

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2009

Councillors: Paul Bryant (P), Adrian Edwards (P), Tony Linden (P), Quentin Webb (P), Keith Lock (P)

Officers: John Ashworth (Corporate Director (Environment), Bill Jennison (Head of Countryside and Environment), Robert O' Reilly (Head of Human Resources) and Moira Fraser (Democratic Services Manager)

PART I

12. APOLOGIES.

There were no apologies for absence received.

13. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2008 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest received.

15. WBC PLAN FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR SKILLS PLEDGE.

Robert O'Reilly introduced a verbal item (Agenda Item 4) in response to emails being generated by the Local Strategic Partnership pertaining to the economic downturn and improving skills for local residents. The Council had signed up to the Public Sector Skills Pledge which sought to get all employees up to a standard of level 2 qualifications (the equivalent of 5 GCSEs). The Council had received a one-off Government Grant of £26k which it would use to employ consultants to identify employees and contractors that did not meet this standard and help to encourage them to undergo training to reach the Level 2 qualifications most notably in ICT, Mathematics and English. The provision of the education would however be free and the Council would act as an enabler to put them in contact with providers. The Committee requested that a report on initiatives being undertaken by the Council be provided to the LSP.

A report seeking to formalise and expand on work experience undertaken within the Council would be considered by Corporate Board in February 2009 and this report would suggest that work experience activity should be co-ordinated across the Council by HR.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Members noted that a Personnel Committee meeting had been arranged for the 20 March 2009 at 2.00pm in the Members' Boardroom.

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraphs(s) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006. Rule 4.2 of the Constitution also refers.

18. DECISION BY THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR PREMATURE RETIREMENT.

(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)

(Paragraph 2 – information relating to an individual)

Robert O' Reilly explained that the Council's Constitution did not make provision for the Personnel Committee to make decisions regarding funding of premature retirements. This was an Executive function and funding had been made available at the Executive meeting held on the 29th January 2009. The Personnel Committee did however have the discretion as to whether to award the funding or not.

The Committee considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 7) concerning premature retirement for an employee on the grounds of the efficiency of the service.

RESOLVED that the Personnel Committee agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt report.

(The meeting commenced at 2.00pm closed at 2.45pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature: