

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4th December 2003 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair) Councillor Coughlin (Vice-Chair) and Councillors D Long, Lyon (part) and R S Patel.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kagan and H B Patel.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 21st October 2003

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st October 2003 be approved as an accurate record.

3. Deputations

None.

4. Annual Report on the Costs of Early and Ill-Health Retirements

The Committee received a report presented by the Director of Finance detailing the costs of early and ill-health retirements for the year to 31st March 2003. It was decided previously that these details should be reported annually.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted and the various actions being taken to improve procedures be approved;
- (ii) that it be agreed future reports should only be presented if the cost of early or ill health retirements rises sharply.

5. Service Tenancies – Position Statement

The Committee had before them a report which followed on from an earlier report to the Executive on 21st July 2003 dealing with Service Tenancies, setting out the latest position and proposed course of action regarding parks and cemeteries and Education, Arts and Libraries caretakers' service tenancies. This report was also being considered by the Executive on 8th December 2003.

Members heard that the proposed course of action outlined by the options listed in the report would allow rent paid by caretakers to come into line with rent paid by other tenants. It would then be possible for others who were in a priority position requiring housing to be given priority where necessary. The Panel agreed that the resolution needed to provide a policy that would apply consistently to all caretakers, in order to avoid situations being subject to choice on an individual basis.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made on service tenancies in parks and cemeteries be noted;
- (ii) that the progress made on caretaker service tenancies in Education, Arts and Libraries be noted;
- (iii) that the proposed course of action in the final stage for the review of caretaker service tenancies in Education, Arts and Libraries, in particular:
 - (a) rehousing on basis of need (option b – paragraph 8.11 of the report refers)
 - (b) rehousing with a registered Social Landlord (paragraph 8.13 refers)
 - (c) parity of rents (paragraph 8.17 refers)
 - (d) Brent rent supplement (paragraph 8.18 refers)

be agreed.

6. **Appointment to Outside Bodies**

None.

7. **Sub-Committee Membership Changes**

None.

8. **Any Other Urgent Business**

Statement of Accounts 2002/2003 – Statement of Auditing Standard (SAS) 610

The Director of Finance advised the Committee that this item needed to be considered as a matter of urgency to enable the Council to sign off the accounts.

The Committee received the Statement of Auditing Standard (SAS) 610 report from the Council's external auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in respect of the Council's 2002/2003 Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED:

that the SAS 610 report from PwC be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

A JOHN

Chair

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