

Agenda Item 16f

AGENDA ITEM 16(f) - Fair pay for staff in council services

Amendment

Delete paragraph 3

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Steve Pitt

To therefore read as follows:

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, staff working in council services have played a vital role in supporting our communities through these incredibly challenging times. The efforts of those working in essential services have been remarkable and must be recognised as such through meaningful action.

A proposal for council staff to receive a one-off bonus of £500 each had been put to the cross party Local Government Association (LGA) resources board who agreed to lobby government for the necessary funding to make it happen. However this decision was then effectively overturned by the LGA Executive Advisory Board. It is believed that council staff fully deserve a financial bonus for their efforts in recent months and call on the LGA to lobby government to fund this. Portsmouth City Council directly employed staff currently receive at least the Living Wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation, however many staff in outsourced or commissioned council services do not. In order to become an accredited Living Wage employer the local authority must pay all directly employed staff the Living Wage and have a plan to ensure that staff in outsourced services also receive at least this rate.

The local authority has a responsibility to ensure staff in council services are fairly treated and properly rewarded for their efforts. Given the exceptional contributions made by public service workers over the past few months this is a responsibility which we must take even more seriously.

Full Council therefore resolves:

1. To publicly place on record our appreciation of the role that staff in council services, and their trade unions, have played in dealing with the impact of the pandemic.
2. To request the Chief Executive write a public letter on behalf of the local authority to the LGA Executive Advisory Board expressing dismay at their decision not to lobby for cash to provide special payments to staff as a result of COVID-19 and ask they reconsider this position.
3. To ask the Cabinet to sign the council up to become a Living Wage employer as accredited by the Living Wage Foundation.