

CIVIC AFFAIRS

23 March 2011

6.30 - 8.30 pm

Present: Councillors Boyce (Chair), Rosenstiel (Vice-Chair), Benstead, Herbert, Pitt and Ward

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL**11/16/civ Constitutional Amendments**Joint Staff Employer Forum

The committee was asked to reconsider an earlier decision that the Joint Staff Employer Forum should be open to the public, subject to being able to exclude the press and public if appropriate in view of the subject matter. The Forum's view now was that, as it was an internal forum for staff and their employer (the Council), its meetings should not be open to the public. Staff who were not part of the Forum would be allowed to attend its meetings at the discretion of the Chair.

Resolved to

- i. Recommend to Council that the constitution is amended to reflect that the Joint Staff Employer Forum is not open to the public.

11/17/civ Approval of Joint Memorandum of understanding between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council on lead officer support to the Cambridge Fringes Joint Development Control Committee

The committee received a report proposing a revised Joint Memorandum of Understanding between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council on lead officer support to the Cambridge Fringes Joint Development Control Committee. The lead officer role had been carried out by the Joint Planning Director (Growth Areas), but this post would cease to exist from 31 March 2011. The three councils were being asked to agree that the City Council's new Head of Planning should take responsibility for managing the co-ordination and delivery of growth in the Cambridge fringe sites.

The committee welcomed the proposed changes, but concern was expressed about the need for an effective joint member policy forum. It was noted that the "Section 29 Committee" had met and agreed to recommend its abolition. The Head of Planning emphasised that policies would continue to be developed in communication with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the County Council.

Resolved (4 votes to 0) to

- i. Note the contents of the proposed memorandum of understanding
- ii. Recommend to Full Council that the memorandum of understanding is approved by the City Council.

11/18/civ Independent Remuneration Panel – Members Allowances

The Committee received a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding members' allowances. Mr Paul a member of the Panel, introduced the Panel's report and drew the Committee's attention to some changes (which had been circulated) to the version included in the agenda.

The committee made the following comments:

- i. Concern was expressed that the panel didn't fully understand the role of councillors and that would need further support from officers.
- ii. The panel was thanked for their work, but concern was expressed about a number of issues related to process. These issues included a disconnect between the panel and officers supporting the panel, the manner in which the process operates and the lack of transparency in how the allowances are determined. It was further suggested that there should be a detailed review of the interrelationships between the different types of payments.
- iii. The panel clarified the wording of recommendation 2.6 to reflect the proposed payment was not an additional basic allowance, but a special responsibility allowance.
- iv. Concern was expressed about the implications of removing SRA payments for Vice-Chairs because of the variety of roles performed

depending on the committee. The roles and responsibilities of Vice-Chairs were discussed.

- v. The basis for calculating the different multipliers and equivalent payments was suggested as a possible area for future focus of the panel.
- vi. Clarification was requested on the likely timescale for the future implementation of any changes to the decision making process that may arise from the Localism Bill. The committee were advised that it was unlikely that any new arrangements could be implemented prior to 2013.

The committee recommendations 2.1 – 2.8 (as amended) and resolved

- i. (4 votes to 0) to accept recommendation 2.1
- ii. (1 vote to 0) to reject recommendation 2.2
- iii. (4 votes to 0) to accept recommendation 2.3
- iv. (4 votes to 0) to accept recommendation 2.4
- v. (4 votes to 0) to accept recommendation 2.5, subject to the substitution of the word “subsidence” with “subsistence”.
- vi. (4 votes to 2) to accept recommendation 2.6
- vii. (4 votes to 0) to accept recommendation 2.7
- viii. To note recommendation 2.8

The committee thanked the panel for their work.

Resolved to

- i. Recommend a Members Allowances Scheme to Council for adoption on 7 April as amended (full amended scheme is appended to the adoption minute)

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR