

Lancashire County Council

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th September, 2014 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	P Hayhurst
Mrs S Charles	S Holgate
B Dawson	J Oakes
F De Molfetta	D O'Toole
G Driver	N Penney

County Councillors Lorraine Beavers and Frank De Molfetta replaced County Councillors Jackie Oakes and Ron Shewan respectively for this meeting.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

County Councillor Barnes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5A – Approvals to the Extra Care and Specialist Housing Strategy for Lancashire – as her husband was employed by a housing company named in the report.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11 July 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 Cabinet on 15 July 2014.

- a. **Money Matters – Update on the County Council's Financial Position for 2014/15**

The committee received a report setting out the County Council's financial position for 2014/15 as at 31 July 2014. In presenting the report, the Deputy Leader of the Council noted the overall forecast underspend, and that the underlying position remained sound and stable. However, the continuing pressures on resources was also recognised.

In considering the report, the committee raised a number of issues:

- Disappointment was expressed with the delays with the delivery of the Local Infrastructure Fund development, although the reasons were recognised.
- It was confirmed, in response to concerns raised, that the costs associated with CLEO were not recurring, and would not impact in future years.
- It was confirmed that officers in the Children and Young People's and Environment Directorates were working closely to address the overspend on SEN and Mainstream school transport, and that this was a developing issue.
- It was confirmed that the investment in Youth Zones would continue, but external factors relating to other site options being presented would need proper consideration.
- On the question of the redesign of the short breaks service, it was confirmed that progress was being made, but that proposals would need to fully take into account the SEND reforms. Discussion with parent forums were ongoing, and appropriate consultation would take place.

Resolved: - That the recommendations in the report to the cabinet be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made.

b. Financing the Council's Borrowing Requirement - Establishment of a Public Limited Company

The Committee received a report, following on from an initial report considered by Cabinet on 15 July 2014, setting out proposals for the establishment of a Public Limited Company to facilitate the capital funding of the County Council.

In considering the report, the committee expressed the view that further consideration should be given to the membership of the proposed Board, in particular the number of County Council representatives that should be on the Board, with a single representative being felt to be insufficient, and also whether any council representatives should be officers or councillors. It was agreed that this view would be put to Cabinet for consideration.

Resolved: - That

- the recommendations in the report to the cabinet be noted and that no suggested alternative recommendations be made

- the cabinet be asked to give further consideration to the membership of the Board, particularly the number of county council appointed members.

5. Forthcoming Individual Cabinet Member Key Decisions

The committee considered the following key decisions due to be taken by individual Cabinet Members.

b. Substance Misuse Tier 4 Review

The Committee considered a report on a review of the Council's "Tier 4" substance misuse services. It was reported that the return of public health to the council had given rise to opportunities to review and recommission services, taking advantage of opportunities identified for savings.

It was confirmed that the new arrangements would allow for significantly greater co-ordination of commissioning, and that issues previously identified by members with the duplication of effort by a number of different organisations were being addressed.

It was confirmed that the County Council was working with the Lancashire Fire and rescue Service and the Princes' Trust in this area. Additionally, members welcome the co-ordination of work with housing authorities.

Resolved: - That the recommendation in the report to the cabinet member be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

c. Proposal to Reduce Access to Tobacco by Children and Young People in Lancashire

A report was presented on proposals to reduce access to tobacco by children and young people. It was explained that the proposal consisted of two main areas of work – firstly in the extension of the "Smokefree play" scheme and secondly in reducing access by young people to shisha and e-cigarettes. The committee welcomed the report and supported the proposed activities.

Resolved: - That the recommendation in the report to the cabinet member be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

a. Approval to the Extra Care and Specialist Housing Strategy for Lancashire

The Committee were presented with a report setting out a proposed extra care and specialist housing strategy for Lancashire. In supporting the proposals in the report, the committee highlighted the Brookside scheme in West Lancashire as an excellent example of what can be delivered. It was widely felt that many more similar schemes were needed across the county, although some members queried the 30% maximum contribution proposed. In response to these concerns, cabinet members expressed the view that many schemes would require no council involvement, and that, as schemes came forward, more detailed analysis would be possible of the overall savings, which would influence future funding decisions.

Resolved: - That the recommendations in the report to the cabinet member be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

d. **Reablement Redesign**

The Committee received a report on a proposal to redesign the reablement service. The principles of the redesign were explained, and it was noted that the funding came through the Better Care Fund from the Lancashire CCGs.

Resolved: - That the recommendations in the report to the cabinet member be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

6. **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would be held at 2pm on Tuesday 7 October 2014.

I Young
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

