

LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
14 FEBRUARY 2018
4.00 - 4.14 PM



Present:

Councillors Allen, Angell and Leake
David Allais UNISON (Chairman)
Lorna Cameron, UNISON
Robert Card, GMB

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Worrall

11. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

12. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes it was noted that Unison had met with Gill Vickers and the Chief Officer: Human Resources to discuss the issues arising from the transformation programme in Adults Social Care. It had been agreed that there would be additional monthly meetings between Gill Vickers, GMB, Unison and the Chief Officer: Human Resources to hold detailed discussions in regards to the transformation programme. This was in addition to the more local discussions and roadshows held by the Director.

13. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

14. Car Parking Charges For Employees 2018

The Chief Officer: Human Resources reported that since the government had withdrawn the option to pay for car parking via the staff salary sacrifice scheme. CMT had reviewed the car parking charges for staff and had included that the cost to staff due to the removal of salary sacrifice could be a significant and would be an additional burden on individuals' personal finances and would also remove one of the Councils advantages as an employer in a competitive market. Within the budget proposals agreed by Executive on 19 December 2017 a provision for the parking charges to be reduced to the level corresponding to the staff salary sacrifice scheme had been included.

Whilst reviewing the process CMT has also considered an anomaly regarding parking for staff with a disability who were charged the lowest band rate, this had also been claimed by staff with disabilities that did not affect their mobility. CMT's conclusion was that disabled employees should pay the same amounts as

their colleagues for parking from 1 April 2018 which was also inline with the Councils fess and charges, as no BFC public car parks offered concessionary charges for disabled parking. Those with mobility difficulties which qualify them as blue badge holders would be able to park in Time Square so that they are as close as possible to their workplace. There were only ten employees currently receiving reduced rate parking under the current arrangements. All employees who paid to park in the town centre would receive a notification of the new charges and arrangements in late February 2018.

The car park in Time Square would be reopening after the works had finished, the Chief Officer: Human Resources was unsure if there would be nominated, marked out disabled bays for those who would be able to park at Time Square as there could be issues with spaces being empty due to agile working.

Despite the ongoing works, there was currently two spaces available at Time Square for those with mobility difficulties. Staff attending Time Square from an off site location would need to make prior arrangement if they required an onsite space due to mobility issues.

15. Matters to be Raised by Trade Unions

Unison representatives gave members a briefing note raising their apprehensions about care systems and in particular accountable care systems. They felt the cost of the services put Bracknell Forest Council in jeopardy and had concerns that there would be a shortfall in funding in Berkshire and Frimley health services. Unison were not aware if questions had been asked through the ASC Transformation programme and they had not raised the issue directly with the Director.

The figures detailed within the briefing note had been taken from the governments website.

One of Unisons concerns was that the government would be giving the funding directly to the Accountable Care organisations rather than the Council which could result in a budget gap. Unison wanted a response from the Council about the implications setting out how it may affect the budget going forward, the provision and staff within the service.

Unison were gearing up to focus on this nationally and someone had already been employed to lead on a campaign in the area. It would also be a key topic in the AGM on the 1 March 2018.

The Chief Officer: Human Resources asked that the briefing note be sent to her electronically, she would then circulate it with the Borough Treasurer, Executive Member and Director and would request a response from them prior to Unisons AGM on the 1 March 2018.

CHAIRMAN

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