



CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH JANUARY 2015 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, 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 and S.151 Officer), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), G. Hardacre (Head of HR and Organisational Development), L. Donovan (HR Service Manager - Customer Services), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

Trade Union Representatives:

G. Enright (UNISON), D. Bezzina (UNISON Regional), N. Funnell (GMB), J. Roberts-Garcia (UNISON).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

This item had been deferred at the last meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee due to the lack of Trade Union representatives at the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Mr G. Enright be appointed as Chair of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Mr G. Enright be appointed as Chair of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr Enright took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr N. Blundell (UCATT), Mr S. Brassine (UCATT) and Councillor K.V. Reynolds.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that the Trade Union representatives had requested that the report on the Buy-

Out of Essential Car User and Annual Leave Entitlements - Agenda item 16 on the Council agenda for 27th January 2015 - be brought forward for discussion at this meeting under Agenda item 7 - Consultation between Trade Unions and Management. The Interim Chief Executive advised that certain individuals present might have to leave the meeting during discussion on this item depending on the issues raised.

4. CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2014 (minute nos. 1-9) be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Chief Executive's Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 5th January 2015 were noted.

Matters Arising - Agenda item 7(i)

Gwent Transport Collaboration Report - The Trade Unions were seeking a wider review of the use of the Council's fleet vehicles rather than a specific area. Mr Hardacre agreed to take this back to the HR Strategy Group.

7. CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT

The Trade Unions had requested that the report to Council on 27th January 2015 on the Buy-Out of Essential Car User and Annual Leave Entitlements be brought forward for discussion at this meeting.

Councillor D.T. Hardacre declared an interest and left the meeting during discussion on this item.

The Trade Union representatives outlined their concerns in relation to the report and expressed strong views that their request for the report to be withdrawn from the Council agenda to allow discussion with them had been rejected. In addition, they emphasised that the position statement issued on 27th January 2015 had been a joint statement prepared by the recognised Trade Unions, rather than a statement from UNISON alone.

During the course of the ensuing debate, the Chief Executive reiterated the need to exercise caution in making any comments that might compromise any future internal investigation in accordance with the Council's disciplinary procedures. Discussion concluded and Mr Burns offered to meet the Trade Unions after the meeting.

8. COLLABORATION UPDATE

Mr G. Enright had requested that copies of a UNISON report into homecare entitled "Time to Care" be forwarded to members of the Committee prior to the meeting. UNISON had conducted a survey of homecare workers to illustrate the reality of homecare work. The online

survey which was open to homecare workers who were either UNISON members or non-members attracted 431 responses between June and July 2012.

In light of the findings, UNISON is asking for councils to commit to becoming Ethical Care Councils by commissioning homecare services, which adhere to the Ethical Care Charter. The over-riding objective behind the Charter is to establish a minimum baseline for the safety, quality and dignity of care by ensuring employment conditions which do not routinely short change clients and ensure the recruitment and retention of a more stable workforce through more sustainable pay, conditions and training levels.

The Corporate Director Social Services indicated that discussions would need to be held around timeframes etc and that he would report back to Committee following the forthcoming meeting of the Social Services JCC.

Councillor D.V. Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, provided an update on several issues. He advised that a report setting out a revised business case and governance arrangements for the establishment of a Regional Trading Standards Service across the five Gwent Local Authorities was due to be presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17th February prior to consideration by Cabinet. Councillor Poole agreed to arrange for a copy of the report to be forwarded to Dave Bezzina, UNISON Regional.

Councillor Poole advised that Blaenau Gwent had decided to continue with CCBC's Meals Direct service for another year. However, notification had been received that the Authority wished to cease its SLA with CCBC for pest control services.

The Interim Chief Executive referred to the reorganisation of local government in Wales and the recent decision of Public Services Minister Leighton Andrews AM to reject the three merger proposals which councils themselves had put forward in response to Welsh Government's invitation. The Minister has now called for Assembly party leaders to meet to agree a new map for local government.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other additional items discussed.

10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that future meetings of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee are scheduled as follows: Wednesday, 22nd April 2015 at 2pm; Wednesday, 22nd July 2015 at 2pm and Wednesday, 21st October 2015 at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 2.37 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 22nd April 2015, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR