

# **GENERAL PURPOSES (APPEALS & STAFFING) COMMITTEE AGENDA**



**26 September 2012**

**at 9.30 am**

**in Committee Room A, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES (APPEALS & STAFFING) COMMITTEE:**

Councillors Fisher, James, Richardson and Sirs

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2012.
- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012.

**4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

**EXEMPT ITEMS**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

**5. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 5.1 Appeal against Home to School Transport Decision – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods (para 2)*

**6. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

# **GENERAL PURPOSES (APPEALS AND STAFFING) COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD 13 June 2012**

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillors Chris Simmons and Ray Wells

In accordance with Paragraph 4.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules Councillor Carl Richardson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Rob Cook

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director  
Rachel Clark, HR Business Partner (Management Advisor)  
Alison Swann, Human Resources Advisor (Committee Advisor)  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Appellant and Appellant's Trade Union Representative

## **1. Appointment of Chair**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, nominations were sought in respect of Chair. It was agreed that Councillor Wells be appointed as Chair for this meeting.

**Councillor Wells in the Chair**

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rob Cook.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Simmons, Richardson and Wells declared personal interests in Minute 6.

## **4. Minutes**

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2012 –

confirmed.

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2012 – confirmed.
- (iii) Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2012 – confirmed.

## 5. **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 6 – Appeal against Redundancy – (Para 1 - namely information relating to any individual)

Minute 7 – Request for Deferred Pension Benefits (PD) – (Para 1 - namely information relating to any individual)

Minute 8 – Request for Deferred Pension Benefits (JH) – (Para 1 - namely information relating to any individual)

## 6. **Appeal Against Redundancy Dismissal** *Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to any individual (para 1)

The Committee considered an appeal against redundancy dismissal from an employee of the Council. Further details were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

### **Decision**

The decision was set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

## 7. **Request for Payment of Deferred Pension Benefits** *(Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer)* This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to any individual (para 1)

The Committee considered an application from a former employee for early payment of pension on compassionate grounds. Further details of the application were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

**Decision**

That the request be approved.

**8. Request for Payment of Deferred Pension**

**Benefits** (*Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to any individual (para 1)

The Committee considered an application from a former employee for early payment of pension on compassionate grounds. Further details of the application were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

**Decision**

That the request be refused.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 pm

CHAIR

# **GENERAL PURPOSES (APPEALS AND STAFFING) COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

19 June 2012

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Rob Cook (In the Chair)

Councillor: Marjorie James and Ray Wells.

**Also Present:**

Appellant and UNISON Representative

Officers: Gillian Laight, HR Business Partner (Committee Advisor)  
Rachel Clark, HR Business Partner (Management Advisor)  
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **10. Declarations of interest by Members**

Upon all parties joining the meeting, the Chair requested that they all leave the meeting to enable clarification to be sought on a declaration of interest.

Councillor Cook indicated that he was acquainted with the Appellant from a number of years ago. The HR Committee Advisor spoke to all parties involved outside of the meeting who all confirmed they were happy to proceed.

All parties rejoined the meeting.

Councillor Cook declared a personal interest in minute 14

## **11. Apologies for Absence**

None.

## **12. Minutes**

None.

### **13. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 14 – Appeal against Redundancy Dismissal (IC) - This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to any individual) (para 1).

### **14. Appeal against Redundancy Dismissal (IC)** (*Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to any individual) (para 1).

The Committee considered an appeal against redundancy dismissal from an employee of the Council. Further details were set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

#### **Decision**

The decision was set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm

CHAIR

**Hartlepool Borough Council, Children's Service Department**

**Extract from the Home to School Transport Policy**

**Mainstream and Low Income Transport Policy (Section 1)**

**Primary and Secondary Aged Pupil Entitlement**

Transport will be provided free of charge for those pupils of primary and secondary age who are travelling over the statutory walking distance to/from the main entrance of their nearest suitable school.

Pupils may be required to use public transport and in these cases they will be provided with a free bus pass in order for them to use the service.

In Hartlepool the statutory walking distance is modified by discretionary power to achieve consistency between sectors:

- 2 miles up to the age of 11 years (primary pupils)
- 3 mile from the age of 11 – 16 years (secondary pupils)

**Secondary School Extended Rights to Free Travel (low income families)**

Extended rights for children of compulsory school age commenced in September 2008. These rights extend a right to free transport to the most disadvantaged pupils of secondary school age (those entitled to free school meals and those whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit) to include transport to any one of their:

- Three nearest schools between 2 and 6 miles from their home
- To the nearest suitable school preferred on grounds of Religion or Belief up to a distance of 15 miles from their home

**Distance Measuring for Free Transport for Children of Low Income Families**

The 2 mile limit is measured in the same way as the "statutory walking distance". However, the 6 mile and 15 mile upper limits are not walking routes. These routes are those which are passable using a suitable motorised vehicle. In short, the two upper limits will be measured along road routes.