



## **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

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

PRESENT:

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D.T. Hardacre, Mrs. C. Forehead, K. James, G. Jones, Mrs. R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, K.V. Reynolds, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

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

#### **Trade Union Representatives**

J. Roberts-Garcia (Unison), D.A. Williams (UNITE), N. Funnell (GMB)

#### **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. Gary Enright (Unison) was appointed Chairman of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

#### **4. CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor H.A. Andrews took the Chair.

**5. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from A. Woodman (Unison Regional Organiser), G. Enright (UNISON), G. Smith (UNITE) and S. Brassinne (UCATT).

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received and the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

**7. MINUTES - 24TH APRIL 2012**

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 24th April 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 13 on page nos. 1 - 4).

**MINUTES OF DIRECTORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES**

**8. Operations Joint Consultative Committee - 11th April 2012**

The minutes of the Operations Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 11th April 2012 were received and noted. There were no matters arising.

**9. Education and Leisure Directorate Joint Consultative Committee - 25th April 2012**

The minutes of the Education and Leisure Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 25th April 2012 were received and noted. There were no matters arising.

**10. Social Services Directorate Joint Consultative Committee - 2nd May 2012**

The minutes of the Social Services Directorate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2012 were received and noted. There were no matters arising.

**11. 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.

**12. COLLABORATION**

The Chief Executive gave an overview of the existing collaborative arrangements in place (including Procurement, IT, health and safety, Prosiect Gwyrdd and the Heads of the Valleys Consortium). He made specific reference to the progress being made on the Prosiect Gwyrdd initiative, which is now approaching the final phase of the procurement process. Both bidders are offering a waste to energy solution, Veolia Environmental Services at Llanwern, Newport and Viridor Waste Management at Trident Park, Cardiff. Whereas Viridor have received planning permission and have started work on site, the application submitted by Veolia is to be considered by Newport City Council later in the week. Once the final tenders have been received they will be evaluated and the preferred bidder will be announced early in 2013. Following the preferred bidder announcement the procurement will move to financial close and contract signing with the commencement of the service scheduled for 2016.

With regards to the Education Achievement Service, which is due to be operational in September 2012, the Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning advised that the Articles of Association, the Collaboration Agreement and the Commissioning Agreement are in the process of being produced in order to detail and agree the way in which the company will operate and commission the services during the collaboration. The latter sets out the service that will be delivered by the EAS to each Local Authority and highlights the core services provided to all authorities and also the bespoke services that will be available. The EAS will utilise existing council accommodation in Ystrad Mynach and Newport.

A report is to be presented to Council on 7th August 2012 seeking to reaffirm the commitment to the establishment of the South East Wales Education Achievement Service and to authorise officers to progress the collaborative arrangement. There will be continued consultation with all key stakeholders, including staff and Trade Unions, as the collaboration progresses.

The Corporate Director of Social Services gave an update on the progress made with 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. 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.

He advised that Tony Garthwaite has been commissioned to look at governance arrangements and that the report on contracting and commissioning services had been drafted and will be the subject of detailed consultation with staff and Trade Unions in due course.

The Trade Union representatives welcomed the opportunity for further consultation and confirmed that they would continue to work in partnership. They stated that they were pleased with the level of consultation that has been undertaken to date and would continue to participate in the process as the various collaborations progress.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development advised that as part of the Education Achievement Service collaboration all participating authorities have been invited to bid for the specialist human resources advice. The county borough has submitted a joint bid with Newport and the outcome is awaited.

### **13. EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP - CORPORATE HEALTH STANDARD AWARD**

Consideration was given to the report which advised of the progress in achieving Welsh Governments Corporate Health Standard Award and detailed other significant developments around the work of Employee Health and Wellbeing Agenda.

The Committee were pleased to note that the Gold Corporate Health Standard had been achieved and tribute was paid to all those that had participated in the process. It was reported that the Assessors were extremely impressed by the Working Group and the amount of hard work and preparation that went in to making the assessment such a success. They had also commented that they had not in their experience to date, met such a positive and enthusiastic group during previous assessments. The health and safety and occupational health arrangements were highly praised as were innovative practices in Catering and Sustainable Development and the assessors were also pleased to see the positive working relationship and active engagement of the Trades Unions, who are members of the Group.

Mr. Funnell (GMB) stated that he had enjoyed being part of the Group and was committed to any future development associated with health and well being. This was supported by the other trade union representatives present.

Detailed feedback from the Assessors will be available in due course, which will include areas that may be developed further and it is intended to work towards achieving the next stage of award which will be Platinum.

With regards to other initiatives it was noted that the launch of the Employee Health and Wellbeing Portal in April (which provides information to staff on health and wellbeing issues and publicise events and activities) had been successful and the newly developed newsletter "Wellbeing @ Work" which is also available electronically on the portal has proved popular. The Care First Vitality Website has been provided in Partnership with the Employee Assistance Provider Care First and is accessible to all via the Internet.

In noting the ongoing work of the group and the achievement of obtaining the Gold Standard the Committee commended the role of both Officers and Trade Union representatives in engaging in the assessment and wished to place on record their appreciation to all those involved in achieving the award and requested that this be relayed to those who had participated in the process.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **14. Launch of First Welsh National Mining Memorial, Senghenydd**

Reference was made to the successful launch of the Welsh National Mining Memorial by the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones and to the work of the Heritage Group who are developing plans to erect a landmark memorial close to the former Universal Colliery site that will be dedicated to all mining communities across Wales. The Memorial at the site of the tragedy will mark the 100th anniversary of the disaster at Universal Colliery, Senghenydd and be a tribute to every Miner and miner's families across Wales. Every assistance would be given to support the initiative.

##### **15. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that the next meeting has been scheduled for 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 23rd October 2012 they were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.