

MEMBERS'/TRADES UNIONS JOINT CONSULTATION AND SAFETY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2003, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

EMPLOYERS SIDE: Councillors Crowther, Hammon and Kohler.

(Councillor Crowther substituted for Councillor Darmody and Councillor Copping substituted for Councillor Kohler).

TRADES UNIONS SIDE: Miss R Gray, Mr A E Foster and Mr A Rybicki.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Short and Mrs J Webb.

Mr A Rybicki in the Chair

917. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

918. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 November 2002, having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

919. **ACCIDENT REPORT**

The Panel considered a report from the Health and Safety Advisor, advising them of accidents to personnel during the period 14 September 2002 to the 28 February 2003.

There were no accidents requiring statutory notification within the period.

There were four other accident notifications received during the same period which did not require a statutory notification.

As reported at an earlier meeting there were four violent and potentially violent incidents which had not been reported to the Health and Safety Advisor, which had also been included within his report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

920. CCTV SYSTEM

The Panel considered a report from the Health and Safety Adviser on the feasibility of linking the Riverside House CCTV cameras into the centrally based CCTV system for Warwick District Council, as requested by the Forum on the 23 September 2002.

The CCTV Manager had been consulted on the proposal and he felt that it was feasible for the cameras to be linked in with the District Council's centrally based system as there was the capacity to expand the system further.

The estimated cost implications were estimated to be between £12,5000 and £14,000, in addition there would be an annual maintenance charge and running costs which would need to be calculated.

There would also be a need to set down procedural terms and priorities within a Service Level Agreement.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a report be submitted by the Trade Unions stating what additional benefit they believe would be brought by linking the CCTV cameras at Riverside House to the centrally based system at the Town Hall; and
- (3) the position of the 'CCTV cameras in operation' notices within Riverside House and the Riverside House site be investigated and possibly relocated so that they are more visible to customers. (This will be undertaken by Robert Inman and Tony Rybicki).

921. RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS - A COMPARISON

The Panel considered a report from the Health and Safety Adviser providing comparative information about the security arrangements for reception areas in the civic offices at Rugby Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Stratford District Councils as requested by the Safety Forum on the 23 September 2002.

It was apparent from the research that no single Council operated their reception facilities the same as others within the comparison group. The operations of the reception areas which had been investigated were detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

922. SINGLE STATUS AGREEMENT

The Panel considered a report from Corporate Personnel Services seeking the Panel's approval to submit the recommended framework/agreement for Single Status to the Employment Committee for adoption.

The Single Status agreement was negotiated nationally between Trade Unions and employers within local government to provide one set of pay structures, terms and conditions covering the former APT&C and manual employees occupational bargaining groups.

The national agreement contained principles, a number of key national provisions and other national provisions which may be modified locally by negotiation between Council's and trade unions, were attached as appendices to the report.

Warwick District Council commenced negotiations over the implementation of the national agreement in 1999. The agreement/framework as detailed in an appendix to the report set out the standards established within the key national provisions and the local agreements reached in relation to Part 3 in the national agreement.

Mr A E Foster said that UNISON were happy for the agreement to be made although expressed concern that there were still some outstanding issues, particularly salary grading, within some sections which would need to be resolved through established procedures overtime.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the principles set out in framework/agreement for Single Status be submitted to the Employment Committee for adoption;
- (2) all attempts be made through the established procedures to reach a negotiated agreement with the recognised trade unions for the implementation of the principles in the framework agreement; and
- (3) officers and the union representatives who have helped negotiate the Single Status agreement/framework be thanked for all their hard work and patience with this issue.

(The meeting ended at 5.35 p.m.).