

Governance Committee

23 January 2017 – At a meeting of the Committee held at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

Mrs Arculus (Chairman), Mr Barnard, Mr Burrett, Mr Lanzer, Mrs Mullins and Dr Walsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Brown, Ms Goldsmith and Ms James.

Declarations of Interest

133. In accordance with the code of conduct, in relation to item 7, Pensions Fund Pooling Initiative Update, personal interests were declared by Mr Burrett and Mr Lanzer as deferred members and Mrs Mullins as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Minutes of the Governance Committee

134. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Pay Policy Statement

135. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Customer and Support Services (copy appended to the signed minutes) which proposed updates to the current Statement.

136. Members were supportive of the updates to the statement and welcomed the inclusion of both a comparison of the Head of Paid Service's salary with the median for full-time earnings of other staff and with the lowest full-time equivalent earning of other staff. It was considered that this information should be included in the published pay multiples document for four-year periods, to allow some level of comparison each year.

137. Resolved –

- (1) That the proposed revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed for recommendation to the County Council on 17 February 2017; and
- (2) That the County Council be recommended that authority to approve any subsequent changes to the wording of the Pay Policy Statement relating to changes to legislation be delegated to the Director of Transformation, Customer and Support Services and the Director of Law and Assurance.

Notices of Motion – Time Limits

138. The Committee received a report by the Director of Law and Assurance (copy appended to the signed minutes), which set out options for introducing an overall time limit for motion debates.

139. The Committee considered that current Standing Orders provided sufficient flexibility for the Chairman to manage the length of motion debates, reading the mood of the chamber. It was noted that the Chairman intended to take the Question Time item earlier on the next Council meeting agenda, acknowledging that motion discussions had sometimes led to Question Time being shortened at recent meetings.

140. Resolved – That current Standing Orders in relation to motions be confirmed.

Report of the Member Development Group

141. The Committee considered a report by the Member Development Group (copy appended to the signed minutes), which set out plans for the post-election induction period, building on learning from previous induction programmes.

142. The Committee was supportive of the comprehensive induction programme envisaged, including focusing on the core member role initially and following with more detailed service induction in the autumn. Site visits were highlighted as a good way of members learning about council services.

143. Members asked that the proposed initial welcome session on 10 May 2017 should include a brief introduction by a senior returning member of the County Council. It was hoped that induction dates would be circulated to political groups and any potential candidates, to give candidates prior notice of the key dates.

144. Resolved –

- (1) That, subject to the inclusion of a senior member briefly introducing the welcome session on 10 May, the draft induction programme for 2017 be supported; and
- (2) That a further update only be necessary if significant additional material is proposed to the induction programme.

Pensions Fund Pooling Initiative Update

145. The Committee received a report by the Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement (copy appended to the signed minutes), that provided an update on pooling arrangements.

146. The Committee noted that members of the ACCESS group held a shared view of the potential pooling arrangements and had found the Government to be slightly behind schedule. It was expected that a report about formal pooling arrangements would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

147. Resolved – That the report be noted.

Date of Next Meeting

148. The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held at 2.15 p.m. on Monday, 6 March 2017.

Agenda Item No. 2

The meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman