

Minutes Overview Committee

Tuesday, 24 January 2012 at 10am

Membership

- absent

Councillors

Joyce Bosnjak (Chair)
Martin Wright (Vice-Chair)
• Michelle Gent (Vice-Chair)
Chris Barnfather
Steve Carroll
Ged Clarke
Wendy Quigley
Sue Saddington
Liz Yates

Officers

Martin Gately - Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Ruth Rimmington - Temporary Governance Officer
Jennifer Allen – Project Manager Supported Employment

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 December 2012, having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Michelle Gent (other reasons).

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Supported Employment.

Jennifer Allen Project Manager Supported Employment updated the committee on the preliminary work that had been undertaken with staff at Sherwood Industries to identify and assess the support needs of those staff members that had expressed interest in retaining employment should the decision to close Sherwood Industries be taken by the Full Council in February 2012.

Ms Allen referred to the findings of a skills analysis attached as an appendix to the report, the one to one voluntary meetings between staff and Human Resources to provide the opportunity to ask any questions as well as enable the Council to identify support levels that may be required. She added that Caroline

Baria was working with Service Directors across the council to consider all potential redeployment opportunities for the Sherwood Industries staff.

Ms Allen responded to member's questions and comments:-

- the consultation had ended on 1 January 2012 and it was anticipated that a further report would be presented to the full council in February.
- The government had consulted over the summer and its main premise was that funding to support disabled people to gain and retain work should follow the individual and not be used to fund disability specific workplaces.
- The authority had many managers both in supported and mainstream employment who were experienced in managing individual needs and implementing reasonable adjustments for people within their teams.
- Since April 2009 the supported businesses had offered 12-24 month training contracts linked to the DWP Work Choice programme and as longer serving staff moved on more Work Choice places and opportunities would become available.
- It was recognised that often it was the esteem of having a job, the routine and the opportunity to meet people through their work that was more important to individuals as oppose to their salary.
- The able bodied would have the same employment entitlements and be given access to redeployment support. Anyone whose job was at risk would be given support albeit that different people may require different sorts of support.

The committee thanked Ms Allen for the update.

Programme of Scrutiny

Councillor Ged Clarke Chair of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee reported that it had received a report on the role of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting held on 9th January.

In terms of its work programme, he referred to an exchange of correspondence with the Department of Health about the referral of the Newark Review. It had agreed to express the committee's frustration about delaying the referral to the secretary of State.

A review group of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee examining issues associated with rota visits met for the first time on 4th January to undertake a scoping exercise.

Councillor Liz Yates Chair of the Education Standing Committee reported that it had last met on 19 December 2011 and said that a scoping review was underway on Child Poverty and Educational Attainment and received an update on apprenticeships in Nottinghamshire where it learnt that they were not growing as quickly as its neighbours. The review on the recruitment and retention of governors was expected to be completed in April 2012.

Councillor Sue Saddington Chair of the Communities and the Environment Standing Committee

On 23rd January the will receive briefing on the Bassetlaw tourism offer and the Chesterfield Canal as part of the Tourism Review.

The Standing Committee will also receive the final report of the Seasonal Canine Illness/Dog Deaths Study Group.

The first meeting of the Water and Gas Emissions from Disused Mines Study Group took place on 12th January. The study group had undertaken a scoping exercise and received a briefing.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

CHAIR

Ref: M_24 Jan 2012