

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Flexi Hall, The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on Tuesday, 25th March, 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Bains, in the chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Bal, Brooker, Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, S K Dhaliwal, Grewal, Hussain, Malik, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mittal, Munawar, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Rasib, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Walsh and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Aujla, Carter, A S Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M S Mann, Plimmer, Sandhu and Small

61. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bal, S Chaudhry and Munawar declared a personal interest in that Members of their families are employed by Slough Borough Council.

62. Motions

Motion (A) – Council Procedure Rules – Rules of Debate

It was moved by Councillor Strutton,
Seconded by Councillor Wright,

“This Council resolves:-

to lift standing orders on the 'rules on debate' at paragraph 16.6 of the constitution, to allow members to speak without time restriction and on multiple occasions if they so chose for the purpose of fully debating all the motions on this agenda.”

It was moved by the Leader, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

“This Council resolves:-

to lift standing orders on the 'rules on debate' at paragraph 16.6 of the constitution, to allow members to speak without time restriction and on multiple occasions if they so chose for the purpose of fully debating **motion B** on this agenda **following a presentation from the Leader.**”

The amendment was agreed by the proposer and seconder and this became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved - To lift standing orders on the 'rules on debate' at paragraph 16.6 of the constitution, to allow members to speak without time restriction and on multiple occasions if they so chose for the purpose of fully debating motion B on this agenda following a presentation from the Leader.

Motion (B) – OFSTED Inspection

The Leader made a presentation to the Council and answered a number of questions from Members. Following the presentation and questioning

It was moved by Councillor Wright,
Seconded by Councillor Strutton,

“This Council resolves:-

that as the shocking OFSTED inspection report of 11th February 2014 about SBC's Safeguarding of Vulnerable and Looked-After Children, shows the work of the Council's Children's Services Department to be "Inadequate" for a third successive time under his watch, the Leader of the Council should acknowledge responsibility and resign."

The motion was put to the vote and lost by 24 votes to 6 votes with 2 abstentions.

Resolved – That motion B be rejected.

Motion (C) – OFSTED Inspection

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Abe,

“This Council resolves:-

that the Council's Education and Children Services Department should produce, for Scrutiny and Cabinet consideration, a report outlining the Council's plans for change: to address the most recent Ofsted findings; to outline what actions have already been taken to ensure improvements; and to consider what more can be done, including from a list of actions and alternatives that might be appropriate over the longer term."

It was moved by the Leader, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“This Council resolves:-

that the Council's Education and Children Services Department should produce, for **Education and Children's Services** Scrutiny and Cabinet, a report outlining the Council's plans for change: to address the most recent Ofsted findings; to outline what actions have already been taken to ensure improvements; and to consider **what form the next stage of improvement will take following discussions with the Department for Education.**"

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The amendment was agreed by the proposer and seconder and this became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved - That the Council's Education and Children Services Department should produce, for Education and Children's Scrutiny and Cabinet, a report outlining the Council's plans for change: to address the most recent Ofsted findings; to outline what actions have already been taken to ensure improvements; and to consider what form the next stage of improvement will take following discussions with the Department for Education.

Motion (D) – OFSTED Inspection

It was moved by Councillor Abe,
Seconded by Councillor Coad,

“This Council resolves:-

that a special meeting should be arranged by the Members Services Department as soon as possible at which members of the public may ask the Leader, Commissioners, Chairs or Group Leaders questions about Ofsted's evaluation of Children's Services in Slough to allow open discussion on this matter of grave public concern.”

The motion was put to the vote and lost by 22 votes to 6 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved – That motion D be rejected.

Motion (E) – Female Genital Mutilation

It was moved by Councillor Coad,
Seconded by Councillor Abe,

“This Council resolves:-

to condemn the barbaric practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and resolves to safeguard girls by implementing an action plan to stop this crime from happening in the borough; Council accordingly calls for examination of the reporting duties for medical professionals and teachers in referring possible FGM cases to the police; and further calls on SBC officers to formulate a strategy to raise awareness of this issue.”

It was moved by the Leader as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“This Council resolves:-

“to condemn the barbaric practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and resolves to **work with partners to formulate** an action plan to stop this crime from happening in the Borough; Council accordingly calls for **scrutiny to**

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examine the reporting duties for medical professionals and teachers in referring possible FGM cases to the police; and **to receive the planned LSCB strategy for raising** awareness of this issue.”

The amendment was agreed with the inclusion of ‘safeguard girls by working’ after resolves in the second line by the proposer and seconder and this became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved - This Council resolves to condemn the barbaric practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and resolves to safeguard girls by working with partners to formulate an action plan to stop this crime from happening in the Borough; Council accordingly calls for scrutiny to examine the reporting duties for medical professionals and teachers in referring possible FGM cases to the police; and to receive the planned LSCB strategy for raising awareness of this issue.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 10.00 pm)