

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Lancashire County Council's Property Strategy 2016 30 June 2016

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the a consultation being undertaken by Lancashire County Council on its Property Strategy 2016 and to make arrangements to prepare a response, if the Committee wishes to do so.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee considers whether to make a response on behalf of the City Council to the County Council's consultation on its Property Strategy 2016 and;**
- (2) That the Committee considers how to draft and agree the response (subject to the decision in (1), above).**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancashire County Council is proposing some changes to how and where many of the services it provides to communities to make them more affordable. The County Council has launched a consultation which ends on Sunday 14 August.
- 1.2 The main changes the County Council intends to consult about are:
 - To reduce the number of different buildings where services are available
 - To create a network of 'neighbourhood centres' through which it will deliver services
 - To consult on the location of children's centres

A copy of the consultation proposals regarding 'neighbourhood centres' is attached at Appendix A and Appendix B gives an overview of the consultation.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 Should the Committee be minded to make a response, the following points have been flagged up by Officers:-
 - a) Polling Stations – of the 8 properties that Lancashire County Council is

proposing to no longer deliver services from (see Appendix C for the list), three are currently used as polling stations for elections and referenda.

They are

- Barton Road Young People's Centre Barton Road, Lancaster
- Heysham Young People's Centre, Middleton Way, Heysham
- Balmoral Children's Centre, Balmoral Road, Morecambe

Additionally, Morecambe Library is currently used as a polling station. The County Council's proposals are to turn Morecambe Library into an unmanned satellite library, which may affect its future use as a polling station.

Depending on the future uses of the buildings, it may be possible to continue using them as polling stations. If the buildings close or are no longer accessible, then the Elections Manager will look at other suitable venues in nearby locations.

- b) The Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Resources) met with an officer from the County Council earlier this year and suggested that Lancaster Town Hall would be suitable location for the Lancaster Registry Office and that both councils should review their assets in Morecambe in the round rather than in isolation. Those suggestions could be raised again in the consultation response, as no feedback has been received so far.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Committee is asked, firstly whether it wishes to submit a response to the County Council on behalf of the City Council.
- 3.2 If the Committee chooses to submit a response on behalf of the Council, it will need to agree on a method for finalising the wording of the response to be drafted after the meeting, either by delegating this to the Chairman; by individual members commenting on the draft via email, or by some other suitable arrangement to be determined by the Committee.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising at this stage. However, the comment in this report regarding reviewing buildings in the round, rather than in isolation, could offer the potential for both council's to save money. The City Council currently receives £500 per annum rent from the County Council for the use of Morecambe Town Hall for the Registration Office – if they were to move to Morecambe Library then the budget would need to be updated to
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reflect this reduction in income.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

No known resource implications for Human Resources

Information Services:

No known resource implications for Information Services

Property:

No known resource implications for Property Services

Open Spaces:

No known resource implications for Open Space

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer drafted this report in her capacity as Democratic Services Manager.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Lancashire County Council's consultation on Property Strategy

Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers

Telephone: 01524 582057

E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: N/A