

ANNEXATION 1**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (APT & C ETC STAFFS)****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1999 AT 1130 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Drew McIntyre, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Harry Wilson, Finlay MacLean and John Weir; Nigel Pimm, Vice-Chair (representing UNISON); Arthur West, Staff Side Trade Union Convenor (representing UNISON); Elaine Raeside (representing UNISON); and Angus Spankie (representing GMB).

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Helen Dick, Head of Performance; Graham Haugh, Head of Personnel; George Park, Employee Relations Manager; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Tommy Farrell and Daniel Coffey; and Graeme Cumming (UNISON) and Jennifer Elliot (ACTSS).

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, 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 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 was submitted and noted the Minutes of the previous meeting of 2 September 1999 (circulated).

MATTERS ARISING

3. There was submitted and noted report dated 9 November 1999 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel which provided an update on the matters arising from the Minute of the Committee's previous meeting on 2 September 1999.

BEST VALUE UPDATE

4. There was submitted report dated 5 November 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the Council's progress on Best Value.

The Trade Union side considered that the Employee Guide to Best Value produced by the Corporate Services Department provided very useful information on Best Value to employees and requested that the Guide be made available to other departments of the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's progress on Best Value; and

- (ii) to note that the Head of Performance had arrangements already in hand to prepare suitable material on Best Value and would undertake to circulate this to all departments of the Council.

SINGLE STATUS AGREEMENT: PROGRESS REPORT

5. There was submitted report dated 8 November 1999 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel which provided an update on the Council's initial progress in response to the Single Status Agreement.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of this report; and
- (ii) that the Head of Personnel be asked to continue to provide update reports to the Committee on the Council's implementation of the Single Status Agreement.

SCOTLAND'S HEALTH AT WORK SCHEME

6. There was submitted report dated 10 November 1999 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel which provided an update on the Council's participation in Scotland's Health at Work Scheme (SHAW) and advised of the Council's involvement in the Health and Safety Week.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's participation in Scotland's Health at Work Week from 13-16 September 1999 and the Health and Safety Week from 25-31 October 1999; and
- (ii) to continue the partnership approach in promoting Health at Work.

REVIEW OF EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AS A DISABILITY SYMBOL USER

7. There was submitted report dated 8 November 1999 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel which advised of the review by the Employment Service and approval of East Ayrshire Council as a Disability Symbol User.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Council's continued status as an employer had been recognised by the Employment Service as being positive about disabled people; and
- (ii) to support the ongoing action to meet the Council's obligations as a Disability Symbol User as detailed within the report.

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLING SERVICE

8. There was submitted report dated 8 November 1999 (circulated) by the Head of Personnel which advised of the Council's arrangement with the Employee Counselling Service in support of their Employee Welfare Policy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the arrangement with the Employee Counselling Services in support of the Council's Employee Welfare Policy;

- (ii) to note that the Head of Personnel would update the Employee Welfare Policy accordingly, in consultation with Trade Unions; and
- (iii) that the Head of Personnel be asked to provide a progress report to a future meeting of the Committee.

RETURN TO LEARN

- 9.** The Head of Personnel advised that the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee held earlier in the day had agreed that the Return to Learn Programme be delivered as a joint activity with UNISON and the Workers' Educational Association and a copy of the relevant report was circulated as background information.

It was agreed to welcome the introduction of the Return to Learn Programme which would be delivered as a joint activity with UNISON and the Workers' Educational Association.

The meeting terminated at 1205 hours.