

LGRJF

Local Government Reform Joint Forum

JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

VACANCY CONTROLS TO BE REINTRODUCED FROM 01 NOVEMBER 2012

At the May meeting the Joint Forum identified the re introduction of vacancy controls in councils as a priority item for action.

The Detailed Procedure was considered by the Staff Commission on 18 September.

The Joint Forum met on 19 September and agreed the Vacancy Control Detailed Procedure following consideration with a view to being issued for implementation from 01 November 2012.

The Vacancy Control System — Detailed Procedure will shortly be issued as Circular LGRJF/03 of the Joint Forum endorsed by the Staff Commission and issued by way of a Commission statutory recommendation to councils.

OVERVIEW OF VACANCY CONTROL SYSTEM DETAILED PROCEDURE

Implementation Date

All 26 councils (including Environmental Health and Building Control Group Committees), arc21 and SWaMP 2008, the North West Region Waste Management Group and the Staff Commission will implement the Vacancy Control System uniformly across local government, on a phased basis, commencing on the 01 November 2012.

Phased Introduction

From 01 November the vacancy control system will apply to the posts of:

- Chief Executive
- 2nd Tier (eg Directors, Group Chief Environmental Health/Building Control Officers)
- Heads of Service
- PAs to the above posts
- Member Services

Order of Consideration for the Operation of the Vacancy Control System

Councils should seek to fill a vacancy from 'at risk' staff in the following order of consideration:

- 'At risk' staff in the individual council
- 'At risk' staff in the amalgamated council cluster
- 'At risk' staff across the 26 councils
- 'At risk' staff across all the sectors in the RPA Affected Group

Monitoring

The Independent Secretariat will prepare periodic progress reports on the operation of the Vacancy Control System which will be made available to both Sides of the Joint Forum.

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

Priority Issues for the Joint Forum:

Reviewing the Staff Severance Scheme

Finalising a Scheme of Transfer for Local Government Staff

System for Filling Posts in the New Council Structures

Capacity Building

Location, Relocation and Expenses

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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/>

Here the following details can be accessed:

Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements

Agreed Minutes

Membership Details

Joint Communication Bulletins

The next Joint Forum meeting will be held on

Wednesday 07 November 2012

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JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

AGREEMENT ON MODEL TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION FORUMS AT TRANSITION COMMITTEE LEVEL

On the 19 September the Joint Forum also agreed the revised Model Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements for Local Consultation and Negotiation Forums at Transition Committee Level which will shortly be issued as Circular LGRJF/04.

Once established all local government reform implementation matters that require local consultation and negotiation, including application of the Vacancy Control Procedure, will fall within the scope of the Local Forum.

JOINT FORUM AGREE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

The Programme for Government was passed in March by the Assembly with the commitments on local government reform unchanged. This has now set the timetable for the reform process which will result in the new 11 councils coming into full operation in April 2015.

Accordingly the Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements for the Joint Forum were reviewed and agreed on 19 September 2012.

Context

The Joint Forum was established by the Staff Commission under its statutory authority from Section 40 (f) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, as amended by the Housing Orders (NI) Order 1992.

Membership

There are three new Employers' Side Members Cllr Jim McVeigh, Belfast City Council, Cllr Michael Coogan, Down District Council and Mark Bailey, DFP.

Full Membership details can be viewed at <http://www.lgsc.org.uk/new-initiatives/local-government-reform-joint-forum-/joint-forum-membership/>

LGRJF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM JOINT FORUM

facilitating local government reorganisation

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