

Lancashire County Council

Urgency Committee of the Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th January, 2012 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Geoff Driver (Chair)

County Councillors

A Atkinson	D O'Toole
M Devaney	J Shedwick
C Grunshaw	B Winlow
P Malpas	

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor J Mein.

2. Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair, Membership and Terms of Reference

A report was presented on the approved Membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee following the Annual General Meeting of the Full Council on 26 May 2011. The Full Council had also appointed County Councillors G Driver and A Atkinson as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2011/12 municipal year.

Resolved: That the Membership, Terms of Reference of the Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, as now reported, be noted.

5. Adult Learning Service

The Committee considered a report on the adoption of County Council personnel code policies and procedures for further education lecturers employed within Lancashire Adult Learning.

The County Council currently had separate arrangements in place for further education lecturers and managers employed within Lancashire Adult Learning. The arrangements had existed since 1992 and had been subject to local agreement with the University and Colleges Union (and previously the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education).

The policies, terms and conditions that applied to further education lecturers were subject to local review and agreement each year between the County Council and the Trade Unions. It was considered that this arrangement had been difficult to maintain and was no longer sustainable, especially following a 50% reduction in management posts following the restructure of the service in 2011. It was therefore proposed that specified policies and procedures, as set out in the report presented and Appendices 'A' to 'F', be aligned with the County Council's Personnel Code.

The Committee noted that whilst agreement had been reached with the University and the Trade Union on this proposal, a number of policies, terms and conditions e.g. rates of pay, holiday entitlements that were specific to teaching staff in Lancashire Adult Learning would remain unchanged pending a further review.

Resolved: That academic staff employed within Lancashire Adult Learning be subject to the County Council's personnel policies and procedures, as set out in the Report and at Appendices 'A' to 'F' now presented.

6. Management of Unreasonable Complaints

The Committee considered a report on the adoption of a corporate policy for dealing with unreasonably persistent complaint behaviour.

The Local Government Ombudsman had suggested that it would be helpful for the County Council to have a standalone 'overarching' policy to deal with unreasonable complaint behaviour rather than rely on separate provision within its various complaints policies.

A proposed corporate policy for dealing with unreasonably persistent complaint behaviour. was presented at Appendix 'A', together with details of consequential changes to the Corporate Complaints Procedure (Appendix 'B')

Resolved:

1. That the policy, as set out at Appendix 'A', to deal with unreasonable complaint behaviour be adopted by the County Council.
2. That the consequential changes to the Corporate Complaints Procedure, as set out at Appendix 'B' be approved.

7. Appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Committee considered a report on the proposed appointment of Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, DL to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel for a term of four years.

It was agreed that Mrs Stanley should be appointed to serve on the Panel in view of her extensive knowledge of local government and the public sector and her experience as chair of West Lancashire Borough Council's Independent Remuneration Panel since 2002.

The Committee noted that further efforts would be made to fill the two remaining vacancies on the Panel.

Resolved: That Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, DL be appointed to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel until 17 January 2016.

8. Urgent Business

None.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston