

## Lancashire County Council

### Executive Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st January, 2014 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston**

#### **Present:**

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

#### **County Councillors**

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

#### **1. Apologies**

None.

#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests**

There were no interests declared.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2014**

**Resolved** : That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2014 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 24 January.

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

The Committee received an update report on proposals to replace existing 0845 telephone numbers with 0300 numbers by 31 March 2014. It was proposed that there would be a single implementation date of 27 March 2014, when all new 0300 numbers would be introduced. It was confirmed that the existing 0845 numbers would continue to operate alongside the new number to ensure that no

one trying to contact the council using the old number would be unable to do so, and that this would be at no cost to the council.

A communication strategy had been developed, at a cost of £6,000. The principle method of communication would be through messages on the telephony system itself. Existing materials and displays will be updated on a phased basis. It was agreed that, as part of the implementation, consideration would be given to ensuring that there were no excessive or confusing automated menus for people ringing in to negotiate.

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. **Voluntary Redundancy**

The Committee received a report setting out the proposed voluntary redundancy (VR) arrangements for the period up until 2018. The Committee noted the calculations and financial assessment set out in the report. It was reported that feedback from staff conferences was that staff wanted to be fully informed about the scale of the issues facing the authority and the likely impact, and that it was therefore considered appropriate and important to be open about the VR proposals and numbers.

The proposal outlined was that the current VR arrangement should remain in place until 31 March 2014. Following that the following terms would apply:

- 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, a multiplier of 1.6
- 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, a multiplier of 1.4
- 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018, statutory minimum, no multiplier and a maximum of £450 per week for each week used in the calculation.

It was confirmed that, as long as there were sufficient people taking voluntary redundancy, there would be no compulsory redundancies within the period to March 2016. The commitment to supporting staff both staying with and leaving the authority was set out, and welcomed by the committee. The importance of maintaining and developing the right skills for the authority in the future was emphasised. 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.

#### 5. **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 2pm on Tuesday 4 February 2014 at the County Hall, Preston.

## **7. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved:** That the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972 as set out in the reports. It was considered that in all the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **8. One Connect Limited**

(Exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information).

The meeting was adjourned for a short period to allow consideration of the report. On the resumption of the meeting, the Committee considered a report setting out recent developments in relation to One Connect Limited.

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

## **9. Recommendations of the Cabinet Working Group on Household Waste Recycling Centres**

(Exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information).

The committee considered a report setting out the recommendations of the Cabinet Working Group on Household Waste Recycling Centres.

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

I M Fisher  
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall  
Preston