

Public Minutes of the Meeting of the General Services Committee held on 12 March 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Andrew Jefferies (Chair), John Kent (Vice-Chair), Deborah Arnold, Kairen Raper, Graham Snell, Paul Arnold (Substitute) (substitute for Barry Johnson) and Valerie Morris-Cook (Substitute) (substitute for Lynn Worrall)

Apologies: Councillors Barry Johnson and Lynn Worrall

In attendance: Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive
Tina Dempsey, Acting Assistant Director of HR & OD
Daniel Fenwick, Executive Director, Corporate Services Team
Mark Keeble, Pay and Reward Specialist
Jenny Shade, Principal Democratic Services Officer

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

62. Minutes

The public minutes of the General Services Committee held on the 13 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

63. Items of Urgent Business

There were no declarations of interest.

64. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

65. Annual Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

The Localism Act 2011 required the Council to publish an Annual Pay Policy Statement, which must be approved in advance of the financial year to which it applies. The 2024/25 statement had been updated to reflect the decision of the General Services Committee on 5 December 2023 to end local collective bargaining on pay awards for employees below senior manager level and apply the National Joint Committee (NJC) for Local Government Services cost of living pay increases from 1 April 2024. The new collective agreement reached with Trade Unions to implement this change was attached in appendix 1.

The following points were raised:

- Noted this had previously been agreed and was the right way forward.

- Clarified that the report had been agreed by trade unions who had made no objections.
- Questioned whether the NJC representatives be taken from across section of people.
- Questioned whether the outcome of the reviewed terms of reference for the board would be brought back to committee.
- Referred to the wording of the recommendation of the cost-of-living review in that the “same mount” would be increased by the percentage amount rather than monetary amount.
- Thanked officers for the bringing the report back following the request of general service committee members.
- It made sense to revert back to the system that had previously been used as it would also save the council money.

Action:

Mark Keeble to provide details from LGA of the Councillors that currently represent the employer’s side in pay negotiations.

RESOLVED

- 1. Approved the Council’s revised Collective Agreement with recognised Trade Unions attached as appendix 1.**
- 2. Approved the Council’s Annual Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 reflecting the changes outlined in this report, attached as appendix 2 for submission to Full Council on 20 March 2024.**

66. Senior Manager Pay Review

At 7.12pm the meeting went into exempt session.

At 7.20pm, the meeting reconvened back into public session.

The meeting finished at 7.21 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