

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

25TH JUNE 2008

PRESENT:- Councillors Stuart Langhorn (Chairman), Susan Bray, Ken Brown, Rebekah Gerrard, Mike Greenall, Emily Heath, Karen Leytham and Roger Plumb

Apologies for Absence
Councillor Jude Towers

Also present: Councillors Sylvia Rogerson, Roger Mace and John Gilbert

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Cullinan	Chief Executive
Sarah Taylor	Head of Legal and Human Resources and Monitoring Officer
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Liz Bateson	Senior Democratic Support Officer

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roger Plumb declared a personal interest in view of his appointment as the City Council representative to the Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council as this organisation was referred to in the report.

10 REQUEST TO CALL-IN CABINET DECISION - COMMUNITY COHESION - MINUTE 12

Members were advised that the Cabinet decision in relation to Community Cohesion, Minute 12, had been Called-in by the following five Members:

Councillors Susan Bray, Stuart Langhorn, Kenneth Brown, Jude Towers and Sylvia Rogerson.

Members were informed that the Call-in had been made on the basis that the decision of Cabinet had not been made in accordance with all the principles set out in Article 13 (Decision Making) of the Constitution, in particular:

- (b) Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from Officers
- (e) Aims and desired outcomes will be clearly expressed
- (f) Options that were considered and the reasons for arriving at the decision will be explained.

The Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed and summarised the reasons for the Call-in.

The Chairman invited Councillors Mace and Gilbert to explain the reasons for the decision of Cabinet.

Councillor Mace explained to the Committee that as he had voted against the decision it would be difficult for him to defend the decision. Councillor Gilbert informed the

Committee that in view of improving the Equality Standard level being a recent addition to his portfolio it would be more appropriate for the author of the report to provide the clarification required.

The Chairman invited signatories to the Call-in to ask questions and the Chief Executive, as author of the report, responded.

The Chairman invited Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask questions and the Chief Executive responded.

**The meeting adjourned at 7.05pm to enable members of the public to make statements to the Members. Councillor Greenall left the meeting.
The meeting reconvened at 7.18pm.**

On behalf of the Call-in signatories it was proposed by Councillor Langhorn and seconded by Councillor Bray:

- (1) "That Cabinet do not appoint a Community Cohesion officer at the present time.
- (2) That Cabinet consider alternative ways of achieving the aims of the Corporate Plan on cohesive communities. Overview and Scrutiny draws the attention of Cabinet to priority outcome 16 and highlights that:
 - The Community Cohesion Strategy could be achieved through working with the LSP and voluntary sector. A future programme of spending on Community Cohesion should be based upon this strategy.
 - Area Based Grant money could be used to implement the Children and Young People Strategic Plan.
 - Area Based Grant money could be used to achieve the aim of a civic programme that celebrates our heritage and benefits our communities.
- (3) That Cabinet reconsiders the issue of achieving Level 2 of the Equality Standard as an issue separate from the spending of the Community Cohesion Area Based Grant monies."

It was moved by Councillor Plumb by way of amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by the mover and seconder of the original proposition, that reference to "working with the universities" be included in recommendation (2).

Upon being put to the vote, 5 Members voted in favour of the proposition and 2 Members against, whereupon the Chairman declared the proposal to be carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That Cabinet do not appoint a Community Cohesion officer at the present time.
- (2) That Cabinet consider alternative ways of achieving the aims of the Corporate Plan on cohesive communities, including working with the universities. Overview and Scrutiny draws the attention of Cabinet to priority outcome 16 and highlights that:
 - The Community Cohesion Strategy could be achieved through working with the LSP and voluntary sector. A future programme of spending on Community Cohesion should be based upon this strategy.
 - Area Based Grant money could be used to implement the Children and Young People Strategic Plan.

- Area Based Grant money could be used to achieve the aim of a civic programme that celebrates our heritage and benefits our communities.
- (3) That Cabinet reconsiders the issue of achieving Level 2 of the Equality Standard as an issue separate from the spending of the Community Cohesion Area Based Grant monies.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.34 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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