

## Appendix 'E'

### Lancashire County Council budget consultation 2014/15 - Lancashire 50Plus Assembly

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Extract from minutes of the AGM held 3.12.13

#### **Item: Financial Strategy: CC Borrow, Deputy Leader and Gill Kilpatrick, County Treasurer LCC.**

CC Borrow outlined how the County Treasurer and himself were attending meeting across the county to explain the position in terms of the county councils financial strategy and the process through which groups will be consulted in terms of how possible savings can be made / achieved.

CC Borrow outlined how the normal process is for the budget to be agreed in February and implemented in April but the process is being brought forward to allow enough time to consult affected partners and community groups.

The County Council faces £300 million in savings over the next three financial years up to 2018 which represents 38% of the budget which is in addition to £220 million in the previous 3 years.

He then outlined the current budget proposals and potential areas of savings and asked the members of the Assembly to take up the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

It was agreed that members of the assembly would consult with their local forums and respond to the proposals either through Jason or directly to CC Borrow no later than the end of January 2014.

#### Individual responses from members of the 50Plus Assembly

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The following comments are presented as a member of the Lancashire Over 50s Assembly on the County Council's proposed reductions for the period 2014 to 2018.

Reduction in the number of suppliers of domiciliary care - presumably savings can be made by reducing the number of separate contracts which have to be managed. However what safeguards will be put in place to prevent the formation of cartels in different parts of the County which would be used to control competition on prices?

Telecare - Savings of £4M can apparently be made in the field of Telecare. It is said that the current provision is sub-optimal but there is no indication of the reasons for it being sub-optimal. In order to make this level of saving the intention must be to replace direct domiciliary care with Telecare arrangements. What criteria will be used to move people from domiciliary care to Telecare? This will be the critical issue. There will need to be full consultation on the nature of those criteria.

Learning Disabilities - Supported Living. The projected savings of £12M seem very high but I note that the County Council; is currently embarking on what appears to be a full consultation on this proposal. Can I be assured of this?

Integration of Health and Social Care. There seem to be a confident assertion that savings of £8M can be made over the next 4 years but there is very little detail about the nature of those savings apart from the fact that there will be a need to set up Neighbourhood Care Teams involving of course some additional costs. We need to see much more information as to how these savings are to be achieved - a presentation to the Lancashire Over 50s Assembly on this subject would be helpful.

Full Cost recovery of Lancashire Adult Learning Service - Has the full potential impact of customer resistance been taken into account in quantifying the savings?

Day centre reductions. What progress has so far been made with obtaining access to community facilities to take the place of day centres? Are village halls and church halls being targeted as the obvious choices?

Changes in Social Care Funding. Do the County's proposals reflect the proposed Government changes to the funding of social care e.g. the £72000 cap and exempt accommodation element currently proposed at £12000? Or is it being assumed that the cap will not come into effect until 2018?

The achievability of the winter gritting savings are surely heavily dependent on weather conditions and the proposed cuts in bus shelters are a retrograde step in terms of promoting the use of public transport.

Finally, if the County is actually faced with the £300M level of reductions envisaged in the report drastic measures will be required amongst which, I would suggest, should be a consideration as to whether the time has come for the County area to consider whether it can still afford to continue its status as a two tier authority or whether it would be better to start thinking in terms of a two or three unitary authority structure for Lancashire.

Roger Rymer