

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

2 February 2017

Present:-

Councillors A Moulding (Chairman), B Greenslade, J Hart, S Hughes, R Julian, J Owen, N Way and R Westlake

Attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillors J Clatworthy and R Vint

Apologies:-

Councillor T Dempster

16 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2016 be signed as a correct record.

17 Items requiring urgent attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

18 Heart of the South West Devolution: Establishment of Joint Committee

The Committee noted that the Cabinet would, at its next meeting, receive a report on progress with the Devolution Deal/ Combined Authority seeking, inter alia, the approval of (a) arrangements agreed by partner Councils for the preparation and approval of a HoSW Productivity Plan in support of the partnership's aspirations for a devolution deal previously approved by the Council (Minute 157/10 December 2016)) and (b) agreement, in principle, to the creation of a Joint Committee for the HoSW to start work, in the Autumn of 2017, with all detail reserved. Members endorsed the establishment of a Joint Committee, in principle, subject to ratification and reaffirmation of that at the Annual Meeting of the Council following the 2017 County Council elections and approval of all necessary governance arrangements.

19 Members Allowances: Independent Members Allowances Remuneration Panel Report

The Committee considered the Report of the Independent Members' Allowances Remuneration Panel for 2017. Mr B Tanner, the Chairman of the Panel, attended and spoke at the invitation of the Committee to present the Panel's Annual Report and respond to questions from Members.

Members welcomed the Panel's acknowledgment that while historically there had been little scope for improvement the structure of the County Council's scheme remained fit for purpose with sound principles and noted that, in commending its Report to the Council, the Panel had not suggested any significant amendments to the basic structure of the Council's scheme.

The Panel had nonetheless recommended a number of minor amendments to the Scheme in support of their view that allowances should keep pace with the economy generally and that consideration could perhaps be given by the County Council after the 2017 elections to uprating of basic and special responsibility allowances, as set out in Appendix 1 of its Report.

Members noted that there was no proposal within the Council's draft budget for 2017/18 to increase Members' Allowances in that year acknowledging also that the newly elected County Council would be able to review the current Constitution, which included the Scheme of Allowances for Members, if its wished. Moreover, Members also acknowledged and reiterated the importance of Political Group Leaders taking a robust approach to performance management as identified in the Panel's Report and as previously agreed (Minute 339(d)/4 February 2016 refers).

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Greenslade, **SECONDED** by Councillor Way, and

RESOLVED

(a) that the Report of the Independent Panel be welcomed and its Members be thanked for their work;

(b) that the Committee notes the Report's conclusions and recommends the County Council make no change to the current scheme at this time.

20 **Distribution of Information to Members**

The Committee reviewed the operation of the Council's Working Practices relating to the distribution of information to members of the Council by Officers, over and above the rights of members set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules (para 13.3) as set out in full on the Agenda for this meeting.

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

RESOLVED

(a) that the Committee confirm that the principles referred to above should also apply to any information distributed by a Cabinet Member or Chairman where such information relates generally to County Council Services or any matter for which the Council has responsibility and was provided by or based upon information provided by an Officer in line with the protocol and to agree to the Council's Working Practices being revised accordingly;

(b) that Officers be reminded of the need to maintain confidentiality of information provided to a local member, in line with the protocol, where so requested.

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