



Employment and Appeals Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Employment and Appeals Committee meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Monday, 10 July 2023 at the Committee Room 2 - Civic Centre.

Employment and Appeals Committee members present:

Councillors Birch, Cartridge, Ibson and C Walker

Officers present:

Jane Collier, Human Resources Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Olivia Cordingley, Human Resources Advisor
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Temporary)
Marc Whittaker, Senior Human Resources Advisor

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

1 Election of Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24

Councillor Ibson was elected as the Chair of the Employment and Appeals Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

2 Election of Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24

Councillor Birch was elected as the Vice Chair of the Employment and Appeals Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

3 Declarations of interest

None.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

5 Introduction to the Employment and Appeals Committee

Jane Collier, Human Resources Manager, welcomed the new members of the Employment and Appeals Committee and explained the committee's responsibilities.

Jane added that members may also be required to consider appeals against dismissal and that future training would be offered to members of the committee. This would also be open to other councillors to participate. She emphasised the importance of the committee's attendance at appeals panel training.

6 Policy Review

The Human Resources Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Jane Collier, submitted a report presenting four policies and procedures that had been amended.

Jane introduced the report and provided members with a brief overview of the policies. She stated that there would normally be a couple of additional policies for approval, but the consequences of Covid-19 had impacted the three-year policy review cycle.

6a Resolution Policy

Jane introduced the policy and explained that there had been minor amendments made throughout this policy.

In response to a question regarding an employee raising a grievance, Jane explained that the Grievance Policy was replaced with the Resolution Policy. She added that this policy encouraged informal resolutions, in which the individual would attempt to resolve the issue before submitting a request for resolution. She also stated that the requirement for a formal resolution meeting was infrequent.

The Chair questioned the minor changes made to the policy. Jane explained that there were minor amendments made such as changes to titles. She added that at 6.2.2 of the policy it had been added that if the matter was considered as serious enough then a formal meeting would be carried out from the outset.

Jane responded to a question regarding the number of employees at Wyre Council.

6b Reservists Policy

Jane introduced the policy and added that there was no amendments made.

The committee welcomed this policy. Jane assured members that this policy was in line with other local authorities.

6c Veteran Guaranteed Interview Scheme

Jane introduced this policy. She added that Wyre Council was committed to supporting the armed forces.

In response to a question, Jane clarified that the policy was eligible for applicants whose most recent long term substantive employer was the Armed Forces.

Marc Whittaker, Senior Human Resources Advisor, reassured members that Human Resources liaised with the MOD's Career Transition Partnership (CTP) Right Job website and ensured that Wyre Council vacancies were listed on this website.

It was questioned whether this policy was available for Armed Forces civilians. Marc confirmed that this policy was for Armed Forces Personnel only.

Jane Collier responded to several questions and comments regarding the following topics:

- Recruitment issues and the use of social media for job vacancy advertisement
- Pay line
- Exit interviews
- Staff retention

6d Social Media Policy

Jane introduced this policy and explained that this had also reviewed by the council's Communications Team.

Members asked questions regarding the following topics:

- Staff surveys
- Home/hybrid working
- Staff productivity
- The 4-day working week

7 Decision taken

The committee **approved** each of the following Human Resources policies and arrangements:

- Resolution Policy
- Reservists Policy
- Veteran Guaranteed Interview Scheme
- Social Media Policy

The meeting started at 6.01 pm and finished at 6.35 pm.

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