

BOROUGH OF REIGATE AND BANSTEAD
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Employment Committee held as a Remote - Virtual Meeting on 22 July 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillors V. H. Lewanski, M. A. Brunt, C. M. Neame, C. T. H. Whinney and N. D. Harrison (Substitute).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED that Councillor Lewanski be appointed Chairman of the Employment Committee for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED that Councillor Neame be appointed Vice-Chair of the Employment Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Bray, with Councillor Harrison in attendance as substitute.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the reconvened Employment Committee meeting held on 2 March 2020; the adjourned meeting held on 19 February 2020, and the ordinary meeting held on 21 January 2020, be approved.

6. WORKFORCE SUMMARY – 2019/20 DATA, AND COVID-19 WORKFORCE UPDATE

The Head of Organisational Development presented the report which provided an indication of the organisation's health and workforce demographic.

Members noted that long term sickness absence affected the overall outturn for number of days lost and when that was set aside, the average number of days lost was 4.8. The Director of People explained that short term absence was closely monitored, and that a breakdown of the number of days lost to sickness, and where possible a comparison with other councils (rather than the public sector generally), would be provided for the next meeting of the Committee. The Head of Organisational Development cautioned that comparative data was challenging to produce due to inconsistencies in how respective indicators were defined and calculated.

Members acknowledged that the employment market was changing, and that turnover of staff had decreased. Officers explained that a review of resourcing had

been commissioned from OMNI recruitment consultancy, to refine the Council's recruitment approach and techniques.

Covid-19

The Head of Organisational Development explained that the Council had managed the rapid adjustment and change to the services it provided, introduced new ways of working, demonstrated the flexibility of its workforce in responding to the emergency, and had begun organisational recovery. A staff survey had been commissioned by the New Ways of Working group, the feedback from which would enable the Council to fully understand the impact of the emergency, and the recovery, on its staff. It was estimated that over 60% of staff would respond to the survey, the results of which would be received by the New Ways of Working group.

RESOLVED that

1. The content of the bi-annual Workforce Data summary, comprising of sickness absence and employee turnover data, be noted.
2. The summary of challenges affecting our workforce during Covid-19, their effects, and opportunities they provide, be noted.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

8. EXEMPT - SENIOR MANAGEMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED that members of the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that:

- (i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act; and
- (i) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Committee considered the exempt report, with eight recommendations relating to the senior management of the Council. A vote was taken by a show of hands, whereupon it was:

RESOLVED that the eight recommendations set out in the exempt report be **RECOMMENDED** to Council.

The Meeting closed at 8.11 pm