

## **JOINT CONSULTATIVE AND SAFETY PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2009**

**Present:** Councillors J Park (Chairman); F Heathcote; J Prince and N Williams.

Union Representatives: M Jewell (GMB)(Deputy Chairman) and S Sankczuk (GMB).

Officers: F McMorrow, Acting Chief Executive; L Gleed, Human Resources Manager; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; M Sharrock, Interim Health and Safety Adviser; I Curwen, Senior Communications Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Hitchen; Councillor P Whalley and J Glynn (GMB).

#### **JCSP 13      Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **JCSP 14      Balancing the Council Budget for 2009-2010**

The Acting Chief Executive provided the Panel with an overview of the current position on the Council budget for 2009-2010.

It was stressed that in the current financial climate balancing the budget was proving difficult and the Resource Planning Working Group were still developing options for consideration by Members. It was confirmed that there was no proposal for redundancies at present.

The Resource Planning Working Group will put their report to the Executive in February 2009.

#### **JCSP 15      Health and Safety Report**

Consideration was given to the Health and Safety Report for Quarters 1 to 3 of 2008/09.

Members noted that although the overall accident rate was low, the Council should not be complacent.

Members were updated on the vacant Health and Safety Officer position. Further attempts are being made to recruit for this post with a Market Value Supplement that was approved by the Personnel Panel. If this is still unsuccessful the possibility of in-house recruitment with training being provided would also be considered.

The Interim Health and Safety Advisor then provided general comments following his return to Copeland.

It was noted that Health and Safety remains a priority.

General awareness has improved, however, Risk Assessments need to be given a greater importance.

The Health and Safety Reps have continued to meet on a regular basis and it was suggested that the Task Groups be re-instated.

The Health and Safety Intranet section is to be updated.

**RESOLVED** - that the Quarterly Health and Safety Report be noted.

**JCSP 16      Union Updates**

No update.

The meeting closed at 3:05pm

Chairman