

## Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee



Date	Thursday 9 November 2006
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) John Prestwich (Vice-Chairman) Richard Fulford-Brown, Louis Rigby, William Thompson, Thomas Threlfall, Stephen Wall, Colin Walton
Other Councillors	John Coombes, Fabian Wilson
Officers	Dave Joy, Christopher Kitchin, Christine Miller, Peter Welsh, Carolyn Whewell
Others	Frank Murphy, Michael Wren-Hilton, Chris Waters

### 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 Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 September 2006 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

### 3. Substitute members

No Substitute Members were reported.

### 4. LGA/IDEA Reputation Campaign

Dave Joy (Deputy Chief Executive) presented a report detailing the LGA/IDEA reputation campaign.

At its meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the Scrutiny Committee received a report on the LGA/IDEA Local Government Reputation Campaign. It was subsequently resolved that officers formulate an action plan for the council to meet the objectives of the Reputation Campaign and report this to a future meeting of the committee.

Included in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2006/2007 was the key action: 'To enhance the reputation of the council through the Local Government Association/Improvement and Development Agency (LGA/IDEA) 'Reputation' toolkit (4 year action)'.

Mr Joy also presented a costed Action Plan that was appended to the report. The actions were aimed at enabling the Council to reach and maintain 'Gold' standard in each of the twelve reputation criteria. Mr Joy mentioned that many of these actions could be addressed using existing resources whilst others had financial implications and that their implementation would be dependent on budgetary provision in 2007/2008.

The Committee scrutinised the three criteria that had financial implications to ensure that there was value for money.

Some Members were concerned that £46,000 for the recruitment of two Enforcement Officers was an excessive amount of money to dedicate specifically to the prevention of fly tipping. Members were reminded that the additional resources were identified by the Senior Operational Services Manager as what was required to achieve and maintain "gold" status for the reputation criteria. Current resources within the Streetscene team were limited to reacting to incidents of fly tipping. Should the Committee approve this recommendation, additional detailed information and justification would be required by the Cabinet for the Revenue Growth bid. The Chairman advised that due to the concerns some of the Members, the Committee recommendation should be amended to propose that the bid should be halved to include the recruitment of one Enforcement officer at a cost of £23,000.

Mr Joy advised Members that sustaining "gold" status for Criterion 9 was not possible as the Council did not have a printed version of the Council A-Z. There was currently no means to publish a printed version of the A-Z guide within a stand-alone Council publication. Of the two options presented to the Committee, all were in favour of exploring the possibility of working with the Local Strategic Partnership further to achieve both criteria 9 and 10.

Following discussion the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Cabinet to consider the employment of one Enforcement Officer at a cost of £23,000 to dedicate their time on fly tipping.
2. To recommend that Cabinet explore the possibility of working with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in the spirit of partnership and explore the possible use the LSP's Fylde in Focus to achieve both criteria 9 and 10.

5. Integrated Risk Management Plan: The Proposed Removal Of A Fire Appliance From St Annes Fire Station.

Chris Waters (Community Protection Officer for the Western Area) presented a report detailing the intention of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue service to reduce the service availability at St Annes Fire Station to one wholtime appliance. This proposal was outlined in the Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (I.R.M.P.), which was out for consultation until the 15 November.

Mr Waters stated that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority had set out a programme to modernise Local District Fire Services across the County. Mr Waters stated that the first step in this process involved the production of an Integrated Risk Management Plan.

Mr Waters highlighted that there were currently three fire stations in the Fylde District, two retained stations at Wesham and Lytham and one wholetime/retained station at St Annes. Mr Waters stated that the IRPM document did not propose any changes to the retained services held at Wesham or Lytham. However, if these proposals went ahead, the available service at St Annes would be reduced to a single wholetime appliance. The proposals from this consultation if approved could be implemented from the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Mr Waters also informed the Committee that the proposal to remove the retained appliance at St Annes was one of twenty proposals which included moving nine engines from stations across Lancashire with one of those nine being at St Annes.

The Committee raised several concerns over the reduction in the available appliances in St Annes, outlining that it would mean a 50% reduction for St Annes centre and a 25% reduction in the service for Fylde as a whole. Concern was also raised over the impact on the response time to incidents within the area. Members were reassured that thorough research had been carried out over the past 4 years to measure response times to incidents within the borough and that appliances from other areas on the Fylde Coast had beaten the response time of the retained engine at St Annes Station. However, the continuation of these response times was based on the assumption that other Fire appliances were not attending incidents elsewhere.

Members were concerned that a 50% reduction in the service in the urban core of the borough posed a serious risk should appliances from outside the borough be attending another call elsewhere. This was considered a particular risk due to the nature of the area with Blackpool in particular containing a large number of hotels and houses in multiple occupation.

Members of the Committee were advised that Fire appliances were available at Blackpool Airport however these were not available to attend incidents outside of the Airport grounds. Fire Appliances were also available at BNFL and British Aerospace. While no working agreement had been negotiated about the use of these appliances attending incidents in the Borough, Members were advised that this was possible.

Members advised that they felt the residents of St Annes and the rest of the borough would oppose the reduction in service, as the fear of fire is particularly high. Consequentially, the Committee requested that their concerns be noted in a response to the consultation and endorsed by the Chief Executive and Leader of Fylde Borough Council.

Following discussion the Committee RESOLVED to strongly oppose the reduction of a fire appliance at St Annes Station and request that the concerns of the Committee, with the endorsement of the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council be put to Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service as a matter of urgency

## 6. Interim Report of the Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group

In May 2006, the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee agreed to nominate a Task and Finish group to carry out an in depth scrutiny review of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), following concerns from Members that they knew little about the Structure of the LSP and how Members could get involved.

Michael Wren-Hilton (Chairman of the LSP Executive) and Christine Miller (Local Strategic Partnership Manager) presented a joint report that detailed the interim findings and

recommendations of the Task and Finish Group along with details of the work that the Thematic Groups were currently involved in.

Mr Wren-Hilton provided Members of the Committee with further information on the background of the LSP. The Committee was advised that the LSP was continually evolving and as part of this process a constitution would come into place in the near future.

Mrs Miller informed the Committee of the 'ground breaking' work that was currently being undertaken, which, amongst other things, involved an Alcohol Officer who works closely with the Local Police with the aim of tackling the hotspots where underage persons were found drinking. The Community Safety Partnership had also pioneered the implementation of a CCTV system and Manager for Fylde at a cost of £180,000.

All of the Committee were invited to the next meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership Forum, which was taking place at Salwick Community Centre at 5:30pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Councillor Mulholland (Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee Chairman) stated that this review was for the benefit of the Members of the council to address the lack of knowledge of the Local Strategic Partnership and its structures. The interim recommendations contained in the report considered the changes that were already taking place within the Local Strategic Partnership.

Following debate the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To support the proposal to develop a constitution for the LSP detailing specific terms of reference for the LSP and the selection of members for the Executive.
2. To recommend that the LSP review its membership structure to enable a core membership of each of the Thematic Groups.
3. To recommend that the LSP Thematic Groups publish a meeting schedule with set dates and times for all groups.
4. To recommend that the LSP set up a website with up to date relevant information established via a link to the FBC website.
5. To recommend that at least one member of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee should attend each meeting of the LSP Forum
6. To support the principle that all content of Fylde in Focus should be driven by LSP Partners with clear branding to identify and publicise the relevant Thematic Group.
7. That Fylde Borough Council representation is amended to reflect the changes contained in Table 2 of the report
8. To support the development and implementation of a Performance Management Framework for the LSP.
9. That all members of the council to be offered a briefing on the structure and work of the LSP as part of the Member Induction Programme or as part of their ongoing training and development.

## 7. Local Area Agreements

Carolyn Whewell (Overview and Scrutiny Officer) presented a report that detailed the proposal to provide an information pack on the Local Area Agreements to all Committee Members in preparation of the item coming before the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee in January 2007.

Ms Whewell highlighted that within the Terms of Reference of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee was monitoring the progress of the Lancashire Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Ms Whewell informed the Committee that the first update report would come before the Committee early next year. Ms Whewell provided Members of the Committee with an information pack on Local Area Agreements. Members were advised that any specific questions should initially be directed to the Overview and Scrutiny Team as soon as possible.

Following discussion Members RESOLVED to note the report.

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