
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on 17 November 2004.

PRESENT: Councillor Clark (Chair), Councillors J A Jones and Porley.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington, C Davies and R G Long.

**** AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs H Pearson.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee held on 9 September 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

COUNCIL RESPONSE-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - POLITICAL ACTIVITIES - LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

In a report of the Members' Office Manager approval was sought for the Council's submission to the ODPM in respect of the Consultation Paper 'Review of Regulatory Framework Governing the Political Activities of Local Government Employees'.

Reference was made to the current legislation mainly contained within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which had been introduced following recommendations made in 1986 by the Widdicombe Committee. Such legislation defined certain posts as being 'Politically Restricted' described as Chief Executives; Chief Officers; Deputy Chief Officers; Monitoring Officers; Political Assistants; staff whose grade exceeded spinal column point 44 of the NJC pay scale; and any member of staff who duties involved giving advice to full Council, the Cabinet, Committees or Members on a regular basis or speaking on a regular basis to journalists or broadcasters on behalf of the Authority.

The report detailed the activities which holders of politically restricted posts could not undertake.

The Committee considered the 14 questions set out in the Consultation Document as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report together with the proposed responses based on the submissions following the consultation exercise with the Council's Political Groups, Political Assistants and Human Resources.

ORDERED that the Council's response to the ODPM Consultation Paper on a Review of Regulatory Framework Governing the Political Activities of Local Government Employees as outlined in Appendix 1 be approved.

COUNCIL RESPONSE - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - CODE OF CONDUCT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

In a report of the Members' Office Manager the Committee was informed of the Council's submission to the ODPM in respect of the Consultation Paper 'A Model Code Of Conduct for Local Government Employees'.

Reference was made to Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2000, which provided for the Secretary of State to specify, by way of Regulations, a code of conduct for relevant Local Government employees.

A revised Code of Conduct would be incorporated into the Constitution and would also become part of the Council employee's terms and conditions of employment.

The Consultation Paper sought comments on the scope and content of the draft Code of Conduct.

The Committee considered a proposed response which had been prepared on behalf of the Council by the Head of Human Resources (Client Services) as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

NOTED