

MINUTES of the meeting of the General Services Committee held on 11 October 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors John Kent (Chair), Phil Anderson, Steve Liddiard (substitute for Councillor Hale), Barry Palmer and Barbara Rice (substitute for Councillor Smith).

Apologies: Councillors Mark Coxshall, Diana Hale, Val Morris-Cook and Andy Smith

In attendance: Nigel Byatt – Head of Business Services (for Item 6)
Roger Harris – Head of Commissioning
Frances Leddra-Chapman – Fieldwork Service Manager
Steve Jones – Democratic Services Manager

11. MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Services Committee, held on 17 July 2012, were approved as a correct record.

12. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Committee that he had not agreed to the consideration of any items of urgent business.

13. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business, on the grounds that they could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Schedule 12A of that Act.

15. TRANSFER OF SERCO PUBLIC SERVICES TO SERCO LIMITED

The Head of Business Services introduced a report, which sought approval from the General Services Committee in relation to the pension's component of a novation and business transfer.

The Committee were informed that as part of an internal reorganisation of its group of companies, Serco had transferred its public sector business to Serco Limited and as part of the business transfer Serco Public Services Limited wished to novate all its rights, obligations and liabilities under the SSP Agreement to Serco Limited.

The Head of Business Services responded to questions posed by Members.

It was proposed by the Chair, with the agreement of all Members:

“That the recommendation contained within the report be approved.”

RESOLVED:

That General Services Committee approve the transfer of the pension arrangements from Serco Public Services to Serco Limited, subject to the necessary and appropriate legal protection being in place.

16. OUTSOURCING OF ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES TO THURROCK LIFESTYLE SOLUTIONS – PENSIONS TRANSFER

The Head of Commissioning introduced a report, which sought approval to enter into an Admitted Body Status within the Local Government Pension Scheme. It was reported that this had arisen from the outsourcing of the contract for the provision of day opportunities for adults with a disability.

The Committee were informed that in December 2010 Cabinet delegated the authority to award a Single Source Tender to Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions (TLS) (Minute No.7 refers), having received extensive reports over a number of years about the modernisation of adult learning disability day services.

It was reported that since this time, the project had now progressed to the stage where the tender was to be awarded and that the outstanding issue now was of ensuring due diligence in respect of TUPE and Pension transfer.

The Committee were asked to approve the Council proceeding with entering into the Admissions Agreement between Thurrock Borough

Council, Essex County Council and Thurrock Lifestyles Solutions and any associated pension documents as set out in the report.

The Head of Commissioning and the Fieldwork Service Manager responded to questions posed by Members.

It was proposed by the Chair, with the agreement of all Members:

“That the recommendations contained within the report be approved.”

RESOLVED:

- 1. That General Services Committee approve that the Council, as the Transferor Scheme Employer, enter into an agreement with Essex County Council Pension Fund, as Administering Authority, and Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions (TLS) as transferee admission body, to obtain admitted body status within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) arising from the outsourcing of the contract for the provision of day opportunities for adults with a disability.**
- 2. The Admitted Body agreement risk assessment will be reviewed by the Client Manager during the term of the contract together with the pension scheme actuaries, and the Pension Fund Administrators, Essex County Council with the first review date taking place towards the end of the agreement i.e. 3 years following the start of the contract.**

The meeting finished at 7.10 p.m.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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or alternatively e-mail sjones@thurrock.gov.uk**