

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12 December 2011

LANCASTRIAN SCRUTINY TASK GROUP FINAL REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To agree the final report and recommendations from the Lancastrian Scrutiny Task Group.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The final report and recommendations be approved for submission to the Executive Cabinet for approval and implementation.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	x
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	x
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			x

BACKGROUND

- The Asset Management Scrutiny Task Group in its final recommendations in early 2011, proposed that the future use of the Lancastrian Suite be the subject of a separate scrutiny review. The Task Group started meeting earlier this year and has just concluded its review and findings which are set out in the attached report.

TASK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Task Group has considered both external and internal management of the Lancastrian Suite. It has undertaken soft marketing testing with local event management companies and a survey of existing regular users. Members undertook a site visit to South Ribble's Hospitality Suite and met with their catering team.

6. The key recommendation of the review is that the resource provided by the Lancastrian Suite is highly valued for its internal needs including larger meetings, elections, training and consultation events as well as Mayoral functions. There is also however a need to maximise its use by commercial and community organisations. Continued management by internal staff is recommended with the principle of self resourcing and a charging policy based on covering the Council's costs as a minimum.
7. To achieve this, a new pricing structure is suggested which includes the reintroduction of private parties within specific guidelines. It is also suggested that minor improvement works at a cost of approximately £15,000 be undertaken to the backstage and bar areas of the Lancastrian Suite.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

8. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	x
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

9. The expenditure of £15,000 for the improvements will be found from in year underspends in 2011/12. In respect of the income the new scheme may generate, I suggest a target of £5,000 be set for 2012/13 as it may take some time to see if the new arrangements spark more interest.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

10. In seeking to maximise use of the Lancastrian Suite, the review and the recommendations comply with all necessary legislation.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Chris Moister/Carol Russell	5160/5196	30.11.11	