

**COUNCIL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

29TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT:- Councillors David Whitaker (Chair), Paul Stubbins (Vice-Chair),
Suhir Abuhajar, Prof. Chris Harris (Substitute for Matthew Black),
John Livermore, Sarah McGowan and Jean Parr

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Matthew Black

Officers in attendance:

Debbie Chambers	Senior Manager Democratic Support and Elections and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Maurice Brophy	Service Manager - Planning and Housing Strategy
Patrick Cunningham	Building Control Officer
Phillip Abel	Democratic Support Officer

22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 12 October 2023 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

23 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25 THE FUTURE HOMES AND BUILDINGS STANDARDS: 2023 CONSULTATION

The Building Control Officer addressed the Committee to present a proposed response to the Future Homes and Buildings Standards 2023 Consultation. This consultation sought views relating to changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for non-domestic buildings and dwellings; and overheating in new residential buildings.

The Committee then discussed the consultation and whether it represented a sufficiently ambitious step forward in the improvement of the Building Regulations but commended the strong responses to some of the questions. The Committee asked the Building Control Officer to provide additional context to the responses to several questions, particularly those concerning the circumstances where regulations may be relaxed or dispensed with. The Committee also asked if it was known when the consultation responses would be published and expressed an interest in seeing the report once it was available.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Parr, and agreed unanimously that:

“The draft response to the consultation should be submitted with no further comments.”

Resolved

- (1) That the draft response to The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 Consultation is submitted as a formal response from Lancaster City Council.

26 COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT - COUNCILLORS' GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

The Committee considered the proposed revisions to the Councillor Code of Conduct which had been recommended at the 11 January 2024 meeting of Standards Committee.

The Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections gave an overview of the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct which would provide further information for Members on acceptance and refusal of offers of gifts and hospitality and the requirements for declaring them, whether accepted or not.

The Committee requested clarification on the expectations set out by the Code of Conduct, particularly the requirements around the notification for receiving small items of hospitality. The Senior Manager Democratic Support and Elections provided additional context and practical advice for how such situations might be handled by Members.

It was proposed by Councillor Parr and seconded by Councillor Livermore that:

“Recommendations (1) and (2) be approved as in the report.”

When put to the vote this was resolved unanimously.

Resolved

- (1) That Council Business Committee approve the revisions to the Councillors' Code of Conduct as recommended by Standards Committee on 11 January 2024.
- (2) That the decision be reported to full Council for noting to ensure that all Councillors are aware of the revised requirements.

27 AMENDMENTS TO 2024/25 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

The Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections addressed the Committee to request several amendments to the 2024/25 Committee Timetable that had been previously agreed at the 8 November meeting of Council. The Committee was informed of some mistakes which had been identified since the timetable was approved and the proposed corrections.

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor McGowan that:

“The proposed amendments to the 2024/25 Committee Timetable be approved.”

This was put to a vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved

- (1) That the following amendments be made to the Committee Timetable for the 2024/25 Municipal year.

The 30 July 2024 meeting of Audit Committee be moved to 31 July 2024.

The 4 December 2024 Overview and Scrutiny meeting be removed and replaced with a meeting of Budget & Performance Panel.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.47 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Phillip Abel, Democratic Support - email pabel@lancaster.gov.uk**