



CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 27TH JULY 2010 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor A.J. Pritchard - Chairman
A. Morton (UNISON) - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, P.J. Bevan, R.W. Gough, C. Hobbs, J.A. Pritchard, L.G. Whittle

Together with:

S. Rosser (Chief Executive), N. Barnett (Director of Corporate Services), A. O'Sullivan (Director of the Environment), A. Heaney (Director of Social Services), S. Aspinall (Director of Education and Leisure), G. Hardacre (Head of People Management and Development), K. Evans (Corporate HR Manager), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Trade Union Representatives

J. Shelton (UNISON), S. Brassinne (UCATT), G. Osborne (GMB), G. Smith (UNITE),
P. Jones (UNITE), B. May (TGWU)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Davies and C.P. Mann, A. Woodman (Unison Regional Organiser), G. Enright (UNISON), J. Poole (UCATT), N. Blundell (UCATT), M.J. Payne (GMB) and S. Rivers (ASCL),

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Andy Morton (UNISON) was appointed Chairman of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor A. J. Pritchard was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

4. MINUTES - 27TH APRIL 2010

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman:-

Minutes of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 10th April 2010 (minute nos. 1 - 13 on page nos. 1 - 4).

MATTERS ARISING

5. Welsh Housing Quality Standard (minute no. 7)

It was reported that the Welsh Assembly Government have accepted the application subject to the provision of clarification and/or additional information on certain issues and as such stage 2 (the pre ballot stage) can commence. The process of consultation will take place over the next twelve months prior to the ballot where tenants will be given as much information as possible regarding what will happen if they vote for a transfer or if they vote for the Council to retain its stock. A report to Cabinet on 20th July 2010 detailed the establishment of an appropriate structure to manage the process.

Until consultants are engaged and a detailed project plan is prepared and accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government, it is not possible to identify a precise timetable. However, indications at this stage are that the project will aim to deliver a draft 'offer document' for consideration by the Welsh Assembly Government by May/June 2011. This will enable the final formal consultation with tenants to take place and a ballot to follow in September/October 2011.

6. Workforce Strategies for Managing the Impact of the Medium Term Financial Budget Savings (minute no. 8)

It was noted that the report had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee where there had been no comment on its content. However, it is still the subject of consultation and in anticipating its delivery to Cabinet in September 2010, there would be further discussions at the next Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting.

MINUTES OF DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

7. SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - 14TH APRIL 2010

Subject to it being noted that any reference to Pam Collins should read Pam Baldwin, the minutes of the Social Services Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 14th April 2010 were received and noted.

MATTER ARISING

8. Accommodation - Proposed move from Hawtin Park (minute no. 6)

It was noted that the report that had been presented to Cabinet on 20th July 2010 which detail the proposed move from Hawtin Park had been approved. The lease for Hawtin Park is due to end in March 2011 and as such an exercise to rationalise office accommodation had been undertaken.

In recognition that certain staff roles will need to be changed and that a large number of members of staff will need to be transferred to other locations it was noted that discussions have been undertaken with the recognised Trade Unions and there has been consultation with the staff concerned. The move will be carried out on a phased approach over a period of months in order that the transition can be managed.

9. DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - 28TH APRIL 2010

Subject to an amendment to minute no. 8 to read Tir y Berth, the minutes of the Directorate of the Environment Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 28th April 2010 were received and noted.

Following a query on the progress on discussions with building maintenance craft workers to move craft employees onto a salary (minute no, 5.2) it was confirmed that there is to be a further meeting with the relevant trade union representatives immediately following this meeting.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVES DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - 7TH JUNE 2010

The minutes of the Chief Executives Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 7th June 2010 were received and noted

With regards to the budget strategy (minute no. 9) it was reported that Trade Union representatives had attended CMT when an update had been given on the medium term financial planning assumptions and the likely consequential service issues as a result of the need to cut costs. It had been agreed at that time that any proposals being brought forward will be placed on the requisite JCC agendas to ensure timely and appropriate consultation takes place.

11. EDUCATION AND LEISURE DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - 16TH JUNE 2010

The minutes of the Education and Leisure Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 16th June 2010 were received and noted.

Reference was made to the rejection of the tranche 3 funding bid and the Director of Education and Leisure made reference to her meeting with Welsh Assembly Officials when the reasons it had not been successful had been outlined. It was noted that it had been rejected more on process than on educational grounds. In that other bids are to be submitted later in the year it is intended that further meetings will be held to discuss the content of those bids to ensure they meet the required criteria.

12. JOB EVALUATION

An update was given on the job evaluation exercise and it was noted that the process has almost been completed. School based staff has received their results and appeals continue to be progressed.

13. CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT

It was noted that this is a standard item on the agenda and accepted that as a general rule consultation is undertaken at the earliest possible stage in order that issues can be resolved more quickly.

It was noted that a number of documents had been the subject of consultation over the past few months (particularly workforce strategies for managing the impact of the medium term financial budget savings and managing underperformance process). With regards to the latter there is still one issue that remains to be resolved and will be the subject of further consultation.

Reference was made to the number of meetings that have had to be convened as part of the consultation process generally and it was requested that in future, and in that Job Evaluation Appeal Panels are scheduled for those days, wherever possible Tuesdays and Thursdays be excluded. This would be considered.

14. COLLABORATION

The Chief Executive reported that there was nothing specific to highlight since the last meeting but made reference to discussions at both the Public Services Summit and at the Efficiency and Innovation Board launch. He advised that the Connecting South East Wales Board is in the process of revisiting its terms of reference in order to identify its future role. On a more local level and on a Gwent local authority basis, there are ongoing discussions with both Gwent Police and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to determine whether there are any collaboration opportunities, the most recent being in relation to proposals to develop the Blaenavon Regional Data Centre.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. Budget Update

It was noted that Trade Union representatives had attended CMT and received an update on the medium term financial planning assumptions. A commitment had been given at that time that appropriate consultation will taken place and that any proposals from the trade unions on any issues not covered within the plan would be considered as part of the process.

Reference was made to the previous medium term financial plan assumptions that £25m had to be found by 31st March 2010 and to the revised assumptions that have now been calculated from the most up-to-date information of £37 m. It was noted that this would be revisited following receipt of the indicative allocation which is anticipated in November when more comprehensive plans will be able to be developed. It was anticipated however that further cuts in budgets would be required over the next few years.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 26TH OCTOBER 2010

It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for 26th October 2010. Special meetings would be convened as and when required.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2010 they were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm.