

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Human Resources Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 9 March 2018 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor S Iveson (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Clark (Vice-Chair), M Davinson, J Grant, T Henderson, S Hugill, L Kennedy, H Liddle, J Robinson, M Wilkes and M Wilson

Also Present:

J Kemp – HR Manager

N Orton – Pensions Manager

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Atkinson, N Grayson, D Hicks, A Hopgood, S McDonnell, S Morrison, A Surtees and R Ormerod.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2018 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

5 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government ACT 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

6 Applications for Early Retirement and/or Voluntary Redundancy for Council Employees

The Committee considered a joint report of the Corporate Directors of Adult and Health Services and the Human Resources Manager regarding applications for Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy for Council employees (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Wilkes referred to the applications at paragraphs 6-9 in the report and noted that all the employees were female. The Member was concerned that this would affect the male to female ratio not only for the Service but across the Authority. The Member was also concerned about the potential impact of the loss of 12 experienced members of staff on future service delivery.

The HR Manager explained that the Service had been under review to realise savings required in accordance with the Medium Term Financial Plan. At the point that the applications were reported to Committee the Service had undergone a rigorous process to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on service delivery.

In terms of the male to female ratio, Councillor Clark advised that the Service was made up of mostly female employees as it was difficult to attract male applicants to these positions. As all the employees in the report were female this would in effect improve the male to female ratio.

In response to the Councillor's comments about the impact on service delivery, and to a query from Councillor Henderson, Councillor Clark advised that this was a referral-led service which had seen a reduction in demand, and Durham County Council was not the only provider in the market place.

Resolved:

That the cases of Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy be noted and agreed with effect from the dates specified in the report.