

# CABINET

## Universities Cabinet Liaison Group 18 January 2011

### Report of the Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To consider the future of the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A			
This report is public				

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR ROBINSON

- (1) That Cabinet stand down the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group

##### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Cabinet, at its meeting held on 1 June 2010, considered, amongst other things, the reconstitution of Cabinet Liaison Groups. It agreed that the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group be re-constituted for the 2010/11 municipal year with the following terms of reference:

- (1) To consider matters of mutual interest.

- 1.2 Upon being appointed as the new portfolio holder for Education, Skills and Opportunities, and also the Chairman of the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group, Councillor Robinson requested that Democratic Services contact members of the group from both Lancaster University and the University of Cumbria, to ascertain their views regarding the future of the group.

- 1.3 Responses were received from Neil Harris, Registrar and University Secretary of the University of Cumbria, and Fiona Aiken, Secretary of Lancaster University, these are attached at Appendix A and B respectively. In addition, an oral response was received from Peter Elliot, Chief Executive of Lancaster University Students' Union, which is transcribed at Appendix C.

- 1.4 The consensus which emerged from the responses was that although the group served as a valuable mechanism when it was established, its role had now been superseded by other groups, as the City Council had invited the university to join bodies where they could add value. Responses also expressed that both the universities had good officer to officer relations with

the City Council, and that it would be a more effective use of time to develop and maintain these relationships.

- 1.5 Having considered the consultation responses, the portfolio holder for Education, Skills and Opportunities concluded that it was appropriate to recommend to Cabinet to stand down the group. Cabinet is now asked to consider the portfolio holder's recommendation..

## 2.0 Details of Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation was carried out with members of the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group representing Lancaster University and the Lancaster Campus of the University of Cumbria.

## 3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	<b>Option 1:</b> Stand down the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group	<b>Option 2:</b> To note existing arrangements and make no amendments
Advantages	This would be in accordance with the consultation undertaken with members of the group.	No advantages have been identified for this option.
Disadvantages	None. Cabinet Liaison Groups assist Cabinet in the discharge of executive functions, however they are purely consultative and non-decision making and may be time limited according to purpose. Those consulted feel that there are other mechanisms for considering matters of mutual interest so it would appear that the Group is no longer necessary.	This would not be in accordance with the consultation undertaken with members of the group.
Risks	No risks have been identified with either proposal. Both options provide ways to consider matters of mutual interest.	

There is no officer preferred option.

## 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 There appears to be a consensus among members of the Universities Cabinet Liaison Group that the Group is no longer required, as its function is now covered by other groups and working relationships. It is therefore recommended by the portfolio holder that Cabinet resolve to stand down the Group.

**RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Cabinet Liaison Groups assist the Cabinet in the discharge of executive functions.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

Cabinet liaison groups help provide clear focus, transparency, accessibility and inclusiveness in the Council's Executive decision-making process.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Cabinet liaison groups are established or stood down in accordance with the City Council's constitution.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant financial implications with regard to the recommendations. Resources are available to provide the necessary level of support.

**OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS****Human Resources:**

N/A

**Information Services:**

N/A

**Property:**

N/A

**Open Spaces:**

N/A

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The section 151 officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet minutes 1 June 2010

**Contact Officer:** Tom Silvani

**Telephone:** 01524 582132

**E-mail:** tomsilvani@lancaster.gov.uk

**Ref:**