

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Staffing Committee**  
held on Thursday, 7th January, 2010 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillor D Topping (Chairman)  
Councillor B Silvester (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors W Fitzgerald, R Fletcher, D Flude and B Moran

#### Unions

Bill Gerrard – T& GWU/UNITE  
Colin Priest – GMB  
Kevin Bradbury – GMB  
Kevin Yoxall - UNISON  
Anton Woodford – Soulbury

#### Officers

Paul Bradshaw – Head of HR & Organisational Development  
Julie Davies – HR Strategic Policy Manager  
Amanda Rudham – HR Policy Manager  
Suzanne Antrobus – Senior Corporate Solicitor  
Rosie Ottewill – Workforce Development & Capacity Manager  
Graham Coope – Health and Safety Officer  
Alex Thompson – Finance Lead – Strategy & Funding

### **60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor F Keegan.

### **61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D Flude declared a personal interest, being a retired member of Unison.

### **62 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

### **63 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2009 be approved as a correct record.

### **64 HR UPDATE**

The Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development, aided by the Health and Safety Officer and the Workforce Development & Capacity Manager, presented a report which provided a general update on Human Resource issues, including Health and Safety, Organisational Development, Organisational Transformation and Organisational Development Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**65 TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME**

The Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development presented a report on Trade Union Recognition, Facilities and Time Off Agreement.

The requirement for a Collective Agreement on Trade Union Recognition, Time Off and Facilities was governed by the legislation. Following the creation of Cheshire East Council on 1 April 2009, legacy arrangements from the four previous authorities had remained in place. A new Agreement for Cheshire East had now been drafted, which was proposed should come into effect from 1 April 2010.

The Agreement would provide framework arrangements between the Council and the recognised trade unions, and provide managers, trade union representative and Members with clear guidelines under which requests for time off for trade union duties, activities and facilities would be determined.

The Unions raised a number of issues for clarification and it was agreed that these would be discussed with officers outside of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the content of the Trade Union Recognition, Facilities and Time Off Agreement be agreed.

**66 BUSINESS PLANNING PROCESS 2010 -13: PRE BUDGET REPORT**

The Committee received a report outlining the consultation process on the budgetary and capital proposals for the next three years, which would be published in the first Cheshire East Pre-Budget Report.

It had been hoped that the Pre-Budget Report would have been published in time for this meeting so that the proposals could be shared with the Trade Unions and their comments received.

The Pre-Budget Report would be published on 8 January and it was agreed that the Report would be discussed at the Corporate Trade Union meeting on 20 January 2010.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and consultation on the Pre Budget Report take place with the Trade Unions at the Corporate Trade Union meeting on 20 January 2010.

**67 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

**68 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**69 ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE TRADE UNIONS**

The Trade Unions representatives raised issues relating to the following matter:

Voluntary Redundancy

The meeting commenced at 2.15 pm and concluded at 3.30 pm

Councillor D Topping (Chairman)