

Lancashire County Council

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd December, 2013 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

County Councillors

A Atkinson	M Green
A Barnes	S Holgate
Mrs S Charles	Mrs L Oades
D Clifford	J Oakes
B Dawson	D O'Toole
G Driver	R Shewan

1. Apologies

None

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2013

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair

4. Reports for decision by Cabinet

The Committee considered the following reports to be presented for decision by the Cabinet on 5 December 2013.

a. External Audit Lancashire County Council and Lancashire County Pension Fund - Annual Audit Letter 2012/13

Karen Murray, Lead External Auditor, attended to present the Annual Audit Letter for the County Council and the Lancashire County Pension Fund. The committee noted the report and confirmed the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

b. **Preston City Centre**

The Committee received a report outlining a proposal to transfer the ownership of Preston Bus Station and Multi Storey Car Park ("Bus Station and MSCP") from Preston City Council to Lancashire County Council; and for the County Council to enter into a collaboration agreement with Preston City Council to progress the regeneration and development of Preston City Centre.

In considering the report, the committee noted that £8.3m had been earmarked in the Capital Programme for works to the Bus Station. It was confirmed that a complete structural survey would need to be undertaken, and this would inform future decisions. It was also confirmed that opportunities for funding from external sources would be actively pursued.

The Committee confirmed the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

c. **Proposal to Introduce 0300 Telephone Numbers for Lancashire County Council Services**

The Committee considered a report which set out a proposal to replace the County Council's series of 0845 telephone numbers with 0300 telephone numbers by 31 March 2014.

The benefits of 0300 numbers were set out, chiefly in the reduced costs to callers, and particularly that 0300 numbers, unlike 0845 numbers, were generally include in mobile phone packages, meaning reduced, or in some cases, free calls.

It was agreed that a key challenge would be in communicating the change, and it was suggested that consideration be given to using the Council Tax mailings as a way of doing this.

The Committee confirmed the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

d. **Update on the County Council's Financial Strategy 2014/15 - 2017/18**

A report was presented providing an update on the Council's financial strategy for 2014/15 to 2017/18, following on from previous reports to Cabinet. /15.

This report provided an update on progress in bridging the savings gap in 2014/15 and set out the next steps in the budget setting process, highlighting the areas of risk remaining within the budget.

The Committee confirmed the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

e. Treasury Management Indicators for Interest Rate Exposure

The Committee received a report on proposal to amend the treasury management indicator which sets the upper limits on the Council's level of exposure to both fixed and variable interest rates.

It was reported that the proposed changes will enable the indicator to support the County Treasurer in her assessment of the County Council's financial health (including exposure to financial risk) and enable a greater level of assurance in relation to treasury management activity.

The Committee confirmed the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

f. Lancashire Fairness Commission Feasibility Study

The Committee were presented with a report on proposals for a feasibility study to establish a Lancashire Fairness Commission. IN presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for health and Wellbeing advised that he would be proposing to Cabinet that the feasibility Study be undertaken by a joint officer / member working group, rather than the officer group proposed in the report recommendations.

The Committee gave support to the Cabinet member's intended amendment, but otherwise confirmed the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the amended recommendation to create an officer / member working group as proposed by the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing be supported, and that otherwise, the recommendation presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

5. Forthcoming Individual Cabinet Member Key Decisions

The Committee considered the following key decisions due to be taken by individual cabinet Members

a. **Sexual Health Services Cross Charging Tariff and Requirements**

The Committee received a report on the cross charging criteria to ensure that Lancashire County Council was responsible for invoices to only Lancashire residents who have attended a sexual health service outside Lancashire.

It was noted that the report ensured that Lancashire was in line with Department of Health guidelines on the recovery of costs across boundaries.

The Committee confirmed the recommendation without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendation to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

b. **Provision of Changing Places Facilities**

The Committee considered a report on a proposal to provide Changing Places facilities at locations across Lancashire. It was noted that three sites were being proposed, with a further feasibility study to agree the fourth between two options.

In discussing the report, the Committee asked that information on existing sites be circulated. It was also suggested that signposting to existing and new facilities could be enhanced.

The Committee confirmed the recommendations without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

c. **Decision on the Authority's Published Proposal to formally expand St. Leonard's Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School, Padiham**

A report was presented on a proposal to to permanently expand Padiham St Leonard's Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. It was noted that a full consultation had been undertaken, and that the proposals were well supported. The Committee confirmed the recommendations without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

d. **Decision on the Authority's Published Proposal to formally expand St. Andrew's Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School, Oswaldtwistle**

A report was presented on a proposal to to permanently expand Oswaldtwistle St Andrew's Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. It was noted that a full consultation had been undertaken, and that the proposals were well supported. The Committee confirmed the recommendations without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

e. **Preston Muslim Girls High School: Proposal to Expand the School by Adding a Sixth Form**

The Committee considered a report on a proposal to expand Preston Muslim Girls High School by adding a sixth form. It was reported that the proposals were being driven by the school, and that, as the County Council had not identified a need for further sixth form places in the area, no financial contribution was being made by the Council.

The Committee confirmed the recommendations without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

f. **Pennine Reach - Proposed Improvements to Bus Stops**

The Committee received a report on proposed improvements to existing bus stops as part of the Pennine Reach major Transport Scheme. The Committee confirmed the recommendations without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

g. **Proposed Shared Use Cycle Track - A6 Lostock Lane, South Ribble**

The Committee considered a report on a proposal to create a safe cycle route along the A6 Lostock Lane, South Ribble. The Committee confirmed the recommendations without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet Member be confirmed without amendment or modification.

7. Urgent Business

There was no Urgent Business.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 11am on Wednesday 11 December 2013 at the County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th December, 2013 at 11.30 am in The Diamond Jubilee Room (Formerly Cabinet Room 'B') - County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

County Councillors

A Atkinson	Mrs L Oades
A Barnes	J Oakes
D Clifford	D O'Toole
B Dawson	R Shewan
G Driver	D Westley
M Green	G Wilkins
S Holgate	

6. Apologies

None

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

There were no interests declared.

8. Reports for decision by Cabinet

The Committee considered the following report to be presented for decision by the Cabinet on 11 December 2013.

a. One Connect Limited

Gill Kilpatrick, County Treasurer, and Eddie Sutton, Assistant Chief Executive, presented a report setting out details of a number of financial and performance issues regarding One Connect Ltd, the County Council's joint venture with BT. It was noted that these issues had previously been considered by Cabinet and various Committees of the Council, and were being drawn together in this report.

The main issues in the report were:

- Payments in excess of £600,000 for the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13 to the former Chief Executive of One Connect Ltd which had been

considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on 30 September 2013;

- The lack of appropriate policies, governance structures, information asset registers, training and audit functions in relation to information governance which had resulted in the Chief Internal Auditor providing 'nil' assurance in relation to information governance for the last two years and which has resulted in the County Secretary and Solicitor being appointed as the County Council's Senior Information Risk Officer;
- A shortfall of £6.6m in the achievement of procurement savings for the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14 resulting in an increase in the level of other savings required to address this in 2014/15;
- A review of Telecare which found that the proposal from One Connect Ltd would have cost the County Council £1.4m more than the tender submitted by Tunstall due to One Connect Ltd adding mark ups to the tendered prices, charging for marketing costs already included as part of the tender price submitted by Tunstall and inflation charges not included in the tender documentation. On 25 November 2013, the BT President Global Government issued a report setting out why BT believed that the report considered by the Leader of the County Council on 7 November 2013 in relation to the Telecare contract was inaccurate and flawed. On 29 November 2013, the County Council's Interim Chief Executive responded refuting the conclusions of the BT report;
- As part of BT's best and final offer accepted by Cabinet in October 2010, BT confirmed that an experienced and named team had been put forward but, since August 2013, the majority had left, or were about to leave, the employment of the County Council and One Connect Ltd. These included the Chief Executive Officer; Chief Operating Officer; Director of People, Development and Corporate Services; Director of Procurement; Director of Performance and Business Development; Director of HR, Payroll and Pensions; and the Director of Revenues and Benefits.

The committee considered a number of issues in connection with the report. It was agreed that a copy of the Interim Chief Executive's response to the BT report on Telecare would be made available to members as appropriate.

An amendment to the recommendation to Cabinet was proposed and seconded that "There should be an independent review that would report to Cabinet". On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

It was therefore agreed to confirm the recommendations to Cabinet without modification or amendment.

Resolved: That the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet be confirmed without amendment or modification.

9. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 2pm on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at the County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston