

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 March 2006

Present: Councillor J Walker (Chair), Councillors Bell, Mrs Case, Davies, Goldsworthy, McGowan, Parr, Perks and Mrs Walsh

06.0S.20 **CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY, THE PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS AND THE AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUSTS IN LANCASHIRE AND CUMBRIA**

The Committee received a report of the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services which considered a response to the consultation on changes to the Strategic Health Authority (SHA), Primary Care Trusts (PCT) and Ambulance Service NHS Trusts in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The Committee discussed the three areas of the report in detail and queried several issues with the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services.

The report was submitted to the Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel and had requested that comments be made to this Committee.

RESOLVED - That the following comments made by the Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 1 March 2006 be endorsed by this Committee and forwarded to the Executive Cabinet meeting on 9 March 2006.

Strategic Health Authority

1. To support the proposal for dissolving the existing three SHA's to create a new Strategic North West Strategic Health Authority covering the area of the existing three SHA's and the regional boundary for the Government Office for the North West.
2. To question whether it is true consultation if only one option is given to choose from.

Ambulance Trusts

1. To note the disappointment of the Panel that only one option was given to choose from.
2. To note that the proposed Ambulance Trust for the North West would be too large and therefore less responsive than several smaller trusts to local needs.
3. To propose that the Ambulance Trusts cover Lancashire and Cumbria, to align with the proposed reorganisation of the Police Authorities.
4. To request that local performance data is available to monitor the situation in Chorley.

PCT Reconfiguration

1. To support Option Three; meaning that Chorley could be part of a PCT co-terminous with the local authority boundaries of Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Preston.
2. To highlight that Option One and Option Two would create a Trust be too large and therefore less responsive to local needs.
3. The Panel recognised that the consultation only offers 3 options but would want any reconfiguration to tie in with the outcome of any future review of local government.