

# LGRJF

Local Government Reform Joint Forum

## JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

### IMPLEMENTING VACANCY CONTROLS

#### Phase 2 'At Risk' Posts

The Forum has been considering a 2nd Addendum to the Vacancy Control Procedure about applying the System to all remaining potentially 'at risk' posts.

The Forum agreed at its meeting in November that it would make provision for the suspension of some or all of the vacancy controls as detailed in Circular LGRJF/01 in the event of the 2011 timeline being deferred.

Given that no definitive information in relation to the RPA timetable was available for the Forum meeting on 27 January it was agreed to review these matters at the next meeting on 17th February.

In the meantime the Vacancy Control Procedures continue to apply to Phase 1 posts.

Any queries about the implementation of the Vacancy Control Procedures should be addressed in the first instance to the Secretariat at the Staff Commission tel: 028 9031 3200.

#### Monitoring Returns

The first returns for the Monitoring Period 1 October—30 November 2009 were presented to the Forum. The Forum was disappointed to note that only 6 councils made a return despite a number of reminders and it was agreed a letter would be issued to the Chief Executives of councils that had not provided the information requested. The letter will clarify that a return must be provided by each council even if it is a NIL return.

### STAFF SEVERANCE SCHEME

#### Consultation

The final draft of the Staff Severance Scheme is currently out for consultation. It is expected that all consultation responses will be received by early February and that the draft Scheme can be agreed at the next meeting of the Forum on 17 February.

#### Funding

The fundamental issue of funding for the implementation of the Scheme is still outstanding. The Trade Union Side suggested a meeting with the Minister to discuss this and other matters relating to the work of the Forum. It was agreed that the Joint Side Leads would discuss this issue.

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

#### Priority Issues for the Joint Forum:

Vacancy Control  
Procedures

Local Government RPA  
Staff Severance Scheme

System for Filling Posts in  
the New Council  
Structures

Staff Transfer Scheme

Detailed Guidance  
Documents

#### Contact Details:

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## INFORMATION ON THE JOINT FORUM

Information can be accessed on the dedicated web page at:

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

**The following details are now available for information:**

Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements

Agreed Minutes

Membership Details

Joint Communication Bulletins

Agreed Circulars

**The next Joint Forum meeting will be held on:**

**Wednesday 17  
February 2010**

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

## JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

**THE FOLLOWING PROGRESS WAS MADE AT THE JOINT FORUM MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2010:**

### SYSTEM FOR FILLING POSTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURES

The Forum has been in discussion with Senior Counsel in relation to the system for filling posts in the new council structures, the advice received by the Forum has been considered by the Sides. The Forum will now proceed to update the draft System for Filling Posts in the New Council Structures based on the advice in the legal opinion.

The Forum will consider a draft of the System at its meeting on 17 February before reporting back to the Minister.

The Forum is currently finalising a Job Description and related recruitment documentation for Chief Executive appointments to the new councils.

### STAFF TRANSFER SCHEME

The Forum considered a first draft of the Local Government Staff Transfer Scheme. The Scheme is based on other RPA Staff Transfer Schemes, in particular the Northern Ireland Libraries Authority and the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) Schemes.

The Scheme will be supplemented by:

- specific advice on detailed arrangements for the transfer of staff from joint committee structures including Group Building Control and Environmental Health, arc21, SWaMP2008 etc. to the new council structures
- a fast track RPA Scheme of Transfer appeal process to be developed for adoption by councils where staff consider that they have experienced a material detriment

It is anticipated that a further draft of the Scheme will be considered at the next meeting of the Forum on 17 February and that a final draft of the Scheme will be issued for consultation in the coming months.

### DETAILED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The Forum has agreed that the Secretariat should proceed to draft detailed Guidance documents for use with the Staff Severance Scheme and the Staff Transfer Scheme.