

Decisions of the General Functions Committee

14 July 2014

Members Present:

Councillor Joan Scannell (Chairman)

Councillor Wendy Prentice (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Richard Cornelius
Councillor Daniel Thomas

Barry Rawlings
Charlie O-Macauley

Councillor Geof Cooke
(substitute)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Kitty Lyons

1. MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2014 be approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kitty Lyons (Councillor Geof Cooke substituting).

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3):

Members declared the following interests:

| Councillor: | Agenda Item(s): | Interest : |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Barry Rawlings | 5a Members' Item – Request to reinstate trade union facility time to enable proper engagement with and support of staff | Non-pecuniary interest as Councillor Rawlings is a member of UNISON. |
| Charlie O-Macauley | | Non-pecuniary interest as Councillor O-Macauley is a member of RMT Union and has benefited from union facility time. |

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 4):

There were none.

5. MEMBERS ITEM (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 5):

There were none.

6. MEMBERS' ITEM - REQUEST TO REINSTATE TRADE UNION FACILITY TIME TO ENABLE PROPER ENGAGEMENT WITH AND SUPPORT OF STAFF (Agenda Item 5a):

The Committee considered Councillor Rawlings' representation on the item.

The Chief Operating Officer/Director of Finance informed the committee that the Budget set by Council in March 2014 agreed to reduce Trade Unions core funding, leaving a smaller, flexible budget. The Chief Operating Officer/Director of Finance circulated a paper at the meeting advising that:

- The Council will ensure sufficient Trade Union time is made available to support key changes that impact on staff, as they arise. Negotiations to agree this release time are still underway
- The Council will ensure that key union representatives are released as appropriate to support this work.
- The budget reduction means a change in how Trade Unions work with the Council; Officers have been in discussions and offering support for Trade Unions to adjust to this new model, requiring less central TU resource, greater delegation and recognising the need to make the most of local representation.
- The HR Director explained there was an expectation for the use of more local representatives by the trade unions to ensure there is sufficient capacity across the organisation and offered time to the trade unions to build this capacity.
- Senior Officers and the HR Director will meet with Trade Union representatives on 16 July 2014 to review proposals for additional facilities time.

The Committee requested that Officers bring an update report to the next meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. VACANCIES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Agenda Item 6):

RESOLVED – The following appointments set out in the schedule were made:

| | School | Appointment |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Annunciation Catholic Junior School | No appointment made |
| 2. | Bell Lane Primary School | No appointment made |
| 3. | Brookland Infant and Junior Schools | No appointment made |
| 4. | Cromer Road Primary School | Mrs Josephine Nelhams |
| 5. | Hasmonean Primary School | Mrs F Kaufman |
| 6. | St Paul's CE Primary School | No appointment made |
| 7. | Wessex Garden Primary School | Mr Franklin Dannenburg |
| 8. | Hampden Nursery School | Ms Christine Hobart |

8. STREETSCENE - WASTE RECYLING SERVICES (Agenda Item 7):

This item was withdrawn and therefore no report was submitted to the committee.

9. ANY ITEM(S) THAT HE CHAIRMAN DECIDES IS URGENT (Agenda Item 8):

There were none.

The meeting finished at 7.20 pm