

Meeting of the Full Council – 18 December 2014

Report on the Scrutiny Committee Meetings held on 12 September, 10 October, 7 November and 20 November 2014

Chair: County Councillor Bill Winlow

The agenda and minutes of the meetings may be viewed on the County Council's web site at the following link:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=120>

12 September 2014

Internal Energy Policy for Lancashire County Council - Outline Position

The report proposed the introduction of an over-arching internal energy policy, primarily focused at reducing the consumption of energy in County Council buildings and schools whilst paying heed to other linked areas of development.

The Committee supported the development of an over-arching internal energy policy document, with a view in future to monitoring progress towards achieving targets set in the final policy, as approved by Cabinet.

Local Growth Task Group - Executive Response

A full response was provided by the Leader to the recommendations of the Task Group.

Parking Fee Schemes

The report provided a commentary on a RAC Foundation report on Local Authorities' parking finances, published in August 2013.

10 October 2014

Regulation of Investigatory Powers

A report was presented on how the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) provided a framework for certain public bodies, including local authorities, to use 'covert surveillance' gather information about individuals without their knowledge for the purposes of undertaking statutory functions in connection with the prevention or detection of crime.

The Committee noted:

- i. The adoption of the revised authorisation arrangements agreed at

- Cabinet on 10 June 2014
- ii. The publication of the revised RIPA Policy agreed at Cabinet on 10 June 2014
 - iii. The response made to the OSC by the Chief Executive on 10 June 2014,
 - iv. The use made of RIPA by the Council Trading Standards Service since the last report in September 2013.

Position Statement on Flood Risk Management Related Issues - Land Drainage Management, Partnership Working, General Update

The report presented an update setting out the County Council's current position on flood risk management issues.

It was agreed that:

- i. The Environment Agency be requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, to discuss the position in relation to Alt-Crossens and other flood risk management issues, as well as the issue of Water quality.
- ii. Strong concerns about the approach of the Environment Agency and Defra to the issue of flooding in the Alt-Crossens area be expressed.
- iii. The efforts of the County Council and West Lancashire District Council on the Alt-Crossens issue are welcomed.
- iv. The views of the Committee on the Government Consultation on SuDS "Delivering Sustainable Drainage Systems" be included in the response from the Cabinet Member, including:
 - a. the committee's strong support for the original proposals in relation to SuDS, in preference to the proposals presented in this consultation.
 - b. DEFRA provide clarity as soon as possible on mechanisms for charging householders for future maintenance of SUDS systems.
 - c. that provision be made urgently for the Lead Local Flood Authority to be a statutory consultee on planning applications.
- v. District Councils in Lancashire be encouraged to respond to the government's SuDs delivery consultation "Delivering Sustainable Drainage Systems".
- vi. District Councils be strongly encouraged to seek the views of the County Council's flood risk management officers until such point that the County Council becomes a statutory consultee on such matters, noting that excellent links have developed already between the county and district councils on this issue.
- vii. The Flood Risk Asset Register information be made available to Councillors.

- viii. Further detail be provided to the committee on homes in Lancashire at risk of flooding and schemes being undertaken by the County Council and other stakeholders to address flood risks.

Work Plan and Task Group Update

It was agreed that the proposed item on the health service response to domestic abuse would be moved to the January meeting, and that the December meeting be set aside to consider the issue of child protection and child sexual exploitation. It was also agreed that an appropriate slot be found for the Environment Agency to attend to discuss the various issues raised in the previous item.

7 November 2014

Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2014-16

A report on the Community Safety Agreement to be considered by Cabinet in December was presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee agreed to,

- i. Support the Community Safety Agreement and for their comments to be forwarded to the Executive Scrutiny Committee for further discussion with particular regard to how accountability between partners is identified and managed;
- ii. Request that all the additional information be provided to Members;
- iii. Give consideration to future engagement of scrutiny with the Police and Crime Commissioner

Work Plan and Task Group Update

A report was presented summarising the work to be undertaken by the Committee in the coming months, including an update on task group work.

20 November 2014

A meeting was convened under the County Council's Call In procedures to consider the Cabinet's recent decision on Preston Bus station and the Multi Storey Car Park. After consideration of the issue, the Committee resolved not to request that the decision be reconsidered by Cabinet.