

Report

Report to:	Housing and Technical Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 June 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Housing and Technical Resources – Workforce Monitoring – February to April 2020
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide employment information for February to April 2020 relating to Housing and Technical Resources

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the following employment information for February to April 2020 relating to Housing and Technical Resources be noted:-
- ◆ attendance statistics
 - ◆ occupational health
 - ◆ accident/incident statistics
 - ◆ discipline, grievance and Dignity at Work cases
 - ◆ analysis of leavers and exit interviews
 - ◆ staffing watch as at 14 March 2020

3. Background

3.1. As part of the Council's performance management arrangements, regular workforce monitoring reports are submitted to Committee. This report for Housing and Technical Resources provides information on the position for February to April 2020.

4. Monitoring Statistics

4.1. Attendance Statistics (Appendix 1)

Information on absence statistics is analysed for the month of April 2020 for Housing and Technical Resources.

The Resource absence figure for April 2020 was 3.8%. This figure has decreased by 1.9% when compared to the previous month and is 0.6% lower than the Council-wide figure. Compared to April 2019, the Resource absence figure has decreased by 1.2%.

Based on the absence figures at April 2020 and annual trends, the projected annual average absence for the Resource for 2020/2021 is 3.8%, compared to a Council-wide average figure of 4.4%.

For the financial year 2020/2021, the projected average days lost per employee equates to 9.4 days, compared with the overall figure for the Council of 10.6 days per employee.

The attendance information contained in this report includes absences as a result of Covid-19, as these began to impact on attendance figures in March. As expected, respiratory absences increased in April, however, Resource and Council absence rates decreased from the March figure.

Managers follow the procedures outlined in the Maximising Attendance Policy to support employees to remain at work, or to return to work after a sickness absence. There are comprehensive employee supports in place and additionally, Personnel Services work in close partnership with line managers and Resource Management Teams on a case management basis to ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

4.2. Occupational Health (Appendix 2)

In terms of referrals to occupational health, which include medical examinations and physiotherapy, overall 137 referrals were made this period. This represents a decrease of 59 when compared with the same period last year.

4.3. Accident/Incident Statistics (Appendix 2)

There were 5 accidents/incidents recorded within the Resource this period, a decrease of 9 when compared to the same period last year.

4.4. Discipline, Grievance and Dignity at Work (Appendix 2)

During the period, 1 disciplinary hearing was held within the Resource, a decrease of 2 when compared to last year. During this period, no appeals were heard by the Appeals Panel. No grievance hearings were held within the Resource. This figure remains unchanged when compared to the same period last year. No Dignity at Work complaints were raised within the Resource. This figure has decreased by 1 when compared to the same period last year.

4.5. Analysis of Leavers (Appendix 2)

There were a total of 7 leavers in the Resource this period eligible for an exit interview. This figure has decreased by 2 when compared with the same period last year. One exit interview was conducted.

4.6. From September 2019, when processing an employee termination, managers were asked to identify whether they intended to replace the employee who had left the Council. If they indicated that they did not intend to replace the employee, they were asked to select from three options:-

- ◆ plan to hold for savings
- ◆ fill on a fixed term basis pending savings
- ◆ transfer budget to another post
- ◆ end of fixed term contract

4.7. Appendix 2a provides a breakdown of vacant posts and whether these are being replaced or held for savings. In the period February to April 2020, 19 employees in total left employment (16.36 FTE) and following consideration of the post and future workload requirements, managers indicated that all posts are being filled.

4.8. The reconciliation figure from April 2019 to March 2020 shows that there were 89 vacant posts in the Resource (79.01 FTE), of which 87 (77.32 FTE) were being filled through a recruitment process, 1 (1.00 FTE) was being held pending the conclusion of the savings discussions and the budget for the one remaining post (0.69 FTE) was transferred to another post. It should be noted that some of the posts which are currently going through the recruitment process may be covered at the present time on a fixed term basis until recruitment has been completed.

5. Staffing Watch

5.1. There has been a decrease of 15 in the number of employees in post from 14 December 2019 to 14 March 2020.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no implications for employees arising from the information presented in this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. All financial implications are accommodated within existing budgets.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

10.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Daniel Lowe

Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

19 May 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Ambitious, self aware and improving
- ◆ Excellent employer
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others

Previous References

- ◆ Housing and Technical Resources, 1 April 2020

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Monitoring information provided by Finance and Corporate Resources

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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ABSENCE TRENDS - 2018/2019, 2019/2020 & 2020/2021
Housing & Technical Resources

APT&C				Manual Workers				Resource Total				Council Wide							
	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021		2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021		2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021		2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021				
April	3.9	3.9	4.1	April	6.5	6.7	3.5	April	4.9	5.0	3.8	April	4.1	4.0	4.4				
May	3.6	4.2		May	6.5	5.1		May	4.8	4.5		May	4.2	4.4					
June	4.0	4.8		June	6.2	5.0		June	4.9	4.9		June	4.3	4.4					
July	3.7	4.1		July	6.3	5.4		July	4.8	4.6		July	3.4	3.4					
August	4.1	4.0		August	5.5	5.7		August	4.6	4.7		August	3.6	3.7					
September	4.5	4.4		September	6.2	5.8		September	5.2	5.0		September	4.4	4.5					
October	4.3	4.3		October	5.9	6.6		October	4.9	5.2		October	4.4	4.6					
November	4.8	5.5		November	6.5	6.1		November	5.5	5.7		November	5.1	5.5					
December	4.4	5.2		December	6.5	6.3		December	5.3	5.6		December	4.8	5.7					
January	4.2	5.8		January	7.0	5.9		January	5.3	5.8		January	4.9	5.3					
February	4.2	5.8		February	6.6	5.7		February	5.2	5.8		February	5.2	5.6					
March	4.2	5.1		March	7.3	6.5		March	5.5	5.7		March	4.9	6.2					
Annual Average	4.2	4.8	4.1	Annual Average	6.4	5.9	3.5	Annual Average	5.1	5.2	3.8	Annual Average	4.4	4.8	4.4				
No of Employees at 30 April 2020				873	No of Employees at 30 April 2020				567	No of Employees at 30 April 2020				1440	No of Employees at 30 April 2020				15737

For the financial year 2020/21, the projected average days lost per employee equates to 9.4 days.

HOUSING AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

	Feb-Apr 2019	Feb-Apr 2020
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS		
Number of Employees Attending	74	50
EMPLOYEE COUNSELLING SERVICE		
Total Number of Referrals	18	14
PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE		
Total Number of Referrals	77	40
REFERRALS TO EMPLOYEE SUPPORT OFFICER	22	29
REFERRALS TO COGNITIVE BEHAVIOUR THERAPY	5	4
TOTAL	196	137

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS	Feb-Apr 2019	Feb-Apr 2020
Over 7 day absences	5	1
Over 3 day absences**	1	0
Minor	2	4
Near Miss	1	0
Violent Incident: Verbal*****	5	0
Total Accidents/Incidents	14	5

*A Specified Injury is any fracture (other than to the fingers, thumbs or toes), amputation, loss of sight, serious burns, crushing injury, scalping, loss of consciousness caused by asphyxiation/ head injury, a chemical or hot metal burn to the eye or penetrating injury as defined by the HSE.

**Over 3 day / over 7 day absence is an injury sustained outwith specified injury category that results in a period of absence of absence as defined by the HSE.

***Near Miss - Any unexpected, unplanned occurrence (except Dangerous Occurrences) that does not lead to injury of persons, damage to property, plant or equipment but may have done so in different circumstance.

****Physical violent incidents are included in the "Specified" figures, where applicable, to provide the "Total Specified" figures.

****Physical violent incidents and ***** Verbal Violent Incidents are included in the "Over 3-day or Over 7-day" figures, where applicable, to provide the "Total Over 3-day or Over 7-day" figures.

****Physical Violent Incidents and ***** Verbal Violent Incidents are included in the "Minor" figures, where applicable, to provide the "Total Minor" figures.

RECORD OF DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS	Feb-Apr 2019	Feb-Apr 2020
Total Number of Hearings	3	1

Time Taken to Convene Hearing Feb - Apr 2020

0-3 Weeks
0

4-6 Weeks
1

Over 6 Weeks
0

RECORD OF GRIEVANCE HEARINGS	Feb-Apr 2019	Feb-Apr 2020
Number of Grievances	0	0

RECORD OF DIGNITY AT WORK	Feb-Apr 2019	Feb-Apr 2020
Number of Incidents	1	0
Number Resolved at Formal Stage	1	0

ANALYSIS OF REASONS FOR LEAVING	Feb-Apr 2019	Feb-Apr 2020
Career Advancement	0	1
Other	1	0
Number of Exit Interviews conducted	1	1

Total Number of Leavers Eligible for Exit Interview	9	7
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Percentage of interviews conducted	11%	14%
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Appendix 2a

	Feb 2020 - Apr 2020		Reconciliation figure		Cumulative total (Apr 20 - Mar 21)	
			Apr 2019 - Mar 2020			
	FTE*	H/C**	FTE	H/C	FTE	H/C
Terminations/Leavers	16.36	19	79.01	89.00	4.03	5
Being replaced	16.36	0	77.32	87.00	0.00	0
Held pending savings	0.00	0	1.00	1.00	0.00	0
Filled on fixed term basis	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Budget transfer to other post	0.00	0	0.69	1.00	0.00	0
End of fixed term contract	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0

* Full time equivalent

** Head count/number of employees

**JOINT STAFFING WATCH RETURN
HOUSING & TECHNICAL RESOURCES**

1. As at 14 March 2020

Total Number of Employees									
MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL					
F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T						
834	26	305	130	1295					
*Full - Time Equivalent No of Employees									
Salary Bands									
Director	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Fixed SCP	Teacher	TOTAL
1.00	202.72	643.39	347.80	32.46	11.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1240.37

1. As at 14 December 2019

Total Number of Employees									
MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL					
F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T						
851	24	304	131	1310					
*Full - Time Equivalent No of Employees									
Salary Bands									
Director	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Fixed SCP	Teacher	TOTAL
1.00	203.45	648.24	356.08	35.86	10.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1256.63