

Values and Ethics Sub-Committee

Agenda



Date: Monday, 20 January 2020

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: City Hall Meeting Spaces - First Floor - 1P 09 -
City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

Distribution:

Councillors: Adebola Adebayo, Mark Brain, Liz Radford, Clive Stevens and Harriet Clough

Copies to: Nancy Rollason (Service Manager Legal), Allison Taylor (Democratic Services Officer), Lucy Fleming (Head of Democratic Engagement) and Louise deCordova (Democratic and Scrutiny Manager)

Issued by: Allison Taylor, Democratic Services

City Hall, PO Box 3176, Bristol, BS3 9FS

Tel: 0117 92 22237

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Friday, 10 January 2020



Agenda

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence.**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes of previous meeting.**

(Pages 3 - 5)

4. **Honorary Alderman Nomination**

(Pages 6 - 11)



Bristol City Council Minutes of the Value and Ethics Sub-Committee

30 September 2019 at 12pm.



Members Present:-

Councillors Abraham (Substitute for Councillor Radford), Brain, Clough, Stevens.

Independent Member and Chair – Adebola Adebayo.

Officers in Attendance:-

Lucy Fleming – Head of Legal Services, Nick Mimmack – Legal Services, Allison Taylor – Democratic Services

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

These were made and it was noted that the Independent Member Adebola Adebayo had agreed to Chair the Sub-Committee for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

2. Apologies for Absence

These were received from Councillor Radford with Councillor Abraham as substitute.

3. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

4. Minutes – of 26 March 2019.

Resolved – These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. Update regarding Member Development.

The Head of Democratic Engagement introduced the report stating that it contained a broad draft of the Member Induction programme for the cohort of Members who would begin a new term of office following the 2020 elections as well as ongoing activity for the current Municipal Year. She highlighted that the Member Development Steering Group had authorised the recruitment of a Member Development Officer for 12 months to deliver the programme. The detail of the methodology and training was being worked up.



The following points arose from discussion:-

1. Councillor Brain remarked that the member training had been excellent in the past but cuts had caused it to deteriorate and he was very pleased to see these proposed improvements;
2. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for experienced members to act as mentors for new members and was confident that there would be volunteers;
3. Finally, it was confirmed that 35 of the 70 DBS checks on members had been done.

Resolved – That the update regarding Member Development be noted.

6. Outside Bodies.

The representative of the Head of Legal Services reported that previous guidance had been drafted but not completed and welcomed comment from this completed draft.

The following points arose from discussion:-

1. Councillor Stevens, in reference to his previous role as a Non-Executive Director on Bristol Port Company, referred to paragraph 4.3 of the guidance and noted that this had been amended from the previous document but he was not convinced that this was an improvement. The representative of the Head of Legal Services replied that the previous draft had lacked nuance. He reminded the Committee that he had stood down from this role as he believed there was a conflict with it and his role as a BCC Councillor;
2. Councillor Brain observed that part of the responsibility of a BCC Councillor on the Port of Bristol Committee was to be a shareholder representative for the City Council's finances so it was not possible to ignore that role;
3. Councillor Abraham stated that Councillors serving on an outside body were not there to represent their constituency. He believed that the onus was on the Outside Body to produce a paper which clarified the duties and responsibilities of a role and then BCC could decide if it wished to be represented on it;
4. Discussion took place regarding Councillors sitting on charitable organisations and it was noted that this was an individual Councillor decision and not the responsibility of BCC. Councillor Abraham suggested that the new Councillors should be advised to seek information on a charity before making a decision;
5. It was agreed that members make any further comments to the representative of the Head of Legal Services and the final document would be available before the inductions sessions.

Resolved – That the guidance be approved for publication and circulation to all members.

7. Any Other Business.

Councillor Stevens referred to the previous minutes – Chair's Business and the matters raised by Councillor Negus, a previous member of the Sub-Committee. Regarding point 2 on the politicising of Mayor's responses to Full Council questions it was reported that such responses were signed off by the Mayor and it was up to him if he wished to politicise them. It was agreed that the Head of legal Services come back to a future meeting on the contents on point 1.



Resolved – that the Head of Legal Services report back to a future meeting on the role of Head of Paid Service and its relationship with the Mayor.

Meeting finished at 12.40pm.

CHAIR _____



Values and Ethics Sub Committee

20th January 2020



Report of: Tim O' Gara, Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services

Title: **Honorary Aldermen Nomination**

Ward: N/a

Officer Presenting Report: Louise deCordova, Democratic & Scrutiny Manager

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 92 26151

Recommendation

That the Values and Ethics sub Committee considers the nomination for Honorary Aldermen, which has been submitted by the Labour Group, and makes a recommendation to Full Council regarding the appointment.

Summary

The report provides information to enable the Sub-committee to consider and decide whether the nomination received should be recommended to Full Council for approval.

The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the report and the appendix to the report.



Policy

1. This report is submitted in accordance with the Council’s policy on the arrangements to be followed in respect of the granting of Alderman status to former Members of the Council.

Consultation

2. The nomination was submitted by the Labour Group.

Context

3. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Full Council, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a person who has, in the Council’s opinion, rendered eminent services to the Council as a past Member.
4. The Full Council has agreed that the Values and Ethics Sub-Committee of the Audit Committee, in its role of monitoring and ensuring ethical standards and probity within the Council, should ensure that all Honorary Alderman nominations meet the set criteria, and recommend nominations for appointment as appropriate.
5. The criteria governing the appointment of Aldermen was approved by Full Council on 17th January 2017. Details as follows;
 - An individual will be eligible for nomination and appointment to the role of Honorary Alderman/woman provided that he/she is no longer a serving Councillor with Bristol City Council; and
 - has provided eminent service to the Council throughout a long and distinguished period of public service by:
 - a. Serving for a minimum period of two electoral terms as a Bristol City councillor (i.e. having been elected twice as a councillor).

AND

- b. Holding a significant position of public responsibility with Bristol City Council, for a minimum period of one calendar year or one municipal year, as either:
 - Lord Mayor;
 - Elected Mayor;
 - Deputy or Assistant Mayor;
 - Leader of the Council;
 - Executive Member;
 - Any other position attracting the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance under the Council’s approved members allowance scheme (excluding attendance at the Appeals Committee).

OR

- c. Long service as a Bristol City Councillor for an aggregate period of at least 10 years.

Proposal

6. A nomination has been received from the Labour Group for the appointment of former Councillor Mike Langley as Honorary Aldermen. A statement from the Labour Group in support of the nomination is set out in the Appendix.

Other Options Considered

7. Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

8. Not applicable.

Public Sector Equality Duties

Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

This is a nomination for a posthumous award. S249 of the Local Government Act 1972 does not refer to posthumous awards. It does not prohibit such an award being made. The Committee may therefore consider the nomination and whether in all the circumstances, a recommendation should be made to Full Council

(Legal advice provided by Nancy Rollason – Head of Legal Services)

Financial / Land / Human Resources

Not applicable.

Appendix – Statement from the Labour Group in support of the nomination.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Councillor Mike Langley deceased

After a career as a bus driver and a trade unionist, Councillor Langley first represented Frome Vale ward between 1990 and 1995, before returning to Bristol City Council to serve Brislington East from 2011 until his death on 17 October 2019.

Main roles and responsibilities

Mike most recently served as chair of the Licensing Committee and Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee, bringing the same diligence and distinction to this as he did to his ward work, where he relentlessly championed both Wick Road library and the Broomhill and St Anne's Park Children's Centre.

Some of Mike's other achievements include:-

- Converted old council offices into Bristol's first 24/7 homeless shelter at St Anne's House
- Delivered funding for Nightingale entrance and pathway works for improved accessibility
- Worked with police on anti-social behaviour including in Capgrave Crescent
- Secured £65,000 CIL investment in play equipment and trail upgrades in Eastwood Farm Park
- Broke ground on new council homes at the derelict Broomhill EPH
- Started the campaign to re-open St Anne's Park train station
- Was instrumental in the building of new council homes on Guildford Road, Brislington

He regularly helped residents with a variety of casework including housing issues, anti-social behaviour, highways, transport and planning matters and School Admissions.

Membership of council commissions and committees

During his time in office, Mike sat on various commissions. However, please see details of his membership since 2011 below.

May – October 2019

Public Safety & Protection Committee
Chair of Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Chair of Licensing Committee

2018 – 2019

Public Safety & Protection Committee
Chair of Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee

Licensing Committee

2017 – 2018

Public Safety & Protection Committee
Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Licensing Committee
Human Resources Committee

2016 – 2017

Public Safety & Protection Committee
Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Licensing Committee
Human Resources Committee

2015 – 2016

Public Safety & Protection Committee
Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Licensing Committee
Human Resources Committee

2014 – 2015

Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Public Safety and Protection Committee
Human Resources Committee

2013 – 2014

Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Public Safety and Protection Committee
Human Resources Committee
Joint Employee Relations Board

2012 – 2013

Public Safety & Protection Committee
Joint Employee Relations Board

2011 – 2012

Quality of Life Scrutiny Commission
Public Safety & Protection Committee
Labour Lead on Joint Employee Relations Board