

At a meeting of the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor M. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Fairs, M. Forbes, Gofton, Trueman, S. Watson, A. Wilson and A. Wright.

Part I

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, J. Walton and P. Watson.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Report of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee

The report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 5th January, 2010, Part I (circulated) was submitted and consideration given thereto.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the report of the meeting be noted, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Report of the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee

The report of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 6th January, 2010, Part I (circulated) was submitted and consideration given thereto.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that the report of the meeting be noted.

Health and Safety Six Monthly Report

The Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development submitted a report to review the management of health and safety at work within the Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members were advised that the report covered the period 1st April to 30th September, 2009. Referring to paragraph 4 of the report the Director explained that this paragraph outlined any significant health and safety incidents that had occurred during the six month period together with the action taken to mitigate the risk in the future.

The Director referred to paragraph 6 of the report which gives an overview of the Health and safety management System which is used to report on all the audits undertaken. This will provide for a quarterly action plan to be developed for submission to the Central Health and Safety Forum. Directorates would be asked to outline what action had been taken to address any areas of concern.

Councillor M. Forbes referred to asbestos incidences and queried whether scientific reports on different types of asbestos i.e. white, blue and brown had been carried out detailing differing levels of toxicity and appropriate methods of treatment. The Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that it may be the fibres contained within it not the material itself, which posed a threat and therefore all types triggered investigation however she was not certain. As a result, she would contact the Council's Asbestos Manager and request that information be sent to Members of the Committee.

A discussion then ensued in relation to any liability the Council would face, given the recent weather conditions if someone slipped on a pavement which was Council owned, but had not been cleared. The Deputy Chief Solicitor advised Members that cases such as these would be judged on reasonableness. It was agreed that further clarification be sought from the Risk Management and Insurance Section and information sent to Members, including detail of claims made to date.

Consideration having been given to the matter, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it is considered to involve a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual or information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or

contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matters arising between the Authority and its employees (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4).

(Signed) M. SMITH,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.