

**MINUTES OF THE EMPLOYEES' JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT:

**Council Side:** Councillor Colwill (Chair) and Councillors V Brown (for CJ Patel), Farrell and J Moher.

**Staff Side:** Phil O'Reilly, Bola George, Fola Olusanya and Euton Stewart.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allie and CJ Patel.

1. **Vice-Chair**

The Committee elected George Fraser as Vice- Chair for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2002 and notes of inquorate meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002 and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004 were received and approved as accurate records.

4. **Essential Car User Allowance**

The Director of Human Resources and Diversity introduced her report which outlined the Union's claim for reinstatement of the essential car user allowance for employees required to make their vehicles available for work. She set out the background to the decision taken in 1983 to restrict the use of essential car user allowances to staff currently in post and that once these posts were vacated, the allowance would revert to casual car user allowance. Essential car user allowances would only be used as a scarcity enhancement, requiring a committee decision. The Director set out the position on payment of allowances under the national conditions of service and the outcome of consultation with service areas.

The Staff Side expressed the view that trade unions supported the 'green agenda' and encouraging staff to use their cars less however, considered it unfair that the Council could insist on staff using their cars for work sometimes, formally in job descriptions, and yet refuse to award essential car user allowances which would compensate for wear and tear, road tax etc. It was argued that staff were effectively subsidising the Council as alternative arrangements, such as car pools, were likely to cost more.

The Director agreed with suggestions that the wider use of Oyster travel cards and other transport options should be considered and accepted that there may be jobs for which regular car usage was required. The Committee agreed that

further options should be considered and discussions with trade unions continue. The Director stated that she would report back should agreement not be reached. She would also keep the Chair informed of progress.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm.

R COLWILL  
Chair