

Community Board 4 March 2020 Part I minute extract.

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer proposing to create a Climate Change Board and a Housing Board and the associated amendments to the Terms of Reference and constitution for approval at the next Annual Meeting of the Full Council.

The report was submitted at last minute to enable the Board to consider the effect of creation of a Climate Change Board on the Terms of Reference of this Board, allowing it to be considered before the adjourned Council meeting in May.

Carving out climate change responsibilities has also meant a reconsideration of the functions of Community Board, which has led to the proposal to also create a separate Housing Board to deal with housing issues. Paper only finalised by Officers this morning.

The proposed reorganisation reflects the importance of these issues to the Council.

A Member advised that they remembered there previously being a standalone Housing Board and welcomed the proposal for this, particularly with a number of housing projects being undertaken.

Members discussed the proposal for a Climate Change Board and some Members felt that the proposals for Board were not what the Climate Change Working Group had suggested they would like to see as the Group evolved and that there was a preference for a Scrutiny based approach.

They requested that consideration be given to the scrutiny of climate change issues across all functions of the Borough and that the overarching desire was that the Council included climate change as a consideration in every aspect of the Council's work. This included trees, charging points and the encouraging of the use of electric vehicles.

Members requested that the Board have the powers of Scrutiny within their remit, they also felt that there was not sufficient time to consider the report and its content as it was presented to the Board on the evening of the meeting.

The Board was advised that the proposal was not for a Scrutiny Board.

Some Members proposed and requested that the proposal be amended to give the proposed Board the powers to scrutinise all aspects of the Council and to allow it to scrutinise all actions and decision.

Some Members felt that it would be beneficial to defer the item for consideration at a future date.

Members were reminded that a Scrutiny Committee did not have the remit of Council Boards, and that Scrutiny would allow for the consideration of the Council's actions but not give it decision making powers.

Members felt that the consideration of climate change should be fundamental to all decisions and be able to scrutinise them as the committee felt fit. It was suggested that the terms of reference

It was proposed and seconded that an additional term be added to the terms of reference to reflect the desire to have the overarching power to scrutinise the Council.

A Member stated that it was important to recognise that if the Climate Change proposal was for a Scrutiny, it would not have the powers of a Council Board.

Members appreciated what was being proposed but suggested that as the report was being referred to Council for approval there would be opportunity to add additional Terms of Reference to the Board.

It was proposed that an additional term of reference 2.4 be added to the terms of reference to give the Board the powers of scrutiny over all Council decisions and policies in relation to climate change. This was seconded, a vote was taken and the proposal was lost.

It was proposed and seconded that the item be deferred to a further meeting, this was seconded, a vote was taken and the proposal was lost.

Resolved:

The Community Board recommends to Full Council that it approves at its next Annual Meeting:

i) Changes to the Community Board Terms of Reference and the creation of a Housing Board and a Climate Change Board with Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix A to this report.

ii) Amendments to the Constitution to reflect the changes to the Boards set out above and in Appendix A to this report including the creation of a Housing Board and a Climate Change Board.