

Preston 3 Tier Forum

Note of a meeting held on 18 September 2013 at County Hall, Preston.

Present:

County Councillor F De Molfetta (Chair)

County Councillor D Borrow	Councillor D Hammond
County Councillor C Crompton	Councillor T Hart
Councillor N Cartwright	County Councillor J Mein
County Councillor K Ellard	Councillor B Rollo
Parish Councillor P Entwistle	Councillor D Walker

Also in attendance:

Mark Wardale - Environment Directorate, Lancashire County Council
Janet Mulligan – Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council

Apologies and Replacements

County Councillors G Driver, Y Motala, K Sedgewick, G Wilkins, B Winlow and Councillors J Collins and J Iqbal.

Parish Councillor P Entwistle replaced Parish Councillor E Murray for this meeting.

Note of the Meeting held on 14 March 2013

The note of the meeting held on 14 March 2013 was presented and agreed.

Further to the note about Themes for Future Meetings, it was reported that:

- A briefing note about care for the elderly had been circulated to members of the Forum and comments invited.
- School performance figures had not yet been validated; when they were available they would be reported to the District Children's Trust and then to the December meeting of this Forum. At members' request, Jonathan Hewitt would be invited to attend the December meeting.
- The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools had recently approved 30 additional places, for one year only, at Queens Drive Primary School in Fulwood.

Action Sheet of the Meeting held on 14 March 2013

Members received an update on the action taken in response to issues raised at the previous meeting. The following additional information was reported:

Smart ticketing – It was reported that the stored travel rights scheme was to be rolled out across bus operators starting late autumn 2013. It is a smart card scheme whereby money (up to £50) is stored on the card which may then be used to make payment for tickets on any participating bus operator. The scheme would be marketed under the name of NoWStar. The trial with three bus operators was almost complete and had indicated that the scheme could be rolled out amongst other operators, subject to agreement. Scheme documentation had been drawn up and circulated to all commercial bus operators for discussion / agreement. Mark Wardale agreed to find out if the smart card is personalised to protect against loss if stolen or mislaid.

20 mph areas – there was some discussion about the effectiveness of these areas, specifically the adequacy of signage and the ability of the Police to take enforcement action against motorists exceeding 20mph. It was confirmed that a review of these schemes was to be undertaken. There was particular concern about vehicles, including buses, failing to keep to 20mph on Larches estate and a request made that this scheme be reviewed as a priority. Also requested, as a priority, was a review of Lightfoot Lane where it was felt that the signage was unclear. The point was made that local councillors know where the problem areas are in their patch. It was recommended that County Highways Officers and Police work jointly to achieve compliance.

The Guild Wheel – there was concern about the delay in completing the link from the old railway; clarification of the position regarding ongoing negotiations was requested. Andrew Mullaney had compiled a list of actions following a review which had recently been circulated to county councillors and would now be circulated to all city councillors (Mark Wardale to confirm whether it can be passed on to parish councillors). It was suggested that city councillors be asked to respond. Cllr Cartwright (Preston Rural East) suggested that there might be an opportunity in the design of Broughton Bypass to re-route the section of the Guild Wheel in his area, which ran entirely along the A6.

All agreed that the Guild Wheel had been a huge success.

2013-14 Quarter 1 Environment Directorate Performance Dashboard

The Environment Directorate's "dashboard" performance for the first quarter of 2013/14 was presented.

In considering the "dashboard" members of the Forum made the following comments:

Oxheys Bridge – it was requested that traffic cones left stacked on the footpath be removed.

Pothole repairs – there was concern about the number of unrepaired potholes on country lanes, particularly the hazard they present to cyclists, and also the length of time taken to repair potholes that had been identified and marked by highways officers. In response to questions about the accuracy of the repair rate reported on

the 'dashboard' it was explained that the figures presented related only to potholes identified through highway safety inspections. Members were encouraged to report potholes directly and reports from the public were welcomed.

2014/15 Environment Directorate Commissioning Plan for Preston

It was explained that the draft 2014/15 Preston Commissioning Plan was currently being developed for consultation later in the year. Members were encouraged to email suggestions about priorities they would wish to be included in the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan for Environment Directorate services to mark.wardale@lancashire.gov.uk.

The draft Commissioning Plan for 2014/15 would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

The following comments were made:

- That the stretch of the Guild Wheel in Preston Rural East be re-routed from the main A6 highway (possibly to a route which takes the Guild Wheel behind the Marriott Hotel).
- The Forum agreed that a separate category of work to maintain heritage features such as cobbled or concrete road surfaces be identified, which would not be in competition with other schemes.
- The Forum be advised, via email, whether new street lighting schemes were a category of work that would be considered as part of the Commissioning Plan

Unconventional Gas Operations in Lancashire

A briefing note was presented which set out background and general information on shale gas operations including current activity in Lancashire and the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the various regulators. Whilst the note was welcomed, there was a view that it did not provide anything new to enable members to make informed decisions.

The meeting was advised that as Lancashire County Council is the Planning Authority it could not be seen to "take sides" or comment on the process or applications.

It was reported that Preston City Council would be producing a detailed report in the coming months which would be shared with members of the Forum.

There was also a briefing scheduled for 8 October at County Hall to which councillors from both the County and District Councils had been invited. The notes and a copy of the presentations would be made available to the parishes after the event and would also be posted on the county council's website.

CC Crompton asked that it be recorded in the note of this meeting that he took no part in the discussion about this item.

North West Preston Strategic Location Master Plan - update

Members received an update on the NW Preston Strategic Location Master Plan. There was some concern about the lack of detail about infrastructure such as utilities, schools, dental practices etc. It was explained that such detail would come later in the process and that outline planning approval does not allow for such detail.

It was hoped that a report would be received by the Preston City Council Scrutiny Committee on 1 November. There would be a further period of public consultation before the plan is adopted.

Themes for future meetings

Members of the Forum were invited to submit any suggested items for the next Preston 3 Tier Forum to Mark Wardale mark.wardale@lancashire.gov.uk. Any suggestions would need to be cleared with the Chair.

The following suggestions put forward at the meeting:

LCC budget – a short presentation to each Forum by the County Treasurer.

School Performance Figures – as discussed under 'Note of Meeting 14 March 2013' – above.

Developing the Three Tier Forums

It was reported that one of the priorities of the new administration was to review and develop the Three Tier Forums. The Leader of the county council had written to all Lancashire District Leaders inviting views about future arrangements. She had proposed, in particular, that the Forums be held in public. There was no expectation that all Forums would operate in exactly the same way.

Members made the following comments and suggestions:

- Three Tier Forums currently have no decision making powers, unlike the previous Lancashire locals which were considered to be effective. However, the agenda for Lancashire Locals had been far too long, both in terms of number and size of reports, and the duration of the meetings. Also far too many senior officers had been required to attend Lancashire Locals. It was suggested that, going forward, the Forums should be a blend of the previous Lancashire locals and the current Forums.
- In terms of issues for discussion, the three main areas that impact on all three tiers are highways, education and social services.

- There was general agreement that the public should be involved, but careful thought would need to be given to how this would be managed. It was suggested that if a member of the public wished to speak at a meeting they should be required to submit their issues in writing and in advance.

Urgent Business

None

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 2 December 2013 in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher, County Secretary and Solicitor
County Hall
Preston