

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor K Wakefield in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, J Blake, S Golton,
P Gruen, G Latty, T Leadley(in place of
Councillor Finnigan), J Lewis, A Lowe,
E Nash, J Procter and M Rafique

Apologies Councillors R Finnigan

33 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

No appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

34 Exempt Information - possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

35 Late items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda.

36 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests.

37 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Finnigan.

38 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 25th October 2012 be approved as a correct record.

39 Joint Review of all Polling Districts, Places and Stations and Community Governance Review of all Parish and Town Council Arrangements

The Head of Licensing and Registration presented a report setting out the process and timetable for the Joint Review of Polling Districts, Stations and a Community Governance Review of all Parish and Town Council arrangements.

In response to Members questions the Head of Licensing and Registration confirmed that the consideration of outcome/potential impact of work on site allocations (being undertaken by the Chief Planning Officer) is a factor the review could consider.

Members were asked to agree to the arrangements set out and particularly to agree that the Election Working Group be used as the working group through which discussions in respect of consultation responses could take place.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the process for the joint Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations and Community Governance Review of all Parish and Town Council Arrangements as set out in this report be agreed;
- b) That the timetable for the joint Review as set out at Appendix A to the report be agreed;
- c) That the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review of all Parish and Town Councils as set out in Appendix B to the report; be agreed; and,
- d) That Elections Working Group be used as the working group through which to discuss the results of any representations received in response to both consultation exercises, and provide recommendations for General Purposes Committee's consideration.

Cllr. A. Blackburn and Cllr. S. Golton entered the meeting during consideration of this item

40 Implementation of the 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement

The Head of Human Resources presented a report detailing revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, and asking that the Committee recommend that full Council approve the changes before the start of the 2013/14 Financial Year.

The Committee endorsed the amendments to the policy as set out in the report (and accompanying Appendix) and asked that further amendments be made to the Policy prior to submission to full Council for approval as follows;

Under Section 2;

- That numbered paragraphs 2 and 3 be combined;
- That, where the Employment Committee has not been involved in the appointment of a Senior Officer, that any departures from the Pay Policy be consulted upon with the appropriate Executive Members, including the Executive Member within whose portfolio the post reports, the Executive Member with responsibility for Human Resources and the Leader of Council;
- That the Leader be consulted upon all termination payments to Senior Officers covered by the Pay Policy.
- That reference to the prevailing National Minimum Wage be inserted into the policy for comparison purposes.

RESOLVED- The General Purposes Committee resolved to;

- a) note the assurances provided in respect to compliance with the policy

- b) recommend to full Council approval of the Pay Policy Statement set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the inclusion of amendments set above.

41 Appointment of Independent Person

The City Solicitor presented a report outlining the Standards and Conduct Committee's conclusions in respect of the appointment term of the Council's Independent Person. The report asked that General Purposes Committee recommend that full Council vary its original decision taken on 11th July 2012 and extend the current appointee's appointment for a further four years.

RESOLVED – The General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that the original decision of full Council (taken on 11th July 2012) in respect of the period of appointment of Mr Gordon Tollefson as the Council's Independent Person be varied, and that Mr Tollefson's existing appointment be extended for a further four years.

42 Proposed changes to Standards and Conduct arrangements

The City Solicitor presented a report setting out amendments to both the Member's Code of Conduct and the procedure for considering complaints proposed by the Standards and Conduct Committee.

RESOLVED – The General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend to full Council approval of amendments to;

- a) the Members' Code of Conduct, and
- b) the procedure for considering complaints

as set out in the report and appendices to it.