

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. Purpose of the policy

1.1 The council recognises the benefits of regular and constructive performance review and is committed to ensuring that staff members are provided with support to enable them to work as effectively as possible.

1.2 One of the ways in which such support can be provided is through the performance management policy, which provides a systematic opportunity to:

- recognise the achievements of staff over the previous year.
- identify ways in which performance can be improved to the benefit of both the individual and the organisation.
- agree performance objectives and targets for the coming year.
- identify development/training needs and prepare a personal development plan.

1.3 Individual performance will be reviewed on at least an annual basis, plus an interim review carried out six months after the main review.

2. The performance review year

2.1 Performance will be reviewed annually. Objectives will be set annually, and reviewed throughout the year with regular updates to the Employment Committee

All appraisal documents should be signed, and it is the signed copy only that is accepted.

3. Who reviews

3.1 The review will normally be carried out by the immediate line manager after consultation with the Employment Committee. The Clerk will monitor all appraisals for completion and consistency and will report the outcome of this monitoring to the Employment Committee

3.2 The role of the Clerk is to ensure that a robust review process has taken place for all staff, to monitor consistency of approach and serve as a point of reference and, if necessary, appeal for any member of staff who has concerns at the outcome of the appraisal review.

4. Preparation for the review

4.1 For performance review to be successful and effective it is essential that both the reviewer and the employee prepare. A date should be set for the review meeting at least 2 weeks prior to the discussion taking place. The supporting paper work including the record from the previous year's review, the part year and any other intermediate reviews and the objectives must be provided to the employee when setting the date.

5. The job description

5.1 The job description will be reviewed as part of this process, in order to ensure it is a clear reflection of the role and may be changed by mutual agreement if there are substantial, material and permanent changes to the role.

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6. General job performance

6.1 It is recognised that all jobs are formed of both a number of specific objectives and general job performance such as planning and prioritising the workload, communicating appropriately, working collaboratively with others and being flexible and adaptable. All aspects of the job will be reviewed.

7. Personal development

7.1 In order to carry out their role and to meet new objectives it is recognised that from time to time employees will need further personal development. Personal development is not simply about attending training courses. Development and training opportunities can be provided by a variety of means, but they should be realistic for both the individual and the council, whilst taking into account operational requirements. Opportunities may include:

- on or off job coaching
- mentoring
- shadowing other staff
- taking on new responsibilities
- undertaking project work or contributing to working parties
- professional updating
- attending conferences, seminars and symposia
- training courses and workshops
- guided reading
- networking
- e-learning

8. Confidentiality

8.1 The content of the review will normally be confidential between the reviewer and the employee, although the main record of discussion will be reviewed by the Employment Committee. The forms will be retained for employee files and the information will be used to prepare the training plan.

9. Responsibility for the policy

9.1 Line managers are responsible for preparing and carrying out reviews and setting objectives in a timely and consistent manner. They are also responsible for following up agreed action.

9.2 Responsibility for monitoring the process and ensuring it is carried out consistently, rests with the Employment Committee.

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