

DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019

Councillors Present: Dennis Benneyworth, Richard Crumly (Vice-Chair, in the Chair) and Mollie Lock (Substitute) (In place of Jeff Brooks)

Also Present: Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Robert O'Reilly (Head of Human Resources) and Jo Reeves (Principal Policy Officer)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Pamela Bale and Councillor Jeff Brooks

Councillor Absent: Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge

PART I

10. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2019 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

12. Living Wage Amendment at Council

The Committee considered Agenda Item 4 concerning an amendment proposed to the Statutory Pay Policy at the Full Council meeting held on 5 March 2019. Councillor Lee Dillon had proposed the following "All jobs within the Council are paid on salary grades within five or more incremental points. All jobs within the Council will be contractually remunerated as a minimum at the National Living Wage level and we will seek our suppliers to do the same, through our procurement processes". It had been determined to refer the matter for the Personnel Committee's consideration.

Robert O'Reilly explained that the Liberal Democrat Group Support Officer had since clarified that the amendment should read 'Real Living Wage'; a voluntary scheme based on living costs. Robert O'Reilly referred to the minutes from the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 17 September 2019 at which it had been decided not to proceed in accordance with the amendment. Members had considered that they did not want to tie the Council to the terms of being a Real Living Wage employer and instead preferred to shadow the National Joint Committee conditions, also known as the 'Green Book'. It should be noted that schools had not signed up to the previous West Berkshire Living Wage Supplement. For these reasons, officers recommended that the amendment be rejected.

Councillor Mollie Lock expressed concern regarding the impact on schools' budgets should the Committee approve the amendment.

RESOLVED that the amendment failed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 2019 - MINUTES

13. Change of a Statutory Role

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 5) to seek approval to change the designation of the statutory role of Section 151 officer from the Head of Finance and Property to the new Executive Director (Resources).

The Executive had approved a new senior management structure on 28 March 2019. At present, the Chief Executive had the dual role as Corporate Director (Resources). The new structure would see the separation of the Chief Executive's role to create a new Executive Director (Resources) post. It was proposed that this role would hold the statutory role of Section 151 officer in order to ensure that finance had greater prominence in the Council's strategic management. It was also proposed that the statutory roles of Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Children's Services return to the Executive Director (Communities) post once Andy Sharp assumed his role in May 2019.

In response to a query by Councillor Richard Crumly, Nick Carter explained that the Executive had approved the new structure but the power to designate statutory roles was delegated to the Personnel Committee.

Councillor Lock expressed concern that the Executive Director (Resources) was yet to be appointed and the role would have responsibility for schools budgets. Nick Carter advised that the vacancy was ready to be advertised subject to the Personnel Committee's approval of the recommendation and he would hope to have the post filled by the Autumn.

Councillor Dennis Benneyworth asked about the financial implications of the restructure. Nick Carter advised that it was the Executive's role to approve the financial implications of the restructure but as 13 Heads of Service would be replaced by 7 Service Directors, it was anticipated that the new structure would cost less than the present structure. However there would be a need to consider the staffing levels at tier 3 level, who report to Heads of Service. It was intended to phase in the new structure in order to avoid the need for potential redundancy costs associated with a sudden implementation.

RESOLVED:

That the statutory role of Section 151 Officer is transferred from the post of Head of Finance to the post of Executive Director (Resources) on the date when the post of Executive Director (Resources) becomes occupied.

That the statutory role of DCS is transferred from the post of Head of Education to the post of Executive Director (People) on the date when the post of Executive Director (People) becomes occupied.

That the statutory role of DAS is transferred from the post of Head of Adult Social Care to the post of Executive Director (People) on the date when the post of Executive Director (People) becomes occupied.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting on 11 June 2019 at 10am.

(The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and closed at 11.15 am)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature