

# **CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR THE NORTH EAST REGIONAL EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION (NEREO)**

## **WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?**

Although this service is discretionary membership of NEREO provides the Council with a useful tool that enables savings in officer time and assists the Council to meet its statutory obligations. In addition, being a member of NEREO allows the Council to receive a discounted rate on the North East Jobs Portal from which we make significant savings in advertising and also a discount on any consultancy work. If we pulled out of this arrangement the savings to the Council in purely cash terms would only be £2,429. This does not take account of officer time that would be required for work carried out by NEREO at present for instance pay award negotiations.

NEREO provide advice and support on Employee issues as well as hosting the North East Provincial Council, a forum where the employers meet with recognised trade unions to debate and resolve current issues. The network meetings for members and officers are noted below. Attending the officer meetings enables emerging issues to be discussed and ideas on how to tackle problems to be shared with colleagues across the North East, it is particularly effective when new legislation or policy emerges and also when services are transferred e.g. Public Health. HR officers also use NEREO to officially gain information for benchmarking purposes before setting policy. The Provincial Council meetings allow members to hear the views of trade unions and also put views forward in the aim of maintaining good working relationships.

North East Strategic HR Forum  
North East Development Forum  
Equalities and Diversity  
Scrutiny Officers  
Joint Scrutiny Members/Officers  
Health & Safety Lead Officers  
Member Development Officers  
Education/Children's Services HR Group  
Public Health

## **HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?**

Membership of NEREO provides the Council with subsidised rates for job advertising and a useful tool and forum that enables savings in officer time and assists the Council to meet its statutory obligations.

## **DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?**

The contribution remains at the current level.

## **WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?**

Subscription £15,680  
Overheads £495.