

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SELECTION AND MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Selection and Member Services Committee held in the Swale 2, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 13 June 2012.

PRESENT: Mr P J Homewood (Chairman), Mr G Cowan, Mr M C Dance, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr T Prater (Substitute for Mrs T Dean), Mr B J Sweetland, Mr M J Whiting and Mrs J Whittle

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Wild (Director of Governance and Law), Mr P Sass (Head of Democratic Services), Mrs J Doherty (Policy Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

10. Minutes - 11 May 2012

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2012 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

11. Members' Allowances and Expenses for 2011/12

(Item 4)

(1) In response to a question from Mr T Prater, the Head of Democratic Services agreed to consider the possibility of redesigning the Members' Expenses Claim Form to distinguish between journeys from home to County Hall and other County Council business.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

(a) the report be noted; and

(b) approval be given to the publication of the allowances and expenses for 2011/12 as required by the *Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003* and detailed in Appendix A to the report.

12. Proposed County Car Policy

(Item 5)

(1) Mr T Prater moved that the words "Leader" and "Deputy Leader" be deleted from paragraphs 1 and 8 of the draft County Car Policy. This motion was not put to the vote as it was not seconded.

(2) Mr M J Whiting moved, seconded by Mr B J Sweetland that the proposed revised County Car Policy be adopted subject to the inclusion of the Leader of the Opposition in paragraphs 1 and 8 of the draft Policy.

Motion carried by 7 votes to 1

(3) Mr T Prater requested pursuant to Committee Procedure Rule 2.20 (3) that his vote against the resolution set out in (4) below be recorded in the Minutes.

(4) RESOLVED that approval be given to the County Car Policy as appended to these Minutes.

13. Appointment of KCC Members to the Kent Big Society Investment Panel

(Item 6)

(1) The Committee noted that, whilst the appointments would nominally be for a three year period, they would necessarily be reviewed after the local government elections in 2013.

(2) RESOLVED that subject to (1) above, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst and Mr L Christie be appointed as Members of the Big Society Investment Panel for a period of three years.

14. Appointments to Outside Bodies

(Item 7)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Mr M C Dance be appointed as the County Council's representative to Locate in Kent; and
- (b) the appointment by the Leader of Mr M C Dance as the County Council's representative on Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership and the Kent Economic Board be noted.

MINUTES APPENDIX

(Minute 12 applies)

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

County Car Policy

(as approved by Selection & Member Services Committee on 13 June 2012)

INTRODUCTION

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Code of Member Conduct. Where there is doubt about the meaning or interpretation of any aspect of this Policy, advice should be sought from the Section 151 Officer and/or the Monitoring Officer.

1. County Cars are provided for use primarily by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Leader, Deputy Leader, Leader of the Opposition and Cabinet Members when on official council business, i.e. representing KCC at meetings and events where the Member is an official KCC representative, acting in their capacity as a County Councillor, undertaking KCC business.
2. When not required for this purpose, County Cars are available for use by other Members on official council business.
3. County Cars/drivers may also be made available to senior officers and third parties when it appears to the Head of Democratic Services that it would be in the interests of the County Council to do so.
4. Optimum use of all the County Cars will be made on a daily basis, using a number of sessional drivers, based on a common-sense assessment of the relative importance of each journey.
5. If no County Car is available, Members should use their own car or public transport wherever possible. They may also use taxis in the circumstances described in paragraph 6, below.
6. A Member may use a taxi on official council business if:
 - (a) they do not have their own car available and
 - (b) they do not have easy access to public transport
7. All taxi fares for official journeys should be paid by the Member concerned and claimed back via the expenses system on the production of a valid receipt (not including gratuities), except where KCC officers are able to secure a cheaper alternative by booking and paying direct.
8. Travel by County Car or taxi between a Member's home and County Hall should be regarded as an exception to normal travelling arrangements for all Members and only authorised in the following specific circumstances:
 - (a) to drive the Chairman, Leader, Deputy Leader or Leader of the Opposition or their spouse/partner or other guest from home and back for the purposes of attending formal meetings or engagements that the Chairman, Leader, Deputy Leader or Leader of the

Opposition is required to attend on behalf of Kent County Council as part of their official duties

- (b) where a Member is ill or incapacitated
 - (c) on limited occasions where, on a temporary basis, the Member's own vehicle or normal mode of travel is unavailable for any reason, including the non-availability of public transport
9. No use of the County Cars other than on official business is permitted. However, in the event that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Leader or Cabinet Members wish to combine journeys on official council business with journeys of a private nature, they may arrange for the services of a KCC driver to be provided to drive their own cars. The cost of the driver for any private journey shall be reimbursed by the Member (based on a formula to be determined on each occasion by the Section 151 Officer) and the Member may only claim expenses for the KCC element of the journey. In this regard, the Member concerned must ensure that the KCC driver(s) they use are added to their private motor vehicle policy as a named driver for the specific purpose for which they would be driving.
10. Bookings of County Cars/drivers should be made as early as possible in advance of the date required by contacting Grigorios Vrakopoulos, County Car Administrator (01622 694440). In order that the most efficient use can be made of the County Cars, when making a booking all Members are asked to:
- (a) state the purpose of their journey together with details of date, times and destination
 - (b) not specify a particular car or driver
 - (c) be flexible about collection/drop-off times, wherever possible
 - (d) be willing to share a car with another Member or Officer travelling in the same direction
11. Details of all journeys undertaken in the County Cars will be recorded and retained for audit and reporting purposes and Members will be asked to counter-sign the driver's timesheet