Dear Councillor

Meeting of the Full Council – 29 September 2011

Agenda Part C - Notices of Motion submitted under Procedural Standing Order 14. 2.1(a)

1. Submitted by County Councillor Malcolm Barron

Following grave concerns expressed by the Fire, Coastguard services and the farming industry Lancashire County Council requests the government to institute forthwith a review of the dangers posed by the use of flying lanterns. This review should cover fires associated with the lanterns, dangers to crops, properties and livestock and also incidents causing concern to the Coastguard service.

2. Submitted by County Councillor Sam Riches

Defending Local Services
Lancashire County Council recognises that the £91 million in centrally-imposed cuts last year has had a negative impact on our county and that the reductions faced by councils in the North of England were proportionally worse than the cuts elsewhere in the country. The County Council also recognises that further central funding cuts in the coming years are going to mean that absolutely crucial local services will be affected.

Council notes that, according to figures available in the most recent Ministry of Defence White Paper, the cost of replacing Trident will be £26 billion, double the original cost estimated by the government in a 2006 White Paper. Were the replacement of Trident to be cancelled and an additional £26 billion distributed to councils according to the Total Formula Grant at an average of £55 million per council, Lancashire would receive additional funding. Whilst this might not entirely offset the cuts in funding imposed on the annual budget of the council last year and

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in coming years, it would enable Lancashire to preserve services that would otherwise be lost.

Therefore the County Council supports the positions of Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn, Liberal Democrat MP Julian Huppert, Green MP Caroline Lucas and many others in opposing Trident renewal and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition to indicate that Lancashire County Council has adopted a position against the renewal of any nuclear deterrent with funding that could be better used to defend essential local services.

3. Submitted by County Councillor Kevin Ellard

This Council sends its sincerest congratulations to the players and staff at Lancashire County Cricket Club for their fantastic achievement in winning the LV County Championship outright for the first time in 77 years. It is a proud moment for all Lancastrians and all the more impressive as it has been done by a proud team of mainly 'home grown' talent.

4. Submitted by County Councillor Ciaran Wells

This Council urges caution with the Coalition Government's proposal to replace all Police Authorities with directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) by November 2012 and calls on them to reconsider the timescale so as to reduce the enormous unnecessary expenditure that such an election would incur.

The cost of an election in the Lancashire Policing area alone is estimated at £1.4 million – this is equivalent to either a 2% increase in the council tax precept or saving the jobs of 30 full-time police officers. Nationally the cost of the elections is estimated at £54 million (LGA figures). At a time of increasing austerity and budget cuts that will lead to a reduction in the number of police officers we believe that wasting money on such an election would be wrong.

This Council believes that, should PCCs be introduced, their elections are delayed to coincide with other elections to minimise the cost and reduce needless waste of valuable resources. In Lancashire this would mean the elections would coincide with either the County Council elections in 2013 or the European elections in 2014. This would then give greater time for consideration of the proposals whilst ensuring a commitment to efficiency and minimising needless expenditure.

5. Submitted by County Councillor Tim Ashton

Improving our national infrastructure is vital for sustainable economic growth and social mobility. Without significant investment, however, the West Coast Main Line will soon reach capacity and piecemeal responses will not meet soaring demand.

High Speed Rail 2 promises to narrow the North-South divide and promote economic growth. As the second-largest UK economy outside the southeast, the North West is
ideally placed to foster new centres of excellence and help re-balance the economy. Lancashire County Council therefore supports the current proposal for a 'Y' shaped HS2 network, linking London with Birmingham and then onto the North and beyond.

Yours faithfully

Phil Halsall

Chief Executive