



City of Westminster

# Minutes

Meeting:

**General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee**

Date of meeting:

**Thursday 15 January 2009 at 6.30pm at Westminster  
City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP**

Attendees:

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Melyvn Caplan (Chairman)</b>
	<b>Guthrie McKie</b>
	<b>Alastair Moss</b>

Apologies:

**None**

Contact:

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## **1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 Councillor Alastair Moss had replaced Councillor Tim Mitchell.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 The Chairman, with the consent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2008 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

## **4. COUNCIL MEETINGS (see report of the Head of Administrative Services)**

Nigel Tonkin, Head of Administrative Services introduced the report, outlined the proposed changes set out in the report and clarified that the Leader of the Opposition would be entitled to ask up to three (from the current two) questions during Question Time.

In respect of the forward plan of agenda items the Chairman advised that this should contain broad references to issues which may warrant debate during the subsequent 12 months.

Councillor McKie advised that his group broadly welcomed these proposals. He added that it was important that officers had regard to the policy debates at Council and subsequently referred to the issues raised within these Council debates in reports on the policy issues to either Policy and Scrutiny Committees or the Cabinet/Cabinet Members. The Chairman advised that the debates at Council were to be integral to the formulation of Council policy and confirmed that further detailed procedures or changes could be brought forward as part of a review of the new arrangements in 6 months.

The Chairman asked officers to prepare a note and flow chart for Members to show the changes.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the Council be recommended to agree the changes to its meetings as outlined in the report.
2. That the Council be recommended to approve the changes to Standing Orders set out in Appendix A of the report.
3. That the changes be implemented so that they take effect after the Council meeting on 28 January 2009 and reviewed by the General Purposes Committee after 6 months.

**5. DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES (see report of the Head of Administrative Services)**

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the Committee designate the following two alternative polling place locations for the European Parliamentary Elections on 4 June, 2009:
  - (a) MHC (Marylebone High Street) to be changed for all future elections (subject to the arrangements working satisfactorily) from St Marylebone School to the Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street (as the school no longer has suitable accommodation and its use as a polling place has caused significant disruption to the school);
  - (b) RPB (Regent's Park) to be changed only for the elections on 4 June 2009 from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, which was previously a polling place (as the RCOG is unavailable for use as a polling place on the date of this year's European Parliamentary Elections);
- (ii) That the Committee note the possibility of relocating the CHA (Churchill) polling place from the Churchill Gardens Youth Club to Churchill Hall for the reasons set out in the report, but that any change will be confirmed by officers under delegated powers in consultation with the party whips.

**6. SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS (see report of the Head of Legal Services)**

**Resolved:**

That the Council be recommended to agree that authority to revise the Schedule of Delegations to Officers in respect of existing non-executive delegations be delegated to the Chief Executive in order to take account of organisational change.

**7. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ACUTE STROKE AND MAJOR (see report of the Head of Administrative Services)**

The Chairman confirmed that this report should be considered as a matter of urgency in view of the special circumstances that a decision on the Council's membership needs to be made in time for the first meeting of the joint Committee on 4 February 2009.

**Resolved:**

That the General Purposes Committee recommends to the full Council that it agrees:

1. To establish a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“the joint committee”) of London boroughs to respond to the NHS London’s consultation on the models of care outlined in “Healthcare for London: Consultation on Acute Stroke and Major Trauma Services in London” provided the Joint Scrutiny Network (a body of which the Council is a member) so agrees.
2. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to agree the terms of reference of the joint committee, in consultation with the Council’s nominated member on the joint committee.
3. To appoint a member to JHOSC as nominated by the Chief Whip and appointed by the Head of Legal Services in accordance with his existing delegated authority.

**8. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE