
REPORT OF LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

Chairman:	* Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie	
Councillors:	Robert Benson	* Ashok Kulkarni
	* Don Billson	* Mrs Vina Mithani
	* Mrinal Choudhury	* John Nickolay
	* G Chowdhury	Phillip O'Dell
	* Mano Dharmarajah	* Raj Ray
	* Thaya Idaikkadar	* Tom Weiss
	* Nizam Ismail	Jeremy Zeid

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL
PART II - MINUTES
17. Declarations of Interest:

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting.

18. Arrangement of Agenda:

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following information be admitted to the agenda by reason of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency stated:

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency</u>
7. Gambling Policy and Casino Resolution Consultation - Information	New Gambling Act Explained for Councillors – this leaflet was provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sports' (DCMS) to help Members gain a better understanding of their role under the Gambling Act 2005. Officers felt this was an opportune time to distribute it.
9. Order on Controlled Drinking Zone	Government revision to the Gambling Act 2005 timescale - the revised timescale was issued after the agenda had been produced and would have a knock on effect of the Authority's deadlines. This was admitted to the agenda in order to enable Members to consider all the relevant information before making a decision.
	This report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated, due to the delays in finalising the installation dates of the street signs. Members were requested to consider this item, as a matter of urgency.

(2) it be noted that Item 10 – Delegated Authority Housing Act 2004 Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation, had been withdrawn from the agenda; and

(3) all items be considered with the press and public present.

19. Minutes:

RESOLVED: That (1) the minutes of the Special meeting held on 5 June 2006, which had not been detailed on the agenda for the meeting, be taken as read and signed as a correct record;

(2) the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15 June 2006, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

20. **Public Questions, Petitions or Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rules 19, 16 and 17 (Part 4B of the Constitution) respectively.

21. **Gambling Policy and Casino Resolution Consultation - Information:**

The Committee received a report which updated Members on the forthcoming legislative changes arising from the impending Gambling Act 2005.

Members noted that the Government had announced a 3 month delay for Local Authorities to accept licence applications under the new legislation. This meant that Local Authorities would now receive and process applications with effect from April 2007. The delay was to enable sufficient time for the training of staff and Members under the new legislation, and in order to prepare for the influx of gambling licence applications.

The officer confirmed that the Gambling policy consultation and the online survey regarding a casino in the Borough would end on 16 October 2006. The results of the consultation would be reported back to the Committee in November, together with the Authority's Gambling policy for approval.

RESOLVED: That (1) a hard copy of the Gambling Act Policy be circulated to the Committee;

(2) the report be noted.

22. **Response to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation document 'Options for a New Look Local Government Pension Scheme in England & Wales:**

A report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy was presented to the Committee, which sought views on the way forward following proposals from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the "Options for a New Look Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales." Responses were due back to the DCLG by no later than 29 November 2006.

RESOLVED: That the response provided at Appendix 1 to these minutes be submitted to the DCLG.

23. **Order on Controlled Drinking Zone:**

The Committee received a report which sought approval of the final order of the Alcohol Exclusion Zone.

RESOLVED: That (1) the Designated Public Place Order No. 1 appended to the report, pursuant to section 13(2) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, be approved;

(2) the Director of Legal Services or delegate, on behalf of the Head of Community Safety Services, affix the seal of the London Borough of Harrow to Designated Public Place Order No. 1;

(3) publication of a Designated Public Place Order No. 1, erection of signs and sending of a copy of the Order to the Secretary of State in accordance with regulations 7 to 9 of the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001, be authorised.

24. **Extension and Termination of the Meeting:**

In accordance with the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 15.2 (Part 4B of the Constitution) it was

RESOLVED: At 10.00 pm to continue until 10.10 pm.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 10.05 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MRS LURLINE CHAMPAGNIE
Chairman

APPENDIX 1**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN DCLG CONSULTATION PAPER**

Based on the views presented in the report please indicate your agreement or otherwise with the following questions raised in respect of the DCLG consultation Paper 'Options for a new look Local Government pension Scheme in England & Wales'		
Question	Answer	
	Yes	No
1. Which new scheme option do you support?		
A: Updated current final salary scheme (1/80 th accrual plus 3/80ths lump sum) with RPI revaluation after leaving		
B: New 1/60 th final salary scheme (and lump sum available by commutation) with RPI revaluation after leaving.		
C: CARE scheme with 1.85% accrual and RPI revaluation both during employment and after leaving (with lump sum available by commutation)		
D: CARE scheme with 1.65% accrual and RPI + 1.5% revaluation during employment and RPI revaluation after leaving (with lump sum available by commutation)		
E: a new hybrid CARE / final salary arrangement	✓	
Other - please specify:		
2. Do you agree that cohabitants' pensions should be introduced into the new-look LGPS?	✓	
If so, should this be from		
a. the beginning of the new-look scheme?		
b. the date the "law of the land" is changed to recognise cohabitants?	✓	
3. Do you agree that spouse's pensions should increase		✓
4. Which of the extensions to the flexible retirement provisions would you support?		
I. Allow scheme members to make extra contributions to offset any reduction in their pension in the case that they wish to retire early. These extra contributions could be calculated according to cost neutral buy-back factors;	✓	
II. Remove the requirement for employees to obtain employer consent for flexible retirement;	✓	
III. Remove the requirement for employees to take a reduction in hours or grade in order to take flexible retirement;	✓	
IV. Benefits accrued <i>after</i> age 65 also to be <i>increased</i> by cost-neutral uplift factors when a member elects to take payment of them after age 65.	✓	
5. Do you agree that in the initial design of the new-look LGPS the average employees' contribution rate should be targeted at 7%?	✓	
If not, what percentage rate would you wish to target? Please specify:		
6. Do you support a tiered employee contribution rate?		✓
If so, do you think the tier should be set at £7185 (the basic rate tax figure)		
Or at some other rate (please specify):		

7.	Do you agree that in the initial design of the new-look LGPS the employers' contribution rate for future service should be no more than 13%?	✓	
	If not, what percentage rate would you wish to target? Please specify:		
8.	Do you agree that there should be a cost sharing mechanism built into the LGPS?	✓	
	If not:		
	by some other mechanism (please specify):		
9.	Do you agree that this should be assessed by the Government Actuary following every second valuation and based on all Funds experience?	✓	
10.	Should any resulting change in cost be met by:		
a.	a change in the accrual rate for future scheme membership (but not accrued membership)?		✓
b.	a change in the normal retirement date for future scheme membership (but not accrued membership)?		✓
c.	a change in the employees' contribution rate?	✓	
11.	Do you support a move to a two-tier ill health arrangement?	✓	
	If yes:		
	Should ill health enhancement at the top tier be based on 50% of prospective membership between leaving and age 65?	✓	
	If not, what should it be based on (please specify)		
12.	Do you agree there should be no enhancement at the second tier?	✓	
13.	Do you support a review mechanism for the top tier?		✓
14.	Do you support a review mechanism for the second tier?		✓
15.	Do you think there should be more than two tiers?		✓
	If so, how many (please specify)		
	Question	Yes	No
16.	Do you agree that to fall within the top tier an employee's earnings capacity should be reduced by more than a specified percentage?	✓	
	If so, should that percentage be a 75% reduction?	✓	
	Or some other percentage (please specify):		
	If not, how do you think the assessment of whether or not an employee falls into the top-tier should be assessed (please specify):		
17.	If Option A (retention of the existing Scheme) is not the scheme taken forward by the DCLG, do you agree that existing scheme members should be compulsorily moved into the new look scheme for future service?	✓	
	If yes, which of the options set out in 1,2 and 3 of (2.78) would you support in relation to existing members accrued service		
1.	give all existing members at 31 March 2008 an actuarially equivalent period of service in the new-look Scheme, according to a formula to be set by the Government Actuary?	✓	
2.	give existing scheme members at 31 March 2008 more credit in the new-look scheme than they would receive under (a)?		

3. treat all accrued service of existing scheme members at 31 March 2008 as a benefit to be payable on retirement, under terms of the current scheme, based on the final salary at retirement?		
Other – please specify:		
18. Do you support the idea that there should be a facility for individual employers to opt to provide specific additional benefits (above the national core benefits)?		✓