

**MINUTES of the meeting of the General Services Committee held on 13 January 2014 at 2.30 p.m.**

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**Present:** Councillors John Kent (Chair), Barbara Rice (Vice Chair), Mark Coxshall, Rob Gledhill (substitute for Councillor Anderson), Steve Liddiard (substitute for Councillor Phil Smith) and Andy Smith.

**Apologies:** Councillors Phil Anderson, Barry Palmer and Phil Smith

**In attendance:** Graham Farrant – Chief Executive  
Steve Cox – Assistant Chief Executive  
Lindsey Francklin – Business Development Manager  
Jackie Hinchliffe – Head of HR, OD & Customer Strategy  
Steve Jones – Democratic Services Manager

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Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair advised all in attendance that the part of the meeting that was open to the public to attend was to be recorded for publication to the internet.

**10. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the General Services Committee, held on 12 December 2013, were approved as a correct record.

**11. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair informed the Committee that he had not agreed to the consideration of any items of urgent business.

**12. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

**13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS**

The Business Development Manager submitted a report, which requested the Committee to implement an addendum to the Councils Discretionary Compensation Policy statement relating to the treatment of deferred benefits.

A copy of the proposed addendum to the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretionary Powers Policy was attached to the report for Members' consideration.

Councillor Gledhill queried whether the proposed addendum to the Policy would apply if an employee made an application for early pension as a result of ill health. The Business Development Manager confirmed that this would not apply in such cases and that ill health provisions would be dealt with separately as they were contained in a different part of the regulations.

Councillor Rice advised Members that she felt that it was correct for the Council to have an addition to its policy in order that employees were fully aware of their rights under the pensions scheme.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor Kent.

All Members indicated their agreement to the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the addendum to the Local Government Pension Scheme on Discretionary Powers Policy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.**
2. **That no early payments of deferred benefits are approved for leavers prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 between age 50 and 54.**
3. **That the Business Case process for early termination of employment be extended to include decisions on early release of deferred benefits for any ex-employees of the Council.**

**14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that they might disclose exempt information of the following category:**

**Category 1 - Information relating to any individual.**

**15. OUTSOURCING DIVERSITY SERVICES TO TRUST – PENSIONS TRANSFER**

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report, which sought approval to enter into an admitted body status within the Local Government Pension Scheme arising from the outsourcing of strategic diversity services to TRUST.

Members indicated their agreement to the recommendations in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That General Services Committee approve that the Council, as the Transferor Scheme Employer, enter into an agreement with Essex County Council Pension Fund, as Administering Authority, and TRUST as transferee admission body, to obtain admitted body status within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) arising from outsourcing the strategic leadership of diversity issues in Thurrock.**
2. **The Admitted Body agreement risk assessment will be reviewed by the Client Manager during the term of the contract together with the pension scheme actuaries, and the Pension Fund Administrators, Essex County Council with the first review date taking place towards the end of the agreement.**

*(The Assistant Chief Executive and Business Development Manager left the meeting.)*

*(The Democratic Services Manager left the meeting at 2.34 p.m.)*

*(The Democratic Services Manager returned to the meeting at 4.37 p.m. to record the decision of the Committee.)*

**16. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Committee interviewed one candidate that had been short listed for the post.

It was proposed by Councillor Kent:

“That Carmel Littleton be offered the post of Director of Children’s Services, subject to agreement on salary, start date and the formal ratification of Cabinet.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Barbara Rice.

All Members indicated their agreement to the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Carmel Littleton be offered the post of Director of Children’s Services, subject to agreement on salary, start date and the formal ratification of Cabinet.**

**17. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS, HEALTH & COMMISSIONING**

The Committee interviewed one candidate that had been short listed for the post.

It was proposed by Councillor Kent:

“That Roger Harris be offered the post of Director of Adults, Health & Commissioning, subject to agreement on salary, start date and the formal ratification of Cabinet.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Barbara Rice.

All Members indicated their agreement to the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Roger Harris be offered the post of Director of Adults, Health & Commissioning, subject to agreement on salary, start date and the formal ratification of Cabinet.**

**The meeting finished at 4.39 pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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or alternatively e-mail [sjones@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:sjones@thurrock.gov.uk)**