

COUNCIL
13 APRIL 2021

(7.15 pm - 7.47 pm)

PRESENT The Mayor, Councillor Sally Kenny,
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Dehaney

Councillors Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Stephen Alambritis MBE, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Stephen Crowe, Mary Curtin, David Dean, Nick Draper, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Jenifer Gould, Edward Gretton, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Natasha Irons, Linda Kirby, Paul Kohler, Rebecca Lanning, Najeeb Latif, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Aidan Mundy, Hayley Ormrod, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams MBE JP

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Howard.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 REQUEST TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL UNDER PART 4A, SECTION 3.1(C) OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION (Agenda Item 3)

The motion was moved by Councillor McLean and seconded by Councillor Williams.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 4 was moved by Councillor Allison and seconded by Councillor Pritchard.

Councillors Holden, Barlow, Southgate and Kohler spoke in the debate.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 34, votes against: 17, abstentions: 7.

The substantive motion (as amended) was then put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 33, votes against: 17, abstentions: 7.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Council agrees that it should be the Council's usual practice to avoid having meetings during a pre-election period, and that meetings during such periods should only be take place by exception to ensure that Council resources paid for by the taxpayer are not inadvertently used to promote a political party's campaign during an election period;
- 2) Council regrets the decision of the Government not to legislate to allow virtual meeting meetings to continue beyond 7 May which means that meetings would have to take place in confined spaces prior to vulnerable staff or members being fully vaccinated, or lockdown being fully lifted. It therefore endorses the decision to move the Annual Council meeting, and to hold an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 21 April 2021 for the purposes of considering the Council's response to violence against women and girls;
- 3) Council notes that the High Court is due to consider the question of whether meetings can be held virtually on 21 April although it is not known when the judgment will be available;
- 4) Council resolves to reinstate the meetings listed below:
 - 26th April Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel;
 - 27th April Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel;
 - 28th April Overview and Scrutiny Commission;

And to schedule a meeting for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel before 7 May but if before that meeting, the Court case confirms that it is lawful to continue meetings virtually, that rescheduled meeting shall be cancelled and replaced with a meeting to take place before the end of May

- 5) Council resolves that new meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations shall be scheduled to be held after the lifting of lock down restrictions on 21 June, unless the Court case confirms that it is lawful to continue to hold meetings virtually in which case those committees should go ahead on the currently scheduled dates, namely (22 June and 9 June respectively);
- 6) That in respect of all other meetings, the Council considers a revised calendar at the annual meeting on 21 April.