

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CENTRAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2006 AT 1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors John Knapp, Douglas Reid, Drew McIntyre and Robert McDill; Liz McCulloch, Unison; Elizabeth Wilson and June Minnery, GMB; William Cree, TGWU; and Andrew Wilson, UCATT.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; John Walker, Head of Building and Works; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager, Onsite Services; George Park, Employee Relations Manager; and Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: David Doran, GMB and Arthur West, Unison, Joint Secretaries; and Full Time Officials Tracy Dalling and Frank Minnery.

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Weir; Provost Jane Darnbrough; and Councillor Jimmy Kelly; Jennifer Elliot TGWU; Brian Reid, Unison; William Haddon, Amicus/AEEU; and Full-Time Official Jim Winters TGWU.

CHAIR: Councillor John Knapp (Chair).

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

1. The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, expressed sadness at the recent loss of Stuart Gillan, Operations Manager within Onsite Services and the Chief Executive undertook to forward a letter of condolence to the family.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2. It was noted that Graeme Cumming, having left the Council's Service, would be replaced as employees' side member of the Central JCC in due course.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

3. 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

4. There were submitted and approved as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2005 (circulated).

MATTERS ARISING

Employee Attitude Survey

5. It was noted that employees had been invited and were encouraged to participate in the focus groups established to take forward the issues raised by the survey.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated March 2006 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel which provided an update on significant health and safety issues during the past six months.

SALARY SACRIFICE – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SCHEME

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 March 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on progress with the Salary Sacrifice Employee Benefits Scheme in relation to the Home Computer Initiative and Child Care Vouchers.

SINGLE STATUS

8. There was submitted a report dated 8 March 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update on Single Status with particular reference to equal pay.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Trade Unions welcomed the recent meetings held, at which the Chief Executive and Head of Personnel had outlined the Council's position in respect of equal pay compensation payments and answered questions thereon; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

FAIR TRADE

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 March 2006 (circulated) by the Joint Secretary, Unison which highlighted the recent positive developments in relation to raising awareness about Fair Trade Issues.

PENSION SCHEME

10. There was submitted a report dated 8 March 2006 (circulated) by the Joint Secretary, Unison which highlighted the current worrying position in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Trade Unions hoped that a way forward would emerge from current discussions to resolve this matter; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

APPRENTICES

11. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Joint Secretary, GMB which requested that the number of apprentice places within the Council be increased.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's ongoing commitment to apprenticeships;
- (ii) to note that the matter would receive careful consideration in association with the Council's Business Plan;
- (iii) that a report on the matter be submitted to the next meeting of the Central JCC;
- (iv) to note that the Trade Unions welcomed the above positive response; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Full-Time Official, Tracy Dalling, Unison joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

The meeting terminated at 1431 hrs.