
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the General Purposes Committee meeting held remotely via Skype on Wednesday, 8 July 2020 from 5.15pm - 5.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mike Baldock (Vice-Chairman), Steve Davey, Mike Dendor, Angela Harrison, Alan Horton, Denise Knights, Richard Palmer, Roger Truelove (Chairman), Mike Whiting and Corrie Woodford.

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Clifford, Robin Harris, Kellie MacKenzie, Jo Millard, Baljinder Sandher and Claudette Valmond.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Derek Carnell, Simon Clark, Tim Gibson, Ken Ingleton, Carole Jackson, Elliott Jayes, Lee McCall, Ken Rowles and Tony Winckless.

718 INTRODUCTION

The Leader explained that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No. 392.

In welcoming all Members and members of the public, the Leader explained which Swale Borough Council officers were in attendance.

719 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March 2020 (Minutes Nos. 630 – 633) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

720 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

Part A Minutes for recommendation to Council

721 AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES - LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Committee considered the report which set out the proposed changes to the Council's procedure rules to allow more members than the leader of the opposition to respond to the Leader's Statement. The Monitoring Officer explained that this was the first step of an experimental approach and advised that the proposal would be updated to reflect that Members should only respond to topics on the Leader's Statement.

The Leader drew attention to paragraph 3.1 on page 4 of the report and repeated that Members should only speak on matters which related to the Leader's Statement. He added that the time limit would still be 30 minutes.

Recommended:

(1) That Council consider the revised wording in paragraph 3.1 for incorporation into the constitution.

Part B Minutes for information**722 SALARY REVIEW OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE POST**

The Leader introduced the report which reviewed the salary range of the Chief Executive role against salary data for other Chief Executives in Kent, as shown in paragraph 2.8 on page 8 of the report. He commented that the Chief Executive's salary at Swale Borough Council was the highest paying in Kent but acknowledged that the Returning Officer fee was incorporated into the salary.

The Leader drew Members' attention to the amended salary scale on page 12 of the report and said that it would be difficult to recruit to the role if the salary was set any lower than proposed.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Human Resources (HR) Shared Services confirmed that there would be reduced costs to the Council in the overall package, due to less pension and National Insurance contributions.

The Head of HR Services advised that most Councils appointed their Chief Executive as the Returning Officer in elections, but this role could be nominated to another officer of the Council.

Members spoke in support of the proposal.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Chief Executive and the statutory role of Head of Paid Services pay grade be amended to reflect the median pay based on the salary review.***
(2) That a separate fee be paid to the Chief Executive for undertaking the role of a Returning Officer in elections.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel