

Three Tier Forum 16 November 2011

Report of Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Council of the County Council's new "Three Tier Forum" initiative to assist locality working and of the progress made to establish a Forum for Lancaster District.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS OF HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

- (1) That Council notes that the first meeting of the Lancaster District Three Tier Forum will be held on 23 November 2011 and notes the format and the membership arrangements for the Forum.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The County Council has been piloting "Three Tier Forums" for several months in Wyre and Burnley districts. These are informal joint business meetings of County, District and Parish Councillors to discuss issues of mutual interest in their districts and influence the priorities and forward planning of all three tiers of local government. Councillors direct the agenda and the discussions in the meetings.

- 1.2 Three Tier Forum meetings are not public meetings, nor are they subject to Access to Information provisions.

2.0 Three Tier Forum for Lancaster District

- 2.1 The County Council is now rolling out the Forums to each District. The Forums will not be formal committees of the County, District or Parish Councils. They are not intended to be overly bureaucratic and should bring a fresh approach to three tier working. The Forums will not duplicate other existing meetings such as Children's Trusts, LSP's etc.

- 2.2 The County Council has decided that the membership of the Lancaster District Three Tier Forum will comprise of all ten local County Councillors and ten District Councillors. It has also been decided that one Parish/Town Council representative will sit on the Forum and a representative has been put forward by the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC).

- 2.3 The Forum will be asked to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair to rotate annually between the County Council and District Council. It will aim to reach

agreement by consensus, failing which the issue will be referred to the Leaders of the County Council and District Council to resolve.

- 2.4 The Forum will meet three times a year. Initially, the County Council has suggested the district based Commissioning Plans from their Environment Directorate as a discussion topic.
- 2.5 The County Council approached the City Council for ten nominations last month and the Leader, under delegated powers, has decided to appoint the following City Council Members:-

Councillors Jon Barry, Jonathan Dixon, Paul Gardner, Tracey Kennedy, Richard Newman-Thompson, Ian Pattison, Margaret Pattison, Robert Redfern, Roger Sherlock and David Whitaker.

- 2.6 The first meeting will be held at Lancaster Town Hall on 23 November 2011.

3.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Council is asked to note the arrangements detailed in this report for the Lancaster District Three Tier Forum.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)
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None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any cost implications of hosting the forums at Lancaster and Morecambe Town Halls and for providing tea and coffee for those attending should be minimal and will be met from the existing Democratic representation budget.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None.

Information Services:

None.

Property:

None.

Open Spaces:

None.

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

Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers
Telephone: 01524 582057
E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk
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