

LGRJF

Local Government Reform Joint Forum

JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

PROTOCOL FOR SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURES

The Joint Forum recognises that the Chief Executives appointed to the new councils are tasked with developing proposals for new council structures.

In support of this they will need to establish a small team of officers in key roles. The Joint Forum has developed a

Protocol to assist the Chief Executives to establish these teams.

The agreed Protocol will detail the following:

- ◆ The scope of the secondment opportunities
- ◆ The terms of the secondment (ie the

duration and conditions of service)

- ◆ Eligibility to apply for a secondment opportunity

- ◆ Implementation date

The Protocol will be issued on 04 April 2014.

APPLICATION OF VACANCY CONTROLS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Vacancy Control Procedure was reintroduced with effect from 01 November 2012.

The Joint Forum has been keeping the phasing of the implementation of the Vacancy Control Procedure under review and has sought the views of the Local Consultation and Negotiation Forums.

The Joint Forum has now agreed to extend the scope of vacancy controls to all currently determined potentially 'at risk' posts from 01 May 2014. This includes the following:

- ◆ Any posts that may be replicated in joining councils/functions, for example Economic Development Officers, Equality Officers, Good Relations Officers, Registrars
- ◆ Posts in broad functional areas, for example Finance, Health and Safety (corporate), Human Resources
- ◆ All Group Building Control and Group Environmental Health posts

Circular LGRJF/06 Extension of Vacancy Control System and cover note will be issued on 04 April 2014.

On behalf of the Joint Forum the Secretariat will continue to provide advice on the application of vacancy controls to ensure consistency of application across the sector Regular monitoring reports will be considered by the Joint Forum.

"...facilitating local government reorganisation...."

Priority Issues for the Joint Forum:

Local Government RPA Staff Severance Scheme

System for Filling Posts in the New Council Structures

Staff Transfer Scheme

Consultation and Negotiating Arrangements Post 2011

Contact Details:

Independent Secretariat (LGSC):
Commission House
18-22 Gordon Street
Belfast, BT1 2LG
Tel No. (028) 90313200
Email: lgrjf@lgsc.org.uk



INFORMATION ON THE JOINT FORUM

More on the Joint Forum can be accessed on the dedicated web page at:

<http://www.lgsc.org.uk/new-initiatives/local-government-reform-joint-forum/>

Here the following details can be accessed:

Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements

Agreed Minutes

Membership Details

Joint Communication Bulletins

Joint Forum's Workplan

“ ...facilitating local government reorganisation... ”

JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

DRAFT PROCEDURE FOR FILLING POSTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURES

The Joint Forum has agreed to issue the draft procedure for Filling Posts in the New Council Structure for consultation with comments to be received by Friday 23 May in time for consideration at the June meeting.

The Procedure applies to the filling of all posts in the new council structures arising out of the reform of local government including:

- ◆ direct transfers to unchanged or minimally altered posts;
- ◆ vacancies; and
- ◆ new or substantially new posts.

The Procedure is designed to facilitate:

- ◆ the smooth transfer of staff in unchanged or minimally altered posts; and
- ◆ the application of rigorous recruitment processes to fill new or substantially new posts and vacancies in the new organisations.

It is anticipated that the procedure will be issued for implementation in mid June 2014.

DRAFT SCHEME OF TRANSFER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF

The Joint Forum has agreed to issue the draft scheme for consultation across the sector and responses to be received by Friday 23 May for consideration at the Joint Forum meeting to be held in June.

In addition to the Local Government Staff Transfer Scheme the Joint Forum will also consider schemes for the Civil Service and Housing Executive transfers to ensure continuity.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates have been agreed by the Side Leads as meetings for the Joint Forum:

- 30 April 2014
- 04 June 2014
- 27 August 2014

LGRJF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM JOINT FORUM
facilitating local government reorganisation
Independent Secretariat (LGSC)

Dr Adrian Kerr
Linda Leahy
Diana Stewart
Dermot O'Hara