

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

18 April 2016

Present:-

Councillors C Channon (Chairman), A Connett, J Hart, R Julian, J Owen, R Westlake and J Clatworthy

Apologies:-

Councillors S Hughes and N Way

1 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 be signed as a correct record.

2 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

3 Constitutional Matters: Dispensations

The County Solicitor reported on the proposed revision of the existing General Dispensation to provide an exemption for foster parents similar to that currently applied to parents and guardians.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Westlake, and

RESOLVED that approval be given to the revision of the existing General Dispensation to provide an exemption for foster parents similar to that for parents and guardians and to be published within the Council's Constitution.

4 Constitutional Matters: Financial Regulations

The Committee considered proposed revisions to Financial Regulations in respect of Money Laundering provisions and the acquisition of new and additional IT Hardware, recommended by the County Treasurer required as a consequence of legislative change or emerging best practice.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Clatworthy, and

RESOLVED that approval be given to the following revisions (shown in bold text) to Financial Regulations and consequential changes to the Council's Constitution.

*D10.2 A limit is imposed on the cash amount to be received in settlement for the payment for goods and services of ~~£5,000~~ **£10,000** in any one transaction. This limit is required to ensure that the County Council complies with the Money Laundering Regulations 2003 **2007**.*

*B10.1 The Cabinet have delegated powers for approving the purchase of **new and additional** IT Hardware to the Chief Finance Officer and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Finance or Resources Remit. The approval process will be aligned to the cycle of Cabinet meetings.*

5 Members Allowances (Minute 56/9 February 2016)

The Committee had previously considered the Report of the Independent Members Allowances Remuneration Panel for 2016 (CS/16/11) which had reviewed the Council's scheme of allowances and made a number of recommendations to which the Council must have regard in determining any future Scheme.

In welcoming that Report and acknowledging the Panel's view that the Council's current scheme of allowances and existing multipliers was reasonable and had been carefully thought out, this Committee had nonetheless (Minute 56 of 9 February 2016) invited the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee to comment upon the Panel's suggested changes to the Scheme from May 2017 onward, prior to any formal recommendation being made to Council for that later period. No change had been recommended to the Council for the Scheme for the 2016/17 municipal year.

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee had considered this matter on 24 March 2016 (Minute 90). In relation to the Basic Allowance that Committee was not able to reach any consensus regarding any increase in that allowance. In relation to Special Responsibility Allowances, the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee was of the view that the Special Responsibility Allowances for Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice Chairmen should not be changed and that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chairman of the Development Management Committee should remain part of the scheme. Further, the Committee felt that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to Group Leaders allowances were 'prescriptive' and while there was little appetite for any increase for Group Leaders the role 'Shadow Leader' was one that the Scrutiny Committee felt might usefully be further examined in due course.

The Procedures Committee's views were therefore sought as how to take this matter forward and whether or not it wished to make any recommendations to the Council now for the 2017/18 year.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Connett, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Independent Panel and the views of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee be noted and that while the status quo shall be maintained for the time being the Committee recognise that the County Council might wish to further review the Scheme of Allowances for 2017/18 following the next quadrennial elections against the Independent Panels latest, extant, recommendations.

6 Members' Attendance at Meetings

The Committee received the summary of Members' attendance at meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees during 2015/16.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 2.30 pm