

**MINUTES OF CHORLEY LIAISON**

**MEETING DATE** Wednesday, 20 July 2016

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Gordon France (Eastern Parishes) (Chair), Councillor Kim Snape (Chorley Rural East Division, Lancashire County Council) (Vice-Chair),  
Lancashire County Councillors: Steve Holgate (Chorley West Division, Lancashire County Council),  
Chorley Borough Councillors: Alistair Morwood (Chorley Town East) and Matthew Lynch (Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw)  
Town and Parish Councillors: Alison Evans (Adlington Town Councillor), Ian Horsfield (Anderton Parish Councillor), Laura Lennox (Astley Village Parish Councillor), John Taylor (Charnock Richard Parish Councillor), Katrina Reed (Euxton Parish Councillor), Malcolm Allen (Heapey Parish Councillor), Graham Ashworth (Heath Charnock Parish Councillor), Peter Lloyd (Heskin Parish Councillor), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Councillor) and Terry Dickenson (Wheulton Parish Councillor)

**OFFICERS:** Jamie Carson (Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community)

**APOLOGIES:** Chorley Borough Councillors: Alistair Bradley (Chorley Town), Anthony Gee (Chorley Town West) and Alan Whittaker (Southern Parishes) Town and Parish Councillors: Steven Perry (Withnell Parish Councillor)

**OTHER:** Christine Bailey (Health Charnock Parish Clerk), Julia Berry

**16.79 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the year.**

AGREED – Councillor Gordon France (Chorley Borough Council) was appointed Chair and County Councillor Kim Snape (Lancashire County Council) be confirmed as Vice Chair.

**16.80 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 16 March 2016 of Chorley Liaison**

AGREED – That the minutes of the meeting of Chorley Liaison held on 16 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

**16.81 Item from Chorley Council: New Management Structure**

Jamie Carson, the Director (Early Intervention and Support) informed the Liaison that following Council approval of recommendations on future governance models on 24 November 2015, a senior management review had taken place.

To ensure the Council remained high performing and achieve its ambitions for the future, the senior management structure needed to be reviewed to ensure that it continued to provide a strong base which would –

- Achieve savings in management costs
- Simplify and promote public service reform and integration
- Align functions to fit with the future governance model proposals
- Target and embed resources in priority areas

The Council had identified four key principals which it built in to the new structure and represented four new directorates –

- Customer and Digital; the focus for this directorate was to improve services to customers and making best use of technology by providing as many automated services as possible and one point of contact for residents.
- Early Interventions and Support; the focus for this directorate was on prevention and early intervention and the delivery of the integrated community wellbeing service. This position also took the role as Deputy Chief Executive.
- Business, Growth and Investment; it had been announced that by 2020 local councils would need to be self-sufficient and not rely on government funding. The focus for this directorate was to drive economic growth in the borough.
- Policy and Governance; the aim of this directorate was to drive public services reform and transformation, and look to shared services.

The Chief Executive of the Council remained unchanged, and Heads of Services had been appointed to support the Directors.

In addition to the new directorates, at a separate meeting on the 19 July 2016, the Council also agreed the proposals for an Integrated Community Wellbeing Service, and enter in to formal discussion with the Care Trust Board on the formulation of the service. The confidential report, suggested a three phased approach establishment –

- Phase 1: July 2016 to March 2017; would establish management arrangements and location of service
- Phase 2: April 2017 to September 2018; the creation of a business partnership between the Council and Care Trust which would include staffing arrangements
- Phase 3: October 2018 and beyond; during this phase, the success of the partnership would be reviewed and a final decision be made on the way forward.

Members of the Liaison were informed that the proposals agreed at Council were still subject to approval by the Care Trust Board at its meeting on 27 July 2016.

The report clearly set out the remit of the integrated community wellbeing service to avoid any duplication of work LCC undertake. Officers from Chorley Council liaise with LCC to ensure they were made fully aware of how the service would operate to avoid duplication of effort and resource.

The Chair of LCC's Health Scrutiny Committee suggested that a topic for a future Task Group could review the health and wellbeing service. As well as officers from LCC, representatives from the borough council and Lancashire Care Trust Board could be

invited. There was a commitment from Chorley Council that a representative would be available to attend.

**AGREED – That the updated be noted.**

## **16.82 Lancashire County Council: Consultation on Assets**

### **Lancashire County Council: Consultation on Assets**

Members of the Liaison considered information provided by LCC on its Property Strategy Consultation and their proposals for Chorley. In addition, Parish/Town Councils had been asked to supply details of any expressions of interest that had been submitted to LCC on premises. This information was collated and tabled at the meeting.

The Liaison was informed that Chorley Council had submitted expression of interest in four premises –

- Woodlands Centre
- Coppull Children's Centre
- Highfield Children's Centre
- Adlington Library

No plans for the premises had been drawn up at this stage by the Council, and it would like to work with other interested parties to develop proposals for the buildings' usage.

During debate, it was clarified that only expressions of interest were required to be submitted to LCC by 26 July 2016. On receipt of an expression of interest, LCC would provide financial information on running costs to interested parties so that an informed decision could be made on the feasibility of taking over the premises. It was confirmed that any expression of interest on a premises was not binding. However it would prevent LCC from disposing of the premises until it was recognised no proposals were forthcoming.

If no expression of interest was received for a premise, LCC would proceed to the building's disposal.

There was general agreement that the impact of any closures to libraries and community hubs would lead to an increase in social isolation. It was accepted that social isolation was already a serious issue in rural areas, and any further reduction in services would only compound this problem. In response, County Councillor Holgate explained that a number of initiatives had been planned to mitigate the impact in any reduction of services (e.g. an enhanced mobile library services). However, to ensure their longevity, residents would need to demonstrate that there was a demand for a service by using it.

**AGREED – That the information be noted.**

**16.83 Item from Adlington Town Council : LCC Property Strategy - Adlington Library**

This item was submitted on behalf of Adlington Town Council and followed on from the previous item (minute 16.83) regarding LCC's Consultation on Assets.

It was reported that Adlington Town Council had 'unofficially' submitted an expression of interest in Adlington library and had received some financial information from the County Council on running costs (excluding staffing). Two groups had been set up recently, one of which was to oppose the closure of the library, and the other to raise funds to help towards the running costs should the Town Council take the library over.

Representatives from the Town Council were concerned that if the Town Council submitted an expression of interest in the library, that LCC would automatically withdraw their library services with the expectation that the Town Council would take it over.

The Director (Early Intervention and Support) reminded the Liaison that the borough council had put forward an expression of interest in Adlington library and wanted to work with the Town Council to develop proposals for the premises.

Concern was raised about the effectiveness of LCC consultations, in particular the consultation on transport provision, the results of which had not been published. County Councillor Holgate reassured members of the Liaison that all consultations were taken seriously and the results were considered before any decisions were made.

**16.84 Item from Charnock Richard Parish Council: Highway Verge Cutting**

**AGREED - That the response from Chorley Council be noted.**

**16.85 Item from Charnock Richard Parish Council: Roadside Gully Emptying**

Charnock Richard Parish Council had requested for a programme/schedule of cleaning.

LCC supplied a response to this question which was tabled at the meeting.

In summary, over the last 2 years LCC had carried out extensive intelligence gathering to enable it to provide a gully cleansing programme that was fit for purpose and to ensure that when the jetting crew attend, work was carried out and the service to the community was optimised.

The cleansing programme will now provide:

- Priority one: gullies cleansed every 12 months; these would be gullies that were normally close to full or full at the annual clean and/or gullies that had a history of blocking/flooding the highway.
- Priority two: gullies cleansed every 18 months; these would be gullies that would benefit from routine cleansing minimally every two years as they were

likely to block and cause problems if they were not cleansed over the that time period.

- Reactive: gullies that despite regular visits did not require annual cleaning and that no reports had been received in regards to blocking.

It was noted that the priorities had not been fixed; the programme and its impact would be closely monitored and should local conditions change, the status of the gullies might need to be changed.

Members of the Liaison felt that the programme would not be adequate to prevent gullies being blocked and roads being flooded as a result. However, they welcomed that fact that the programme was being monitored and that gully priority could be altered.

The Director (Early Intervention and Support) informed the Liaison that officers from Chorley Council were assisting LCC in identifying block gullies and pot holes.

The Charnock Richard Parish Councillor thanked LCC for their response. However, would like to clarify that the request was for a programme and schedule of gully cleansing. **Update from Chorley Council: this information follows on from the minutes.**

*At this point Cllr M Lynch left the meeting.*

## **16.86 Questions from Members of the Liaison and the public**

**Terry Dickenson, Wheelton Parish Council/Chorley Sports Forum**, announced that Chorley Sport Awards would take place on 9 September 2016. Nominations were now open. Further details can be found on the Chorley Council's website <http://chorley.gov.uk/Pages/AtoZ/Chorley-Sports-Awards.aspx>

**Julia Berry** enquired as to what was happening with the circular bus route? **Update from Chorley Council: The response to this question has been included in the report attached to agenda item 6, regarding a progress update on LCC assets transfer, as requested from Adlington Town Council.**

**Marel Urry, Hoghton Parish Council**, had noted that the local police officer was no longer attending Parish or PACT meetings, and asked if other Parish/Town Councils had a similar issue.

The Director (Early Intervention and Support) informed the Liaison, that this matter was being picked up with Lancashire Constabulary and he was hopeful that Inspector Charlie Cox will be in contact with councillors and Parish/Town councils to provide information about PACT meetings and their future.

Members of the Liaison debated the merits of the PACT meetings and raised awareness of other initiatives that the police had undertaken to engage with residents. It was recommended that Parish/Town Councillors sign up to the Police ezine In The Know as it provided details of police drop in sessions which anyone can attend. It was

**AGREED that Inspector Cox be invited to the next meeting of the Liaison to discuss this matter.**

Following the recent Iron Man event that covered parts of the borough, a number of complaints had been directed towards parish councils. To ascertain what the issues were, the Director (Early Intervention and Support) advised that a questionnaire would be sent out to all parish/town councils requesting feedback on the event.

*At this point Parish Councillors Terry Dickenson and Malcolm Allen left the meeting.*

**16.87 Items for Future Meetings**

PACT meetings.

Chair

Date