

Staff Consultation Forum

11th June 2012

Council Chamber

Attendees

Kerry Shorrocks
Norma Atlay
Garry Melding
Christina Corr
Sue Graves
Jackie Rushton
Dee Levett
Gail Dennehy

Apologies

John Robinson
Chris Carter
Claire Morgan
Jacqui Hamilton
Heather Cain

		Actions
1.	Apologies As above.	
2.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes None Minutes agreed.	
3.	Climate Change Strategy Katherine Brierley attended for this item. KB outlined what NHDC are progressing with for the climate change strategy. Staff are able to access all the information on the climate change strategy on Covalent. KB advised that the strategy is being refreshed this year to ensure viability and is working to Government guidelines. A list of what we have achieved so is available from KB some examples were:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have reduced the number of computer servers• We have office recycling• Solar panels on North Herts Leisure Centre have significantly reduced the energy costs• The new Howard Park was designed with a wide variety of environmental friendly/energy saving measures.• We now use solar powered car park ticket machines.	
4.	Green Issues None.	

5.	<p>Home-working/Office Accommodation</p> <p>KS advised that a drop in session took place recently and was well attended. Liz Goddard attended to answer queries regarding team and development issues, Johanne Dufficy was there to advise on telephony and promote the use of Avaya to all staff who home-work and IT were there too with tips on the latest technology and Apps.</p>	
6.	<p>NHDC Update</p> <p>KS gave an update on the Council's financial planning and referred the SCF to the June Team talk that had an update for staff. This explained that in the <i>best</i> case scenario the council needed to save an additional £500,000 per year for the next five years. Senior managers were currently looking at options for potential savings both for the short-term and for those that would need to be progressed over a longer timeframe.</p> <p>Group Consultation had now commenced with regard to Shared Services. NA would be covering that later on the Agenda and KS said she would be leaving the meeting at that point.</p> <p>KS advised that the Queen would be visiting Hitchin Market Place on the morning of 14th June and that there would be several road closures in place.</p> <p>Requests have been made via the internet for staff and members of their family that are over the age of 16 to volunteer as stewards to help with the Olympic torch relay on 8th July. Official t-shirts would be provided and available to keep afterwards.</p> <p>Staff Survey results were now available and also Service level results.</p> <p>A television had been installed in the 5th floor rest area to allow staff to view all sporting events. Personal media items can be brought into the office but staff will need to ensure that they are PAT tested.</p>	
7.	<p>Employee Queries</p> <p>NS advised that there was a leaking tap in the 1st floor gents that had already been reported to property services which was wasting quite a lot of water.</p> <p>NS asked whether staff might be able to benefit from the savings made from office recycling with this used for small improvements such as zip boilers for the kitchen areas on each floor.</p> <p>NS asked if there was any income from the disposal of documents at the secondary centre.</p>	<p>JH to e-mail Property Services</p>

8.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>GM asked if there was a possibility of NHDC purchasing a defibrillator for the Authority.</p>	<p>JH to e-mail Les Davison</p>
9.	<p>Group Consultation with the SCF and the temporary nominated SCF reps for Shared Services took place led by Norma Atlay. Minutes of this were not taken.</p>	

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