

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Consultation Response The Lancashire Economic Strategy 2010 Framework of Priorities

12 November 2009

Report of Corporate Director (Regeneration)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to members a proposed response to the Lancashire County Council consultation on the Lancashire Economic Strategy 2010, Framework of Priorities.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

That members support the comments contained in the attached document and that this is approved as a formal response to Lancashire County Council's consultation on the Lancashire Economic Strategy 2010, Framework of Priorities

1. Introduction

1.1 Lancashire County Council has recently issued a draft version of the Framework of Priorities for its proposed Economic Strategy 2010 and is currently consulting with key partners. The council is included in the consultation exercise and officers have now considered the Framework of Priorities and prepared a draft formal response for members' consideration.

2. Proposal Details

2.1 Lancashire County Council's draft Framework of Priorities is timely, given current major challenges in the wider economy, a degree of uncertainty regarding future policy priorities at national and regional level and new and developing sub-regional arrangements, which are set to bring about changes in the way we all work together. The draft Framework of Priorities indicates Lancashire County Council's assessment of the economic priorities across the sub region and also expresses the intention for county council to seek to play a strategic leadership role for the sub region and to align its own resources with priorities.

- 2.2 Officers have reviewed the draft Framework of Priorities and are generally positive about Lancashire County Council's proposals. At this stage the proposals are quite high level but the view of officers is that discussions with Lancashire County Council over recent months have meant that the draft priorities broadly reflect local aspirations as identified in the district's agreed Economic Regeneration programme.
- 2.3 However, some comments have been drafted to request more detail on some points, that the role of Lancashire county Council and partners in strongly representing the sub region at regional, national and international level is emphasised and that specific reference is made regarding the development of stronger links across administrative boundaries, including Cumbria. The draft consultation response is attached to this report.

3 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The draft Lancashire Economic Strategy 2010, Framework of Priorities has been reviewed by the Corporate Director (Regeneration) and a number of officers in Economic Development and Planning Services.

4 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 **Option 1. Respond to the consultation as set out in the draft response attached:** This allows the council to influence the development of sub regional priorities in line with the economic aspirations of the district. Economy is identified as a priority of the council and in pursuit of this it seems highly appropriate that the council plays a strong and active role in representing the interests of the district via strong engagement with sub regional and regional partners.
- 4.2 **Option 2. Amend the draft consultation response:** This allows members to include any additional, agreed comments to the draft consultation response.
- 4.3 **Option 3. Do not respond to the consultation:** The council can opt not to respond to this consultation but loses this opportunity to influence the way in which sub regional priorities for the next few years develop.

5 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 The officer preferred option is Option 1.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 This consultation process is welcomed as an important step in the development of the sub regional priorities and county council's engagement with partners. Lancashire County Council's draft priorities incorporate most of the key aspirations of Lancaster district. The draft consultation prepared by officers is therefore generally positive but suggests further clarification on some points, more emphasis on representation of Lancashire beyond the administrative boundaries and specifically requests that the potential for development of stronger links across administrative boundaries, including Cumbria.

The draft consultation response supports the district economic priorities as outlined in the Lancaster District Community strategy, which has been endorsed by Lancaster City Council.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Lancashire County Council will need to be guided by current standards and best practice for Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As this is a Lancashire County Council strategy consultation, there are no specific financial implications at this time.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 officer has been consulted & has no comments to add

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no known legal implications as a result of this consultation by Lancashire County Council.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Lancashire Economic Strategy 2010, Framework of Priorities
Lancaster City Council draft consultation response to Lancashire Economic Strategy 2010, Framework of Priorities

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