

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

JOINT WORKING WITH PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE COUNCILS ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Cabinet agreed in principle at its meeting on 15 November 2007 to formalise the joint working arrangements with Preston and South Ribble Councils on the Local Development Framework (LDF) processes.
2. The Corporate Director (Business) submitted a further report to the 27 March 2008 meeting of the Executive Cabinet on plans to take the formal arrangements a step further. This will entail the establishment of a Joint Advisory Committee to comprise a small number of Councillors from the three Borough Councils and one Lancashire County Councillor to oversee the preparation of a Joint Core Strategy and any other relevant LDF documents. The Joint Advisory Committee will not be granted any delegated authority, as the ultimate decision making powers will remain with each of the three District Authorities. The Joint Committee will receive reports on the preparation of the respective LDF documents and for subsequent advice and guidance to the Authorities on their adoption.
3. The financial and staffing arrangements for the preparation of LDF documents and the operation of the Joint Committee will need to be assessed and determined at a later date by the participating Councils.
4. We supported the proposals to formalise the collaborative working arrangements, but, as the establishment of the new body and the decisions on the production of the LDF documents are not within the remit of the Executive Cabinet, decisions will require to be made by the full Council.
5. A copy of the report of the Corporate Director (Business) considered by the Executive Cabinet on 27 March, which explains the background and reasons for the proposals, is attached.

Recommendations

6. We accordingly recommend the Council to approve:
 - (a) the establishment under Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 of a Joint Advisory Committee between Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Borough Councils to advise upon the preparation of a Joint Core Strategy and any other joint Local Development Framework Documents;
 - (b) delegated authority being granted to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration to deal with the practical implementation of the joint working;
 - (c) to agree the nomination at the Annual Meeting on 13 May 2008 of three Councillors (including one Executive Member), together with substitute Member(s), to serve on the Joint Advisory Committee.

COUNCILLOR PETER MALPAS
Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

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There are no background papers to this report.