

Local Joint Consultative Panel

A meeting of Local Joint Consultative Panel was held on Monday, 2nd June, 2008.

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

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

Also in attendance: No other persons in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Ross Patterson; A Christon (GMB)

LJC 1/08 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED that A Christon (GMB) be appointed Chairman of the Local Joint Consultative Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

LJC 2/08 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 3/08 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Laing be appointed Vice Chairman of the Local Joint Consultative Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

LJC 4/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

LJC 5/08 Matters Arising

The Trade Union membership of the Panel was discussed.

It was discussed that representatives of other Trade Unions, providing they were employees of Stockton Council, would be welcome to join the Panel.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

LJC 6/08 Agency, Casual, Sub-Contract Workers within Stockton Borough Council

The Care for Your Area Service Manager was in attendance at the meeting and presented the Panel with an up to date list of agency workers within the service. The breakdown of the numbers of agency workers in each part of the service was as follows:

Street Cleansing - 7
Green Waste - 17

Grounds/Maintenance - 45
Refuse Collection - 9
Highways - 34
Parks - 3
Curbside Recycling - 8

The Panel were advised that the number of agency workers in the Highways department would be reduced by approximately half a dozen within the next week.

The Care for Your Area Service Manager informed the Panel that 8 agency workers had been recruited as full time Stockton Council Employees in March 2008. They had been recruited into horticulture, street cleansing and highways.

The Panel also discussed the recent Scrutiny review of Waste Management Collection and Recycling and the effects of the increasing fuel costs on the Care for Your Area Service.

The Panel requested that information on agency workers from the Concierge, Security and Surveillance department be presented to the next meeting of the Panel

CONCLUDED that:

1. The information be noted.
2. Information on agency workers from the Concierge, Security and Surveillance department be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

**LJC
7/08**

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 25th February to 23rd May 2008. Details of the Health and Safety Training Courses were provided for the same period.

The Panel discussed lone working and the system used for referrals to the back care team etc.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**LJC
8/08**

Single Status Update

The Head of Human Resources (HR) was in attendance at the meeting and provided the Panel with an update on Single Status.

The Head of HR advised the panel that implementing job evaluation was proving to be complex but it was expected that by the end of July 2008 all employees would be on the correct grade.

The Panel were informed that HAY job evaluation had now been completed and all employees had been notified. They were currently in consultation with the

Trade Unions on the grading structure but had agreement in principle.

With regards to review and appeal forms, HR had received 450 forms so far. It was expected that the more complex cases wouldn't be looked at until September 08. The Head of HR explained that this was largely due to the complexities of payment in many cases and the job evaluation team being relatively small. It was noted that the deadline for review and appeal forms had been extended to the end of August 2008.

The Panel were informed that around 1400 employees hadn't yet received the second letter. The Head of HR expected the number to reduce to 1000 in the next couple of weeks. The Panel raised concerns over the number of employees that hadn't yet received their final grade. The Head of HR advised the Panel that CMT were aware of this and that HR were looking at a way to resolve the issues as soon as possible.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**LJC
9/08**

Minutes of the Trade Union Liaison Group

The Panel were presented with the minutes of the Trade Union Liaison Group (TULG) from 19th March 2008 and 16th April 2008.

The Panel discussed the item relating to the Water Cooler Policy from the 16th April 2008 minutes. The Panel asked that their comments be forwarded to the relevant officer.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be noted.

**LJC
10/08**

Work Programme 2008/09

The Panel considered the Work Programme for 2008/09.

It was requested that an update on the Stockton/Darlington Partnership be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

CONCLUDED that an update on the Stockton/Darlington Partnership be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.