

Cabinet - 8 May 2014

Minute:

Developing the Three Tier Forums

Steve Browne, Interim Executive Director for Environment, presented a report setting out details of the review of Three Tier Forums and details of the proposed pilot models in Lancaster and Chorley.

A range of comments and feedback had been received as part of the review and, as made clear within the parameters of the review, one size did not need to fit all.

The review had generated two substantive proposals, from Lancaster and Chorley. The proposed Lancaster pilot model was on the basis of a joint committee with powers to be delegated to it by both the County Council and City Council, whilst the proposed Chorley pilot model was largely a consultative arrangement. Reference was also made to proposals, still under discussion, around the Rossendale Three Tier Forum which would link to changes to Rossendale's own local forums.

Reference was also made to the engagement of Parish and Town Councils, the preference of a number of Three Tier Forums to meet in private (in contrast to the County Council's view) and the impact of the review of the political governance structure within the County Council which was ongoing. It was noted that the potential for the political make-up of the Three Tier Forums to be based on the political make-up of each District would be considered as part of this wider review of governance.

Resolved: - That:

- (i) The development of two test models, one in Lancaster and the other in Chorley, as set out in the report, now presented, be agreed, subject to proposals for the Chorley model outlined in section 6.2.a) in the report; and that any decision to continue with either of these should form part of the review of the future political governance structure for the County Council;
- (ii) Work to link the Three Tier Forum in Rossendale with the Neighbourhood Forums continues to develop, as set out in the report, now presented, be agreed;
- (iii) The County Council's preferred position, as set out in the report, now presented, is that the current Forums will meet in public; and that where this is not the case there will be no extra officer attendance from the County Council, beyond that currently in place, and no devolution of decision making power or budget by the County Council should be considered in those forums not meeting in public, and
- (iv) The status quo be maintained in relation to parish and town council representation on the Forums outside of the Chorley test model, as set out in the report, now presented.

