

1.

COMMITTEE:	Local Joint
CONSULTEES:	N/A
DIRECTORATE:	N/A

UNISON ACTIVITY REPORT - UNISON STEWARDS

1. Purpose of the report

To update members with the work of the UNISON representatives for the period since the members of this committee last met. As UNISON is the trade union recognised by the Authority for consultation and negotiation purposes on matters pertaining to employees and their conditions of employment UNISON Reps consider that it is important to retain and build on this relationship by continually forging stronger links with Members through the forum of the Local Joint Committee.

2. Recommendations

That the report be noted.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

Unison is the Trade Union that is recognised by the Peak District National Park Authority.

3. Background Information

1. Unison / PDNPA Partnership Agreement

Unison have been under some pressure from PDNPA Leadership Team to formulate and sign a formal agreement setting out the procedures for Unison's activity in the Authority

Due to a variety of factors Unison and Leadership Team have yet to meet to discuss this in any detail. Unison Branch remain unconvinced of the necessity for such a document, bearing in mind the existence of long standing custom and practice. In order for the role of Unison not to be significantly curtailed, very significant amendments will have to be made to the first draft that has been circulated by Human Resources, before it could be seriously considered.

We anticipate further discussions will have taken place in this regard by the time this committee next meets.

2. Vehicle Use at the Authority

Following the Commercial Development and Outreach Directorate Restructure, the receipt of advice to the Authority from HMRC, and the purchase of a new fleet of pool cars, Unison have been advised by Leadership Team of changes in relation to staff vehicle use.

The main concern from affected staff was that the changes might result in them being expected to have their own vehicle available for work use, and incurring expense and inconvenience as a result. There was also a concern that this would effectively be a change to their terms and conditions.

Unison are pleased that this does not appear to be the case based on the current proposals, but will continue to monitor the situation as the recent restructure beds down.

3. Commercial Development and Outreach Directorate Restructure

Unison have continued to support staff affected by the restructure in this Directorate.

Several of the staff concerned have had concerns relating to the new contracts that have been issued for their new roles. This matter is currently ongoing and several staff have felt unable to sign said contracts.

These staff have started work in their new roles on a good will basis, but further discussion will need to take place, and the contracts will probably have to be amended and reissued before the staff are in a position to sign.

In particular Unison are currently supporting the new Countryside Maintenance Team in negotiations regarding the introduction of weekend working and the changes to their work base.

4. Apprenticeships

Unison have recently been advised that the matter of the introduction of new Apprenticeships is now being discussed by Leadership Team.

Unison would expect to be closely involved in these discussions from an early stage. And whilst we fully support the introduction of new opportunities for young people, it is likely that we would oppose Apprenticeships which replaced established, salaried positions.

5. Health and Safety

Unison now has a trained Health and Safety Representative. We will shortly be relaunching Unison's involvement in Health and Safety at the Authority and look forward to closer involvement in development of policies, training and inspections of premises.

6. PDNPA Unison presence at Derbyshire County Branch

A new position of PDNPA Convenor has recently been created on the Derbyshire County Unison Branch Committee. This position will be filled by one of the current PDNPA Unison Stewards. Unison looks forward to developing closer ties with the local branch in order to support our members more effectively.

3. Background Information

None

4. Proposals

That the above be noted by members.

5. Background papers

None

Appendices - None

Report Author: Unison Stewards