

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 25th October 2005 at Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes.

Present: Councillors Swain (Chairman), Harris, M. Hodgkinson, McInerney and Wharton.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Cross.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: I Leivesley, D Johnson, S Spencer, D Forster and L Cairns.

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE

APC 10 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 10th January, 4th March, 13th May and 26th May 2005, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

APC11 PAY AND GRADING REVIEW

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining the approach being taken by the Council to its Pay and Grading Review and describing progress made to date.

It was noted that, further to a previous Appointments Committee resolution, a Steering Group had been set up to undertake the Review which also covered the council-wide job evaluation process. The Group was seeking to undertake a review whilst avoiding those problems encountered by other Councils and a "Framework Agreement" had been drawn up and agreed with the Unions setting out the principles of many aspects of the process. The Committee noted that this process was not just about evaluating jobs but rather modernising and bringing equality.

In addition, it was advised that an agreement had been reached with staff in Neighbourhood Services, a vulnerable area in this respect, following several months of complicated negotiations. The agreement was an extremely important part of the overall review and would crucially assist in ensuring that Halton did not face the problems encountered by other Authorities. The costs associated with this agreement were outlined in the report for information.

Action

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the approach endorsed.

APC 12 HOMEWORKING POLICY

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining a draft Homeworking Policy that had been considered and supported by both the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board and the Executive Board.

It was noted that a pilot had been running in the Benefits Division for a number of months which had proven to be extremely successful for both management and the staff involved.

The Committee was advised that a working party comprising representatives from all directorates, including legal services, personnel services and the trade unions, had been set up to formulate the policy which was considered to be a valuable addition to the Council's existing flexible working policies.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Homeworking Policy be approved; and
- (2) a report be submitted to the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board in 12 months' time outlining the number of staff working at home, outcomes, value added to the organisation and any costs incurred.

Strategic
Director –
Corporate
and Policy

APC 13 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) 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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

APC 14 APPOINTMENT OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR – I.T.

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy seeking approval to a permanent appointment of the post Operational Director – I.T.

It was noted that a temporary appointment had been made on 1st April 2005 following an internal advertising process to ensure that there was no gap in provision following the retirement

of the previous postholder on the understanding that this issue would be reviewed once the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy was in post. This review had now taken place and a recommendation was made accordingly.

RESOLVED: That Mr Simon Riley be appointed to the post of Operational Director (IT Services) in accordance with the terms and conditions for the post.

APC 15 APPOINTMENT OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR – HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIP

The Committee interviewed four candidates for the post of Operational Director – Health and Partnership.

RESOLVED: That Mr P McWade be appointed as Operational Director – Health and Partnership at Spinal Point 150 from a commencement date to be agreed.

Meeting ended at 6.40 pm

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