

Appendix 'H'

Trade Union Budget Consultation

Note of the Meeting held on Monday, 13th January, 2014 at 1.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Jennifer Mein, Lancashire County Council

Members

County Councillor Geoff Driver CBE, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Bill Winlow, Lancashire County Council

Officers

Jo Turton, Interim Chief Executive (LCC)
George Graham, Deputy County Treasurer (LCC)
Deborah Barrow, Head of Employment Services (One Connect Limited)

Representing the Trade Unions

Elaine Cotterell, UNISON Branch Secretary
Sam Ud-din, National Union of Teachers
Pat Grant, UNISON Regional Officer
Corinne Stott, UNISON
Mac Harrison, NASUWT
Sid Graves, Unite the Union
Liz Laverty, Secondary Headteachers Association
Mr Bob Waring, Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Francesca Sullivan, Unite

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor David Borrow, Deputy Leader, Lancashire County Council, Mr Leslie Ridings, Association of Teachers and Lecturers and Leslie Turner, National Association of Headteachers.

2. The County Council's Budget 2014/15 to 2017/18 (As presented to Cabinet on 9 January 2014)

Welcome and Introductions

The Leader, County Councillor Mein, welcomed the Trade Union representatives and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consult with the Trade Unions on the Cabinet's budget proposals and resolutions for 2014/15 to 2017/18 which were circulated to Trade Union representatives prior to the meeting with their comments invited.

George Graham, Deputy County Treasurer, Lancashire County Council outlined the key points of the budget report and explained that between now and April 2016 that the County

Council budget will reduce to £500 million and that the budget is being set in accordance with meeting that target. This target equates to a £300 million saving, or roughly 40% of the budget.

Comments made by the Trade Union Representatives included the following:

- The Trade Unions welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Budget, and asked that they are consulted on staffing proposals as the County Council changes and reduces in size. The Leader of the County Council confirmed they would continue to consult and communicate with the Trade Unions at the appropriate times moving forward, and a report on Workforce Impact would be shared with the Trade Unions when that is ready.
- The Trade Unions were pleased that that the overall reductions in the County Council workforce had, to this point, been managed with nearly all redundancies being on a voluntary basis, and welcomed that approach continuing in the future.

3. Budget Resolutions of Cabinet Meetings - November 2013, December 2013 and January 2014

The Trade Unions noted the Budget resolutions circulated, and tabled, from November 2013, December 2013 and January 2014.

4. The Schools Budget for 2014/15

George Graham gave a brief outline of the Schools Budget report for 2014/15. General comments were made by the Trade Union representatives regarding the schools budget, it was noted that the Trade Unions were being consulted through the Schools Forum and that the School Forum would meet on 14 January 2014 to agree recommendations regarding the Schools Budget for formal approval by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools .

The Trade Unions commented that they valued a number of the services provided to schools by the County Council, such as Human Resources support and Inclusion Service and hoped that the good service provided will continue in light of the overall reductions to the County Council's budget. It was commented that some Schools could be willing to use some of their own budget to pay for services that they value.

In conclusion, County Councillor Mein thanked the Trade Union representatives for attending and for their comments and agreed that the approach currently taken regarding budget planning would continue and that their comments would be taken on board.

Ian Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston