



FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Meeting Agenda

**Policy & Service Review Community
Forum
Town Hall, St Annes
24 August 2005, 6:00pm**

POLICY & SERVICE REVIEW COMMUNITY FORUM MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN – Councillor Simon Renwick
VICE-CHAIRMAN – Councillor John Prestwich

Councillors

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Stephen Carpenter | Martin Taylor |
| Peter Collins | Keith Wright |
| Raymond Norsworthy | |

Contact: Peter Welsh, St. Annes (01253) 658502
Email: peterw@fylde.gov.uk



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Council's investment and activities are focused on achieving our five key objectives which aim to :

- Conserve, protect and enhance the quality of the Fylde natural and built environment
- Work with partners to help maintain safe communities in which individuals and businesses can thrive
- Stimulate strong economic prosperity and regeneration within a diverse and vibrant economic environment
- Improve access to good quality local housing and promote the health and wellbeing and equality of opportunity of all people in the Borough
- Ensure we are an efficient and effective council.

CORE VALUES

In striving to achieve these objectives we have adopted a number of key values which underpin everything we do :

- Provide equal access to services whether you live in town, village or countryside,
- Provide effective leadership for the community,
- Value our staff and create a 'can do' culture,
- Work effectively through partnerships,
- Strive to achieve 'more with less'.



A G E N D A

| ITEM | PAGE |
|---|--------|
| 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: <i>In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.</i> | 4 |
| 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: <i>To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Forum held on 26 July 2005.</i> | 4 |
| 3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS: <i>Details of any substitute members notified in accordance with council procedure rule 26.3</i> | 4 |
| 4. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE | 5 - 12 |

REPORT



| REPORT OF | MEETING | DATE | ITEM NO |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------|
| LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES | POLICY & SERVICE REVIEW COMMUNITY FORUM | 24 TH AUGUST 2005 | 4 |

THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Public/Exempt item

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

Summary

At the meeting of the Forum on 26th July it was resolved to undertake additional follow-up work to the evidence gathering, which the Forum Members had been asked to carry out on behalf of the Council.

This report introduces the parties invited on this occasion to participate in this follow-up work.

Recommendation/s

1. That the Forum members note and consider the additional information provided by the various bodies attending the meeting.
2. That the members of the Forum convene a special meeting, after the proposed visit to the Cabinet meeting of South Ribble BC, to develop their recommendations for presentation to the Council.

Report

1. At the meeting of the Forum on 26th July it was resolved as follows:
 - 1 Members of the Forum attend a cabinet meeting at South Ribble Borough Council.
 - 2 The Leader/Chief Executive of Ribble Valley Borough Council be requested to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Forum on their council's 'alternative arrangements'.

- 3 A Leader from an 'opposition party' of a local authority operating a cabinet system be asked to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Forum.
 - 4 Details of the structures and call-in procedures operated by authorities in Fylde's family group be presented to the next meeting.
 - 5 That the representatives who provided presentations to the Forum be thanked for their assistance and attendance at the meeting
2. Arrangements have been made with the Ribble Valley representatives and with an opposition Member from Wyre BC (who operate a Cabinet system) to attend this meeting of the Forum to assist with the evidence gathering process. An outline timetable for the meeting is attached at Appendix A.
 3. The next meeting of the South Ribble BC Cabinet takes place on 7th September at 6pm in Leyland and arrangements are being made for relevant Members to attend this.
 4. Details of the structures and call-in procedures operated by councils in Fylde B C's family group are attached at Appendix B. These family grouping are established by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) and are based on an assessment of common criteria, e.g. population distribution, economic profile, deprivation statistics, geography.
 5. Letters have been sent to all external parties who participated in the Forum meeting on the 26th July.

| IMPLICATIONS | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Finance | None arising directly from the report. |
| Legal | None arising directly from the report. |
| Community Safety | None arising directly from the report. |
| Human Rights and Equalities | None arising directly from the report. |
| Sustainability | None arising directly from the report. |
| Health & Safety and Risk Management | None arising directly from the report. |

| REPORT AUTHOR | TEL | DATE | DOC ID |
|---------------|-----|------|--------|
| | | | |

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Ian Curtis | (01253) 658506 | 31 May 2005 | |
|------------|----------------|-------------|--|

| LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| NAME OF DOCUMENT | DATE | WHERE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION |
| None | | |

**DRAFT OUTLINE PROGRAMME
SPECIAL POLICY & SERVICE REVIEW COMMUNITY FORUM - 24TH
August 2005**

PURPOSE OF MEETING

1. To further consider alternative political structures for the Council.
2. To take evidence and comments from interested parties in order to develop recommendations to Council for a preferred political structure.

REQUIRED OUTCOME

1. To prepare a report and recommendations on the preferred political structure for the Council.

| Time | Name | Comments | Contact |
|-------------|--|--|----------------|
| 18.00 | | Start of Meeting | |
| 18.10 | Councillor J Hill Mr D Morris Mr P Timpson | Council Leader Chief Executive Head of Legal Services Ribble Valley Borough Council | |
| 19.00 | Councillor P Martin | Opposition Councillor, Wyre BC | |

Timings are approximate.

POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S FAMILY GROUP.

Lewes District Council

- 41 Councillors
- Liberal Democrat Majority
- Uses a Cabinet system, this consists of six members who are from the majority, each of the six has specific areas of responsibility, the three members who sit on the cabinet from the opposition have no specific responsibilities.
- One Scrutiny Committee but several smaller panels which each does Scrutiny style work, the committee is chaired by a member of the opposition
- CPA Rating: Good
- Population: 92,000
- Call-In Procedure: Any member can request a decision to be called in but must have the support of at least three of the Members who sit on the Scrutiny Committee.

Rother District Council

- 38 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Uses a Cabinet system that consists of seven members all from the majority party.
- There are two Scrutiny Committees with ten members on one and twenty members on the other all Chairs and Vice Chairs also come from the leading party.
- CPA Rating: Fair
- Population: 85,000
- Call-In Procedure: The Chief Executive can call-in a decision for scrutiny by the appropriate Committee if so requested by the Chairman or any three members of the Committee.

Wyre Forest District Council

- 42 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Uses a Cabinet system that consists of six members who are all from the majority party
- There are six Scrutiny Committees where all Chairmanships are given to the opposition and all Vice Chair positions are retained by the leading party
- CPA Rating: Fair
- Population: 97,000
- Call-In Procedure: The call-in procedure can be triggered by any three non-Cabinet Members and the Chairman of the relevant Policy and Scrutiny Panel or by any three Members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee/Panels and any member of the relevant Policy Panel by giving notice to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

Worthing Borough Council

- 37 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Uses a Cabinet system that has five members from the majority party
- There is one Scrutiny Committee made up of sixteen members, both the Chair and Vice Chair are from the leading party
- CPA Rating: Fair
- Population: 98,000
- Call-In Procedure: Any three Members (other than Members of the Cabinet) may request in writing or electronically that one or more of the following matters be “called-in” for review or scrutiny

South Hams District Council

- 40 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Uses a Cabinet system that has eight members all from the leading party.
- There is a Scrutiny Committee and three Policy Development Groups each with eight members, one Chairmanship is held by the opposition all other positions are controlled by the leading party.
- CPA Rating: Excellent
- Population: 82,000
- Call-In Procedure: The Head of Paid Service shall call-in a decision for scrutiny by Scrutiny if so requested by the Chairman or any three members of Scrutiny or 4 other councillors.

Purbeck District Council

- 24 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Has a Policy Group which sits below the Full Council with seven members, all but one of the group are from the leading political group.
- It has one Scrutiny Committee with eleven members, the Chair is from the leading party with the Vice Chair position being given to the opposition.
- CPA Rating: Fair
- Population: 44,000
- Call-In Procedure: A Councillor may, with the support of not less than one third of the Councillors present at a meeting of Council, refer any decision made by that Council meeting to Overview and Scrutiny Group.

Christchurch Borough Council

- 24 Councillors
- Conservative majority
- Has two Policy Committees that sit below the Full Council who are responsible for the majority of decisions – these are made up of representation from the different political parties but the Chair and Vice Chairs are from the leading political group.
- There is one Scrutiny Committee which is Chaired by a member from the leading political group with the position of Vice Chair given to the opposition.
- CPA Rating: Fair
- Population: 45,000
- Call-In Procedure: the Chairman or any three members of the Scrutiny Committee can make a request in writing to the Chief Executive and Town Clerk to call-in a decision.

Shepway District Council

- 44 Councillors
- Conservative majority
- Cabinet system is used which is made up of five members from the leading political party and two members from the opposition.
- There are three Scrutiny Committees whose Chairs and Vice Chairs are shared out amongst the different political groups.
- CPA Rating: Weak
- Population: 96,000
- Call-In Procedure: Any three members of the Scrutiny Committee which concentrates on the activities of the Cabinet may call in a decision for review within 5 days from the date of its publication by giving notice in writing to the proper officer (The Chief Executive)

Sedgemoor District Council

- 50 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Uses a Cabinet system consisting of ten members who are solely made up of members from the leading political party.
- There are three Scrutiny Committees whereby two have Chairs and Vice Chairs from the majority political party with the other committee being Chaired and Vice Chaired by the opposition.
- CPA Rating: Fair
- Population: 105,000
- Call-In Procedure: the proper officer shall call-in a decision for scrutiny by the Scrutiny Committee if so requested by the Chairman of that Committee or any five members of the Authority.

Carrick District Council

- 47 Councillors
- Liberal Democrat majority
- Uses a Cabinet system which consists of six members who are all from the majority political party.
- There is a Scrutiny Committee and linked to it are two Policy Development Committees. The Scrutiny Committee has a Chair and Vice Chair from the opposition.
- CPA Rating: Good
- Population: 88,000
- Call-In Procedure: A Councillor may, with the support of not less than one third of the Councillors present at a meeting of Council, refer any decision made by that Council meeting to Overview and Scrutiny Group

Wyre Borough Council

- 55 Councillors
- Conservative majority
- Uses a Cabinet system made up of six members who are all from the leading political party.
- There are five Overview and Scrutiny Committees all positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs are held by the leading political group.
- CPA Rating: Weak
- Population: 105,000
- Call-In Procedure: A request to call-in a decision has to be signed by at least four councillors within five working days of the publication of the original decision.

Derbyshire Dales District Council

- 39 Councillors
- Conservative Majority
- Uses two Policy Committees which take the majority of all decisions, they are politically balanced with the leading party having both Chairmanships.
- There are two Scrutiny Committees where both Chairs are taken by the leading political group as is one of the Vice Chair positions – one is given to the opposition.
- CPA Rating: Excellent
- Population: 70,000
- Call-in Procedure: A request to call in a decision can be made by the Chairman of one of the Scrutiny Committees or any three Councillors upon written request.