

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

London Borough of Barnet

Minutes of the Council Directors Group 24 July 2012

Present:

Nick Walkley	Chief Executive
Kate Kennally	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Craig Cooper	Director for Commercial Services
Jeff Lustig	Director of Corporate Governance
Maryellen Salter	For Andrew Travers, Deputy Chief Executive
Stephen Evans	For Julie Taylor, Assistant Chief Executive
Pam Wharfe	Interim Director for Environment, Planning & Regeneration

Also attending:

Sarah Murphy-Brookman HR (for item 3)

Action By

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of meeting of 26 June 2012 were agreed.

2. CORPORATE FORWARD PLAN

The Group agreed that further work was required to ensure that All the Corporate Forward Plan had a longer-term view of the Council's decision-making plans. The Group agreed to work to ensure that the

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION

Sarah Murphy-Brookman briefed the Group on the current status of discussions between the Trade Unions and the Government on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme. Formal negotiations were expected to take place in Autumn 2012.

4. RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION POLICY

The Group received a report setting out changes that had recently taken place the council's recruitment and selection process, and seeking agreement to reflect these in a revised recruitment and selection policy.

The Group agreed the proposed revised policy, and requested that Sarah Murphy-Brookman and Maryellen Salter draw up a risk framework for recruitment and selection and that this be shared with e-mail by Directors.

Sarah Murphy-
Brookman /
Maryellen
Salter

The Group agreed that further consideration should be given to financial and other forms of checking for existing employees of the authority.

5. LOCALISM ACT

The Group received a report setting out how the council was meeting its statutory duties under the terms of the Localism Act. The paper also explored options for using the Act as an opportunity to take a more proactive approach in involving communities in the work of the council and decisions impacting local communities.

The Group noted the council's position with respect to the statutory duties set out in the Localism Act and agreed proposals set out in response to the Community Right to Challenge and Neighbourhood Planning.

The Group also discussed the role of ward Councillors and the potential benefits of initiatives such as ward-based budgeting. The Group agreed that further work was required to ensure that the powers available to the authority under the Localism Act could be harnessed to achieve outcomes. It was agreed that a paper be produced on this topic to initiate debate with the Leader and other Members on this topic.

Julie Taylor

6. BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY

The Group agreed a report proposing to establish a business continuity resources requirement for the council, together with information on I.S. disaster recovery.

The Group agreed the proposals, with officers asked to ensure that all ongoing work was brought together prior to going out to tender.

Craig Cooper

7. DRS/NSCSO TIMING AND COST

The revised timescales and costings as set out in the report were agreed.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group received a presentation on Risk Management in the authority, including identified corporate risks from each Directorate.

The Group agreed to add a risk around the following areas to the Risk Register:

- 'People Relations', as a result of the restructure
- The issues highlighted by the 'Barnet Graph'
- Members and the new council structure
- Health Transitions Risk

Maryellen
Salter

The Group further agreed to ensure that the Risks were strategic, and to delete tactical risks around areas such as Council Tax Collection and Street Lighting, and outdated Risks such as on the impact of the Localism Act.

Maryellen
Salter

It was agreed that further work should be carried out on the narrative, to ensure that all identified areas carried an explanation as to why they were risks. Maryellen Salter agreed to bring back a piece of work to Director's Group by the end of August, to include further thinking on how the authority should manage and mitigate risks.

Maryellen
Salter