



LATE REPORTS

Council

Wednesday, 25 September 2019

The following reports were included on the main agenda for this meeting and marked 'to follow'. They are now enclosed, as follows:

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COUNCIL**Executive Arrangements
25 September 2019****Report of the Leader****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Council that Rule 20 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules has been amended as set out in the report.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

(1) That the report be noted.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 6 August 2019, Cabinet established a structure of Advisory Groups. The Cabinet Liaison Groups which had been in existence in 2018/19 were stood down (Cabinet minute number 6 refers).
- 1.2 Advisory Groups are bodies to assist Cabinet Members to engage with communities and stakeholders on the Council's core priorities. Rule 20 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules, which had previously set out the rules and terms of reference of Cabinet Liaison Groups, was necessarily amended to set out the terms of formation and operation of Advisory Groups.
- 1.3 Amended Rule 20 is appended, for members' information.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 1.2 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules and is for noting.

APPENDIX

Rule 20 – Advisory Groups

- (a) Advisory Groups are informal bodies that may be created by Cabinet. They are purely consultative and not decision-making. They will be chaired by a member of Cabinet, and may be co-chaired between cabinet members, or a cabinet member and a member of the group and there is no restriction on size although the group must be limited to what is manageable and effective for their purpose. They may be time limited or of longer standing, again depending on their purpose.
- (b) The participants in the Group will be by invitation of the Chair and can be made up from any or all of the following:
- Other members of Cabinet
 - Others from outside the Council
 - Other members of Council not on Cabinet
 - Council officers
- (c) *Terms of Reference:* Their Terms of Reference are to facilitate meaningful engagement and discussion with communities and stakeholders, with each group reflecting on focus areas role in:
- responding to the climate emergency;
 - contributing to community wealth-building;
 - taking an approach of asset-based community development; and
 - strengthening community engagement.
- Further terms of reference may be agreed upon by each Advisory Group, within the terms of the broad topic area, and observing the focus areas above.
- (d) Specific outcomes from their meetings may generate requests for pieces of work to be undertaken by Officers or partner bodies, or Overview and Scrutiny committee to set up a Task Group to undertake a specific piece of work, or a specific report to Cabinet, Committees of Cabinet, individual Cabinet members, or other Committees of Council recommending action for determination.

Motion on Notice – No-Deal Brexit

To be proposed by Councillor Philip Black, seconded by Councillors Oliver Robinson, Jack O'Dwyer Henry, Jean Parr and Sandra Thornberry.

This council notes that;

The UK is scheduled to leave the European Union on 31st of October 2019.

Parliamentary legislation has been passed that seeks to diminish the likelihood of a No-Deal Brexit.

Despite this the Government is determined that we should exit the EU by any means, regardless of consequences, therefore a No-Deal Brexit remains a very real possibility.

Preparations for the impact of a No-Deal Brexit in this authority area are being conducted by the disaster and emergency planning body – the Lancashire Resilience Forum.

According to The Institute for Government, advice from the Local Government Association, and crucially the Government's own publicly available guidance papers - residents in our district can anticipate difficulty and disruption affecting:

- *Heysham Port (as part of the UK border, customs and movement of people)*
- *Higher Education Institutions (research funding, income from EU students' fees)*
- *Nuclear Power Stations (importing plutonium & uranium radioactive fuel products)*
- *NHS Services (availability of medicines, staffing and waiting times for procedures)*
- *Businesses in the following sectors: Food and Drink (including school meals), Manufacturing, Farming, Agriculture, Animals, Fisheries, Forestry, Legal & Professional Services, Charities & Voluntary Organisations, Construction, Environmental, Defence, Energy, Entertainment, Arts, Culture & Heritage, Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Health & Social Care, Telecoms and Information Services, Chemicals, Mining, Public Administration, Retail, Tourism & Hospitality, Couriers and Shipping Services. Especially where these businesses import/export, hire staff from the EU or have employees who need to travel or work in the EU.*

This Council believes that;

Taken as a whole, and based on the Government's own advice papers, it reasonable to infer that a No-Deal Brexit will have a detrimental impact on our authority district, its businesses, communities and residents.

A No-Deal Brexit is highly likely to expose the Council to additional challenges, costs and pressures.

Opposing a No-Deal Brexit is the right and proper stance for this authority to adopt.

The Government should respect the will of Parliament and rule out the possibility of a no-deal Brexit.

This Council resolves that;

The Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Brexit Minister, the Minister for Local Government and the Prime Minister. The letter will outline our concerns, explain our position and call for the Government to take whatever steps are necessary to categorically rule out the possibility of a No-Deal Brexit.

Officer Briefing Note

The motion raises some of the possible implications of a no- deal Brexit that have been considered.

The Council is taking all reasonable steps, in line with relevant guidance and messaging coming from Government and its agencies, to prepare for an exit from the EU on October 31.

We are working with the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF), which brings together representatives from the public sector, including the emergency services, local authorities and the NHS.

Working with the LRF ensures a comprehensive approach to planning for the different scenarios, and identifying potential risks, that might occur from Brexit, to mitigate, as far as possible, their impact on our communities.

We have also appointed a lead officer to work with central government and act upon information as and when it is received, and appropriate teams are in regular contact with businesses to monitor their own preparations and highlight any concerns.

The government has allocated funding of £150,000 to the Council for continued preparedness activities, including additional staffing costs, for issues that might require the Council to allocate additional resource to Heysham Port.

The GOV.UK website 'Get ready for Brexit' pages provide the Government's direct advice on what businesses, organisations, individuals and families should do to prepare.

STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

Section 151 Officer

As part of the statutory requirement, the s151 Officer is required to review the adequacy of the Councils Reserves, an amount of £0.500m has been included in this assessment to address any short-term risks around Brexit. In addition, financial modelling around a number of scenarios, including reductions in Business Rates, Council Tax and loss of Government funding were included the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In order to provide protection against the level of Business Rates losses the Council could be exposed to Central Government operates a "Safety Net" scheme. Under this scheme losses are "capped" to 92.5% of the Councils Baseline Funding Level. The Council holds a Business Rate Retention Reserve in order to help manage any peaks and troughs in its Business Rates income. The current level held in the reserve is sufficient to meet a worst case scenario.

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

Motion on Notice – A Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Council Workers

To be proposed by Councillor Jason Wood. Seconded by Erica Lewis, Jack O'Dwyer-Henry Robert Redfern and Faye Penny.

“Lancaster City Council notes:

1. *Local Government overall has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.*
2. *Between 2010 and 2020, Lancaster City Council will have lost 54p out of every £1 they have received from central government.*
3. *The 2019 Local Government Association (LGA) survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.*
4. *The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.*
5. *Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.*
6. *At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.*
7. *There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.*

Lancaster City Council believes:

1. *Our public service workers are a valuable resource. They keep our communities clean, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.*
2. *Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.*
3. *Government funding has been cut to such an extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.*
4. *The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.*

Lancaster City Council resolves to:

1. *Support the pay claim submitted by GMB UNISON and Unite on behalf of council workers for a:*
 - a. *£10 per hour minimum wage and a 10 per cent uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21,*
 - b. *one day increase to the minimum paid annual leave entitlement set out in the Green Book,*
 - c. *two hour reduction in the standard working week as set out in the Green Book, and*
 - d. *comprehensive joint national review of the workplace causes of stress and mental ill-health throughout local authorities*
2. *Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim*

3. *Request the Council Chief Executive write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.*
4. *Request the Cabinet member for Resources meets with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.*
5. *Encourage all local government workers across the district to join a union.”*

Officer Briefing Note

The following figures are estimates based on current budget assumptions.

A 10% pay award for all staff would cost the General Fund £1.8m and the HRA £130k. A reduction in working hours with no change in workloads would effectively cost the General Fund a further £1.3m and the HRA £95k.

The current lowest pay rate is approximately £9.50 per hour and though more work would be required to calculate the cost of increasing this to £10, it is not felt that this would be a particularly significant cost due to relatively low numbers currently on this grade.

STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

The **Section 151 Officer** drafted this briefing note and has no further comments.

The **Deputy Monitoring Officer** would draw attention to recommendation (5) to “Encourage all local government workers across the district to join a union”. Contact details are not held for all local government workers in the district however it would be possible to put out encouragement – by way of publicising this resolution - via social media and/or a press release, and the council’s staff newsletter for those who are directly employed by the city council.