



CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JULY 2017 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT:

G. Enright (UNISON) - Chair

Councillors:

C.J. Cuss, N. George, C.J. Gordon, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, D. Poole and L. Phipps

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. Harry (Corporate Director Communities), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151), L. Donovan (Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer) and J. Tyler (Committee Services Administration Assistant).

Trade Union Representatives:

J.A. Garcia (UNISON) and D.A. Williams (UNITE)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs B.A. Jones, S. Phillips (Acting HR Service Manager) K. Andrews (GMB), N. Blundell (UCATT), S. Brassinne (UCATT), N. Funnell (GMB), B. May (UNITE), R. Munn (UNITE), G. Parr (UCATT), R. Pawar (ASCL), J. Turner (UNISON Regional), G. Enright (UNISON) and D.A. Williams (UNITE).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received at the start of the meeting from Councillor P. A. Marsden in regards to her being a member of the executive council for UNITE. During the course of the meeting, Councillor L. Phipps declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 (Directorate of Education Joint Consultative Committee – 3rd May 2017). Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 19TH APRIL 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee held on 19th April 2017 (minute nos. 1-4) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no issues raised under this item.

5. DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 3RD MAY 2017

The minutes of the Directorate of Education Joint Consultative Committee held on 3rd May 2017 were received and noted.

Arising from the minutes C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive) gave a brief overview of the closure of Cwmcarn High School and the successful management of issues arising as a result, such as the relocation of staff and pupils. Members also noted that, following a recent inspection, Estyn has placed Bedwas High School in Special Measures, significant work is underway with staff from the Education Directorate and the school in order to address Estyn's recommendations and bring the School out of Special Measures.

6. CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr G. Enright brought to the attention of the Committee, UNISON's recent victory in that the Supreme Court has decided that the government was acting both unlawfully and unconstitutionally when it introduced the employment tribunal fees. Therefore, £27 million will now be paid back to thousands of employees across the UK who have already paid out to take legal cases.

In addition, the Committee noted that, following a meeting with the Executive, a joint motion is to be taken to Westminster regarding the NJC pay award and it was noted that Labour and Unison will be issuing a joint Statement in relation to a 5% increase on the payline. Members noted that Caerphilly County Borough Council are the first in Wales to take this step.

7. COLLABORATION

Councillor D. Poole wished it noted that although there are no reports to present as of yet, the Cardiff Region City Deal (CCR City Deal) has gained momentum, a joint protocol has now been arranged and a Business Plan is anticipated to be completed before the end of the year. The Committee were asked to note however that the CCR City Deal has been required to make an urgent decision in supporting the expansion of a Multi-National Company in order to further develop products for the future. The expansion will include an investment of £38.4m into the project, thus assisting to provide more jobs to the region and a return to the CCR City Deal in the form of shares in rental. It was noted that a report would be presented to a Special Council Meeting with further information.

N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services) provided an update on the IT SRS Proposal, it was noted that information gathering is underway and it is anticipated that a report will be presented to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in the Autumn. Councillor C Gordon added that he has recently met with the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer for the project in Newport, who have provided very positive feedback on the proposal and a meeting has been arranged with relevant members of staff to update on the process.

Mr C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive) provided the Committee with an update on the White Paper on reforming Local Government and it is anticipated that the Bill will be presented in the Senydd in July 2018, followed by formal stages. It was noted that the Bill will consider reforming a number of areas, such as Electoral Reform, Mobile Polling Stations and a greater focus on collaboration. Local Authorities will be encouraged to actively seek collaboration opportunities for a number of Service areas where possible.

Finally, Mr G. Enright asked that it be noted that a meeting has taken place with the Head of Public Protection in respect of Income Generation, following a detailed and frank discussion, suggestions were proposed around procurement and community wardens. The Interim Chief Executive added that this is an area currently under consideration, however, suggestions are welcomed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before closing the meeting, and in agreement with the Committee, the chair Mr G. Enright requested that the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee's be refocussed, he suggested a more strategic aim with individual subjects rather than the current arrangement.

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that future meetings of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee are scheduled for 2pm on 25th October 2017, 24th January 2018 and 18th April 2018.

The meeting closed at 2:36 pm.

CHAIR