

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Employment and Staffing Committee held on
Friday, 7 December 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Henry Batchelor – Chairman
Councillor Dawn Percival – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Sarah Cheung Johnson Dr. Claire Daunton
Mark Howell

Officers: Patrick Adams Senior Democratic Services Officer
Susan Gardner Craig Head of People and Organisational Development

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Philippa Hart, Dawn Percival and Peter Topping. Councillor Claire Daunton was appointed as Vice-Chairman for this meeting only.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018 as a correct record.

4. RETENTION AND TURNOVER REPORT: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018

The Head of People and Organisational Development presented this report on the turnover of staff between 1 July 2018 and 30 September 2018. It was noted that whilst the figure of 3.9% for voluntary was slightly over the target figure of 3.25%.

Exit interviews

The increase in the percentage of exit interviews from 33.3% of leavers to 63.64% of leavers was welcomed.

Apprentices

Two apprentices had been recruited in the second quarter, bringing the total of apprentices in post to 5. It was noted that the Council started apprentices on Grade 1 pay scale, which paid more than the minimum wage for apprentices.

Recruitment and retention

It was noted that the Council were preparing to adopt a “golden hello” policy to assist in the recruitment of new staff. A re-location policy already existed to assist new staff to move to the area up to a total cost of £7,000, which had to be paid back if the employee left the organisation early. The Council had agreed to pay the Government’s proposed £60 charge for all EU nationals wishing to remain in the UK after Britain leaves the EU.

The recruitment process had been made less onerous for the applicant and CVs were now accepted.

It was suggested that the Council could make better use of free applications such as Linked-in and Indeed.

It was suggested that the figures in the table showing reasons for leaving, should be expressed in percentage terms by service area.

It was noted that a discussion on career progression was included in the annual appraisal process. Training and coaching needs were also discussed.

Safeguarding

It was noted that Safeguarding training for councillors would be arranged for March 2019.

Task and Finish Group

It was agreed that a proposal for a Recruitment and Retention Task and Finish Group should be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

Organogram

It was agreed that to provide the Committee with an organogram of Executive Management Team and team leaders.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

5. SICKNESS ABSENCE: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018

The Head of People and Organisational Development presented this report on sickness absence for the period 1 July to 30 September 2018.

Other

It was noted that the plan was to remove the category "other" for reasons for sickness. Concern was raised about the need for confidentiality.

Stress

It was suggested that more effort should be made to manage the expectation of service users, especially those who received a service from a section that was understaffed.

Waterbeach Depot

It was noted that the recent promotion of health and safety for depot staff had resulted in a reduction in the number of accidents. It was noted that depot staff appeared less likely to seek assistance on health issues than those staff based in Cambourne.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

6. VERBAL FEEDBACK ON DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT

The Head of People and Organisational Development explained to the Committee that research had been carried out. Approximately 3% of staff were registered as disabled. A full report will be taken to the next meeting of the Committee. It was suggested that the views of disabled people should be included in the report.

7. DRAFT STAFF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Committee examined the draft employee survey.

It was noted that responses to surveys was typically low from the depot. The Head of

People and Organisational Development explained that allowing staff to skip a question led to skewed responses.

The Committee **NOTED** the survey.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 17 January at 10am in the Monkfield Room.

The Meeting ended at 12.00 p.m.
