



## **ALACE Council Meeting**

Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Rathbone Room 2, Smith Square Conference Centre, Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

Attendees: Michel Saminaden (Chair) Cheryl Miller, Peter Bounds, Roger Morris, Richard Penn, John Schultz, Amar Dave, Duncan Sharkey, Fiona Marshall, Tracey Lee, David Cook

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Apologies**

Ian Miller, Rob Tinlin, David Hughes, Chris Williams, Alison Ward,  
Nick Walkley, Sally Loudon, Alistair Stewart.

### **3. Chairman's Update**

The Chairman outlined the amount of work that had been undertaken over the winter mainly by the consultants.

### **4. Minutes from the last meeting / Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

### **5. Consultants Reports**

#### **Peter Bounds**

- Cases discussed
- Noted that advice for children's service seems to be becoming a theme.
- Scottish branch of Solace has been visited with a view to recruitment – a couple of new members have joined, with prospect of more.
- Visit to the Metropolitan Authorities Treasurers planned with view for further new membership recruitment.

## **Cheryl Miller**

- 18 new cases and 37 cases in total
- All getting more complex due to changes and complex rules
- Noted that more cases from boroughs and districts are coming through
- Various cases discussed
- LGPS data has recently been updated for the website and members advised on where to find it.
- CM to prepare Pensions Update on Fixed Protection 2016 (FP16) and Individual Protection 2016 (IP16) to be placed on the ALACE website before the start of the new financial year.
- £95K cap – proposal for a seminar in the future. Possible Summer date(s) proposed – TBC  
CM to discuss with Dave Simson from Hymans Robertson and Steve Leonard from Close
- CM to discuss with Steve Leonard at Close the possibility of being able to offer members the opportunity to arrange seminars, for their senior staff now affected by the new pension rules in respect of the Annual Allowance and the Lifetime Allowance at a reduced rate, on financial planning and investment issues wealth management issues, provided more of their eligible senior staff became members of ALACE.

## **Richard Penn**

- Cases discussed

## **Roger Morris**

- Cases discussed

## **John Schultz**

- No cases to report

## **6. Pay Claim**

Agreed to accept current offer – letter to be drafted and sent to Sarah Messenger (AD)

## **7. Reforms to Public Sector Exit Payments**

John Schultz presented a written report on the progress of the Enterprise Bill (which took forward the government's proposals on a £95k cap on exit packages in England) and on the government's latest proposals to limit exit payments even further. The report included a possible outline of ALACE's response to the latter.

The ALACE Council resolved:

- (a) to endorse the suggestions in the report as the basis of a response, subject to the inclusion of suggestions made at the meeting

(b) to explore a coordinated response with other trade unions to both the provisions in the Enterprise Bill and the further proposals out for consultation (JS to lead)

(c) to seek Counsel's Opinion, and try to obtain contributions from the GMB and UNISON – RM to follow through

(d) to consult ALACE Council members on the final draft

(e) to authorise the Honorary Secretary to sign off the final response.

## **8. The Recovery of Public Sector Exit Payments: ALACE Response to Consultation on Draft Regulations**

John Schultz presented a written report on the response from ALACE to the consultation on the draft regulations, which had been sent since the last ALACE Council meeting.

**The ALACE Council resolved to note the response.**

## **9. Recruitment Drive**

There had been some discussion about holding a recruitment drive by targeting all Chief Executives to encourage those who were not members to join. It was further agreed that CEs who were in membership could also be targeted with a view to seeking their assistance in recruiting their Directors to ALACE. This project had not yet commenced but the Council felt that it was a worthwhile approach to be adopted.

**Action: Honorary Officers**

## **10. Succession Planning**

- Becoming more urgent that support for Cheryl is put in place. Richard P to speak to a potential person who may be suitable to take on board.

## **11. New Disciplinary Procedures**

Peter Bounds submitted a report on discussions with the Employers. Agreement had been reached on all elements of a new agreement, except the question whether a CE would have the right to make representations to the new statutory Independent Panel. The Employers felt that CEs already had sufficient opportunities to speak in support of their position, and the IP should receive written representations only. PB had taken the view that it was completely unacceptable that the opportunity a CE had to access the remaining statutory protection in whatever way s/he considered most appropriate should not be constrained by the new Conditions of Service provisions. The Council endorsed this approach.

It is hoped that the new agreement will be in force by the end of April, but it was agreed that members' attention should be drawn to issues relating to membership of the Independent Panel before councils annual meetings are convened.

It is expected that the new provisions, when agreed, can be approved by the two sides of the JNC without the need for a meeting.

## **12. Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill :**

John Schultz presented a written report on the response from ALACE to the consultation on the Welsh government's Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, which had been sent since the last ALACE Council meeting. Alison Ward of Torfaen Council (the Chair of SOLACE Wales) had been consulted.

The ALACE Council resolved to note the response.

## **13. Website**

John Schultz presented an oral report on the website. He noted that a significant proportion of the membership had required help with their logins, and invited any feedback from ALACE Council members and consultants.

## **14. AOB**

- New members will be charged for 2 years upfront from now on – ie £640.

6 month rule still stands for qualifying for any personal support other than pensions. Pensions advice will be given before 6 months as previously but CM to do an analysis for the next Council meeting of costs per member helped to see if a cost cap should be introduced.

## **15. Next meeting**

AGM to be held during LGA Conference, Bournemouth July 5-7 – date & venue TBC