

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD WAS HELD
ON 5 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Mayor (Councillor Dickson) (ex-officio) (P); Councillors Beavis (P), Burgess (P), Carter, C R (P), Chegwyn (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Lane (P), Langdon, Philpott (P), Ronayne (P) and Wright (P).

27. APOLOGIES

There were none.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor and Councillor Ronayne declared a non pecuniary interest in item 7 as Ward Councillors for Christchurch, where the subject of the application was located.

**29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 26
SEPTEMBER 2012**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 26 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

30. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

31. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

32. MEMBER APPEAL PANEL

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Personnel which requested the Board to appoint a Member Panel to hear a disciplinary appeal.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Carter CR, Jessop and Wright be appointed to a Member Panel to hear a disciplinary appeal.

33. HARSHIP RELIEF - NNDR

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which requested the Board to consider an application by Reds Brasserie Ltd for hardship relief under Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Members expressed concern that the paper had been marked confidential, but had made available to the public for viewing. The Board were advised that the applicant had been made aware that the application would be heard in public session and that the applicant had no objection to this.

Members felt that the application did not meet the criteria for hardship relief and noted that the Valuation Office had recently reduced the rateable value of the property by 50%.

Members noted that the applicants were currently unable to meet rental costs and expressed concern at the level of rent being charged by the Berkeley Group for business premises. The Board were advised that regular meetings were held between the Council's business team and Berkeley at which a reduction in rent for business premises had been requested. In addition, it had been reiterated that the no change of use from business to residential premises would be permitted.

RESOLVED: That application by Reds Brasserie Ltd for hardship relief under Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 be not approved.

34. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

35. REQUEST FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF PENSION ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS

This report was exempt from publication as it identified a specific individual and information regarding their personal financial affairs rather than the Council's overall financial affairs. The public interest in the Council's overall affairs can be met in other ways without releasing such personal information and therefore the public interest in maintaining the privacy of personal information outweighs the public interest in the Council's financial affairs.

Consideration was given to an exempt report by the Head of Personnel Services.

RESOLVED: That the request for early payment of pension on compassionate grounds be not approved.

The meeting ended at 6.15pm.

CHAIRMAN