

URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 6th August, 2008 - Minute of Meeting of the URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Dean, Convener; and Councillors Cassie, Collie (substituting for Councillor Allan), Crockett (substituting for Councillor Ironside), Dunbar (substituting for Councillor Kiddie), May, Penny (substituting for Councillor Clark), John Stewart, Kevin Stewart, Kirsty West (substituting for Councillor McDonald) and Young.

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. In terms of Standing Order 28(3)(vi), and in accordance with Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Scotland Act, 1973, the Committee was informed that it had to determine (1) that the item on the agenda was of an urgent nature; and (2) that the Committee required to consider the item and take a decision thereon.

The Convener moved, seconded by Councillor Kevin Stewart:-

That the Committee agree that the item of business was of an urgent nature and required the Committee to take a decision thereon this day.

Councillor Young moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Crockett:-

That the Committee agree that the item of business was not of an urgent nature and should be considered by the Council at its meeting on 13th August 2008.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (8) - the Convener; and Councillors Cassie, Dunbar, May, Penny, John Stewart, Kevin Stewart and Kirsty West; for the amendment (3) - Councillors Collie, Crockett and Young.

The Committee resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

Prior to consideration of the following item the Committee received advice from the Head of Democratic Services, City Solicitor and Head of Human Resources in regard to the report and related processes.

In response to a query from Councillor Young, the Head of Democratic Services advised that the Council shortleeting meeting of 28th July 2008 and the meeting due to be held on 22nd August 2008 to conduct interviews for the post of Chief Executive Officer were two separate meetings. The Head of Democratic Services explained that there was

URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE
6th August, 2008

no recorded decision from the special Council meeting of 16th June 2008 that the Council would comply with Standing Order 47(2), that the Chief Executive shall be appointed by the full Council, as it was standard practice to only record instances where there was a deviation from Standing Orders.

LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

2. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Executive which outlined the request which had been made on behalf of the External Support Group that in light of the disclosure of confidential information relating to the short-listing process for the post of Chief Executive that the Council agree that the remainder of the selection process be carried out by a smaller panel.

The report advised that short-listing for the post of Chief Executive had taken place on 28th July 2008. Following the meeting confidential information relating to the process and the short-listed candidates was disclosed to the media - an internal investigation into this matter was currently underway.

The report continued that on 29th July 2008 the members of the Leadership Board had received an approach on behalf of the External Support Group (established to assist the Council in addressing the Accounts Commission's findings and recommendations) expressing the Group's concerns regarding the seriousness of the disclosure which had occurred. It had been suggested to the Leadership Board that the remainder of the selection process for the post of Chief Executive should be undertaken by a reduced number of elected members in an effort to ensure that confidentiality could be preserved.

The report concluded that the Leadership Board was of the view that the External Support Group's advice should be taken on the basis of the undernoted recommendation, and that members of the Appointment Panel must be drawn from those elected members who took part in the short-listing meeting on 28th July 2008.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee resolve to agree the recommendation of the Leadership Board to suspend Standing Order 47(2) and to establish an Appointment Panel of ten members comprising the Lord Provost and 3+3+2+1 to complete the recruitment to the post of Chief Executive.

URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE
6th August, 2008

The Committee heard the Head of Service, Office of the Chief Executive clarify that the above recommendation was the majority view of the Leadership Board, as he had been unable to obtain the position of one of the Group Leaders.

Councillor Kevin Stewart advised that the SNP Group had agreed to sacrifice one of its three places, if agreed, in order that Councillor Boulton could be on the Appointment Panel, however if Councillor Boulton did not accept the offer that place would revert to the SNP Group.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to agree the majority view of the Leadership Board to suspend Standing Order 47(2) and to establish an Appointment Panel of ten members comprising the Lord Provost and 3+2+2+1+1 to complete the recruitment to the post of Chief Executive; and
- (ii) to agree that if Councillor Boulton did not accept her place on the Appointment Panel that it would revert to the SNP Group.

KATHARINE DEAN, Convener.