

New Constitution for the Lancashire Local Chorley

(Appendix "A" refers)

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Summary

This report sets out the implications of a new constitution for Lancashire Local Chorley.

The new constitution for Lancashire Local Chorley is attached as Appendix "A" for information with all new or revised text shown in bold.

Decision Required

That the revised Lancashire Local Constitution as presented be endorsed for consideration and adoption by the Full Council.

Background

Lancashire Locals have been in operation in some Districts for four years and in all Districts for at least two years. During this period of time a great deal has been achieved in terms of engaging local councillors in decisions on County Council services delivered in their district and influencing wider service delivery to ensure that it meets local need. There has also been some joint working across the county and district councils prompted by Lancashire Locals.

Both the Borough and County Council has remained committed to supporting and developing the Lancashire Local and work has been undertaken to identify the potential for developing the model further.

A consultation process was undertaken with stakeholders including all Lancashire Locals, District Councils, Parish and Town Councils, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. Discussions were held with Cabinet Members, their Executive Directors, and local officers to consider the challenges and opportunities in further developing the Locals. A revised constitution was developed following the consultation period.

11 districts, including Chorley, have Lancashire Locals which take the form of a Joint Committee with equal numbers of County and District Councillors. Only Hyndburn has an Area Committee of the County Council comprising only County Councillors.

The new Constitution for all Lancashire Locals was considered and approved by the County Council on the 11th December 2008. In order for the Lancashire Local to operate as a joint committee it is advised that Chorley Council likewise approve the Constitution, a copy of the Constitution for Chorley is attached as Appendix A with any new or revised text shown in bold.

In short, the main additions/changes are:-

- The inclusion of the Lancashire Young People's service including;
 - determination of the annual outcomes expected by each district delivery plan
 - determination of the resource allocation to each element of the service
 - recommending proposals for the deployment of Playbuilder's Funding
 - monitoring the delivery of the annual district delivery plan
- Powers to approve highways gating orders and determination of the construction of cycle tracks in the place of footways.
- Approval and monitoring the proposals and priorities of the County's Corporate Face to Face Strategy.
- A new provision allowing additions to be made to the powers of the Lancashire local on an ongoing basis.
- Greater flexibility for each Lancashire Local to decide how and when to engage members of the public in their meetings.
- Inclusion of the protocols for engaging young people and parish and town councils as part of the constitution.

The discussions have also highlighted that there is potential for the Lancashire Locals to take on an enhanced role in bringing together complementary services between the Districts and County Council which will result in more joined up service delivery at the local level. In response to the consultation on the draft constitution there were also indications from a number of Lancashire Locals that they would be interested in pursuing this further. Further work is planned to hold discussions with those Districts that wish to pursue this. The new provision enables additions to be made to the remit of the Lancashire Locals on an ongoing basis, and following discussions there may be agreement to incorporate further changes to the Constitution, reflecting a more tailored constitution for Chorley, to be agreed later this year.

The new provision also enables discussions with County Council Directorates to continue internally, to identify additional delegations over the longer term and ensure that the Lancashire Locals remain relevant in the light of emerging government legislation on neighbourhood level working and community engagement.

The other significant difference in the new constitution is its emphasis on local priorities and aspirations and the need to strengthen links with district based partnerships such as the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). For the shaping and influencing role to be effective locally, the decision on which services are to be selected for influence by each Lancashire Local must be informed by local priorities and aspirations. By focussing on the local government priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement, Neighbourhoods Plan and other neighbourhood level plans such as Parish Plans, local members can combine their specialist local knowledge of the area and develop a programme of work that tackles

local issues and aspirations within an agreed framework, which should inform the development of their locality plan.

Implementation Arrangements

The revised constitution for Lancashire Local Chorley as attached was adopted by Lancashire County Council on the 11th December 2008. The new constitution would come into operation if this agreed by Chorley Council.

Consultations

To accompany the draft constitution a consultation paper was prepared and sent to the Lancashire Locals, District Councils, LSPs, and all Parish Town Councils as well as all members of the County Council, for comment during October. In addition, the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has been consulted.

Suggestions received by respondents that could be reflected in the constitution with relative ease, have been. This includes things such as greater flexibility for Lancashire Locals to decide how and when to engage members of the public in their meetings and more references to the role of parish and town councils.

However a number of suggestions require further work to be undertaken. This work will be pursued over the coming months and if practicable included in the constitution under the new provision to add to the powers on an ongoing basis.

Advice

The new Constitution would be operative from adoption by Chorley Council.

Risk management

The risk of not adopting new constitutional arrangements will be to miss opportunities to shape local services in Chorley.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
Report to Cabinet Member for Community Planning and Partnerships and Adult and Community Services	29 th September 2008	Sarah Parry, Lancashire County Council OCE, Policy Unit, 01772 530615
Agenda/Proceedings from Full Council	11 th December 2008	M Neville, Lancashire County Council, OCE Democratic services 01772 533431

