



**LANCASTER**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

*Promoting City, Coast & Countryside*

# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday, 3 February 2016 –  
6.00 p.m.  
Morecambe Town Hall**

Mark Cullinan,  
Chief Executive,  
Town Hall,  
Dalton Square,  
LANCASTER,  
LA1 1PJ





# LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

*Promoting City, Coast & Countryside*

Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Lancaster City Council to be held in the Town Hall, Morecambe on Wednesday, 3 February 2016 commencing at 6.00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **MINUTES**

To receive as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 13 January 2016 (previously circulated).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations by Members of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Members should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

Members are further reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to any meeting where consideration is given to matters relating to, or which might affect, the calculation of Council Tax.

Any member of a local authority, who is liable to pay Council Tax, and who has any unpaid Council Tax amount overdue for at least two months, even if there is an arrangement to pay off the arrears, must declare the fact that he/she is in arrears and must not vote on any recommendation or decision which might affect the budget or council tax calculation. It is a criminal offence to fail to comply with this requirement.

4. **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements which may be submitted by the Mayor or Chief Executive.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 12.1 and 12.3 which require members of the public to give at least 3 days' notice in writing of questions to a Member of Cabinet or Committee Chairman.

7. **PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

To receive any petitions and/or addresses from members of the public which have been notified to the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

8. **PETITION - MARKET SQUARE LANCASTER, TREES** (Pages 1 - 10)

To receive a petition and address to Council, notification of which has been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Members are advised that the petition has in excess of 200 signatures and relates to a local matter which affects one ward. It has therefore been scheduled for debate at this meeting and a report of the Chief Officer (Governance) is attached, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

9. **PETITION - GREEN BELT LAND GB4** (Pages 11 - 15)

To receive a petition and address from Mr Allan Denham, notification of which has been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Members are advised that the petition has in excess of 200 signatures and relates to a local matter which affects one ward. It has therefore been scheduled for debate at this meeting and a report of the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning) is attached, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

10. **LEADER'S REPORT** (Pages 16 - 18)

To receive the Cabinet Leader's report on proceedings since the last meeting of Council.

**REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET, COMMITTEES OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

11. **BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE 2016/17 TO 2019/20** (Pages 19 - 82)

Report of Cabinet.

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

12. **NOTICE OF MOTION - THE LANCASTER MUSEUMS** (Pages 83 - 96)

To consider the following motion submitted by Cllrs Nick Wilkinson Councillors, June Ashworth, Dave Brookes, Susie Charles, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Caroline Jackson, and Roger Mace:

That;

- 1) The Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the County Council by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to request the following:
  - a) that the **County Council review the option of supporting the creation** of a financially sustainable Lancaster-wide museum organisation of some kind (for example a charitable Trust). This review should include appropriate consultation with partner organisations (including the City Council, the Duchy of Lancaster and existing Friends Groups) and a full review of the service model for the museums
  - b) to not dispose of the Judges Lodgings building or relocate its contents until this option has been fully investigated
- 2) The City Council **supports the principle of investigating** the creation of a financially sustainable Lancaster-wide museums organisation, initially to include the Judges Lodgings with the Maritime, City Museum and the Cottage Museum and to include when practicable such access to Lancaster Castle as may be negotiated with the Duchy.

**Letters of support (appended to this motion):**

Professor Mark E. Smith, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University  
Professor Peter Strike, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cumbria  
Ruth Connor, Chief Executive, Marketing Lancashire  
John Regan, Chair, Chamber of Commerce  
Paul Cusimano, Chair, Lancaster Business Improvement District  
Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director, the Dukes  
Jacqueline Greaves, Chair, Litfest  
Di Cumming, Chief Executive, ludusdance

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The museums of Lancaster are all currently run by Lancashire County Council and comprise of the following museums:
  - The City Museum (Lancaster City Council owned) - attracts circa 50,000 visitors per annum
  - The Maritime Museum (Lancaster City Council owned)- attracts circa 12,000 visitors per annum
  - The Cottage Museum (Lancaster City Council owned) - attracts circa 7,000 visitors per annum
  - Lancaster Castle (Duchy owned but leased to Lancashire County Council)- attracts circa 50,000 visitors per annum
  - The Judges Lodgings (Lancashire County Council owned) - attracts circa 12,000 visitors per annum
- 1.2. The City Council entered into an agreement with the County Council to run the City Council's museums (City, Maritime and Cottage museums) from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003. The contract currently has a value of around £500K per annum. Previous to this date the City Council had run its museums in house. It is understood that the aim of moving the City owned museums to the County Council was to ensure continued professional museums services are maintained (e.g. curator and conservation services etc.) at an affordable cost.

- 1.3. The County Council is having to make further budget cuts of £262m and has identified that, amongst others, the Judges Lodgings museum in Lancaster will need to close by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and large cuts are planned in the County museums service which will impact on the other Lancaster museums. Essentially the County Council are stating that they will no longer be providing a comprehensive museum service.
- 1.4. These planned museum cuts will have a direct impact on the quality of the visitor experience in the District as well as impacting on the quality of service offered to the City Council's three museums under the existing management contract.
- 1.5. Neither the City Council nor the County Council has assessed the potential impact on Lancaster as a tourist destination if the Judges Lodgings is closed and the central services presently available to the District's other museums are withdrawn.
- 1.6. As it stands the museums of Lancaster District have the potential to be a far more exciting visitor attraction than what is currently available. Five museums with a single management structure could operate under a single purpose umbrella organisation with the aim of providing quality visitor focused museums services for Lancaster. This organisation could be operationally independent of both the County Council and the City Council and could be setup with the aim of being financially and to run the museums in a more commercial manner.

## **2. The long term impacts on Lancaster District**

- 2.1. At this stage the key impact to the Lancaster District is the threatened closure of the Judges Lodgings museum on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, which was decided upon by the County Council on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- 2.2. The Lancaster City Council Corporate Plan identifies the City Council's vision for Lancaster as a prosperous historic city noting that the City Council will work to improve the District's heritage assets to ensure the City will be a recognised visitor attraction. The loss of any of the District's museums will erode this potential for Lancaster to attract and sustain tourist visitor numbers.
- 2.3. No options appraisal has been undertaken for the Lancaster District's museums as a whole, despite the opportunities for joint working that arose following the transfer of the management of the City Council's museums to the County Council in 2003. This is a key opportunity for the District which should be appraised in detail.

## **3. Problems to be faced and the way forward**

- 3.1. As a major customer of the County Council museums service and custodian of the economic and cultural wellbeing of the District the City Council should be expressing its concerns that the County Council has not looked at the options available for the museums of Lancaster or at the impacts on Lancaster City of closing one of its major visitor attractions.
- 3.2. The County Council have not delivered on the potential to create an integrated museums service for the Lancaster District. The current museums of Lancaster are very poorly coordinated. All the museums (including the Judges Lodgings) have world class exhibits, which tie directly back to the story of Lancaster and are showcased in heritage buildings. However the overall 'Lancaster story', as told through the five museums, is disjointed at best with little or no linkage between the

various museums. The museums are currently stifled by bureaucracy, making it very difficult for local museum staff to be enterprising. Apparently, they cannot advertise events or even put a "tweet" out without going through the County press team. The current museum service is very much exhibit focused which has led to a lack of story and excitement within the museums. There is therefore massive potential for improvement. An exciting visitor focused service needs to be created which focuses on sustainable long term funding, that makes use of local volunteers, promotes and tells the fascinating story of our City and adds to the overall brand of 'Lancaster Small City Big Story'.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1. It would be prudent to review the option of a Lancaster wide Museum organisation before any museum closures took place. Supporting this motion would provide the County Council with a clear steer that Lancaster City Council would like this option to be reviewed before any museums buildings or exhibits are sold or relocated.
- 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not being proposed within this motion that the City Council would take on the management/ownership of the Judges Lodgings Museum or that the current financial input from the City Council to the Museum Service would be increased.

An officer briefing note is attached.

#### **13. NOTICE OF MOTION - FLOODING (Pages 97 - 98)**

To consider the following motion submitted by Cllrs Rob Devey, Cllrs David Whitaker, Richard Newman-Thompson, Colin Hartley and Karen Leytham:

This council:

- Expresses its thanks to everyone involved in the response to December's floods, including the emergency services, businesses, council officers and members of the community.
- Welcomes the efforts currently underway by the council to assist in identifying what improvements can be made to help prevent the flooding and power cuts experienced in the Lancaster district in December from happening again – and asks officers for an overview of these and a further update by July.
- Affirms this council's commitment to continuing to work with lead flood authority Lancashire County Council, the Environment Agency and other agencies to secure funding for the necessary improvements.
- Agrees that flood defences should be designed to cope with much greater unprecedented volumes of rainfall given the evidence of new volatility in British weather conditions.
- Recognises that investment to prevent flooding in the first place is a better use of taxpayers money than the huge financial and human costs involved in dealing with the aftermath of flooding.
- Urges the Government to ensure that necessary funding is provided to implement recommended improvements to flood defences in the Lancaster district.

An officer briefing note is attached.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **14. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR ELECT**

To appoint a Mayor Elect to be put forward for election by the City Council in May 2016, for the municipal year 2016/17.

### **15. ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS (Pages 99 - 109)**

Report of the Chief Executive.

### **16. REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF CABINET MEETING DATE AND PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 110 - 111)**

Report of the Chief Officer (Governance).

### **17. REVIEW OF PART 3 SECTION 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION (Pages 112 - 115)**

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

### **18. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER**

Report of the Chief Executive to follow.

### **19. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.2**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 13.2 and 13.4 which require a Member to give at least 3 working days notice, in writing, of the question to the Chief Executive.

### **20. MINUTES OF CABINET (Pages 116 - 130)**

To receive the Minutes of Meeting of Cabinet held on 19 January 2016.

### **21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Council is recommended to pass the following recommendation in relation to the following item:-

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business, on the grounds that they could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

Members are reminded that, whilst the following item has been marked as exempt, it is for Council itself to decide whether or not to consider it in private or in public. In making the decision, Members should consider the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A of the



Local Government Act 1972, and also whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In considering their discretion, Members should also be mindful of the advice of Council officers.

22. **LOCAL PLAN - LEGAL ADVICE** (Pages 131 - 143)

Report of the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning) and Chief Officer (Governance).



.....  
Chief Executive

Town Hall,  
Dalton Square,  
LANCASTER,  
LA1 1PJ

Published on 26 January 2016.