

**Policy & Service  
Review  
Community  
Forum**



Date	15 September 2005
Venue	Council Offices, Wesham
Committee members	Simon Renwick (Chairman) John Prestwich (Vice-Chairman)  Stephen Carpenter, Raymond Norsworthy, Martin Taylor.
Other Councillors	Maxine Chew, John Coombes, Keith Hyde, Barbara Pagett, Albert Pounder, Heather Speak, Colin Walton, Fabian Wilson
Officers	Ken Lee, Philip Woodward, Ian Curtis, Oliver Shimell, Peter Welsh

**1. Declarations of interest**

Members were 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.

**2. Confirmation of minutes**

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Policy & Service Review Community Forum meeting held on 24 August 2005 as correct records for signature by the chairman.

**3. Substitute members**

There were no substitute members.

**4. The council's political structure**

Philip Woodward (Executive Director) provided an overview of the information gathering exercises undertaken by Members on the various political structures open to the Council.

At the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July Members heard from a range of sources including;

- Ian Curtis (FBC Monitoring Officer)
- Councillor J Coombes (Leader of FBC)
- George Buckley IDeA Member Peer (Conservative)
- Keith Whaley IDeA Member Peer (Independent)
- (Deputy) Chief Exec (evidence on officer support)

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- Chair of Fylde LSP (Michael Wren-Hilton who provided Stakeholder views)
- Mike Greenwood Director of Local Government Practice ODPM - (Views and comments of ODPM / GONW)
- Mrs J Hunter Chief Executive South Ribble BC (Experiences from a council rated as 'good' under the CPA process).

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It was agreed at the meeting that further information was required before members could form a balanced and informed view on any possible structure changes to the Council. To aid them in their understanding the following information and actions were requested;

- Arrange a visit to South Ribble - this was arranged to take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September in order for members of the Forum to witness South Ribble's Cabinet in action.
- Second meeting with broader evidence including opposition councillors from a Council operating a Cabinet system (Wyre B C) and the Leader and Chief Executive of a council operating the multi-policy committees under the "fourth option (Ribble Valley). This meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.
- A paper exercise consisting of about a dozen different political structures - this was completed and circulated to relevant Councillors as part of the paperwork for the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

Information had now been taken from a wide range of sources to help inform Members' decisions on the best way forward for Fylde BC.

Members of the Forum now needed to draw together and condense this information into proposals and recommendations to put to the Special Council meeting planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> September.

A full and detailed debate took place at which Members expressed their views on the pros and cons of alternative political structures, namely, moving towards a cabinet system or reverting back to a streamlined committee system.

Following full consideration Members RESOLVED

1. That the Notice of Motion to go back to the Policy Committee structure is not upheld on the grounds that the evidence gathered did not support this action.
2. That the Forum recommends to the Full Council that the authority move towards an executive system on the leader and cabinet model.
3. The new system of governance should include area committees covering the whole district
4. That consultation required to move to a such a system is begun at the earliest opportunity.
5. Revise the constitution to reflect the principles set out in the report for discussion at a future meeting of the forum and adoption by a future meeting of the council