

REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 November 2022

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors C O'Hagan M Collins
C Davies S Williams
J Hoey C Cooke
C Jones D Mitchell
M Booth K Greaney
D Burgess-Joyce

Apologies: Councillors S Bennett
D Kenny
L Fraser

11 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

12 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillors S Bennett, L Fraser and D Kenny.

13 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

14 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that no questions, statements or petitions had been received from members of the public and that Councillor Cooke had asked why the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee could not meet until the Mayor's Charity was registered with the Charity Committee in order to discuss future plans going forward.

In response, the Chair referred to Part 3, Section B of the Constitution of the Council which sets out at Paragraph 8.3 the Terms of Reference of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and advised that as such the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee only has responsibilities in respect of discharging the Council's role as corporate trustee of the EF Callister Youth Club Charity and the Wirral Borough Council Mayor's Charity, it has no power to set up other charities or charitable organisations.

15 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022 be approved.

16 **MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel held on 7, 9 and 23 September and 14 October 2022 be approved.

17 **POLLING PLACES REVIEW**

The Head of Democratic and Member Services submitted a report which set out the findings following a review undertaken in respect of the use of polling station venues in three wards which were currently used as polling places for the purposes of Local Authority, Parliamentary and other elections.

The Head of Democratic and Member Services informed Members that the report provided guidance on selecting polling places and an outline of alternative polling places which had been identified by the Returning Officer. He reported that local Ward Members had been consulted in respect of options and costs associated with the hire of alternative venues which were detailed within the exempt Appendix 2 to the report.

Members of the Committee were asked to consider and comment on the report and agree to the relocating of the three polling places detailed in section 3 of the report.

The Head of Democratic Services referred to the objective criteria used when considering the overall suitability of a polling place or polling station.

It was recommended that the Polling Station for Polling District EA be moved from Bedford Drive Primary School to Byrne Avenue Baths; GD be moved from Brackenwood Junior School to Brackenwood Infants School and JB be moved from the Scout Hut to the Youth Space, St Anselmians Rugby Club, the details of which were outlined within the appendices to the report.

Resolved (by assent) –

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the proposed relocations of the three polling places as detailed in section 3 of the report be implemented in readiness for the May 2023 Local Authority Elections.**

18 MARKETS RIGHTS LICENCE APPLICATION FEE

The Head of Legal Services (Deputy Monitoring Officer) submitted a report requesting that Members of this Committee approve a proposed fee for the administration and processing of applications for a Market Rights Licence.

The Licensing Manager advised that the Market Rights Policy had been approved by Members of this Committee on 27 September 2022. The cost of processing an application for a Market Rights Licence was estimated to be £55.00. It was reported to Members of the Committee that these costs reflected officer time to process applications and that this did not take into account the costs of referring an application to a Regulatory Panel should this be necessary. The Licensing Manager advised Members of the Committee that the fee would be reviewed in advance of the next financial year.

The Chair thanked the Licensing Manager and staff for their work.

Resolved (by assent) – That the proposed fee of £55.00 for the administration and processing of applications for a Market Rights Licence as set out within the report be agreed.