

**NOTES OF A MEETING
RE: PROPOSED BUDGET SAVINGS BY
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 5th FEBRUARY, 2016**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

<i>A. Ali</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>A. R. Greaves</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>D. E. Lord</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council/Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>D. Whalley</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>D. M. Whipp</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council/Lancashire County Council</i>

Officers in attendance

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Strategic Director</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Senior Committee Administrator</i>



The Chairman explained that Members of the Executive had recently met with County Councillor David Borrow to discuss the County Council's proposed budget savings which he said had been a very useful meeting. Following this meeting the Chairman had sent a letter to County Councillor Borrow acknowledging the financial pressures faced by the County Council but also highlighting Pendle's concerns about the proposed cuts in service and the need to minimise, where possible, the impact these cuts would have on the residents of Pendle.

A copy of this letter and details of the proposed budget savings that would impact on Pendle had been circulated prior to the meeting and formed the basis of discussion.

Discussion

The main focus of discussion was around the proposed property rationalisation. This included a reduction in the number of Community Centres, Children's Centres and Libraries. The Chairman said there was an opportunity for the Council to look at where there was scope for volunteers or other agencies to take on these services.

County Councillor Ali explained the difference between the property strategy and the consultation on Children's Centres. He said that following the elections in May there would be a consultation on all of the County Council's proposals and that this would run until 8th September, 2016.

During discussion the following issues were raised:

- It was acknowledged that some Children's Centres were run independently or as part of a school.
- The Community Interest Company that ran Trawden Community Centre had expressed an interest in taking over the library service and also the post office provision which had recently closed. The library in Earby was also discussed with the possibility of moving the facility to the

New Road Community Centre. It was acknowledged that this would be subject to the County Council accepting these as feasible proposals.

- Libraries provided other services as well as library services and there was a discussion about where these services could be located. The possibility of re-locating services to spare accommodation at various locations in the Borough was mentioned.
- There was a suggestion that more use be made of volunteers to run services such as libraries and it was acknowledged that there was a motion before the County Council's Budget Council meeting about this issue.
- It was reported that the County Council had already started discussions with other Councils about proposed changes to services.
- It was felt that discussions were being held but there was no co-ordination or direction. Further information was required from County Council officers.
- The issue of establishing nominal value asset transfers was also discussed.
- The proposed closure of Whitehough Activity Centre in Barley and Wycoller Country Park were also discussed. Other groups had been invited to take over the running of Whitehough but no update on this had been provided by the County Council as yet. It was also reported that there was already signs of a reduced service at the County Park.
- Reference was also made to Pendle Women's Refuge and services for the homeless and young people. It was acknowledged, however, that this was not an imminent issue at the moment.

Conclusion

There was a feeling that further information was required from the County Council on a number of issues. It was felt there was a need to be provided with a 'footprint' of the services at risk and their locations within the Borough. Also, an idea of the level of spare accommodation within the Borough along with locations would help to put forward suitable re-locations suggestions.

There was an acceptance that co-location for services could be an option but it was acknowledged that this would not be possible in all situations.

It was agreed that a further meeting be held and relevant officers from the County Council be invited to attend.

Members would be notified of the date as soon as possible.