



CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2011 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor A.J. Pritchard - Chairman (for the start of the meeting only)

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, P.J. Bevan, R. Davies, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, C.P. Mann,
J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

A. O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), N. Barnett (Deputy Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Corporate Director - Education, Lifelong Learning and Leisure), A. Heaney (Corporate Director - Social Services), G. Hardacre (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), R. Mathews (Communications Manager), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Trade Union Representatives

J. Roberts-Garcia (Unison), N. Funnell (GMB)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Hobbs and G. Enright (UNISON).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES - 26TH APRIL 2011

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 26th April 2011 (minute nos. 1 - 14 on page nos. 1 - 4).

MATTERS ARISING

4. Appointment of Chairman (minute no. 2)

It was noted that as a result of portfolio changes Councillor J.E. Fussell, as Cabinet Member for Human Resources, would take the Chair for the remainder of the ensuing year.

5. Appointment of Vice - Chairman (minute no. 3)

It was noted that Mr. Gary Enright (UNISON) had been nominated to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

6. Joint Council for Wales Meeting 2011 (minute no. 11)

Mr. Funnell advised that the GMB are trying to arrange a presentation for all staff in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Hutton Review. Mr. Barnett advised that to date no information has been received on the National negotiations.

MINUTES OF DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

7. Operations Joint Consultative Committee - 13th April 2011

The minutes of the Operations Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 13th April 2011 were received and noted.

8. Chief Executives Directorate Joint Consultative Committee - 7th June 2011

Subject to it being noted that minute no. 3 in relation to the budget update and medium term financial plan should read 'no overspend' and not 'no surpluses' as recorded, the minutes of the Chief Executives Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 7th June 2011 were received and noted.

It was noted that the date for the launch of the Tell Us Once Service (which will enable a bereaved family to communicate information about their deceased to both Central Government and Local Authority Divisions in one single contact) has been delayed due to the failure on the part of the private contractor.

Reference was made to the apprenticeship/traineeships scheme (minute no. 6 refers) and in noting that twenty-eight work experience places have already been allocated, Members were advised of the plans for apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience provision across the Council. The HR Strategy and Development Team are coordinating and developing the work on a tiered basis with various schemes and projects being implemented and co-ordinated across the organisation. To date sound progress has been made in building relationships externally and internally, engaging managers to commit to the scheme, identifying opportunities for placements and bringing trainees into the organisation. Heads of Service have identified opportunities for apprenticeships in their service area and relationships with partners are developing successfully.

It was noted that the scheme has progressed in a structured manner, in consultation and with the full co-operation of the relevant trade unions, and the level of interest in those advertised to date has been significant. It was agreed that a joint statement should be issued advising of the progress that has been made since the launch of the scheme and detailing the support that has been received from all those involved in the process.

9. CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT

It was noted that this was a standard agenda item following previous concerns over the lack of consultation between Unison and management. Both J. Garcia-Roberts and N. Funnell confirmed that the consultation between Unions and management has improved but reemphasised the requirement to work together in partnership and ensure that consultation is undertaken at the earliest possible stage in order that issues can be resolved more quickly.

10. COLLABORATION

The Chief Executive referred to the ongoing discussions on a number of collaborative projects including the South Wales Central Education Collaboration (with Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil and the Gwent Frailty Project). With regards to the latter it was noted that there would be a phased approach to integration with Blaenau Gwent County Borough over a three year period, the first year being the integration of some business support functions, the second further collaborate and integration across adults and children's services and the third would see a fully integrated service and management team. In that it is planned to manage the change process incrementally over the three-year period, through natural occurrences, such as retirement, vacancies and redeployment, the proposal does not intend to create any compulsory redundancies. At each stage there would be consultation with the respective Trade Unions.

In relation to the South Wales Central Education Collaboration whilst this is a general issue for all education support services, it is proposed that the joint working will focus initially on school improvement services, including improving educational attainment, but will be extended in due course to other areas of activity, for example, additional learning needs, governor support.

Reference was also made to a number of successful collaborative working arrangements already in place (Prosiect Gwyrdd, Heads of the Valleys Consortium, regional transport consortium) and it was confirmed that every opportunity for collaborative working would be explored.

It was confirmed that on a more local level discussion continues on a range of initiatives, particularly in the field of information technology, health and safety activities, legal and human resources.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters of any other business raised.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 25TH OCTOBER 2011

It was noted that the next meeting has been scheduled for 25th October 2011. 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 25th October 2011 they were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm