

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance Committee held at Committee Room - County Hall, Lewes on 20 September 2019.

PRESENT Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair), Nick Bennett, Godfrey Daniel, Rupert Simmons and David Tutt

17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2019

17.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 16 July 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

18 REPORTS

18.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

19 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE ANNUAL REPORT

19.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport on the customer experience annual report.

19.2 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the progress of the Customer Project Board in the implementation of a series of measures to improve customer experience and agree recommendations for 2019/20 and beyond as set out in the report;
- 2) note the number and nature of complaints made to the Council in 2018/19; and
- 3) note the contents of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's annual letter to the Chief Executive.

20 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

20.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport on proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

20.2 The Committee RESOLVED: to recommend the County Council at agree to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in Section 2 of the report

21 TRAVEL ON COUNTY COUNCIL BUSINESS POLICY

21.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer regarding proposed amendments to the Travel on County Council Business Policy.

21.2 The Committee RESOLVED: to approve the following changes to the Travel on County Council Business Policy:

- the removal of the 20p per mile rate used for journeys to and from training: and
- a shift in the policy approach to determining eligible distance for reimbursement as set out in the report.

22 RE-ENGAGEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY REDUNDANT EMPLOYEES

22.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer regarding the re-engagement of previously redundant employees.

22.2 The Committee RESOLVED (by 3 votes to 2): to approve the changes to the Council's Managing Change Policy and Voluntary Severance Scheme as set out in the report.
[Councillors Godfrey Daniel and David Tutt voted against this resolution]

23 EMPLOYEE LOANS POLICY AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

23.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer regarding amendments to the Employee Loan Policy and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

23.2 The Committee RESOLVED:

1) approve the scope of the employee loans policy being extended to provide for funding a rental deposit and associated costs for employees of the County Council; and

2) recommend the County Council to agree to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report

24 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

24.1 The Committee RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual, or information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) or information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

25 DRAFT DECISION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN

25.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive regarding a draft decision of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

25.2 The Committee RESOLVED (by 4 votes to 1) to agree the approach to be adopted in relation to the draft decision of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.
[Councillor David Tutt voted against the resolution]