

ERCL chief receives bumper pay rise despite financial struggles

Posted by Ernhw Ltd - 05 Oct 2018 16:14

Courtesy Barrhead News

The chief executive of East Renfrewshire's struggling Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCLT) has been handed a bumper pay rise.

Anthony McReavy's wage has gone from £65,099 to £73,814 despite the trust being financially bailed out by the council this year.

Local authority chiefs handed over £225,000 to cover a huge overspend by the trust.

And they were forced to write two 'letters of comfort' promising ongoing support to ensure the organisation could continue to operate.

Trust bosses branded Mr McReavy's original salary as an 'anomaly', and claimed the increased wage was given to bring him closer to the levels enjoyed by council heads of services.

But Councillor Jim Swift hit out at the pay rise, claiming it is a reward for failure.

He said: "Why is it rather than saving money, which it was set up to do, the Leisure Trust is costing money?"

"How does the Trust's board treat the captain of this financially failing entity? Whilst on one hand, the council has had to bail it out, the board has allocated a pay rise to the chief executive from £65,099 to £73,814. Who else in the public sector has had a raise like that? Nobody. And who has paid for it? The East Renfrewshire taxpayer."

Mr McReavy has come under fire recently for speaking out in support of building a new Eastwood Leisure Centre away from its current site.

But ERCLT pointed to participation figures and tax savings as proof of his value.

A spokesman said: "The trust provides non-domestic rates savings of more than £500,000 each year and has delivered a significant reduction in spending while improving leisure and culture services. While our management fee from the council has fallen, our commercial income is up 18 per cent and attendances at leisure centres, Eastwood Theatre, libraries and gyms are at a five-year high.

"When we launched in 2015, our chief executive's pay was set below that of service heads at the council and that of chief executives at other leisure trusts. Last year that anomaly was addressed, and a pay rise was approved unanimously by the board, including independent members and councillors from all parties."

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Re: ERCL chief receives bumper pay rise despite financial struggles

Posted by Newsline - 06 Oct 2018 10:00

It appears that this pay increase was authorised by the ERCLT board, which includes four Cllrs.

ERC have no say in the matter and receive instructions to pay the increase.

No debate, no discussion, just an ultimatum. Pay.

Yet every other penny that the council spend, including six figure sum bail outs and letters of comfort for ERCLT require the approval of all 18 Cllrs.

Arms length ?

Democratic ?

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