

Press Cutting	
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## Association ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU HELP YOUR MEMBERS *December 2005 Issue...* #43 *manager* www.associationmanager.co.uk

### Membership bodies near landmark agreement



**Kiddon: initiative a first for UK industry**

▶ The British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF) and the Amicus graphical, paper, and media (GPM) sector group have reached a basis of agreement on a new partnership agreement and joint code of practice for the industry.



**Burke: agreement will benefit our members**

The 72-page draft document – a conclusion to the latest stage in the Partnership at Work joint initiative started in November 2003 – addresses 12 key objectives that were identified as common to employers and employees in an extensive survey of both organisations' memberships. Over 2,000 employers and 33,000 employees were canvassed and the survey was supported by 23 focus groups held around the country.

The resulting objectives embrace issues such as increasing dialogue between employers, employees, and their union, improving productivity and profitability, reducing excessive overtime working, assisting employees to adapt to change, and enabling effective recruitment and development of employees.

The draft includes new provisions covering issues such as flexible working patterns, learning and skills, working time, privacy at work, voluntary recognition procedures, partnerships

in the workplace, and trade union facilities.

In addition, there will be an improved National Sick Pay Scheme, guidelines on the use of agency and temporary workers and a model agreement on the forthcoming Information and Consultation Directive.

The draft document will now go through a consultation process involving the members of both organisations before returning to the respective governing councils for a final approval stage.

Amicus GPM sector has yet to finalise arrangements to consult with its National Sector Committee, and will ballot its members working under the agreement.

Announcing the development, BPIF president Ken Iddon said: "This initiative is a first for UK industry and is a significant step towards enhancing the future profitability of print.

"It takes a quantum leap in building a progressive working relationship between companies and their employees and union representatives. It has been commended by the Government, and offers our industry the potential to achieve a substantial competitive advantage relative to other European printing industries."

Speaking for Amicus, assistant general secretary Tony Burke said: "The National Agreement was in need of being modernised for the 21st century. I believe we have achieved an agreement that will benefit our members working in the printing industry and will provide stability for years to come.

"It will help develop and support good industrial relations and best practice at company level. Employers and our chapels will need to prepare for the new agreement, which reflects the modern technology-based industry we work in."

### Wraps come off outsourced benefits package

▶ A new outsourced benefits package for membership organisations has been launched by LogBuy.

The company offers a standard member benefits package, having negotiated rates with suppliers including Shell, Europcar, Business Post, and Apple Store.

The company provides a link to their website in the style of the membership organisation's own site so that members get the impression that the benefits have been provided specifically for them.

Visit [www.memberbenefits.co.uk](http://www.memberbenefits.co.uk) for more information.

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