



CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2012 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor A.J. Pritchard - Chairman
G. Enright (UNISON) - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, P.J. Bevan, R. Davies, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, C.P. Mann,
A.J. Pritchard, 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), L. Rogers (Organisational Development Manager), L. Donovan (HR Service Manager - Customer Services), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Trade Union Representatives

G. Enright (UNISON), J. Roberts-Garcia (UNISON), P. Jones (UNITE), S. Rivers (ASCL),
B. May (TGWU), G. Parr (UCATT)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Hobbs, S. Brassinne (UCATT) and N. Blundell (UCATT).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

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 17th January 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 11 on page nos. 1 - 4).

MINUTES OF DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

3. Social Services Directorate Joint Consultative Committee - 12th December 2011 and 6th February 2012

The minutes of the Social Services Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meetings held on 12th December 2011 and 6th February 2012 were received and noted.

4. Operations Joint Consultative Committee - 11th January 2012

The minutes of the Operations Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 11th January 2012 were received and noted.

Arising from the minutes and with regards to sickness absence data reference was made to the significant improvements that are being evidenced in all areas since the introduction of the managing sickness absence process resulting in a total authority absence rate of below 4%. Reference was also made to the role of the Trade Union representatives in developing and taking forward the process.

The Committee were also pleased to note that the Council had received a very positive report from the Health and Safety Executive following the recent Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) inspection. In recognition of the services areas operating best practice the Executive have suggested other Councils make contact for advice and guidance.

5. Chief Executives Directorate Joint Consultative Committee - 25th January and 22nd February 2012

The minutes of the Chief Executives Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 25th January and 22nd February 2012 were received and noted

Arising from the minutes reference was made the roll out of the I Trent HR web based system and it was noted that although there had been a few teething problems most of them have now been addressed.

With regards to the Wales Housing Quality Standard the Deputy Chief Executive advised that that the result of the ballot means that the proposed transfer of homes to Castell Mynydd cannot go ahead. As such the Council will need to give consideration to the implementation of the commitments made in the addendum to the Offer Document sent to tenants at the end of November 2011 and the business plan will need to be further developed and submitted to Welsh Government for approval.

A report would be presented to Council on 29th February 2012 confirming the outcome of the Ballot and outlining the challenges ahead in delivering the improved services. It was accepted that there will be a requirement to make significant changes to the service delivery and there will need to be consultation with tenants, staff and the Trade Unions on the way in which the investment programme will be delivered.

Members were pleased to note that the proposed procurement process will encourage the use of local labour, the creation of training opportunities, local contractors and supply chain to deliver maximum benefit from the investment for the local economy.

6. Education and Leisure Directorate Joint Consultative Committee - 1st February 2012

Subject to it being noted that Sue Rivers represents ASCL and not ATL as recorded, the minutes of the Education and Leisure Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 1st February 2012 were received and noted.

With regards to schools/VER update (minute no. 6 refers), it was noted that a number of applications from Teaching staff for access to unreduced pension benefits under the Teachers Pension Scheme had been considered and approved by Pensions/Compensation Committee earlier in the week.

7. 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 Unions and management. There were no items raised under this item.

8. COLLABORATION

The Corporate Director of Social Services gave an update on the progress made in the integration of Caerphilly County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Social Services Directorates and referred specifically to the work progressing on both service modeling, the workforce integration and governance arrangements.

He reminded those present that there would be a phased approach over a three year period, the first year being the integration of some business support functions (workforce development commissioning), the second further collaboration 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, at each stage there would be consultation with the recognised Trade Unions.

With regards to the Integrated Achievement Service, the Corporate Director of Education and Leisure advised that at its meeting later this afternoon Council will be asked to consider the outline business case and authorise officers to progress the collaborative arrangements. Once approved there will be a comprehensive consultation strategy prepared which will involve all key stakeholders, including staff and Trade Unions.

Reference was also made to other collaborative arrangements including Procurement, IT, health and safety, Prosiect Gwyrdd and the Heads of the Valleys Consortium. The Chief Executive also made reference to the Compact for Change between the Welsh Government and Welsh local government which sets out the terms of a new relationship based on mutual respect and partnership. He advised that the governance arrangements include agreed actions and timelines for the delivery of change in the way services are delivered by local government. It was recognised that great inroads have already been made in this area and noted that every opportunity for collaborative working would continue to be explored.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. National Mining Memorial – Senghenydd

It was noted that the First Minister will be on site on 29th June 2012 to launch the National Mining Memorial in Senghenydd.

10. Centre for Sporting Excellence and Community Development - Ystrad Mynach

It was reported that the planning application for the development on the former Ystrad Mynach hospital site has been submitted and it is anticipated that works will commence on site towards the end of the year.

11. Building Maintenance Department

It was noted that a meeting has been arranged with the relevant Officer on 27th April 2012 to discuss a number of issues that have been raised by the Trade Union representatives.

12. Election 3rd May 2012

In noting that this is that last meeting prior to the election the Leader made reference to the positive relationships that exists between the parties and to the mechanisms in place to facilitate discussion and consultation. He thanked those present for their assistance and support and wished to place on record his appreciation for the cooperation, role and work undertaken by the Trade Union representatives.

13. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS - 24TH JULY AND 23RD OCTOBER 2012

It was noted that the quarterly meetings for 2012 had been scheduled for 24th July and 23rd October 2012. 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 24th July 2012 they were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm.