

MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 28 March 2012
(7:00 - 7:40 pm)

PRESENT

Councillor N S S Gill (Chair)
Councillor E Kangethe (Deputy Chair)

Councillor S Alasia	Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor S Ashraf	Councillor A Gafoor Aziz
Councillor G Barratt	Councillor P Burgon
Councillor L Butt	Councillor E Carpenter
Councillor J Channer	Councillor J Clee
Councillor H J Collins	Councillor R Douglas
Councillor C Geddes	Councillor R Gill
Councillor D Hunt	Councillor M Hussain
Councillor A S Jamu	Councillor I S Jamu
Councillor E Keller	Councillor G Letchford
Councillor M A McCarthy	Councillor M McKenzie MBE
Councillor D S Miles	Councillor M Mullane
Councillor E O Obasohan	Councillor J Ogungbose
Councillor T Perry	Councillor B Poulton
Councillor A K Ramsay	Councillor L A Reason
Councillor D Rodwell	Councillor T Saeed
Councillor A Salam	Councillor L A Smith
Councillor D Twomey	Councillor J Wade
Councillor L R Waker	Councillor P T Waker
Councillor J R White	Councillor M M Worby

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor R Baldwin	Councillor J Davis
Councillor J E McDermott	Councillor H S Rai
Councillor C Rice	Councillor L Rice
Councillor S Tarry	Councillor G M Vincent

68. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest

69. Minutes (22 February 2012)

The minutes of the meeting on 22 February 2012 were confirmed as correct.

70. Appointments

Assembly noted that Councillor Alasia had been appointed to the East London Solutions Members Review Group.

71. Beam Park Prospectus

Assembly received this report introduced by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration. The report focused on a revised approach to the regeneration of Beam Park, south Dagenham, an area of approximately 30 hectares of largely vacant land south of the A1306, two thirds of which was within Barking and Dagenham and the other third in the London Borough of Havering.

The Cabinet Member advised that it had been intended that the site be for residential-led development. However, recent interest from the market had suggested that a major leisure-led project could provide the essential catalyst to secure regeneration and deliver growth in the wider south Dagenham/ Rainham area. With that in mind, a joint prospectus had been prepared which, although not changing or replacing current planning policy, provided an up-to-date statement of the two Councils' aspirations for the area and described the key development objectives, an illustration of the expected planning benefits and a summary of planning and transport requirements including planning policy considerations.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member welcomed Members' general support for the scheme. He explained the effects of the Community Infrastructure Levy referred to at paragraph 5.4 of the report and advised that the proposed redevelopment could create up to 3,000 new jobs, thus making the area more attractive to potential developers.

Assembly **agreed** to approve the Beam Park Prospectus attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

72. Housing Strategy 2012-2017

Assembly received and noted this report, introduced by the Cabinet Member for Housing, on the Housing Strategy 2012-2017, setting out the Council's ambitions for housing in Barking and Dagenham.

Assembly **agreed** to approve the Barking and Dagenham Housing Strategy 2012-2017 as set out at Appendix A to the report.

73. Pay Policy Statement 2012/13

Assembly received and noted this report on the draft Pay Policy Statement for the Council for 2012/13, introduced by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Human Resources.

It was noted that the Localism Act 2011 required all local authorities to publish an annual statement of its pay policy, covering areas such as the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer and the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers, other officers and its "lowest paid employees".

The Cabinet Member advised that the Council's previous decisions to reduce the level of Chief Executive pay and to implement the London Living Wage meant that the ratio between the highest and lowest paid employees was 1:10, which compared favourably to the Hutton Review recommendation that the ratio should not be greater than 1:20.

The Cabinet Member referred to an amendment to figures in paragraph 5.6 of the report in that there were 9 posts at CO3 level and 3 posts at CO4 level.

Assembly **agreed** to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for 2012/13 as attached at Appendix A to the report, subject to the amendment of paragraph 5.6 as set out above.

74. Statement of Licensing Policy 2012 - 2015

The Assembly received and noted this report on a revised Statement of Licensing Policy for the Borough, introduced by the Divisional Director for Environment (DDE).

The DDE advised that a number of changes had been made to the Council's current policy to reflect new legislative arrangements as well as local concerns. In this latter respect, the changes included restrictions on the hours of sale of alcohol both late at night and in the morning, the principle that alcohol licences would generally be refused for premises in the vicinity of schools, stricter requirements for the location of alcohol in off-licence premises and the active promotion of the existing Responsible Retailer scheme.

In response to Members' questions, the DDE advised that:

- ❖ the policy was a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003;
- ❖ activities covered by the policy were set out in Part A of Appendix 1 to the report but did not cover the sale of adult books;
- ❖ he would provide Members with the number of applications that had been refused or revoked in the last year;
- ❖ any licensing concerns that Members might have should be addressed to him rather than Licensing Board Members so as to avoid the perception of pre-determination;
- ❖ concerns as to drug use in licensed premises would be a police matter;
- ❖ the policy would be effective when approved by the Assembly.

The DDE also explained the methodology for calculating the maximum 30% of retail space allowed in off-licences for the sale of alcohol.

The Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities commended the policy to the Assembly and thanked officers and stakeholders for their hard work in the consultation and preparation of it.

Assembly **agreed** to adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy 2012-2015 as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

75. Extension of Term of Independent Members of the Standards Committee

Assembly received and noted this report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, seeking an extension to the term of two Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

Assembly **agreed**:

1. to waive paragraph 11.5 of Article 7 of the Council Constitution; and
2. to an extension to the terms of office of Mr Kevin Madden and Mr Delbert Sandiford, Independent Members of the Standards Committee to 30 June 2012 or until such time as the Standards regime was implemented.

76. Leader's Question Time

None.

77. General Question Time

None.

78. Motions

None.

79. Dagenham Rugby Club *

Following a report from the Leader of the Council, the Assembly passed best wishes and good luck to Dagenham Rugby Club ahead of their next league game, which if they won would secure their promotion.

(* The Chair agreed that this item could be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency under the provisions of Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.)

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.