

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 September 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Sargeant (Chair); Councillor Kilbride (Deputy Chair);
Councillors Aziz, Marriott, Stone, Beardsworth and M Hill

APOLOGIES:

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Beardsworth, substituted by Councillor Meredith, Councillor Parekh who was substituted by Councillor Patel and Councillor Russell.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There were none.

6. ELECTORAL SERVICES UPDATE

The Chief Executive gave a presentation which updated members of the Committee on activities within Electoral Services including the PCC Election, the EU Referendum, Polling Districts and Places Review and the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

7. BODY WORN CAMERAS

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report on behalf of the Director of Customer and Communities and elaborated thereon. He explained that the report was to seek agreement to the use of body-worn videos by employees of the Council subject to the approval of, and in accordance with the Body-Worn Video Policy to be considered by Cabinet on the 19th October 2016. The Environmental Services

Manager explained that the wardens had asked for the videos as they had been considered a deterrent against hostile behaviour towards them. It was noted that the video's would not be continuously rolling, but that they would be switched on when it was considered necessary and a notice displayed that they were under surveillance as well as being cautioned that they were being recorded.

In response to questions asked the Environmental Services Manager explained that it was perceived that Wardens tasked with rough sleepers and beggars would receive less hostility if they were wearing a video. It was explained that the purpose of the videos was not to covertly survey people, but that following a number of violent incidents, the Council had a duty of ensure the health and safety of its employees. It was noted that the cost of each camera was in the region of £600 and were the same ones that were used by the Police but that the wardens would still be entering information in a PACE book which would continue to be monitored.

The Committee discussed the report and asked that consideration be given to the Scrutiny Panel 2 report -The impact of Anti-social behaviour on the Town and a review be taken back to the Overview and scrutiny Committee in 12 months to monitor the impact of the use of the videos.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to Cabinet's approval of the Body-Worn Video Policy to be considered by Cabinet on 19th October 2016, General Purposes Committee supported the use by employees of the Council of body-worn video in accordance with the policy.

8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chair moved that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that there was likely to be disclosure to them of such categories of exempt information as defined by Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 as listed against such items of business by reference to the appropriate paragraph of Schedule 12A to such Act.

The Motion was Carried.

9. EMPLOYMENT REVIEW

The Chief Executive submitted a report and elaborated thereon.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation within the report be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 18.30pm