

# Full-Time, Daytime Council

Dear Colleagues

Some important ground was covered at the Corporate Services Committee regarding this issue.

The committee was able to establish by consensus (unofficially) that City Councillor is a full-time role in terms of the hours that must be invested to do the job adequately. It was also noted that a compensation review and a ward boundary adjustment are planned for later this term.

However, in our decision tree, the next question to be answered is whether or not it is best for London if councillors hold office hours similar to those of staff. Listed below are some of the potential efficiencies that could be gained as a result:

## **Some Advantages of a Full-Time, Daytime council.**

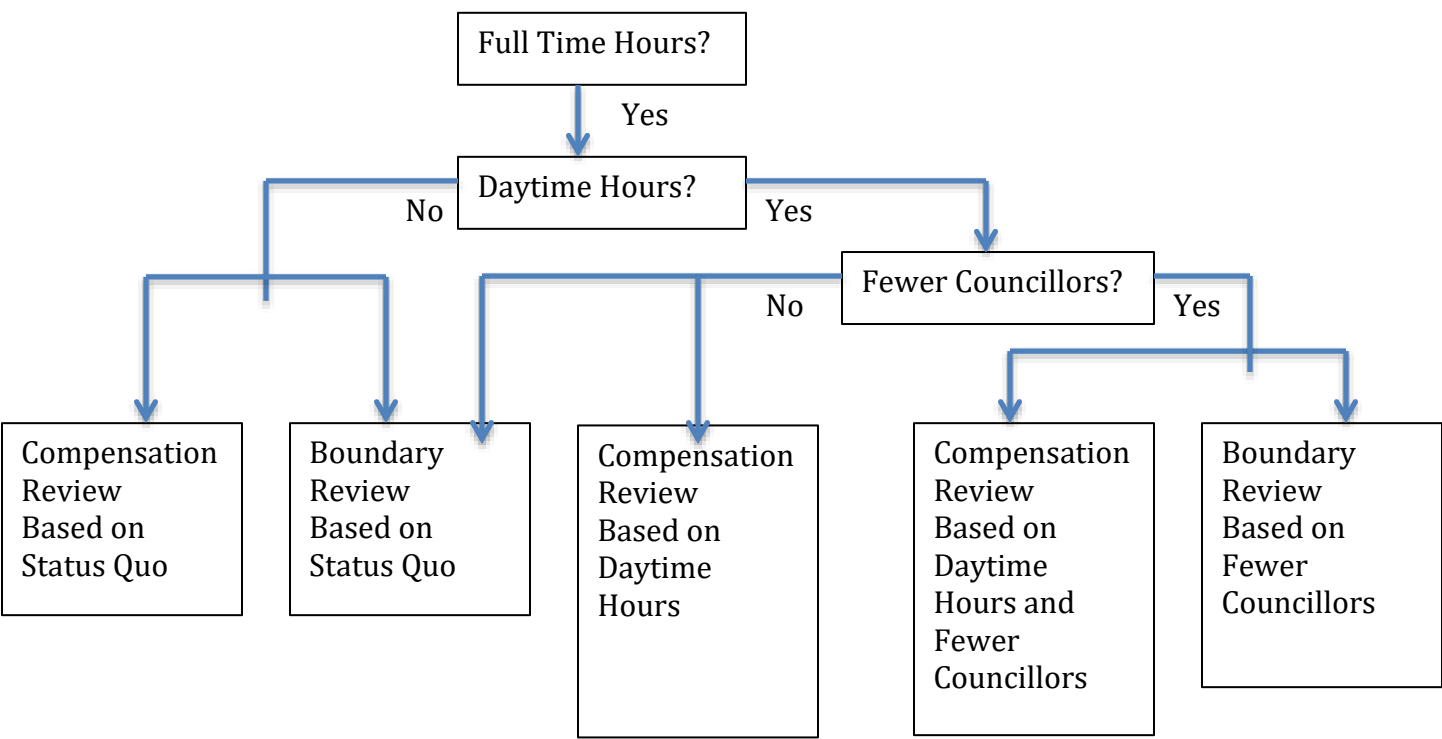
- 1) All councillors will be able to attend all daytime meetings of standing committees, working groups, boards and commissions. They will also be able to participate in council training sessions and important community initiatives such as the Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy.
- 2) The workload on boards and commissions will be more evenly distributed.
- 3) Staff are not required to stay late into the evenings which will result in savings and efficiencies.
- 4) Council will be in a better position to drive change, having more time available to act proactively and a greater ability to establish working groups.
- 5) Work will proceed more quickly because meetings between staff and councillors can be scheduled in a more timely fashion.
- 6) Fewer conflicts of interest will be declared in the meetings.
- 7) Decision-making will not be impaired due to councillors being tired, hungry and cranky late at night.
- 8) Fewer meetings will be cancelled due to lack of quorum.
- 9) There is the opportunity for fewer councillors, which will result in resource efficiencies and faster meetings.
- 10) We may be able to replace standing committees with the committee of the whole, which means debating items only once and not twice.
- 11) With only the committee of the whole, we could move to a one-week cycle and cut the time for approval of some items by half.
- 12) With only the committee of the whole, concerns about illegal meetings will be greatly reduced because the quorum would be much higher.

I brought this forward to committee because I believe that these efficiencies are sufficient to warrant consideration. However, there is also a timeliness that needs to be addressed.

In order to avoid wasted efforts on the part of staff, this decision about daytime hours needs to be made BEFORE we initiate another compensation review.

If we decide to go with daytime hours, the issue of the number of councillors will be raised again. This decision needs to be made before we initiate another compensation review AND before we ask staff to equalize the ward boundaries.

The chart below illustrates the decisions we need to make along and the directions we need to provide.



Because the compensation review and ward boundary adjustment can take a long time and have to be completed well before the next election cycle, we need to have the discussion about day-time hours as soon as possible, especially if we end up asking staff to prepare some kind of report on daytime hours prior to making the decision.

For these reasons, I put forth the following motion:

*That the governance working-group be tasked to discuss the virtues of a daytime council for next term and provide a recommendation for further discussion at SPPC.*

Sincerely,

Michael van Holst