

**NOTES OF A MEETING  
RE: PROPOSED BUDGET SAVINGS BY  
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2016**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>A. Ali</i>      | <i>Lancashire County Council</i>                        |
| <i>D. Clegg</i>    | <i>Pendle Borough Council</i>                           |
| <i>J. Cooney</i>   | <i>Pendle Borough Council</i>                           |
| <i>D. E. Lord</i>  | <i>Pendle Borough Council/Lancashire County Council</i> |
| <i>D. M. Whipp</i> | <i>Pendle Borough Council/Lancashire County Council</i> |

**Also present**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Mel Ormesher</i> | <i>Head of Asset Management, Lancashire County Council</i> |
|---------------------|--|

**Officers in attendance**

|                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Dean Langton</i>    | <i>Strategic Director</i>             |
| <i>Philip Mousdale</i> | <i>Corporate Director</i>             |
| <i>Jane Watson</i>     | <i>Senior Committee Administrator</i> |

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. R. Greaves, C. Wakeford, D. Whalley and P. White).*



**1. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2. PROPERTY RATIONALISATION/STRATEGY**

Mel Ormesher provided an update on the current position regarding the County Council's Property Strategy (Neighbourhood Centres). The report had been considered by the County's Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> May and a consultation had been launched on 18<sup>th</sup> May for 12 weeks. A copy of the report submitted to Cabinet was submitted for information along with a copy of a letter sent to Jo Turton, Chief Executive of the County Council following discussions at the last meeting.

A total of 238 premises had been selected from the total property holdings of the County Council to be considered in the review. This now included the commissioning children centres.

A number of appendices were attached to the report which included information regarding the County's Library Service and the Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Service. There was also a list of the premises where various services were currently delivered from along with those that were no longer required to deliver the Council's future pattern of service delivery.

Ms. Ormesher referred to the County Council's "Have Your Say" portal and stressed that all expressions of interest should be sent via this portal. Details of the consultation along with information around expressions of interest could be found via the following link: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/consultations/consultation-on-budget-proposals-for-2016-2021.aspx>

All expressions of interest would be evaluated to see if they were viable or not and decisions would follow an identified timeline. From discussion it was clear that there was not the opportunity for an expression of interest to be accelerated, all would need to follow the process as set down.

Reference was again made to the use of volunteers to help run some of the services identified in the strategy. The Group felt that there was life in this concept but acknowledged that the County Council's process did not lend itself to this. It was acknowledged that the use of volunteers was only any good if it worked well. An example of where this did not work well was Wheatley Lane Library. Again it was stressed that should a group of volunteers be interested in taking over a facility then they too should complete an expression of interest via the "Have Your Say" portal. This also involved the submission of a business case.

Following discussion it was felt that details of where a community group had submitted an expression of interest should be shared with the Strategic Director. This would then give the opportunity for the Council to help local community groups submit their business cases. This would also go a long way to help maintain the service provision in Pendle.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That on behalf of the Council the Strategic Director be asked to prepare a response to the County Council's consultation on its property rationalisation/strategy.
- (2) That the County Council be asked to share information on expressions of interest received from community groups within Pendle with a view to the Council assisting these groups with the submission of their business cases.

### **3. WYCOLLER COUNTRY PARK**

Mel Ormesher reported that she had nothing further to report at this stage.

### **4. WHITEHOUGH, BARLEY**

Mel Ormesher reported that she had nothing further to report at this stage.

## **5. PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE FUNDING REDUCTIONS**

A report from the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager on the proposed reductions to the Supporting People Fund was submitted for consideration. A consultation on the proposed reductions was being carried out and a draft response was attached for comment.

A decision had been taken to cease the non-statutory element of the Supporting People services contained within the 'Prevention and Early Help Fund'. However a budget of £1.3m remained to provide for statutory Supporting People services which it was expected would be used in the main by the County Council to support vulnerable 16/17 year olds. It was unknown how the County Council would continue to provide for statutory elements of the Supporting People service. It was therefore unclear how many organisations would be potentially affected by funding reductions and what funds they may receive from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017.

The report listed a number of consultations that the Council, along with all stakeholders had been invited to respond to. A key area of focus for the Council was the proposed reduction in funding towards the Women's Refuge.

It was reported that Lancashire County Council had set up a Working Group to look at the proposed reductions in funding and how these cuts could affect the services provided to the public.

Supporting People contracts were to end next year and the Group discussed the implications this would have on a number of organisations including Safespace and the work around Children's Social Services. Reference was made to the statutory responsibilities and costs as well as support for Adult Social Care. It was acknowledged that Districts had a role to play with regards to wellbeing and health related issues.

### **AGREED**

That the response to the County Council's consultation on the Supporting People Funding Reductions be approved.

## **6. OTHER CONSULTATIONS**

The Group discussed a number of other consultations the County Council were undertaking. Details of these consultations could be found on the County's website: [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **AGREED**

That the next meeting be arranged for early August, 2016.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_