

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CENTRAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2007 AT 1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jim Todd, Tom Cook, Douglas Reid, Hugh Ross and Barney Menzies; William Cree (TGWU); Brian Reid, Liz McCulloch and Gordon Potter (all UNISON); Elizabeth Wilson (GMB) and William Haddon (AMICUS/AEEU).

**ATTENDING:** John Walker, Head of Building and Works; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; George Park, Employee Relations Manager; Andrew Kennedy, Business Manager, Onsite Services; and Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Arthur West, APT&C Convenor and Andrew Wilson, Manual and Craft Convenor, Joint Secretaries; and Carol Foote, Principal Officer, Corporate Development and Communication.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Helen Coffey, Drew McIntyre, John Knapp and Eric Jackson; Jennifer Elliott and Philip McGhee (TGWU); and June Minnery (GMB); and David O'Conner (UNISON), Joe McLaren (UCATT), Louise Gilmour (GMB), Alan Finlayson (AEEU) and Jim Winter (TGWU), all Trade Union full-time officials.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Jim Todd, Chair.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

1. The Committee resolved that "Under Section 50A(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 4 September 2007 (circulated).

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

##### **Kilmarnock Town Centre Car Parking Issues**

It was reported by the APT&C Convener that discussions were ongoing with the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding Town Centre car parking issues.

##### **Absence Management**

It was reported by the Head of Personnel and noted that the mid-year update report on the absence management pilot scheme would be submitted in due course.

### **Membership of Central Joint Consultative Committee for 2007/2008**

It was reported by the Manual and Craft Convener that Iain Austin had been nominated by UCATT as member of the Central Joint Consultative Committee. A response was awaited in respect of the outstanding GMB vacancy.

### **CONSULTATION ON REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESPONDING TO CUSTOMER FEEDBACK**

3. There was submitted a report dated 27 November 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised on the proposed revised arrangements for Responding to Customer Feedback and the introduction of a new Unacceptable Actions Policy.

The Committee received a brief presentation by the Principal Officer, Corporate Development and Communications on the revised arrangements for Responding to Customer Feedback and the new Unacceptable Actions Policy.

During the presentation, it was noted that:-

- (i) the Trade Unions were invited to comment on the proposed revised arrangements for Responding to Customer Feedback and the new Unacceptable Actions Policy;
- (ii) an information leaflet on Responding to Customer Feedback had been updated for circulation; and
- (iii) toolbox training would be arranged for staff.

Thereafter, it was agreed:-

- (i) that the Trade Unions be provided with both policies for review; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The Chair then thanked the Principal Officer, Corporate Development and Communications for her interesting and informative presentation.

Councillor Reid joined the meeting during the above presentation.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 November 2007 (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.

### **SINGLE STATUS UPDATE**

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 November 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update on Single Status and related matters.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE FAIR TRADE PARTNERSHIP**

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the APT&C Convener which provided an update on the work of the East Ayrshire Fair Trade Partnership.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that Councillor Alan Brown had been nominated as Council spokesperson for Fair Trade and the Trade Unions should link with Councillor Brown to progress Fair Trade activity;
- (ii) that the Council would wish to encourage activity in this area; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the report.

### **SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT**

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 26 November 2007 (circulated) 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 the Trade Unions were in discussions with Mitie regarding certain conditions of service; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the report.

### **EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY**

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 November 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised on the third Annual Employee Awards Ceremony which was held in the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock on 25 October 2007, with particular reference to the involvement of the Trade Unions.

### **FREEDOM OF EAST AYRSHIRE AWARD**

9. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the APT&C Convener which highlighted the interest of the joint Trade Unions in respect of a serious human rights situation which currently exists in Burma in respect of Aung San Suu Kyi, Leader of the National League for Democracy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Council would give consideration to introducing a freedom of East Ayrshire Award which could include recognition for individuals such as Aung San Suu Kyi; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the report.

### **APPOINTMENT OF FULL TIME TRADE UNION CONVENOR (MANUAL AND CRAFT)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 2007 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel Services which submitted proposals regarding the post of full-time Trade Union Convenor (Manual and Craft) which is filled currently on a temporary basis.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the current appointment to the post of full-time Trade Union Convenor (Manual and Craft) be extended for a further temporary period until December 2008;

- (ii) that the temporary appointment be reviewed during 2008 and a report submitted to the Central Joint Consultative Committee thereafter; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the report.

The meeting terminated at 1455 hours.