

Staff Consultation Forum Meeting

02 September 2020



Present: Kerry Shorrocks (KS), Dee Levett (DL), Christina Corr (CC), Ian Couper (IC), Emma Jellis (EJ), Rebecca Webb (RW), Jo Keshishian (JK), Andrew Betts (AB), Caitlin Bruce (CB – notes)

Circulation: Global

1. Apologies

Vic Godfrey, Anthony Roche, Lea Ellis, Allison Fox

2. Matters Arising

Hand sanitisers are now outside the staff entrance to the district council offices.

IT response to the employee query last month regarding IT having mobile phone numbers for staff:

IT have to consider things like consent to hold that information and then who has access etc so its not quite that easy as its personal information. One thing IT may be looking at next year will be the tying together of people registering for the self password reset with a mobile number and the Text alert SMS messages which also people sign up to. Its no easy thing and its part of a wider project of a replacement of SID and integrated directory as part of outlook and then how we keep this info up to date etc. For now the best thing is always for the user to provide a contact number they wish IT to try them on at point of raising a ticket. Alternatively they can always call 474444 to log the ticket and speak to one of the IT officers or leave a message for us to go back to them.

3. Business Services Update

A reminder for staff to only use the building if they need to. Employees who have booked slots for long durations have been and will continue to be contacted to check this is necessary.

It was asked if there was any news on a return to the district council offices. - As it is safe and effective to work from home at the moment we will continue to do so for now.

It was asked if there was any update on Town Lodge. - There have been some heralds in this project, a new planning proposal will be presented soon.

4. NHDC Update

The SCF are to let IC know when a representative has been chosen for the shaping our future group – the first meeting for this group will be held on November 15th

Howard Crompton has been selected as the temporary service director for the 18-month Transformations Service Director post. He will begin this role in mid-October.

The political process for the council plan was started this month, this will set the direction for the next year.

Local government reorganisation – all options are still on the table and are to be looked at after the central government white paper is released and will depend on what this says. Hertfordshire is not a part of the first wave of reorganisation which will begin in April 2021.

The recovery group discussed the work from home allowance – this will stay at a flat rate of £16 during the winter and will be reviewed each year.

There will be some changes in the HR team in the coming month – Kerry Shorrocks will be leaving on September 30th and Jo Keshishian will be stepping into the HR Service Manager role from September while Rebecca Webb is on maternity leave. During this time Laura Bignell will be covering the HR Operations Manager role with Caitlin Bruce and Oliver Charter staying on in 12 month contracts as Assistant Business Partner (CB) and HR Systems and Projects Officer (OC). As always please direct queries to hrhelp@north-herts.gov.uk in the first instance so that your query can be directed to the appropriate member of the team.

5. Employee Queries

An update on the publicization of the District Council Offices being closed was requested. – It is being looked into if an intercom system can be put on the front entrance to inform members of the public who come to the offices that they are closed.

There is a possibility that the SCF will be looking for a new rep – please contact one of the current reps or email SCF@north-herts.gov.uk if you are interested in joining the staff consultation forum.

Chair for next meeting – Christina Corr

Have something to say?

If you have an issue you think should be brought to the attention of the SCF, please contact any SCF representative via phone, email or in person. They will raise your issue at the next meeting. You will not be identified unless you want to be.

Issues relating to property e.g. broken lift, non-flushing toilets, etc. must always be reported to Property Services in the first instance: propertyservices@north-herts.gov.uk

Alternatively you can send any issues to the SCF inbox - SCF@north-herts.gov.uk

Representatives (and extension):

Lea Ellis #4830 - Community Engagement team based on Floor 3

Emma Jellis #4312 - MSU team based on Floor 4

Allison Fox #4203 - Technical Support Officer based on Floor 3

Christina Corr #4325 - Senior Technical Officer R&B team based on Floor 5

Andrew Betts #4282 - Contracts Officer (Waste Management based at Buntingford)