

# LGRJF

Local Government Reform Joint Forum

## JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

### SCOPE AND REMIT OF THE JOINT FORUM

#### 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.

#### Scope

- The scope of the Joint Forum extends to all staff employed in local government including:
- The 26 district councils (including Environmental Health and Building Control Group Committees)
- Arc21, SWaMP2008 and the North West Region Waste Management Group
- The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland
- Any staff employed by the Transition Committees and Shadow Councils
- And all identified staff employed in the transferring functions who will transfer to the new councils and other local government structures

#### Remit

The primary purpose of the Joint Forum is to facilitate consultation and negotiation between Employer and Employee representatives on a range of Human Resource (HR) related issues that are cross sectoral in nature in the context of the TUPE Regulations, employers' statutory obligations, and the NI Executive Principles as recommended by the Public Service Commission.

The Joint Forum's Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements were reviewed and agreed in September 2012. They can be read on the dedicated Joint Forum webpages <http://www.lgsc.org.uk/new-initiatives/local-government-reform-joint-forum-/terms-of-reference-and-operating-arrangements/>

#### Membership

- Independent Chair:** Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive, APSE
- Employers' Side:** **NIJC:** Cllr Marty McColgan, Jill Minne and Roger Wilson  
**JNC:** Cllr Seamus Doyle  
**NICS:** Linda MacHugh and Mark Bailey  
**Other Transferring Functions:** Maureen Taggart
- Trade Union Side:** **NIPSA:** Pat Baker, Alanagh Rea, Bumper Graham and Ryan McKinney  
**Unite:** Gareth Scott and Jim Parker  
**GMB:** John Dawson

**The Sides Leads are:** Maureen Taggart and Bumper Graham

**Independent Secretariat:** Adrian Kerr, Dermot O'Hara, Linda Leahy and Diana Stewart

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

RPA Staff Severance Scheme

Scheme of Transfer for Local Government Staff

Discussion Paper on a Future Industrial Relations Framework for Local Government in NI

Local Consultation and Negotiation Forums at Transition Committee Level

Future Work

#### Contact Details:

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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

The next Joint Forum meetings will be held on:

- ◆ 15 May 2013

A Joint Communication Bulletin is issued after each meeting

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

## JOINT COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

### OUTCOMES FROM THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH

- ◆ **RPA Staff Severance Scheme for Local Government**  
Members agreed to issue the Scheme as a Joint Forum Circular recommending adoption by councils. The Trade Union Side again recorded its position in respect of the need for a centrally funded staff severance scheme.
- ◆ **Scheme of Transfer for Local Government Staff**  
Members agreed the Scheme subject to clarification in relation to relevant provision of the Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill which will govern implementation of the Scheme.
- ◆ **Local Consultation and Negotiation Forums at Transition Committee Level**  
Circular LGRJF/04 issued in October 2012 requires councils to engage with their local NIJC recognised Trade Unions. The Joint Forum sees Local Forums as a valuable resource for implementing reform. The Joint Forum has asked that Local Forums provide details of their agreed Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements and forward Work Plans.
- ◆ **Vacancy Control System—Monitoring 1 November 2012 to 31 January 2013 and the Implementation of Phase 2**  
Local Forums have been asked to provide the Joint Forum with details on the application of Vacancy Controls in the period from 1 November 2012 to 31 January 2013. Views are also sought on the range of posts to be included in Phase 2 of Vacancy Controls and the most appropriate timing for this to be introduced. Phase 2 includes all the remaining potentially “at risk” posts. The information is to be returned to the Joint Forum by Tuesday 30 April 2013.
- ◆ **Discussion Paper on a Future Industrial Relations Framework for Local Government in Northern Ireland**  
Members endorsed the planned consultation on a draft Industrial Relation Model prepared by the Employee Relations Working Group within the People and Organisation Strategic Framework. The consultation document will be issued to stakeholders in April.

### FUTURE WORK

The Joint Forum has agreed to continue to progress work in respect of:

- ◆ The development of a revised Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees
- ◆ The potential for the harmonization of Terms and Conditions post implementation of reform
- ◆ Location, Relocation and Expenses
- ◆ A new approach to recruiting and developing local government staff.
- ◆ Progress across councils on the implementation of Single Status Arrangements.