

LGRJF

facilitating local government reorganisation

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM JOINT FORUM (JOINT FORUM)

HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2010 AT 2.30PM
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION OFFICES
COMMISSION HOUSE, 18-22 GORDON STREET, BELFAST

MEMBERS PRESENT

<u>EMPLOYERS' SIDE</u>	<u>TRADE UNION SIDE</u>
<p>NIJC Roger Wilson, Coleraine Borough Council Jill Minne, Belfast City Council</p> <p>JNC Cllr Tom Hartley, Belfast City Council</p> <p>NICS Wesley Shannon, DoE Jim Wilkinson, DSD</p> <p>NIHE and Other Transferring Functions Maureen Taggart, NIHE</p>	<p>NIPSA Bumper Graham, Assistant General Secretary Connor Haughey, Newry and Mourne DC Paddy Mackel, Assistant Secretary Pat Baker, Down District Council</p> <p>Unite Albert Mills, Senior Regional Industrial Organiser Jim Parker, Belfast City Council</p> <p>GMB John Dawson</p>
<p>INDEPENDENT FACILITATOR Paul O' Brien, Chief Executive, APSE</p>	
<p>INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT Adrian Kerr, Chief Executive, Local Government Staff Commission for NI Linda Leahy, Professional Officer, Local Government Staff Commission for NI Diana Stewart, Project Officer, Local Government Staff Commission for NI Lisa O' Neill, Policy Officer, Local Government Staff Commission for NI</p>	

1.0 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2.0 FOR INFORMATION

2.1 Final Draft RPA Staff Severance Scheme for Local Government

Members noted the Final Draft issued for consultation.

The Employers' Side Lead reported that some responses had been received but that the consultation period has been extended slightly to allow Transition Committees time to respond.

The Employers' Side noted a request from the Trade Union Side Lead to seek a meeting with the Environment Minister to discuss issues related to severance arrangements in local government. (see 4.3 below)

Decision

Members agreed that the following text should be inserted at 1.1 Scope:

- Other appropriate bodies as the Joint Forum may determine.

Members agreed that consultation responses will be considered and amendments made by the Side Leads before the next meeting.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT FORUM HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2009

The Minutes of the Joint Forum meeting held on 25 November 2009 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

3.1 Matters Arising

3.1.1 Strategic Leadership Board (SLB)

The Independent Facilitator reported that a letter had been sent to the SLB Secretariat and that a response has been received in relation to the communication system between the bodies.

Decision

Members agreed that the matter had been resolved.

4.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROGRAMME – UPDATES FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Strategic Leadership Board Update (SLB) 09 December 2009

4.1.1 Economic Appraisal

In response to a query from the Trade Union Side Lead, Wesley Shannon provided an update on the development by NILGA of a framework model for collaboration to be considered by the SLB on 25 February 2010.

4.1.2 Funding

Decision

The Side Leads agreed to discuss the matter of the funding of the Severance Scheme and the development of a mechanism to manage the implementation of the Scheme.

4.2 Regional Transition Coordinating Group (RTCG) 02 December 2009

Members noted the update.

4.3 RPA Implementation Timeline

Wesley Shannon provided clarification on the progress of RPA implementation. The Trade Unions Side said that this was also an issue that they would wish to raise at a meeting with the Minister and that if a joint agenda for such a meeting could not be agreed then the Trade Union Side would request a meeting with the Minister on their own.

Decision

Members agreed that this issue should be discussed by the Leads.

4.4 Transfer of Functions

Wesley Shannon reported that the work of the Transfer of Functions Working Group would be finalised and presented to the next SLB meeting.

Decision

Wesley agreed to forward a copy of the final paper of the Transfer of Functions Working Group for information.

5.0 VACANCY CONTROL SYSTEM

5.1 Monitoring and Review for Period 01 Oct – 30 Nov 2009

Members were disappointed to note that only 6 councils have provided the information requested despite a number of reminders.

Decision

The Secretariat agreed to write to the chief executives of the councils who had not submitted a return requesting the information in advance of the next Forum meeting, the letter would point out that a return should be made even if it is a nil return.

5.2 Draft 2nd Addendum to circular LGRJF/01 – Phase 2 “At Risk Posts”

Members noted the draft and discussed the issue of suspension or partial suspension of the Vacancy Control Procedures.

Decision

Members agreed to review the existing Vacancy Control System, at the next meeting, subject to clarification of the RPA implementation timeline.

6.0 Final Draft Model Generic Job Description and Person Specifications for the 11 New Chief Executive Posts

Members considered the revised draft prepared by AS Associates.

Decision

Members agreed that further amendments should be agreed through the Side Leads in advance of the next meeting.

7.0 UPDATE ON FILLING POSTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURES

Members noted the updated position on this matter. Trade Union Side raised an issue in relation to a potential need to amend the NILGOSC Regulations to cover any appointments made by Transitions Committees, the Department undertook discuss this matter with their legislation section.

Decision

Members agreed that the Short Life Task Group should meet and prepare a draft of the procedures for filling posts in the new council structures for consideration at the next Forum meeting.

8.0 DRAFT SCHEME OF TRANSFER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF

Members discussed the draft Scheme and a number of issues including the additional guidance that would be accompany the Scheme, the position in relation to any necessary legislation and consultation mechanisms.

Decision

It was agreed that Wesley Shannon would enquire about the legislative position and that in the meantime the Side Leads would progress work on the draft Scheme.

9.0 HR IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE – FOR CONSIDERATION

Decision

Members agreed there was a need to communicate the detail of the work of the Joint Forum to practitioners through a follow up to the People Making Change Happen event held in December 2009.

10.0 ANY OTHER NOTIFIED, AGREED BUSINESS

None

11.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The schedule of meetings was agreed as follows:

Wednesday 17 February at 2.30pm in Commission House

Wednesday 24 March at 2.30pm in Commission House

Wednesday 21 April at 2.30pm in Commission House

Wednesday 19 May at 2.30pm in Commission House

Wednesday 23 June at 2.30pm in Commission House

Side meetings will be held one hour before the main meetings, normally in the offices of the Labour Relations Agency, 2-8 Gordon Street, Belfast.