

Lancashire County Council

Lancaster Three Tier Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th December, 2013 at 6.15 pm at the Committee Room B, Town Hall, Lancaster

Present:

County Councillor Janice Hanson (Chair)
Councillor Jon Barry
Councillor Jonathan Dixon
Councillor Paul Gardner
Councillor Margaret Pattison
Councillor Robert Redfern
Councillor Roger Sherlock
Councillor David Whitaker
County Councillor Ken Brown
County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles
County Councillor Darren Clifford
County Councillor Gina Dowding
County Councillor Tony Jones
County Councillor Niki Penney
County Councillor Chris Henig
Michael Helm

1. Appointment of Chair

County Councillor Janice Hanson was appointed as Chair of the Forum for the following 12 months.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chair

Councillor Paul Gardner was appointed as Deputy Chair of the Forum for the following 12 months.

3. Terms of Reference of the Forum

The membership and Terms of Reference of the Forum were noted.

4. Public Contributions

The Forum heard submissions from two members of the public representing parish councils in support of the extension of the Lune Track, highlighting the advantages it would

bring and the reduction in the danger to cyclists currently experienced at some points on the road.

5. Lancashire County Council Budget

County Councillor David Borrow, Deputy Leader of Lancashire County Council, Dave Ainscough, Head of Finance (Environment), and Steve Freeman, Head of Financial Planning and Research, Lancashire County Council, attended to present to the Forum the County Council's financial strategy 2014/15- 2017/18, including the challenge facing the council and the initial proposals made by the Cabinet for consultation.

The Forum noted the presentation, and made the following comments:

- Support was given for the review of grants, particularly Local member Grants, noting that some aspects of monitoring and administration could be reduced, particularly for grants of small amounts. It was suggested that opportunities for joint administration of grants with the district council should be considered.
- It was noted that, whilst other authorities had implemented schemes to make pay savings such as all staff taking unpaid leave for a number of days, this was not currently a suggestion being pursued by the County Council
- The proposals connected with fostering, the Recommissioning of Mental Health Services and Learning Disability Remodelling Supported Living were highlighted as areas where great care would need to be taken to ensure that there was no detrimental impact on vulnerable service users.

Resolved: That the comments of the Forum be fed back to the County Council's Cabinet as part of the budget development process.

6. Apologies

County Councillor Richard Newman-Thompson, County Councillor Alycia James, Councillor Vicky Price, Councillor Ian Pattison.

7. Note of the last Meeting.

It was noted that the attendance list as presented on the minutes was incorrect, and did not include County Councillors Charles, Dowding, Henig and Penney or Parish Councillor Helm, who were all present at the meeting.

It was agreed that, with the above amendments to the attendance list, the notes of the meeting on 25 September 2013 were a correct record.

8. Action Sheet Update from the Last Meeting.

The Forum noted the Action sheet from the last meeting. It was reported that a positive meeting had taken place between Ellel Parish council and County Council representatives on Ellel footpath No.1.

Members also suggested that the resurfacing work on Westbourne Road would be better targeted at the other end, between Cannon Hill and Willow Lane.

9. 2013/14 Quarter 1 - Environment Directorate Performance Dashboard.

The Forum considered the Quarter 2 Performance Dashboard. It was reported that all works to canal bridges were currently on hold due to issues with British Waterways. Work on Owen Road was delayed whilst the agreement of English Heritage was secured to the materials to be used.

It was reported that information on pot hole repairs would be reported differently in future, using data on potholes reported by the public, rather than those identified through Highways safety Inspections.

10. 2014/15 Environment Directorate draft Commissioning Plan for Lancaster

The Forum noted the position with the development of the Environment Directorate Commissioning Plan for 2014/15. The "Local Priorities response Fund" list of member identified priorities was also considered. The Forum supported the priorities set out in the report.

Resolved: That the Forum recommended the following suggestions be the priorities for the Lancaster Local Priorities Response Fund:

1. Meeting House Lane, Lancaster: Upgrade crossing to Pelican and footway improvements
2. Brunswick Road, Heysham: footway improvements
3. Norton Road, Heysham: Carriageway and footway improvements
4. Bellamy Avenue, Morecambe: footway improvements
5. Westbourne Road, Lancaster: Resurfacing

11. Items raised by members of the Forum.

The following items were considered by the Forum.

12. Enforcement measures regarding furniture displayed on the footways outside shops.

The forum noted the briefing note presented on enforcement measures available in relation to furniture on footways outside shops. A number of local areas where this was considered to be a problem were highlighted, and it was noted that this was a complex issue to enforce.

13. Provision for travellers in Lancaster district.

The forum noted the briefing note on the provision for travellers in the Lancaster district.

14. Themes for future meetings.

Forum members were invited to suggest items for future meetings.

15. Urgent Business.

There was no urgent business.

16. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would be at 6.15 on 10 April 2014 at the Town Hall, Morecambe.

Ian Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston