

Policy Development Scrutiny Committee



Date	3 December 2009
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson (Chairman) Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Vice-Chairman) Brenda Ackers, Ben Aitken, David Chedd, Maxine Chew, Leonard Davies, Kevin Eastham, Craig Halewood, Ken Hopwood
Other Councillors	John Coombes, Karen Buckley
Officers	Tracy Scholes, Ian Curtis, Lyndsey Lacey
Members of the Public	None

Councillor Leonard Davies

The Chairman, Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson welcomed newly elected member Councillor Leonard Davies to the meeting.

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. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Maxine Chew for Councillor Elaine Silverwood

Councillor Kevin Eastham for Councillor John Davies

Councillor Ken Hopwood for Councillor Elizabeth Oades

Councillor Leonard Davies for Councillor Angela Jacques

3. Review of Corporate Objectives

Councillor John Coombes (Leader of the Council) and Tracy Scholes (Director of Governance and Partnerships) presented a joint report on a review of the Council's corporate objectives.

Members were advised that a similar report had been presented to Cabinet at its last meeting at which changes to the Council's Vision and some change in emphasis to the corporate objectives had been made. In view of the suggested changes and as part of the formal consultation process with internal and external stakeholders, feedback from the Policy Development Committee had been sought.

A copy of the draft corporate vision, objectives and priorities for 2010/11 had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman enquired as to whether any priority had been given to the corporate objectives listed 1 to 4 in the agenda. The Leader confirmed that there was no order of priority and that all the areas listed were equally important.

Councillor Aitken made reference to the proposed Corporate Vision. He asked that further consideration be given to the wording as, in part, it gave the impression that it was exclusive.

Councillor Chedd suggested that, to ensure the appropriate description of the Council is used, consideration should be given to the correct use of terminology.

A number of members commented on the proposed corporate objectives and felt that key Fylde borough priorities which were outlined at the meeting had been omitted.

After the debate the committee RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet:

1. A full review of the Council's proposed Vision to ensure that it is more inclusive.
2. A review of the proposed Corporate Objectives which reconsiders key Fylde borough priorities including:
 - Community health and well being
 - Rural communities and farming
 - Promotion and enhancement of the built environment
 - Endeavouring to exceed customer expectations

4. Councillor Call for Action

Ian Curtis (Head of Governance) presented a detailed report to the committee on the history, principles, key areas and next steps on the establishment of Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) which came in to force on 1st April.

Mr Curtis made reference to the Guidance issued by the IDeA which proposed a set of local protocols on the subject. He stated that CCfA is a mechanism by which councillors could raise issues through the scrutiny process which had arisen in their ward. Essentially, it related to matters of significant concern to that community (including local crime and disorder matters) and where the usual channels used to resolve such issues had been exhausted or had been unsuccessful in providing a resolution. Further, it was designed to sit alongside existing mechanisms already at a Councillor's disposal to assist in resolving local issues and should only be used as a last resort.

It was explained that statutory regulations dealt with matters that would be excluded from CCfA and those were detailed in the report. It was also pointed out that CCfA was not designed to provide an immediate solution but to give high profile public discussion of an issue. It also was an opportunity to bring a pressing issue to a wider audience and to discuss such issues in an independent, neutral forum.

The relationship with partner organisations in the successful operation of CCfA was acknowledged by the Committee.

In response to the above, a copy of a localised draft Guidance for Councillors and CCfA request form was attached to the agenda for consideration.

Councillor Chedd enquired who made the final decision on matters that would be excluded from CCfA. Mr Curtis addressed this point.

Members asked for examples of a typical CCfA and how this differed from requests that previously went before the Scrutiny Management Board. This was addressed at the meeting.

Following detailed consideration of this matter the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To note the requirements of the change to legislation
2. To recommend in principle approval to the Director of Governance and Partnerships
3. To request the Director of Governance and Partnerships to undertake appropriate consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition before the guidance is formally issued.
4. To request that CCfA be the subject of a Member Learning Hour once the guidance has been finalised.

(Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Vice-Chairman) requested that his name be recorded as having voted against the above decision)
