

Summary of the 366th meeting of the Acas Council on Thursday 23rd July 2015 in rooms 3 & 4, Congress House, Great Russell street, London, WC1B 3LS.

Council members present:

Brendan Barber
 Linda Dickens
 Jane McNeill
 Michael Gooddie
 Vikki Hawes
 Neil Carberry
 Paul Butler
 Paul Nowak
 John Hannett
 Paul Willman (Video Conference)

Agenda Item	Outcome
Apologies and introductions	<p>Apologies were received from Council members Mary Bousted and Sally Hunt.</p> <p>Paul Nowak was thanked for hosting the Acas Council, as Euston Tower continued to be unavailable.</p>
Minutes of the 365th Council meeting	<p>The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and agreed. Council also agreed to continue publishing meeting summaries on the Acas website.</p>
Matters arising from the minutes	<p>Council noted that all ongoing actions from previous meetings were complete.</p>
Chief Executive's report	<p>The Acas Chief Executive presented her standing report on operational performance and internal matters.</p> <p>Council welcomed the publication of Acas' Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15 on the 22nd July and welcomed the interactive aspects of the report. Council were informed of the positive response to the publication of the first Early Conciliation (EC) Evaluation and the first year statistical report on EC.</p>
Developing perceptions of Acas	<p>Council received a presentation on the positive findings from a study on perceptions Acas amongst users and non-users of its services.</p> <p>Council asked officials to consider</p>

	<p>recommendations to improve understanding of Acas' role and to report back at a future Council meeting.</p>
<p>Delivering Strategic Aim Three of the Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Council noted work achieved in regards to Strategic Aim 3 (Acas aims to lead debates on employment issues using insight from its own experience and wider research). Council agreed that the breakfast events, such as the one held in 2014 on Early Conciliation were successful and welcomed plans for further events.</p>
<p>Developing Acas and next Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Council discussed developing its next Strategic plan and were updated on ongoing work to develop Acas' capabilities to support effective delivery of both the current and next strategic plan.</p>
<p>Strategic Review Day</p>	<p>Council members considered and agreed a draft agenda for the annual Strategic Review Day. Council agreed that the day provided an ideal opportunity for in-depth consideration of its strategic plan for 2016-20.</p>
<p>Chief Conciliator's brief</p>	<p>The Chief Conciliator gave an oral update to Council on collective disputes and Acas involvement.</p>
<p>Guidance: Conducting Investigations</p>	<p>Council noted a draft plan for new Acas guidance on the subject of 'conducting investigations'. Council agreed to form a subgroup to support production of the guidance.</p>
<p>Balanced Scorecard and Strategic Risk Register - Quarter 1 2015/16</p>	<p>Council noted positive performance across all Acas operational services. Council welcomed the upcoming publication of several guidance documents, including several publications relating to equality.</p> <p>The Risk Register was noted by Council.</p>
<p>Minutes of the July 2015 Audit Committee meeting</p>	<p>Council noted the minutes of the July Audit Committee.</p>

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Before the formal Council meeting officials briefed Council on the Trade Union Bill and the findings from the Early Conciliation Evaluation, published on 7th July 2015.