

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES	CABINET	17 TH JANUARY 2007	URGENT ITEM

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF COUNTY INFORMATION CENTRE, LYTHAM

Public Item

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

Summary

Lancashire County Council is considering the closure of several information centres in various parts of the County, including Lytham, as part of its budgetary considerations for 2007/08.

The Cabinet is asked to consider the implications of this proposal and make any appropriate comments to Lancashire County Council.

Recommendation

1. That the Cabinet consider the potential implications for the local community of the proposals to close the County Council Information Centre in Lytham and formulate an appropriate response to the County Council.

Cabinet Portfolio

The item falls within the following Cabinet portfolio:

Customer Relations and Partnerships: (Councillor Albert Pounder)

Report

1. In much the same way as most local authorities are experiencing budgetary pressures in setting their future budgets, Lancashire County Council (LCC) has indicated that it too is striving to deal with these issues.
2. As part of the County Council's search for potential efficiency savings in 2007/08 it is looking at the implications of closing a number of its local information centres. The centres being considered for closure are those in Chorley, Clitheroe and Lytham.

Continued....

3. Information obtained from the County Council indicates that they are aiming to keep their 2007/08 council tax increase to 4.9% and that the closure of the three centres will secure savings in the region of £125,000 to achieve this aim.
4. Members of the Cabinet will be aware that the proposals have generated interest in the Fylde media and have prompted the expression of concerns amongst some councillor colleagues.
5. Members may also recall that there have been a number of meetings between officers of the Borough and County Councils to explore the possibilities of providing a joint information service in Lytham Library. However, no positive action has resulted from these meetings.
6. The item is brought before the Cabinet as an urgent item because of the need to forward any comments and observations prior to the County Council considering the options during their budget preparation meetings in February.

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
P Woodward	(01253) 658500	Jan. 2007	h/cabinet/jan07/infocentrereport

List of Background Papers		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
-	-	-