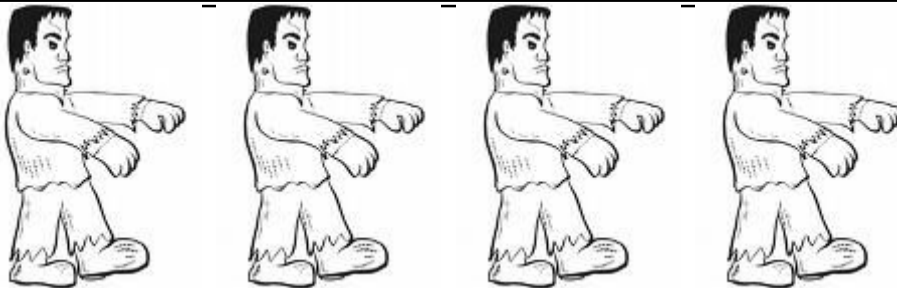


UNITY



Devon County Branch
September 2008



IT'S ALIVE!!!! PROJECT STRATCOM LIVES!!!!

Just when you thought it was safe to.....it's back and in its third phase - but whatever happened Project Stratcom Phase 2?

Stratcom is the authority's new model for school support services – meetings and consultations with staff members were conducted in the early part of this year resulting in a bit of a rethink.

The Council's Executive Committee in February 2008 confirmed the services to be included in 'the entity' with a full options appraisal of the three most likely viable 'vehicles'.

- A new Local Authority owned company
- A Joint Venture Partnership with the Local Authority as the minority shareholder
- A Joint Venture Partnership with the local authority as the majority shareholder

The services being looked at for inclusion are;

- Devon Discovery
 - Devon Music Service and Schools library Service including Devon Learning Resources
 - Devon Education Services
 - Devon Governor Services
 - Education Psychology Service
 - Education Welfare Service
 - English As an Additional Language Service
 - Inclusion Reintegration and Education other than at school service
 - Support and Advisory Teacher Service
- Traveller and gypsy Education

(Continued on next page)

STRATCOM LIVES (Continued)

UNISON is seeking your assistance so that we can help you. If you are in any of these affected services then we want to hear from you. UNISON needs stewards or workplace representatives to help support staff throughout the process.

Full training will be available and you will have the support and guidance of senior UNISON stewards.

It seems as if the consultation process will start at some point in the autumn with final recommendations being made in Spring 2009 – as you can see, the timescales are tight.

UNISON will be fully involved in the consultation process and will, of course, be looking to fully protect its member's interests,

To find out more about becoming a UNISON steward or work place representative, then contact the Branch Office on 01392 382530 or email branchsec@devoncountyunison.org

UNISON will keep you fully informed of Stratcom's progress as the weeks and months progress and will ensure that it attends all relevant meetings with staff and stakeholders.



THE WAY FORWARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(Update on Local Government Pay From UNISON Website)

(01/09/08) Trade unions and local government employers in England, Northern Ireland and Wales have confirmed their aim to resolve the current dispute over pay "as soon as possible".

In a joint statement issued today to all council chief executives, they reaffirmed that all parties were committed to negotiations that aimed to secure an employment package "which is fit for the future, with positive industrial relations, high quality and efficient local services".

And they pledged to work together "to identify ways of using general efficiency savings to improve the pay and conditions of the local government workforce".

The statement has been signed by all the NJC joint secretaries. It provides the framework for further discussions and holds out hopes that a revised national agreement will have been endorsed by both sides and consulted on by the end of this year.

"The revised national agreement will include core conditions of service that bear comparison with conditions elsewhere in the public sector," it says.

Negotiations will be informed by data on the pay bill, workforce composition, earnings and conditions of service.

You can read the full statement at: <http://www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/LG8901.pdf>

ACS Business Resources - Your Union Needs You NOW

ACS support staff including finance are just embarking on their modernisation. The title of the project is Business Resources Review (Different Name Same Outcome)

UNISON has been invited to attend the Project meetings, and we expect the documents to officially start the formal consultation period within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Unlike the other departments within Adult Services Business Resources have no Steward representation?

We are urgently seeking at least one member from each location to come forward and become a Steward.

We need your expertise to help us!

For more information contact:

Pauline Roberts A&CS Convenor on 07816161099

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW PARTY!

To thank our members for the hard work they have put in over the past few weeks Devon County UNISON will be hosting a "Rocky Horror Picture Show Party" at the Coaver Club on Friday 3 October. (7:30PM - Midnight)

The party will feature a screening of the film (**full participation is encouraged!**), a disco and food. Drinks will be available at a reasonable cost from the Coaver Club Bar.

This party will be free to members (who may bring 1 guest), however due to licensing and space limitations this event is strictly RSVP by 19 Sept. 2008.

Coaches/car shares may be arranged from certain areas if there is sufficient demand

So dress up in your best stockings and join us!

If you wish to attend please return the coupon below to: UNISON, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1TE, or email branchoffice@devoncountyunison.org.uk. If you have any questions please phone 01392 382530.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW PARTY

Members Name: _____

Guests Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

OVER 18's ONLY PLEASE!

GREEN TRAVEL @ COUNTY HALL

DCC will be introducing a 2nd “No Car Day” at county hall on 30 Sept. 08.
This 2nd day will not be compulsory for people who are unable to work from home.

Management also intends to introduce a charging scheme in April 2009. Staff will have to get a prepaid card, and the cards will be charged various rates depending grade and banding structure, however

Despite UNISON’s position that any plan should be the same for all staff working at County Hall the PCT will not be charged until July next year and will only ask their staff to volunteer for the 2nd non car day.

Negotiations are ongoing.

IMPORTANT

If there have been any changes to the details we have on file for you (e.g. name, address, workplace, job, phone number or email) Please notify us of the changes immediately by phoning: 01392 382530, Emailing: branchoffice@devoncountyunion.org.uk or returning this form to: UNISON, Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QW

HOME DETAILS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ **Post Code:** _____

Telephone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email: _____

WORKPLACE DETAILS

Job Title: _____ **Workplace:** _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Work Email: _____

The views expressed in UNITY are those of the contributors and not necessarily the views of UNISON