

REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

GENERAL REPORT

1. The General Purposes Committee has met once on 7 February 2007 since the last Ordinary Council meeting and this report summarises briefly the matters dealt with at the meeting.

Job Evaluation – Pay and Reward Enablement Group

2. The Director of Human Resources submitted a report seeking our endorsement of the terms of reference for the Pay and Reward Enablement Group being set up to formulate and recommend proposals for the introduction of a new pay and grading structure for the Council.
3. The current Job Evaluation process, which has entailed a comprehensive review and assessment of all staffs' pay and grading levels, has been undertaken as a requirement of recent National Agreements. The outcome of the Job Evaluation process will form the basis of new pay and grading arrangements for the Council.
4. A Pay and Reward Enablement Group, comprising four representatives from Management and UNISON, is to be set up to consider proposals for the introduction of a new pay and grading structure. The Committee approved the terms of reference under which this Group will operate. Essentially, the Group will act as the primary consultative and negotiating forum specifically for the formulation of proposals for:
 - the introduction of a new pay and grading structure for Chorley Council;
 - the transition arrangements for the introduction of the revised structure; and
 - any compensation arrangements for employees affected by the introduction of the new structure.
5. The recommendations of the Pay and Reward Enablement Group will be referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and a final decision.
6. In addition, the Director of Human Resources advised us that, following a request from UNISON for additional time to consider information and consult its members, completion of the Job Evaluation process is likely to be delayed until the summer.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Claim for Definitive Map Modification Order

7. The Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services presented a report on a claim submitted to the Lancashire County Council for the status of public right of way to be conferred on a path at Fairview Farm, Adlington, running in a south-westerly direction from Highfield Road North to join with Public Footpath No 5 at the pedestrian level crossing over the Manchester-Preston railway line.
8. The claim has been lodged on the basis that the footpath has been used by the public for more than 20 years without interruption. The Council has no direct information or evidence either to prove public usage of the path over the past 20 years or to dispute the claim. In the circumstances, the Committee agreed to raise no objection to the request for public right of way status to be granted on the length of path at Fairview Farm, Adlington shown on the plan attached to the report submitted to the Committee.

Highways Act 1980 – Proposed Diversion of parts of Public Footpaths 76 and 80 and Extinguishment of part of Public Footpath 79 at Coppull

9. The Committee considered a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services on a proposal submitted to the Lancashire County Council for the diversion of lengths of Public Footpaths Nod. 76 and 80, in conjunction with the extinguishment of a length of Public Footpath No. 79 at Coppull.
10. A request has been made by the landowner for authority to divert lengths of Public Footpaths Nod 76 and 80 from their current routes leading to and through Bogburn Hall Farm, Coppull to new routes to the south of the farm building, skirting the periphery of the site. If agreed, these diversions will render the northernmost length of Public Footpath No 79 redundant, which can, therefore, be extinguished.
11. We were requested by a Member at the meeting to consider deferring further consideration of the proposals to await, and take into account, Coppull Parish Council's opinion on the consultation, following its meeting with appropriate County Council Officers. As the Committee was assured that the Borough Council's position would not be prejudiced by a deferment, we agreed to the plea for a deferral of our decision on the consultation.

Recommendation

12. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR P GOLDSWORTHY
Executive Leader and Chair of General Purposes Committee

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There are no background papers to this report.