



CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND OCTOBER 2014 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services & S. 151 Officer), J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), G. Hardacre (Head of HR and Organisational Development), L. Donovan (HR Service Manager - Customer Services), E. Rogers (Organisational Development Manager).
S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

Trade Union Representatives:

S. Brassinne (UCATT) and D.A. Williams (Unite)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

In the light of the absence of a number of key Trade Union representatives, it was agreed to again defer the appointment of Chair to the next meeting. It was moved and seconded that Councillor K.V. Reynolds be appointed Vice Chair for the ensuing year. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed. Councillor Reynolds took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLVED that for the reasons given at the meeting:-

1. The appointment of Chair be deferred to the next meeting of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee.
2. Councillor K.V. Reynolds be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr G. Enright and Mr J. Roberts-Garcia (Unison), Mr N. Blundell (UCATT), Mr N. Funnell (GMB) and Mr D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 23rd July 2014 (minute nos. 1-10) be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 6 - Minutes of Directorate Joint Consultative Committees.

Clarification was sought in relation to the reference to Mr G. Enright and Mr M. Ferris having been included in both the list of those in attendance and the list of those who had tendered apologies for the Directorate JCC meeting held on 16th January 2014. Members were advised that this would need to be clarified and corrected at the next meeting of the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning JCC.

6. CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Trade Union representatives confirmed that they had been working closely with colleagues in HR in connection with a number of key policies.

7. COLLABORATION UPDATE

The Interim Chief Executive informed the Committee that Welsh Government is seeking the Authority's views on its proposal to establish a Public Services Staff Commission. It is intended that the Staff Commission will identify and propose practical solutions to issues arising from reform. It will also support the development and dissemination of good practice workforce arrangements across public services. WG's proposal is to establish the commission by April 2015 in order to be able to provide support to any voluntary Local Authority mergers and to continue to provide support to the public sector workforce throughout the reform programme.

The Trade Union representatives acknowledged the need to commence work in this area as soon as possible and confirmed that they would welcome any further information in relation to this matter.

The Leader referred to WG's "Invitation to Principal Local Authorities in Wales to submit proposals for voluntary merger" prospectus, which sets out what is expected of Local Authorities who wish to merge voluntarily and how WG will help. It was noted that Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Councils had agreed that their officers should enter into talks with each other with a view to completing a joint expression of interest in relation to a voluntary merger. At a special meeting of this Council on 29th September 2014 Members endorsed the views expressed at a Council seminar in March 2014 and Cabinet on 3rd September 2014 that Caerphilly should remain as a stand alone Authority.

A Member queried whether the Trade Unions were in a position to provide their views on the proposals. Whilst the views of the Trade Union representatives in attendance were received, it was not possible to obtain an overall view as there were so few TU members present. It was suggested therefore that this matter be placed on an agenda for a future meeting of the

Corporate JCC.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer had briefed Trade Unions on the MTFP savings proposals at a recent meeting of the Chief Executive's JCC and a report providing details of savings requirements for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18 will be resented to Cabinet on 29th October 2014. Whilst the cut of 3.4% in the 2015/16 provisional settlement was better than the potential worst-case scenario of 4.5%, it still presented an extremely challenging financial position. The updated position now shows a total savings requirement of £39m over the three-year period.

The Committee was advised that the proposals allow for a further 3-month consultation period during which a Members' seminar will be held on 3rd November 2014 with a further seminar in January 2015. Following Cabinet on 29th October 2014 the report will also be scheduled for discussion at the next available scrutiny committee meetings. A report detailing the final budget proposals will be presented to Cabinet in late January and Council in February 2015.

The Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer highlighted that one of the savings proposals is a reduction in the HMRC mileage rate from 50p to 45p being introduced in July/August. In addition, she advised that senior officers had met with the specific staff groups identified in the report during the last few days and briefed them on the situation. The financial challenges facing the Authority are significant, however, everything possible is being done to manage the process whilst protecting services and jobs wherever possible.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that forthcoming meetings of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee are scheduled for 28th January 2015; 22nd April 2015; 22nd July 2015 and 21st October 2015.

The meeting closed at 2.20 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2015, they were signed by the Chair/Vice Chair.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR