chair's concern that reporting the public's names and addresses in committee reports (e.g. Planning and Licensing Committees) had not been consistent and would be looked at.

**Accordingly, Council is RECOMMENDED**

1) To agree the changes to the Constitution in Part 4B, Access to Information Procedure Rules, as shown in the Appendix.

2) That a Deputy Leader is not separately appointed but that the general functions of the Deputy Leader, as referred to in para 2.4.1 of Part 3 and in Part 4D of the Constitution be performed by the Executive Councillor for Housing.

3) That the specific functions of the Deputy Leader in relation to the Grand Arcade redevelopment, as referred to in para 2.4.2 of Part 3 of the Constitution, be performed by the Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources.

4) That the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme is amended to:

- delete the separate provision of a special responsibility allowance for

the role of Deputy Leader;

- assign to the new Licensing Committee those allowances previously approved for the Licensing (2003 Act) Committee; and
- pay one Minority Group Leader Special Responsibility Allowance calculated using a multiplier of one.

5) That the portfolios of Executive Councillors are revised with headline responsibilities as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Arts and Recreation** | **Arts and Leisure**<br>**Parks and recreation** |
| **Community Development and Health** | **Community development**<br>**Economic Development**<br>**Environmental Health and Protection:**<br>(food safety, pests and diseases, health promotion)<br>**Cemeteries and Crematorium** |
| **Housing** | **Housing Services: Private Sector Housing Renewal** |
| **Environmental Services** | **Environmental Health and Protection:** (pollution, licensing, environmental protection)<br>**Street Cleaning**<br>**Waste Collection**<br>**Public conveniences** |
| **Planning and Transport** | **Parking Services**<br>**Building and Development Control**<br>**Economic Development and Tourism**<br>**Planning and Transport Policy and Research** |
| **Customer Services and Resources** | **Customer Services**<br>**Central Services**<br>**Council tax and housing benefit payment Democratic services**<br>**Property Services** |
| **Strategy** | **Strategic overview**<br>**Community safety**<br>**Equalities**<br>**Performance management**<br>**Democratic innovations** |

6) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be asked to prepare revised portfolios for Executive Councillors in time for consideration at the Annual Meeting, and that any further detailed drafting changes to the Constitution to reflect the changes in Executive portfolios be brought back to the Council in the July cycle.

7) That scrutiny responsibility for cemeteries and the Crematorium is moved from the Environment Scrutiny Committee to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, and that membership of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee is increased to ten, but that no other changes are made to scrutiny committee responsibilities or size.

8) That :

- the functions of the Licensing (2003 Act) Committee and the Licensing Committee are combined within one Licensing Committee of twelve members which will also be responsible for the Gambling Act 2005;
- applications under the Licensing Act 2003 are determined by four sub-committees of three, rather than five sub-committees as previously but otherwise in a similar manner;
- the officers consider the mode of determination of other licensing applications, including the scope for two sub-committees combining when it is appropriate for more than three members to determine an application.

9) That the functions of executive councillors are therefore subject to scrutiny as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Executive Councillor for Housing** | Housing Management Board (for non-strategic housing management functions)<br>Community Services scrutiny committee (for other housing matters) |
| **Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation** | Community Services scrutiny committee |
| **Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health** | Community Services scrutiny committee |
| **Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport** | Environment scrutiny committee |
| **Executive Councillor for Environmental Services** | Environment scrutiny committee |
| **Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources** | Customer Services & Resources scrutiny committee |
| **The Leader** | Strategy scrutiny committee |

10) That any further detailed drafting changes to the Constitution to reflect these proposals be brought back to the Council in the July cycle.

## 06/CIV/16 EXTERNAL MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that a Selection Panel taken from the Standards Committee (Councillors Dryden, Hymans and External Member Dr Clark) met on 18th April to consider applications of interest to a vacancy on the Standards Committee following the decision of Ms Hobbs, one of the two External Members (and the current Vice Chair) to step down.

Seven applicants were interviewed of which four were considered appointable. The Selection Panel had requested the Committee to recommend that one candidate be appointed to the vacant seat, that two Alternate Members are created and one person is a ‘reserve’. Some background information on the appointees will be

provided at Council.

**Accordingly, Council is RECOMMENDED**

(i) Mr A Dasgupta be appointed External Member
(ii) Mrs K English and Mr M Williams be appointed Alternate Members
(iii) Mr K Barrett be appointed reserve

06/CIV/17 **ELECTION OF LEADER AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS**

The Committee noted and agreed the following nominations of the Liberal Democrat Group:

Leader – Cllr Nimmo-Smith
Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources – Cllr Cantrill
Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health – Cllr Stuart
Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation – Cllr Smith
Executive Councillor for Housing (and Deputy Leader) – Cllr Smart
Executive Councillor for Environmental Services – Cllr C Rosenstiel
Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport – Cllr Reid

**Council is recommended**

That Cllr Nimmo-Smith be elected Leader for the municipal year 2006/07 and that the Executive be made up of a further six members of the Council as follows:

Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources – Cllr Cantrill
Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health – Cllr Stuart
Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation – Cllr Smith
Executive Councillor for Housing (and Deputy Leader) – Cllr Smart
Executive Councillor for Environmental Services – Cllr C Rosenstiel
Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport – Cllr Reid

for the municipal year 2006/07.

06/CIV/18 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2006/07**

In accordance with the rules on political balance set out in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Committee noted the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals to change allocation of committee places to political groups as follows:

(i) Strategy Scrutiny from 6 Lib Dem-2 Lab-1 Con to **7 LD, 2 Lab**
(ii) Customer Services & Resources from 6-2-1 to **6 LD, 3 Lab**
(iii) Community Services from a 9 member committee to **10 (7 LD, 3 Lab)**

**Council is recommended**

1) That the size of committees and membership be as indicated below (note Labour membership to be tabled at Council).

2) That four Area Committees: North (Arbury, Kings Hedges, East Chesterton and West Chesterton) South (Cherry Hinton, Queen Edith's and Trumpington), East (Abbey, Coleridge, Petersfield and Romsey) and West/Central (Castle, Market and Newnham) be appointed with membership comprising those members representing the wards within the relevant Area Committee.

| SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | SIZE | LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (ALTERNATE) | LABOUR |
|---|---|---|---|
| STRATEGY | 9 | Adigun-Harris, Armstrong, Boyce, Bruce, Hymans, Shah, Ward (tba) | |
| CUSTOMER SERVICES & RESOURCES | 9 | Adigun-Harris, Ellis-Miller, Hymans, Liddle, Joye Rosenstiel, Taylor (James) | |
| COMMUNITY SERVICES | 10 | Ellis-Miller, Hymans, James, Kightley, Liddle, Slatter, Upstone (Boyce) | |
| ENVIRONMENT | 9 | Bailey, Baker, Holland, Holness, Shah, Ward (Kightley) | |
| HOUSING MANAGEMENT BOARD | 9 | Armstrong, James, Kightley, Joye Rosenstiel, Stebbings, Upstone (Ward) | |
| CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT | 6 | Boyce, Dixon, Hipkin, Holness (Holland) | |

| REGULATORY COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE | SIZE | LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (ALTERNATE) | LABOUR |
|---|---|---|---|
| PLANNING | 9 | Baker, Dixon, Hipkin, Hymans, Reid, Slatter (Stuart) | |
| LICENSING | 12 | Boyce, Dixon, Hymans, Liddle, Colin Rosenstiel, Slatter, Stuart, Upstone | |
| CIVIC AFFAIRS | 6 | Boyce, Colin Rosenstiel, Stebbings, Ward (Reid) | |
| EMPLOYMENT APPEALS SUB | 6 | Adigun-Harris, Boyce, Smart, Smith | |
| STANDARDS COMMITTEE<br><br>External Members (1) Dr Clark, (2) Mr Dasgupta<br>Alternate Members K English, M | 8 | Hymans, Colin Rosenstiel, Stebbings, Taylor | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Williams Reserve: K Barrett | | | |
| CAMBRIDGE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT AREA JOINT | 6 | Bailey, Baker, Reid, Colin Rosenstiel (Holness) | |

06/CIV/19 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS 2006/07**

The Committee noted that nominations would be tabled at the Council meeting.

**Council is recommended**

To appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees for 2006/07