

Council Assembly (Constitutional Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Constitutional Meeting) held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor Sunil Chopra

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Claire Maugham
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Chris Gonde	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Mark Williams
	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor thanked members for electing him as Mayor. He also welcomed all the new councillors and congratulated re-elected members.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

The Mayor announced that he had agreed to receive a report entitled Constitutional Changes 2014/15 as urgent business for the reasons set out in the report. The Mayor stated that one late amendment to item 2.2 had been circulated.

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rule in order to consider the late amendment:

- CAPR 2.11(3) Notice required for amendments.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Victoria Mills, James Barber and Stephanie Cryan.

1.5 MINUTES

(See supplemental agenda 1, pages 1 – 24)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. OTHER REPORTS

2.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2014/15

(See pages 1 – 4 of the main agenda and pages 1 – 4 of the leader's report on white papers circulated at the meeting)

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have

been moved, and were subject to amendment only. He announced that he intended to consider each recommendation where a decision was needed separately.

The Mayor stated that he had received one nomination for recommendation 3 on the election of leader, Councillor Peter John. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nomination was put to the vote and it was agreed that Councillor Peter John be appointed leader of the council.

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, reported on the following appointment of members of the cabinet and the determination and allocation of their functions:

Councillor Peter John – Leader of the Council

Councillor Ian Wingfield – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Employment and Business

Councillor Darren Merrill and Cllr Michael Situ – Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling, Community Safety and Volunteering (job share role)

Councillor Mark Williams – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transport

Councillor Richard Livingstone – Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Barrie Hargrove – Cabinet Member for Public Health, Parks and Leisure

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle – Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Arts and Culture

Councillor Fiona Colley – Cabinet Member for Finance, Strategy and Performance

Councillor Victoria Mills – Cabinet Member for Children and Schools

Deputy Cabinet Members

Cllr Stephanie Cryan – Deputy Cabinet Member for Financial Inclusion

Cllr Jamille Mohammed – Deputy Cabinet Member for Inter-Faith Community Relations

Cllr Radha Burgess – Deputy Cabinet Member for Women's Safety

Cllr Leo Pollak – Deputy Cabinet Member for Excellence in Design

A copy of the cabinet portfolios was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Peter John be appointed as leader of the council.

2. That council assembly noted that the leader's term of office shall commence from 11 June 2014, and end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election¹.
3. That council assembly noted the leader's report on changes to the delegation of executive functions.
4. That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 6 the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

2.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS 2014/15

(See pages 5 – 19 of the main agenda)

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved, and were subject to amendment only. He announced that he intended to consider each recommendation where a decision was needed separately.

Revised recommendation 3 on the establishment of committees and allocation of seats was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The Mayor stated that two nominations had been received for the position of chair of the overview and scrutiny committee, Councillors Gavin Edwards and Rosie Shimell. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nominations were put to the vote and council assembly appointed Councillor Gavin Edwards as chair of the overview and scrutiny committee for the municipal year 2014/15.

The Mayor announced he had received one amendment to Recommendation 10 and Appendix 2 – Appointment to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly. Councillor Dan Garfield, seconded by Councillor Nick Dolezal, moved Amendment A. Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips be noted as follows:

LABOUR GROUP

Leader	Councillor Peter John
Deputy Leader	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Chief Whip	Councillor Dan Garfield

¹ Article 6.3 of the Constitution

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader	Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Deputy Leader	Councillor Adele Morris
Chief Whip	Councillor David Hubber

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Leader	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Deputy Leader	Councillor Jane Lyons
Chief Whip	Councillor Michael Mitchell

2. That council assembly noted the new division of seats and percentage allocation of each political group on the council as follows:

Table 1: Division of seats

Group	Total	%
Labour	48	76.19
Liberal Democrat	13	20.64
Conservative	2	3.17
Total	63	100.00

3. That council assembly established the following committees and community councils for the coming municipal year 2014/15:

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 35

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	6	1	0
Committee 2 Planning Committee	8	5	2	1
Committee 3 Standards Committee	7	5	2	0
Committee 4 Audit and Governance Committee	6	5	1	0
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting	7	6	1	0

Committee				
Total	35	27	7	1

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 29

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Overview and Scrutiny committee	11	8	3	0
Licensing Committee	15	11	3	1

Community councils:

- Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
- Borough, Bankside and Walworth
- Camberwell
- Dulwich
- Peckham and Nunhead.

Note: Membership as set out in Article 8 of the constitution.

Health and wellbeing board

4. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out in paragraph 51 of the report.
5. That council assembly noted that the membership of the board be reviewed annually at the annual meeting of the council assembly.
6. That it be noted that the local authority membership is nominated by the leader of the council. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the board is chaired by the leader.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

7. That the following be appointed as chairs and vice chairs for the committees and community councils outlined below:

Appointments committee

Chair – Councillor Peter John
Vice-chair – Councillor Ian Wingfield

Audit and governance committee

Chair – Councillor Jon Hartley
Vice-chair – Vacant

Corporate parenting committee

Chair – Councillor Victoria Mills
Vice-chair – Vacant

Licensing committee

Chair – Councillor Renata Hamvas
Vice-chair – Councillor David Hubber

Overview and scrutiny committee

Chair – Councillor Gavin Edwards
Vice-chair – Councillor Rosie Shimell

Planning committee

Chair – Councillor Nick Dolezal
Vice-chair – Councillor Darren Merrill

Standards committee

Chair – Councillor Chris Gonde
Vice-chair – Vacant

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community council

Chair – Councillor Bill Williams
Vice-chair – Councillor Evelyn Akoto

Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council

Chair – Councillor Martin Seaton
Vice-chair – Councillor Claire Maugham

Camberwell community council

Chair – Councillor Kieron Williams
Vice-chair – Councillor Chris Gonde

Dulwich community council

Chair – Councillor Andy Simmons
Vice-chair – Councillor Rosie Shimell

Peckham and Nunhead community council

Chair – Councillor Johnson Situ
Vice-chair – Councillor Cleo Soanes

That vacant positions be referred to the first meeting of the relevant committee to

appoint.

Establishment of the council's panels

8. That council assembly established the following council panels (see paragraph 59 of the report):

Table 4: Panels - Total number of seats 18

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Council assembly business panel	5	3	1	1
Constitutional steering panel	5	3	1	1
Pensions advisory panel *	3	2	1	0
Voluntary bodies appointment panel	5	4	1	0

* = Membership of the pensions advisory panel agreed in line with resolution 4 of the Constitutional Changes 2014/15 report (see item 4 below).

Appointments of chair to constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointment panel

9. That Councillor Ian Wingfield be appointed as chair of the voluntary bodies appointments panel and it be noted that at the council assembly (mayor making) meeting on 7 June 2014, Councillor Dan Garfield was appointed as chair of the constitutional steering panel.

Appointments to Local Government Association General Assembly

10. That three representatives with an allocation of five votes be appointed to the representatives to the LGA General Assembly as follows:

- Councillor Peter John – 3 votes
- Councillor Ian Wingfield – 1 vote
- Councillor Adele Morris – 1 vote.

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

11. That it be noted the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2014/15 as required by part 3S of the constitution.

Urgency committee

12. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 71 and 72 of the report.

2.3 NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM AND NOMINATIONS OF LEAD BOROUGH MEMBERS 2014/15

(See pages 20-24 of the main agenda and blue paper circulated at the meeting)

The Mayor stated that, in accordance with council assembly procedure 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved, and were subject to amendment only.

The nominations were circulated on blue paper. The Mayor stated that none of the nominations were contested, therefore the nominations outlined on the blue paper were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)

Representative: Councillor Peter John

Deputies: Councillors Fiona Colley and Ian Wingfield

2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Representative: Councillor Mark Williams

Deputies: Councillors Darren Merrill and Barrie Hargrove

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Representative: Councillor Ian Wingfield

Deputies: Councillors Dora Dixon-Fyle, Fiona Colley, Barrie Hargrove and Darren Merrill

4. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

Representative: Councillor Ian Wingfield

Deputy: Councillor Fiona Colley

5. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Representative: Councillor Victoria Mills

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Representative: Councillor Michael Situ

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CULTURE AND TOURISM

Representative: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REGENERATION

Representative: Councillor Mark Williams

9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES

Representative: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING

Representative: Councillor Richard Livingstone

11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING

Representative: Councillor Mark Williams

12. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

Representative: Councillor Peter John

3. AMENDMENTS

Late Amendment A was circulated at the meeting.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2014/15

(See pages 1-14 of supplemental agenda no. 2)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(1), Councillor Dan Garfield moved the report. Following debate (Councillor David Hubber), the recommendations contained in the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That council assembly adopted the constitutional changes set out in the report as recommended by the constitutional steering panel:

Council assembly – Programme motion and themed debate

1. That the changes identified in paragraphs 10 – 23 of the report on the introduction of a programme motion at council assembly and a change to the themed debate be agreed.

Leader’s question time

2. That the introduction of a council meeting for the consideration of questions from the public to the leader, see paragraphs 24 – 26 of the report, be agreed
3. That the constitutional steering panel be requested to consider the detailed proposals for the leader’s question time at a future meeting of the panel.

Membership of the pensions advisory panel

4. That the proposals outlined in paragraph 27 of the report to change the membership of the pensions advisory panel to two Labour and one Liberal Democrat place be agreed.

Overview and scrutiny committee – Changes to the call-in threshold and reserves procedure rules

5. That the proposals outlined in paragraphs 28 – 29 of the report to change existing procedure rules relating to the call-in threshold and the number of reserves each political group is entitled to on sub-committees be agreed.

Cabinet member portfolios – Article 6 and member allowances scheme

6. That council assembly agreed the consequential changes to the constitution clarifying the position should two councillors be appointed to fill one cabinet portfolio position in a ‘job share’, i.e. sharing a single portfolio. The changes agreed are to Article 6 and clauses 5 and 6 of the member allowances scheme, as outlined in paragraphs 30 – 34 of the report.

Consequential changes

7. That the proper constitutional officer make any necessary consequential changes to the constitution as a result of the above.

The meeting closed at 7.31 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: