

Local Joint Consultative Panel

A meeting of Local Joint Consultative Panel was held on Monday, 3rd March, 2008.

Present: Cllr Jim Beall (Chairman), Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Roy Rix; J Stockill, S Batchelor, T Stephenson (vice S Smith) (UNISON); A Christon (GMB); J Asquith (UNITE)

Officers: J Spittle, D MacDonald (RES); R Bradley (DNS); S Johnson (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Ross Patterson

LJC 21/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Single Status Update as his wife was employed by Stockton Council.

Councillor Rix declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Single Status Update as his partner was employed by Stockton Council.

LJC 22/07 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

LJC 23/07 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

LJC 24/07 Agency, Casual, Sub-Contract Workers within Stockton Borough Council

The Care for Your Area Service Manager was in attendance at the meeting and presented information relating to the numbers of agency workers in the cleansing/refuse, highways and horticultural areas and also information relating to the impact of mainstreaming agency staff in his service area.

It was advised that there were plans to recruit permanent staff in April 2008 in the Horticultural Section due to retirements.

The Panel acknowledged that it would not be possible to make all agency workers permanent members of staff but agreed that they would like to see a reduction in the numbers of agency workers across the Council.

The Panel agreed that it would be beneficial to see the statistics for agency workers again once the recruitment process in the Horticultural Section had been completed. It was agreed that the statistics would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

CONCLUDED that further information be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

LJC Single Equality Scheme 3rd Edition

25/07

The Panel considered the draft 3rd edition of the Single Equality Scheme.

The Panel discussed the content of the Scheme, in particular, issues relating to:-

- telephone interpretation
- the number of BME residents recording long term health problems or disabilities
- the higher percentage than the national average of permanently sick and disabled people and people with a long term limiting illness in the Stockton Borough
- Equality and employment.

CONCLUDED that the 3rd edition of the Single Equality Scheme be endorsed.

**LJC
26/07** **Health and Safety Statistics**

The Panel were provided with Accident and Assault statistics which had been reported to the Health and Safety Unit for the period 10th December 2007 to 25th February 2008. Details of the Health and Safety Training Courses were provided for the same period.

The Panel discussed the reporting of verbal assaults and agreed to emphasise the importance of this through the Trade Unions. The Trade Union Representatives of the Panel agreed to discuss the issue further at a Trade Union Liaison Group meeting.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**LJC
27/07** **Single Status Update**

The Head of Human Resources provided the Panel with an update on Single Status. The Panel was informed that the final letters had been sent out to employees in mid February. To date they had received 220 queries. It was advised that Human Resources needed to implement the new pay and grading structure into the payroll system.

The Panel discussed the possibility that the outcomes of Single Status may result in some members of staff leaving the Authority.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**LJC
28/07** **Clarification of Trade Union Membership of Panel**

The current Trade Union (TU) Membership of the Panel was discussed. The Panel agreed that a review of the TU membership was necessary as some of the TU's had merged. The current Trade Union representatives agreed to review the membership.

CONCLUDED that a review of the Trade Union membership of the Local Joint Consultative Panel be undertaken.

LJC **Suggested meeting dates and work programme**

29/07

Members of the Panel considered the suggested meeting dates and work programme for 2008/09.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**LJC
30/07**

Minutes of the Trade Union Liaison Group

The Panel were presented with the minutes of the Trade Union Liaison Group (TULG) from 16th January 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be noted.