

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
9 NOVEMBER 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUBBARD MELKSHAM SOUTH DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question 2

Please confirm what the total costs of redundancies would have been for ex-Wiltshire County Council employees if they had been made redundant under the new redundancy scheme employed by the council instead of the special scheme created solely for the purpose of paying off old council staff during and after the transition to one council.

Response

There were 11 ex Wiltshire County Council employees redundant as a result of the move to "One Council" (LGR). The total cost of those redundancies based on the redundancy pay policy for LGR was £1,968,066.00. The estimated cost, if the new redundancy pay policy were to be applied is £1,152,028.00. This cost includes the redundancy pay and estimated pension strain costs of the pension being taken early where applicable.

Question 3

The Independent on Sunday recently reported on the appointment of former Chief Executive Keith Robinson to the board of directors of consulting firm Charteris. The article made reference to the appointment of Charteris as the consultants employed by the council during the transition to unitary. Obviously we all congratulate Keith on his appointment and wish him well in his new career, but can you please confirm if Charteris are still employed by Wiltshire Council for any work, and if so which contracts and for what values? What was the total amount paid to Charteris for their work during the preparation and transition to unitary?

Response

Charteris has a well established business in the provision of advisory services to Local and Regional Government. In common with other consultancy companies, from time to time they seek input from industry figures to help

them understand how to develop services within markets. They had formerly had no direct dealings with Keith Robinson with regard to any contractual work at Wiltshire Council but when they heard that he had stepped down from his role as Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council felt that he could be someone who could provide this kind of input.

Keith Robinson is not and will not become a Charteris employee. Charteris pay for his occasional services through a standard contractor agreement.

This question was asked at several points during the transition at the Implementation Executive and at Council and we had to confirm support costs to the DCLG as part of the process. We confirmed every time we were asked, that Charteris were not involved in the transition programme nor the creation of one council.

Charteris are employed currently to work in Adult Care to help transform Social Care (for which Wiltshire received a specific grant in excess of £2.3m), on a call off contract valued up to £900,000 and to help the Council look at transforming other services through Systems Thinking at a call off contract up to £100,000.

Charteris are currently contracted with the council through the AMTEC consortium, of which Charteris are a partner organisation. This was through a robust procurement process being procured under the OGC Buying Solutions framework. This is a national arrangement set up in compliance with all EU-procurement legislation against which all authorities can buy from.