

## **Joint Staff Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of meeting held remotely on 2 March 2022 at 2.30 pm**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Councillor Stephen Holt (Chair), Councillors Penny di Cara, Isabelle Linington and Colin Swansborough

**Staff side:**

**Officers in attendance:**

Becky Cooke (Assistant Director for Human Resources and Transformation), Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Helen Knight (Head of Human Resources), Bryn Mabey (Customer, Communications and Engagement Lead) and Nick Peeters (Committee Officer).

**Also in attendance:**

Lynda Walker and Joshua Cooper (Unison representatives)

**14 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021 were submitted and approved, and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

**15 Apologies for absence/Declaration of substitute members**

Apologies for absence were received from Eastbourne Borough Councillor Jane Lamb, Lewes District Councillors James MacCleary and Chris Collier, and the Council's Specialist Advisor, Health and Safety, Becky Holloway

**16 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**17 Urgent items**

There were none.

**18 Safer driving near waste operatives campaign**

The Committee received a presentation from the Communication and Engagement Lead on the 'Safer driving near waste operatives' campaign. Members were asked for their input and the following points were raised:

- The low number of reports of dangerous driving around waste lorries indicated that the reporting of near misses should be actively encouraged.
- The Campaign could be more hard-hitting with waste operatives providing examples of actual incidents through interviews.
- The Campaign should highlight the importance of the work done by waste operatives and be used as an opportunity to promote the Service to potential job applicants.

The question of potential budgetary constraints was discussed and it was agreed that the Councils' public relations consultant would be approached for advice on social media presentations.

**Resolved** to note the presentation.

## **19 Exclusion of the public and press**

**Resolved:**

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of items 9, 10, 11, and 12 on the agenda as there was likely to be disclosures of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## **20 3rd Quarter 2021/22 Accident report**

The Committee received a presentation in respect of key aspects of health and safety matters across both authorities.

**Resolved:** That the presentation be noted.

## **21 Sickness Absence Quarter 3 2021/22**

The Committee received the Officer's report which provided an update regarding the Council's sickness figures for the Quarter 3 period. (1 October to 31 December 2021) and outlined the way in which the figures were presented for both Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council.

**Resolved:**

That the Quarter 3 (1 October to 31 December 2021) sickness figures and the way in which the figures were presented for both Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council, be noted.

## **22 Consideration of matters raised by the employees' side**

The Committee discussed matters raised on the employees' side and the following points were highlighted:

In response to a query about the staff pay award, the Assistant Director of HR and Transformation confirmed that Payroll had worked to ensure that the increase in pay would be made as part of the March payment of salary. The Chair requested that the Committee's thanks be passed on to the Payroll Team.

In responding to the query about meeting room availability, the Chief Executive confirmed that an estates plan was being considered as part of the Corporate Management Team's work and that further action would be taken once this had concluded.

**23 Consideration of health and safety matters raised by the employees' side**

There were no additional health and safety matters raised by the employees' side.

**24 Date of next meeting**

That it be noted that the next meeting of the Joint Staff Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, 13 June 2022, in the Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE, commencing at 2:30pm.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm

Councillor Stephen Holt (Chair)