



Committee: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2014

Venue: MORECAMBE TOWN HALL

Time: 6.00 P.M.

Councillors are reminded that as Members of Overview and Scrutiny they may not be subjected to the Party Whip, which is prohibited under the Lancaster City Council Constitution.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July, 2014 (previously circulated).

3. Items of Urgent Business authorised by the Chairman

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by Members of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Members should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code Of Conduct, Members are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

5. Update on 'Better Care Together' Review of Local Health Services

Representatives of the Lancashire North Clinical Commissioning Group have been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the above.

All Members of Council have been invited to attend the meeting to hear this item.

6. Royal Lancaster Infirmary - Care Quality Commission's report

Aaron Cummins, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance and Phil Woodford, Deputy Director of Corporate Affairs from the Morecambe Bay Hospital Trust will be in attendance at the meeting.

7. Update report on Health Scrutiny

Councillor Paul Gardner has been invited to attend the meeting.

8. Consideration of any requests for Councillor Call for Action (in accordance with the process)

9. Consideration of any Petitions (in accordance with the process)

10. Locality Working

11. Work Programme Report (Pages 1 - 8)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance).

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

(i) Membership

Councillors June Ashworth (Chairman), Caroline Jackson (Vice-Chairman), Roger Dennison, Tony Johnson, Roger Mace, Ian Pattison, Pam Pickles, Emma Smith and David Whitaker

(ii) Substitute Membership

Councillors Tony Anderson, Chris Coates, Mike Greenall, Joan Jackson and Richard Rollins

(iii) Queries regarding this Agenda

Please contact Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582065 or email jkay@lancaster.gov.uk.

(iv) Changes to Membership, substitutions or apologies

Please contact Members' Secretary, telephone 582170, or alternatively email memberservices@lancaster.gov.uk.

MARK CULLINAN,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
TOWN HALL,
DALTON SQUARE,
LANCASTER, LA1 1PJ

Published on Tuesday, 2nd September, 2014.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Work Programme Report****10th September 2014****Report of Chief Officer (Governance)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with an update of the Committee's Work Programme.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee consider the updated Work Programme.
- (2) That the Committee consider the recommendation to invite members of the Health and Wellbeing Local Partnership Group to the Marmot Review briefing.

1. Introduction

Members are requested to consider the updated Work Programme.

2. UpdatesMarmot Review

Members agreed at the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to invite Dr Mike Grady to a meeting to give a presentation on the Marmot Review. Officers have contacted Dr Grady, and after discussions with Dr Grady and, with the agreement of the Chairman, a Member briefing has been arranged for this presentation.

The Committee is recommended to invite members of the Health and Wellbeing Local Partnership Group to the briefing.

This will take place on Wednesday, 8th October 2014 commencing at 2.00 pm at Lancaster Town Hall.

Incontinence Pads for Children

With regard to the issue of incontinence pads for children, replies have been received by the Chief Executive from both Healthwatch and the Hospital Trust stating that this issue has now been resolved.

Reduction at Lancaster Fire Station

A response has been received from the Chairman of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority following the Committee's meeting in June when the reduction in wholetime fire appliances at Lancaster Fire Station was considered.

A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix A.

Arts Commissioning Framework

Cabinet, at its meeting on the 2nd September, is being recommended to implement arts commissioning by April 2017. Cabinet's decision will be reported at the meeting. This recommended timeframe will give the Committee ample opportunity to look at the details of the commissioning framework prior to its further consideration by Cabinet.

Public Health Statics

In July, information was circulated to the Committee from Lancashire County Council's Public Health team. This information gave detailed health statistics at a ward level highlighting areas where the district was below the national average.

Members have asked for further information on hospital stays for self harm and also for emergency hospital admissions for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

Communities and Local Government Committee

The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee has recently launched an inquiry into litter. The Committee is particularly keen to hear from local authority scrutiny committees that have carried out reviews or investigations into litter and fly-tipping.

Further details including the Committee's Terms of Reference and details on how to provide a written submission are set out on the parliament.uk webpages using the link below: -

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/litter/>

The deadline for submissions is 2pm on Thursday, 16th October 2014.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

As there are no financial implications arising from this report the S151 officer has no comments to make.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter received from Lancashire Combined Fire Authority dated 6th August 2014.

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

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

<u>Matter for Consideration</u>	<u>Officer responsible / External</u>	<u>Expected Date of Meeting</u>
Royal Lancaster Infirmary - Care Quality Commission's report.	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust.	September 2014.
Update report on Health Scrutiny.	Health Scrutiny Representative.	September 2014.
Update on 'Better Care Together' Review of Local Health Services.	Lancashire North Clinical Commissioning Group.	September 2014.
Update on Dementia Friendly Pilot.	Age UK/Help Direct.	October 2014.
Consideration of Draft Older People's Housing Strategy.	Chief Officer (Health & Housing).	Autumn 2014.
Annual consideration of Community Safety - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV provision • Results of the review of PACT meetings 	Chief Officer (Environment).	November 2014.
Annual consideration of Older People's Issues (inviting Age UK and other relevant agencies).	Chief Executive.	January 2015.
Renewable Energy Strategy.	Chief Officer (Environment).	February 2015.
Review of Fire Station Capacity.	Lancashire Fire & Rescue.	2016 or before.
Flooding issues – West Coast mainline.	Network Rail.	Tbc.
Consultation Plan.	Chief Officer (Regeneration & Planning).	Tbc.
Arts Commissioning Framework.	Chief Officer (Regeneration & Planning).	Tbc.
Updates on the future of the Castle and on the Beyond the Castle project.	Chief Executive.	Tbc.

Briefing Notes

Matter for consideration	Date requested	Officer responsible	Date Circulated
Education Authority's Policy on Electronic Cigarettes.	5 th March 2014	Chief Officer (Health and Housing)	July 2014
Government Guidance on Electronic Cigarettes.	5 th March 2014	Chief Officer (Health and Housing)	July 2014
Fire Plans.	9 th July 2014	Chief Officer (Resources)	July 2014

<u>Cabinet Member and area of responsibility</u>	<u>Link Member</u>	<u>Date of O&S Meeting</u>
Cllr Eileen Blamire - Leader	Cllr June Ashworth	
Cllr Janice Hanson	Cllr Caroline Jackson	
Cllr Abbott Bryning	Cllr Roger Dennison	
Cllr Ron Sands	Cllr Roger Mace	
Cllr Karen Leytham	Cllr Emma Smith	
Cllr David Smith	Cllr Tony Johnson	
Cllr Jon Barry	Cllr Pam Pickles	
Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox	Cllr Ian Pattison	

Scoping of Task Groups

Task Group Topic	Date	Progress
None.	-	-



Mark Cullinan
Chief Executive
Lancaster City Council
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Dalton Square
Lancaster LA1 1PJ

Please ask for: County Councillor Frank de Molfetta
Telephone: 07917 627364
Email: francesco.demolfetta@lancashire.gov.uk
Your Ref: CE/ES/Ltrs-Gen19
Our Ref:
Date: 6 August 2014

Dear Mr Cullinan

I am writing in response to your letter dated 26 June 2014.

It is perhaps helpful if I respond to each point using the numbering as set out in your letter.

- (2) As was clearly set out by ACO Russel at the City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Fire Authority have taken the decision to remove a wholetime fire engine from Lancaster, taking into account risk profile of Lancaster both now and in the future

By way of background, due to financial pressures resulting from a 25% reduction in Government grant, at the time of undertaking the Emergency Cover Review (ECR) Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was seeking to save £10m by 2016/17. This was split with £5m being taken out of support functions and £5m out of frontline services. It should be noted that this figure has since been updated to take account of the latest Local Government Finance Settlement and other funding forecasts and the savings target has now increased to £13m by 2016/17. This is set against £15m savings which have already been made since 2005 largely through a 25% reduction in Wholetime (WT) firefighter posts. Furthermore it is anticipated that the requirement to make savings will continue beyond this time period with latest estimates showing a 35% Government grant cut by 2018.

Given the scale of savings required, LFRS is simply not able to make the required level of savings, without making changes to its emergency response function. Hence, the Emergency Cover Review 2013 presented a number of 'options for change' which the Fire Authority approved at its meeting on 9 December 2013. The Service is now implementing a three year plan with changes to fire engines in Lancaster programmed to take place in year 3 (April 2016).

Contd ...

Headquarters

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Garstang Road, Fulwood
Preston
PR2 3LH



Prince's Trust



In accordance with Authority policy, a period of twelve weeks was allocated for consultation (29 July to 20 October 2013) in respect of the ECR and proposals for change. During this period, a comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken involving staff, partners and service users. This included the use of Public Scrutiny Forums facilitated by Opinion Research Services and Open Public Meetings, which in the case of Lancaster, was held on 16 September 2013. Attendance at the public meeting was poor with only 11 attendees, the majority of whom were LFRS staff. Outside of these events the Authority received a number of written responses, 6 in the case of Lancaster, one of which was a letter from Lancaster City Council dated 16 September 2013.

Upon completion of the consultation process all of the written correspondence received, along with feedback from staff and the Public Scrutiny Panels/Open Public Meetings, was carefully considered and presented in full to the Authority's Planning Committee on 21 November 2013. The comments received in relation to Lancaster focused on a number of key themes: large geographical area, Lancaster University, planned future development i.e. expansion of Heysham Port, Heysham to M6 Link and increasing population. Indeed, the letter from the City Council made reference to a number of these themes.

As ACO Russel explained to the City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee all of these points were carefully considered prior to final decisions being made. Equally, there is sometimes an incorrect assumption made that themes such as the above, translate across into increased risk and activity, activity in the context of increased demand on LFRS resources - this is not the case. Our risk profiling tells us that the majority of fires across Lancashire occur in older, more traditional housing stock i.e. houses in multiple occupation in the West End of Morecambe as a point in case, and not necessarily in new homes which are built to modern building regulation standards including the requirement for hard wired smoke detection. The infrastructure in North Lancashire, for example, Heysham Power Station, Heysham Port, Lancaster University and the hospital are well managed sites all demonstrating a strong record health and safety record of actively managing their processes and associated risks.

I acknowledge the fact that changes to the built environment take place, something which can be applied to a greater or lesser extent to other parts of Lancashire. It is for this very reason that our ECR is undertaken every 3 to 4 years to ensure that resources remain matched to Lancashire's risk profile. Whilst we remain cognisant of such changes we do so by adopting a risk based approach. The simple fact remains that Lancaster are attending 36% less operational incidents over the period 2010/13 compared to 2007/10. It is also worth noting that Lancaster's second wholetime (WT) fire engine is the quietest WT fire engine in the County, in terms of the number of operational incidents it attends, when compared to the Service's four other fire stations which have two WT fire engines.

Taking this historical data alongside changes (existing and proposed) to the built environment, the professional opinion was that Lancaster should maintain two fire engines, albeit the configuration, should be one wholetime fire engine and one retained duty system fire engine, as opposed to two wholetime fire

engines. The professional view remains unaltered and to a great extent has to do in light of my comments regarding the financial environment in which LFRS is being required to operate within. Finally, I understood the view of the City Council whilst not supportive of the decision to remove a wholetime fire engine, was that *"the option of keeping the second engine but with retained firefighters would seem a reasonable one, assuming that assurances were given that the wider factors had been taken into account"*. The assurance I give you is that absolutely this has been the case not just in the context of Lancaster but in all locations where there are changes to fire cover.

Regarding the other points:

- 2(i) The Fire Authority, in conjunction with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, remains content with its decision given the imperative to find savings. Plans to remove a WT fire engine and replace it with an RDS fire engine will continue with implementation by April 2016.
- 2(ii) Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service will remain receptive to requests to engage with district councils, but will not as a matter of course report all reviews to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Service will continue to follow the Fire Authority's Consultation Strategy central to which is proportionate reporting / consultation which is communities led.
- 2(iii) As requested, a copy of my letter will be forwarded to Eric Ollerenshaw MP and Brandon Lewis MP (Department for Communities and Local Government).

Yours sincerely



County Councillor Frank de Molfetta
Chairman
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

