

## Meeting of the Full Council - 17 July 2014

### Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 8 May 2014

The agenda and minutes of the meeting may be viewed on the County Council's website at the following link:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=122>

### Blanket Waiver - Request for Contract Extensions Up to March 2015

Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals for a Blanket Waiver of contracts allowing Contract Extensions Up to March 2015.

Cabinet approved a waiver of Procurement Rule 6 to enable the County Council to extend the contracts set out at Appendix 'A' up to March 2015.

### Developing the Three Tier Forums

Cabinet considered a report which provided some further background to the Three Tier Forums; provided a summary so far of the review, including the details of the Lancaster and Chorley pilot models; set out the organisational context within which it is now taking place and made a number of proposals.

Cabinet:

- (i) Agreed the development of two test models, one in Lancaster and the other in Chorley, 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) Agreed that work to link the Three Tier Forum in Rossendale with the Neighbourhood Forums continues to develop;
- (iii) Agreed that the County Council's preferred position 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) Agreed to maintain the status quo in relation to parish and town council representation on the Forums outside of the Chorley test model.

### Draft Procurement Strategy

Cabinet considered a report setting out details of the development of a procurement strategy which has been a key priority of the County Council. A draft procurement strategy has now been developed for consultation and was set out at Appendix 'A' to the report.

Cabinet:

- (i) Noted the County Council's draft procurement strategy set out at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Noted that a consultation process involving public, private and third sector organisations will be undertaken and that a final strategy will be presented to Cabinet in September for consideration and final approval.

### **Proposal to Undertake a Health Impact Assessment of Shale Gas Extraction in Lancashire**

Cabinet considered a report setting out a proposal that the Council undertakes a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of shale gas extraction in Lancashire, initially of the two proposed sites followed by an HIA of the wider industry.

Cabinet:

- (i) Approved that Lancashire County Council leads and undertakes a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of shale gas extraction in Lancashire, initially of the two proposed sites followed by an HIA of the wider industry;
- (ii) Approved that a Health Advisory Group be established to undertake the Health Impact Assessments led by the Director of Public Health on the basis set out in the report.

### **Voluntary Redundancy - Trade Union Consultation**

Cabinet considered a report setting out details of the Trade Union response to the consultation on Voluntary Redundancy as set out in the report.

Cabinet:

- (i) Noted the response from the Trade Unions in relation to the consultation and thank them for their contributions;
- (ii) Agreed that no changes can be made to the Voluntary Severance package where that would have the effect of increasing the overall cost of downsizing the current employee structure;
- (iii) Confirmed Cabinet's commitment that in seeking to reduce employee costs it does not wish to seek to achieve savings by making changes to current terms and conditions of employment;
- (iv) Noted the intention to review the current Vacancy Management procedures to ensure that redeployment is effectively managed to provide appropriate protection for staff who may in future be at risk of compulsory redundancy;
- (v) Agreed to consider the possibility of staff leaving their employment with the Council on the basis of voluntary redundancy being allowed to be re-employed on a casual basis where that is in the best financial interests of the Council, subject to proposals being agreed with the Trade Unions;
- (vi) Requested the Chief Executive and Management Team to ensure that costs are only incurred in relation to non-contractual overtime and agency costs where that is absolutely necessary and in the best financial interests of the Council;
- (vii) Noted the intention to continue regular discussions with the Trade Unions in relation to the ongoing voluntary redundancy process, along with consultation in

relation to the Council's new operating structure once proposals are agreed by Cabinet in due course.

### **Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 5 June 2014**

The agenda and minutes of the meeting may be viewed on the County Council's website at the following link:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=122>

### **Money Matters - The County Council's Financial Position at 31 March 2014**

The Cabinet considered a report which provided a summary of the County Council's financial position at the end of 2013/14.

Cabinet:

- (i) Noted the final overall revenue budget position and capital programme spending for 2013/14;
- (ii) Noted the available revenue resources of £3.121m and approve the transfer of £1.000m to a new Welfare Reform Reserve and £2.121m to the Downsizing Reserve;
- (iii) Approved the transfer of the additional one off government grant resources of £2.832m announced since the last monitoring report to the Cabinet to the Downsizing Reserve;
- (iv) Noted the various transfers between reserves set out in the report and the position on the Council's earmarked reserves at the end of 2013/14;
- (v) Noted that following these recommendations the balance on the Downsizing Reserve will be £99.233m which is sufficient to meet the current estimate of costs of the voluntary severance programme and provides capacity to support invest to save proposals;
- (vi) Noted that, following these recommendations, the County Fund Balance at 31 March 2014 is £36m;
- (vii) Approved the proposed financing of the capital programme spending of £154m as set out below:

	<b>£m</b>
Grants and Contributions	138.086
Revenue Contributions	16.390
	<hr/>
	154.476

- (viii) Approved an increase in the 2014/15 Capital Programme of £8.620m reflecting slippage from 2013/14;
- (ix) Agreed that the utilisation of £0.561m of capital resources freed up due to scheme underspending be considered within the overall review of future capital investment priorities;
- (x) Noted the County Treasurer's conclusion on the financial health and stability of the organisation.

## **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act**

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the recommendations within the OSC inspection report and recommendations on proposed changes in the Council's current arrangements for dealing with the authorisation of requests for covert surveillance in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Cabinet:

- (i) Noted the Office for Surveillance Commissioners Report presented at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Agreed to the revised RIPA Policy presented at Appendix 'B';
- (iii) Agreed that the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) has delegated power to authorise named Trading Standards Officers to act as authorising officers for the purposes of RIPA, and;
- (iv) Agreed that the SRO responds to OSC recommendation IV on the basis set out in the report.

## **Update on the Changes to the County Council's Strategic Partnership with BT**

Cabinet considered a report setting out an update on progress on the changes to the County Council's Strategic Partnership with BT since the previous update on 6 March 2014.

Cabinet:

- (i) Noted the contents of this report;
- (ii) Agreed the ring-fencing of the available resources of £0.769m to provide one off resources to support performance improvement, subject to an appropriate business case.