

Summary of the 375th meeting of the Acas Council on Thursday 26th January 2017 in room 6, 23rd Floor Euston Tower, 286 Euston Road, London NW1 3JJ

Council members present:

Brendan Barber (Chair)
 Michael Gooddie
 Paul Butler
 Sally Hunt
 Mike Clancy
 Jane McNeill
 Neil Carberry

Agenda Item	Outcome
Apologies and introductions	<p>Apologies were received from Council members Vikki Hawes, Paul Nowak and Paul Willman.</p> <p>Council welcomed news that Anne Sharp, Acas Chief Executive had been recognised in the 2017 New Year Honours list, with a CBE for services to workplace relations.</p>
Minutes of the 374th Council meeting	The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and agreed.
Matters arising from the minutes	All ongoing actions from previous meetings were noted as progressing or completed.
Chief Executive's report	<p>In the Acas Chief Executive's absence, officials presented the standing report on operational performance and internal matters.</p> <p>Council noted that the Government's Industrial Strategy had been announced, it agreed that further consideration of this should be taken at its next meeting.</p>

<p>Acas response to Government consultations</p>	<p>Council discussed and agreed Acas responses to the Green Papers on 'Improving Lives' and 'Corporate Governance'.</p> <p>It was agreed that, as with other government initiated reviews, the guiding principle to Acas' responses should be to draw on its experience of employment relations and its commissioned research, where appropriate.</p>
<p>Chief Conciliator's brief</p>	<p>The Deputy Chief Conciliator gave an oral update to Council on collective disputes and Acas involvement.</p>
<p>Transforming Acas Advice Services</p>	<p>Council received a presentation on recent initiatives and trials to support the transformation of the Acas Helpline. Council welcomed the positive results and the continued focus on meeting customer needs.</p>
<p>Guidance Plan</p>	<p>Council noted plans for guidance in 2017/18 and welcomed initiatives to ensure guidance was available via a range of digital channels.</p>
<p>Strategic Planning</p>	<p>Council welcomed an updated grid to support 2017/18 business planning, which reflected detailed consideration of priorities at Council's Strategic Review day.</p>
<p>Quarter Three Balanced Scorecard and Strategic Risk Register</p>	<p>Council noted the quarter three Balanced Scorecard and welcomed continued positive performance for the majority of metrics.</p> <p>The risk register was also noted.</p>

Minutes from the November 2016 Audit Committee	The minutes of the November 2016 Audit Committee meeting were noted by Council.
AOB	No further business was discussed.