

LGRJF

Local Government Reform Joint Forum

JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

PROGRESS MADE BY THE JOINT FORUM

The Forum meeting scheduled for 17 February was cancelled to provide an opportunity to progress work through the short life Task Groups considering the draft Severance Scheme and a System for Filling Posts in the New Council Structures.

Forum members considered the final drafts of these at the meeting held on 24 March 2010.

THE FOLLOWING PROGRESS WAS MADE AT THE JOINT FORUM MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2010:

STAFF SEVERANCE SCHEME

Following consideration and incorporation, where appropriate, of the consultation responses by the short life Task Group the Forum has agreed the terms of the Staff Severance Scheme.

The Forum will forward the Scheme to the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) for consideration at the meeting scheduled for 14 April 2010, requesting that the outstanding issue of funding for the implementation of the Scheme is addressed.

SYSTEM FOR FILLING POSTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURES

AND

DRAFT MODEL GENERIC JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR THE 11 NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE POSTS

The Forum has finalised its work on the System for Filling Posts in the New Council Structures and Recruitment Documentation for New Chief Executive Posts including the Job Description and Person Specification and is consulting with the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland

The Forum is awaiting, as a matter of urgency, outstanding proposals from the Local Government Employers regarding job evaluation and a categorisation process which will form an integral part of the process.

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

Priority Issues for the Joint Forum:

Vacancy Control System

Staff Transfer Scheme

Consultation and Negotiating Arrangements Post 2011

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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/>

The following details are now available for information:

Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements

Agreed Minutes

Membership Details

Joint Communication Bulletins

Agreed Circulars

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RPA IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

At its meeting on 24 March the Forum expressed concern at the lack of clarity around the RPA implementation timeline and the impact on staff and work of the Joint Forum. The Side Leads agreed to consider writing to the Minister to express their concern about the timeline and the impact on staff.

IMPLEMENTATING VACANCY CONTROLS

Phase 2 'At Risk' Posts

No definitive information in relation to the RPA timetable was available for the Forum meeting on 24 March to allow it to move to Phase implementation or to either fully or partially suspend vacancy controls. The Forum had previously agreed to make provision for contingency arrangements in the event of the 2011 timeline being deferred.

In the meantime the Vacancy Control Procedures continue to apply only 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

Following a reminder to Chief Executives of councils the Forum considered the first returns for the Monitoring Period 1 October—30 November. The Forum was disappointed to note that returns from 8 councils were still outstanding despite repeated reminders.

The Forum has agreed to seek Monitoring Returns for the period 1 December—31 March and will issue a revised template with additional guidance reminding councils of the requirement to liaise with trade unions at local level.

The Forum has asked that the Secretariat endeavour to secure Monitoring Returns for the first period from the outstanding 8 councils.

STAFF TRANSFER SCHEME

The Forum will consider a further draft of the Transfer Scheme at its next meeting.

DETAILED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Detailed Guidance documents for use with the Staff Severance scheme and the Staff Transfer Scheme will be prepared by the Secretariat for agreement by the Forum.

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