

Telecommuting Policies- Roleplay Meeting

Try to agree on a future company policy on working from home, including topics like:

Possible working from home policies to discuss

- Allow staff to move far away and still keep working from home in exactly the same role?
- Alternate days in the office so that not too many people come in all at once?
- Close some offices due to many people working from home?
- Different dress codes for particular situations (in the office, meeting customers, etc)?
- Different policies depending on the level of coronavirus (or future pandemics and other natural emergencies)?
- Different policies for different departments/ divisions/ branches/ sections?
- Different policies for different roles (managers and subordinates, IT staff, sales staff, etc)?
- Different policies for parents/ carers?
- Have days when everyone comes into the office to help with team bonding/ communication?
- How many days in the office (on average)?
- How many days working from home (on average)?
- Introduce hot desking (to cut down on unused office space when people work from home)?
- Move to a smaller office (due to many people working from home)?
- Move to an office in a cheaper area (allowing people who live near the original office to telecommute)?
- Move to more but smaller offices nearer to where people live?
- Pay for equipment, supplies, etc to make working from home easier/ more pleasant/ more productive?
- Pay for use of shared office spaces nearer the employees' homes?
- Stop paying travel costs for commuting?
- Upgrade the central IT infrastructure?

Other issues to discuss

- Potential (short-term) costs/ difficulties of the changes
- Probable (longer-term) benefits/ savings of the changes
- Decision making process before any changes (consulting with staff/ unions, etc)
- Timeline for the changes

Ask about any which you don't understand, couldn't agree on, etc, discussing them as a class each time.

Change partner. Choose three topics above and roleplay a whole meeting on telecommuting policies including those three topics, from small talk etc at the beginning to saying goodbye at the end.