

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CENTRAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2007 AT 1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Todd, Helen Coffey, Drew McIntyre, John Knapp, Hugh Ross, Eric Jackson and William Menzies; Jennifer Elliot and William Cree (TGWU), Brian Reid, Liz McCulloch and Gordon Potter (UNISON), June Minnery (GMB) and Ian Austin (UCATT).

ATTENDING: Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; John Walker, Head of Building and Works; Robin Gourlay, Head of Facilities Management (Onsite Services); Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; George Park, Employee Relations Manager; and Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Andrew Wilson, Manual and Craft Convenor, David O'Conner Full Time Official (Unison) and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim Todd, Chair.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. The Committee resolved that under Section 50(A) (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 11 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 December 2007 (circulated).

MATTERS ARISING

KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING ISSUES

3. It was reported by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and noted that discussions were ongoing with the Trade Unions on Town Centre car parking.

SINGLE STATUS UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update on Single Status and related matters.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that all possible steps were being taken to ensure that appeals hearings could go ahead as scheduled, although some postponements had been necessary;

- (ii) to note that the Trade Unions welcomed the Council's Job Development Strategy, detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT

5. There was submitted a joint report dated 7 March 2008 (copy enclosed) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised on the current position relating to the transfer in terms of the TUPE regulations of Onsite employees under the schools PPP Project to Mitie Group Ltd.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that discussions were ongoing between Mitie Group Ltd and the Trade Unions regarding Conditions of Service; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the report.

APPRENTICES

6. There was submitted a report (copy enclosed) by the Manual and Craft Convenor, which asked the Council to consider increasing the number of apprentice placements for this year.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that currently there was no scope for increasing the number of apprenticeships within Building and Works, taking into account the financial implications of any such increase, maintaining the high quality training currently provided, and workforce planning and retention;
- (ii) to note the Council's ongoing commitment to provide training opportunities including IT modern apprenticeships and Skillseekers; and
- (iii) that the Council would continue to provide a safety net for apprentices in the private sector, to enable completion of apprenticeships in the event of business failure, and to take up any other opportunities where possible; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

7. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update on the latest position relating to proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Trade Unions were currently balloting members regarding the proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the report.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the APT&C Convenor, Joint Secretary which advised on activities which took place in East Ayrshire during the recent Fair Trade Fortnight.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Trade Unions would continue to work with the Council in this very important area; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the report.

The meeting terminated at 1432 hrs.