

Pendle Three Tier Forum

Note of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th September, 2013 at 6.30 pm in Wilson Room, Town Hall, Nelson

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Mohammed Iqbal

Forum Members

County Councillor Azhar Ali
County Councillor Christian Wakeford
County Councillor David Whipp
Councillor Ken Hartley
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Bob Allen

Also in attendance

Harry Ballantyne, LCC Localities Officer
Janet Mulligan, LCC Democratic Services

1. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Appointment of Chair

County Councillor M Iqbal was appointed as Chair of the Pendle 3 Tier Forum for this meeting

Appointment of Deputy Chair

Councillor K Hartley was appointed as Deputy Chair of the Pendle 3 Tier Forum for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Beckett and T Cooney.

3. Note of the meeting held on 8 April 2013

Subject to a correction relating to Councillor G Roach's attendance (he had been shown as County Councillor K Roach), the note of the meeting held on 8 April 2013 was presented and accepted as a true and correct record.

Harry Ballantyne, Localities Officer, updated the Forum about matters which had previously been suggested for this meeting:

Healthwatch – efforts had continued to encourage a representative from Healthwatch to attend the Forum. It was agreed, however, that members had received sufficient information about Healthwatch via other channels and there was now no need for this matter to be presented to the Forum

Information about pothole complaints – the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport would shortly be signing off a report following which a briefing note would be circulated to the Forum.

The impact of the closure of the HWRC at Colne – a cabinet working group had been established to look at HWRC provision. It was expected to report back by 31 December 2013. The Chair encouraged county councillors to contact the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Waste if they wished to be part of the working group.

4. Action sheet update from last meeting

Members received an update on the action taken in response to issues raised at previous meeting held on 8 April 2013.

The following points were raised:

Salterforth Lane – It was suggested that the surface had been neglected to the extent that it was now dangerous. The cost of repair work had previously been estimated as £40-£50k, however it was now proposed that repairs be carried out to improve the surface to make it suitable for use by pedestrians, horse riders etc, with vehicular access blocked, which could be achieved at a cost of approximately £16k. It was suggested that the relevant landowner who had objected to a DMMO be approached and persuaded to accept this proposal. It was agreed that Alan Capstick be asked to take this forward.

Adopted highways shown on MARIO – It was accepted that some inaccuracies were inevitable and, as such, staff in the customer contact centre should be sensitive to this possibility in their response to enquiries from the public. An update on work currently underway to fill in the gaps regarding the adoption status of highways was requested by the Forum.

Petition re Priority Gritting Routes – As the roads referred to in the petition did not meet the criteria to be added to the list of priority gritting routes, the head teacher of Barnoldswick CE Primary School had been offered grit at cost price, however the offer had been declined. It was noted that Barnoldswick CE primary school would be relocating in March 2014. It was reported that the County Council's Scrutiny Committee would be considering winter maintenance as part of its work plan.

Potholes – There was particular concern about the poor state of:

- **Waterside Road, Colne** - Harry Ballantyne agreed to investigate and email Councillor Smith with an update about the current position.
- **Ghyll Lane, Barnoldswick** – it was acknowledged that this road was not well used by traffic, however it led to the cemetery and the potholes impacted on hearses, which was considered to be unacceptable. The surface was reported as so poor that it was possible it could break up entirely over the winter. It was suggested that

it should be re-classified as a footway in order to achieve an appropriate priority status.

5. 2013/14 Quarter 1 Environment Directorate Performance Dashboard

The Forum noted the "dashboard" performance report. The following issues were raised:

Pothole Repair – The statistics presented related to potholes identified following highway safety inspections. A public enquiry management system was being developed in respect of repair rates following reports from the public.

M65 to Yorkshire Corridor Study – Harry Ballantyne reported that the Cabinet member for Highways and Transport would shortly be signing off a report following the Study which would be incorporated into the East Lancashire Transport Master Plan. The Forum was keen to see work progress on the feasibility of a Colne By-Pass and major works to parts of the M65 including the possibility of declassifying the M65 from junction 12 and additional on and off slip roads to help ease congestion in the area.

Re-allocation of work by the Cabinet Member – members felt strongly that it was wrong for work to be re-allocated in the run up to an election resulting in previously agreed work not then being carried out. It was considered that once agreed, decisions should stand and that the Scrutiny Committee could be asked to look at the relevant policy in this regard.

Highway contractors – it was suggested that contractors appeared to be deciding themselves on the order of work and that highways engineers had little control. The Chair requested that a report to clarify the process, including rationale for the timing of works, be provided to the Forum.

6. 2014/15 Environment Directorate Commissioning Plan for Pendle

It was explained that the draft 2014/15 Pendle Commissioning Plan was currently being developed for consultation later in the year. The 3 Tier Forum meeting gave members the opportunity to put forward priorities to ensure that going forward the resources available for their district were used as effectively as possible.

The Chair noted that a number of members were absent and he suggested that a separate meeting of just members of the Pendle Three Tier Forum be convened to consider priorities. The deadline for suggestions to be received by the Commissioning Team was 11 October.

Suggestions for priorities to be included in the Commissioning Plan made at the meeting:

- Maintenance of existing infrastructure - carriageways, footways and street lighting
- Support for the re-opening of the Colne to Skipton rail link (GRIP 3)
- Cycle routes – support to encourage safe cycling
- Urban ginnels - It appeared that neither the district nor the county council were taking responsibility for the maintenance of ginnels and alleyways.

- Public Rights of Way and countryside access, which were important for tourism
- Extension of the M65
- Colne Bypass (subject to decision by Pendle Borough Council)
- Concessionary bus services on rural routes
- Quality checks on work carried out by highways contractors
- Road safety measures, specifically on Colne Road, which was sometimes used as a 'rat run' by speeding vehicles (although it has a low accident threshold), Birtwistle Avenue, Vernon Street and Coulton Street
- Bus transport – just one company provides services on the route from Rawtenstall to Manchester
- Flooding – clearing of culverts etc
- Winter gritting
- Traffic management – specifically Salterforth Lane and Ghyll Lane (previously referred to)

It was agreed that Harry Ballantyne would report the above suggestions to the Commissioning Team.

7. Items raised by members of the Forum

Health and Education

It was considered important to ensure that the Pendle area received its fair share of funding and provision of education and health services. There was a high premature death rate and relatively poor uptake of preventative medicine in Pendle. There should be a programme to promote health checks and to consider how best to raise local take-up statistics to bring them more in line with national statistics. It was suggested that the Forum receive information, perhaps in a 'dashboard' style report of key facts, figures and decisions relating to health and education.

There was particular concern about the Care Navigation Service; it was felt that it was not working as it should. The Chair reported that a joint Care Complaints Task Group between Pendle Borough Council and Lancashire County Council had been established and was due to report in the next two weeks.

The Chair suggested that a member of the Public Health team be invited to the next meeting of the Forum.

8. Themes for Future Meetings

Members of the Forum were asked to submit items for the next Pendle 3 Tier Forum to Harry Ballantyne harry.ballantyne@lancashire.gov.uk. Any suggestions would need to be cleared with the Chair.

The following suggestions were put forward at the meeting:

- **LCC budget** – a short presentation to each Forum by the Deputy Leader of the County Council
- **Public Health** – as discussed in the previous item.

9. Urgent Business

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:

- A modified version of the model used for the former Lancashire Locals be adopted
- The Three Tier Forums should have decision making powers
- That the membership comprise six county councillors, six district councillors and three parish/town councillors
- That the Three Tier Forums should have a devolved budget
- That meetings of the Forum be held every eight weeks
- The meetings of the Forum be held in public.

10. Date of Next Forum

It was noted that the next meeting of the Pendle 3 Tier Forum had been scheduled for 10 December 2013 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Nelson Town Hall. A request was made to change the date, ensuring there was no clash with Pendle Borough Council meetings, and to hold the meeting in Barnoldswick.

Ian Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston