

Governance Committee

11 March 2024 – At a meeting of the Governance Committee held at 2.15 pm at County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ.

Present: Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)

Cllr Wickremaratchi, Cllr Burrett, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr Marshall, Cllr O'Kelly and Cllr Waight

Apologies were received from Cllr Lord and Cllr Oxlade

Part I

23. Declarations of Interest

23.1 Cllr Burrett declared an interest in the item on the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 as a deferred Member of the West Sussex Local Government Pension Scheme.

24. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

24.1 Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

25. Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

25.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development on the proposed Pay Policy Statement, as set out in the report, for recommendation to the County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that on page 14 the second paragraph 15.2 should read 15.3.

25.2 Cllr Burrett asked whether the changes to paragraph 9.4 of the Statement in relation to the abatement of pensions meant that only members in the schemes in paragraph 9.3 which have closed, are subject to the rules on abatement. The Head of HR Specialist Services said he believed that to be correct but that he would check with Pension Fund officers and let Cllr Burrett know.

25.3 Cllr Jupp commented that, whilst there is still a joint Chief Executive, the first sentence of paragraph 6.6 of the Statement would be clearer if it read 'Leader of West Sussex County Council' rather than just 'Leader' and this was agreed.

25.4 Resolved – That, with the two minor amendments above, the proposed revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 1, be endorsed for recommendation to the County Council.

26. Revisions to the Constitution

26.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Assurance on minor revisions to the Constitution for recommendation to the County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). These are to formalise expectations for the mandatory training of members of certain panels and committees, as recommended by the Member Development Group, and revisions to the terms of reference of this Committee and of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be in line with current practice and recent legislative changes.

26.2 Members were supportive of the proposed changes, particularly in relation to the mandatory training for Planning and Rights of Way Committee. It was specifically noted that, as the planning functions of the County Council are very different from those of district or borough councils, it is essential members sitting on the Planning and Rights of Way Committee complete the training before taking part in meetings.

26.3 Resolved - That the County Council be recommended to approve the changes to the Constitution set out in paragraphs 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4 of the report.

27. Committee Business Planning

27.1 The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 2.15 pm on 20 May 2024 at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm

Chairman