

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Services Committee held on 6 August 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Robert Gledhill (Vice-Chair), Roy Jones, Barbara Rice, Graham Snell, Lynn Worrall and James Halden (Substitute) (substitute for Mark Coxshall)

Apologies: Councillors John Kent (Chair)

In attendance:

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

11. Minutes

The minutes of the General Services Committee held on 23 June 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

12. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

13. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

14. Proposal to Implement a Pay Award for Music Tutors working for Thurrock Music Services

The Committee was informed that music tutors had not received a pay rise since before 2010 and tutor capacity was decreasing as other local authorities were offering more competitive rates. The increase in tutors hourly rates would be covered by external funding and the Chair of the Music Education Hub Board was in full agreement with the report's proposals.

The Committee questioned why an increase was being sought now if after a financial review in March 2016 the service could be left with a reduced budget. Officers explained that any reduction in costs would affect the infrastructural and some project work and not the amount of hours provided by the music tutors themselves.

The Committee learnt that the music tutor pay sat outside the single service pay scheme and therefore had not been subject to previous salary increases. This could be taken into account for future increases.

Councillor Gledhill raised a query that the service would be in deficit at the end of the financial year because of the overhead costs of the internal corporate services charged to the service. It was responded that all services in the councils were charged set fees for legal and facility services among others and was not necessarily the costs incurred by the services.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1. The Committee approve the pay award of 2.2% to be implemented for work undertaken by music tutors working for Thurrock Music Services, effective from 1 September 2015.**
- 2. HR create proposals for the future alignment of non-scheme salaries and payments with the single service pay scheme.**

The meeting finished at 7.18 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**