

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Commissioning Plan Informal Task Group

4th July 2012

Report of Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the recommendations of the Commissioning Plan Informal Task Group.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the necessity for a structured approach to feedback to the County Council on its Commissioning Plan.**
- (2) That to facilitate a structured approach to feeding back on the Commissioning Plan, the Committee introduce a themed meeting to be held on an annual basis, inviting all Members of the City Council to attend to make comments on the priorities for the upcoming year, to influence the County Council's Commissioning Plan.**
- (3) That the Committee recommend that an appendix setting out the City Council's Public Realm priorities and spending for the year be included as an appendix to the Commissioning Plan.**
- (4) That the Council request clarification from the County Council on how it intends to consult the district's Parish and Town Councils with consideration to the fact there was only one representative on the 3 Tier Forum who represented all Parishes in the district.**

1. Introduction

Cabinet, at its meeting in October 2011 considered a report on Maintaining the Public Realm. Cabinet noted that the County Council had a huge impact on the management and maintenance of the District's public realm and intended to use the proposed 3 Tier Forum as the main way of consulting with stakeholders and thus develop its Commissioning Plan. Cabinet asked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the opportunities the commissioning approach provided and to report back.

The Plan set out the County Environment Directorate's vision, commitment and priorities together with details of how the services would be provided, managed, budgeted and monitored for the Lancaster district. The broad themes contained within the Commissioning

Plan were highways, transport and environment. The County Council was consulting with the City and Parish Councils to ask for their strategic input into the Plan.

Cabinet agreed to refer consideration of the Plan to Overview and Scrutiny who subsequently established an informal Task Group to carry out the work.

2. Report

The County Council has a huge impact on the management and maintenance of the District's public realm. The Plan details County's public realm services and resources allocations in the District for 2011/12. At this stage the main stakeholders involved in the development of the Plan have been County Councillors informed by relevant County Environment Directorate Officers. The intention is that the document is constantly developed through ongoing consultation with County Councillors, District Councillors, Town/Parish Councils and County and District Officers.

Consultation was being undertaken to gain the City and Parish Council's strategic input into the Plan. From a City Council perspective feeding into the development of this Plan provides a real opportunity to put forward public realm priorities within the District.

The City Council already works closely with the County Council in delivering public realm services. There is also the opportunity to use this Plan as a way of joining up County/City Council/Town/Parish Council public realm activity. This would help ensure that we are delivering joined up public realm services and in way that our residents would want us to.

The Informal Task Group met twice to consider the most effective mechanism to influence the Commissioning Plan.

The Task Group agreed that the City Council required a structured approach to feeding into the Commissioning Plan. It was suggested that this could be through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a specific meeting held on an annual basis, inviting all City Councillors to attend and contribute.

The Task Group considered how Parish and Town Councils would feedback on the Plan. Initially, Members of the Task Group considered recommending that all Parish and Town Councils should be invited to the annual Overview and Scrutiny meeting, but agreed that the County Council should be addressing this issue. As the Commissioning Plan had been considered at the 3 Tier Forum where the Town/Parishes only had 1 representative for the whole district, it was felt this was not an ideal forum for consultation.

It was suggested that it could be useful to include an appendix setting out the City Council's Public Realm priorities and spending for the year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the recommendations of the Informal Task Group and make any recommendations back to Cabinet.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Lancashire County Council's Commission Plan

Contact Officer: Jenny Kay
Telephone: 01524 582065
E-mail: jkay@lancaster.gov.uk