

Members Advisory Panel-New Constitution

A meeting of Members Advisory Panel-New Constitution was held on Wednesday, 24th September, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Lee Narroway, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Steve Walmsley

Officers: M. Waggott, N. Hart, L. Lawty, M. Henderson (LD);
M. Wardle (DNS)

Also in attendance: No other persons in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Mrs Beaumont, Councillor Coleman, Cllr Mrs Cains

MAP 18/08 Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman the Panel agreed that Cllr Lupton chair the meeting.

MAP 19/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest

MAP 20/08 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

MAP 21/08 Replacement Flag Poles

Members considered a report that provided an update on the planned replacement of the flag poles at Stockton Town Hall and Municipal Buildings.

Members noted problems associated with acquiring the services of a specialist contractor to undertake necessary works to the Council's two flag poles. Members also noted that the Council had received advice, strongly recommending that the flag poles be replaced so that their positioning and operation was safer.

In respect of the Town Hall it had been suggested that the current flagpole be replaced with a 14 metre heavy duty glass fibre flag pole, which would be affixed to brickwork at the side of the clock face. It was explained that the new position would not interfere with reading the clock. Members supported this course of action.

With regard to the Municipal Building it was noted that the flag pole was attached to a large metal structure weighing approximately 5 tonnes. The structure was an architectural feature and its weight exceeded what would be considered suitable, for the roof, by today's standards.

Members agreed that the flag pole and architectural structure should be removed. It was suggested that a replacement flag pole be located in a suitable location, at the front of the Municipal Buildings, with a suitable feature at its

base, for example a flower bed.

It was noted that it may be possible to undertake the suggested work next month and any costs associated with it would be met from existing budgets.

AGREED that the existing flag poles on the Town Hall and Municipal Buildings be removed and replaced as detailed above.

**MAP
22/08** **Annual Meeting**

Members considered a report that took account of views expressed at the Panel's last meeting and afforded Members the opportunity to consider options and identify arrangements for next year's Annual Meeting.

During consideration of the options a number of views were expressed by Members:-

There was support for holding the meeting in the Town Hall with the consideration of all business being undertaken, including the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at that meeting. This would involve Members only and its focus would be to deal with the relevant business. It was suggested that later in the same day, a ceremonial event, involving Members and civic guests be held, where the ceremonial aspect of the Mayor's appointment would be carried out followed by a civic reception.

There was also support for the Annual meeting to remain in its current format and to continue to be held at Billingham Forum. On this point members asked officers to clarify when refurbishment works to the Theatre would take place.

Some concerns were expressed at the suggested use of Wynyard as a venue, in terms of its location. It was indicated that, if it was used, transport would be made available.

Members queried what other venues had been considered and briefly discussed other possibilities eg. Jaamal in Thornaby, Swallow Hotel, Stockton.

It was pointed out that a decision, in the near future, on arrangements was desirable in terms of booking venues etc.

AGREED that

1. Officers clarify the availability of Billingham Forum Theatre.
2. the Panel receive a further report based on views expressed at the meeting.

**MAP
23/08** **Member Seminars**

Members received a report that identified possible areas of work to assist in the future delivery of seminars to Members.

Members noted that the suggested areas of work had been identified to deal

with issues the Panel had raised at its previous meeting.

It was suggested that more information about the topic and purpose of each seminar should be provided to members ahead of the event.

With regard to evaluation forms it was agreed that efforts should be made to retrieve evaluation forms immediately following seminars, however, members should also be able to take the form away in order to provide responses following further consideration.

AGREED that the proposed work identified in the report be endorsed and implemented.

**MAP
24/08**

Civic Chains

Members considered a further report relating to a request from the Chairman of Thornaby Town Council, that the former Municipal Borough of Thornaby on Tees be transferred to Thornaby Town Council.

Members were reminded that the Thornaby chains were currently used by this Council's Deputy Mayor and Mayoress/Consort.

The Panel had expressed its support for the request and was provided with details of the necessary arrangements to fulfil the transfer. The Panel was also provided with details relating to, offering Billingham Urban District Council chains to Billingham Town Council and options for the replacement of the Deputy Mayor and Mayoresses/ Consort chains.

The Panel confirmed that it was satisfied with the arrangements that had been made.

AGREED that it be recommended to Cabinet that :-

1. the former Thornaby Borough chains are transferred to Thornaby Town Council;
2. the Director of Law & Democracy be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to take all action deemed necessary to secure the transfer of the Chains;
3. an offer to transfer the chains that originally belonged to Billingham Urban District Council should be made to Billingham Town Council; and that
4. the preferred replacement chains for the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress be the Stockton Rural District Chains subject to a condition report confirming that the Chains are suitable for the purpose.