



FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Meeting Agenda

Council Meeting
Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
19 December 2005, 7:00pm

Members of the Council

The Mayor - Councillor R.J. Wilson
Deputy Mayor – Councillor P. Hardy

Councillors	C. E. Akeroyd T. Ashton E. G. Bamber J. B. Bennett H. Butler G. Caldwell S. Carpenter M. Chew E. D. Clarke E. Clarkson P. Collins J. L. Coombes J. A. Dolan R. K. Eastham S. M Fazackerley Dr T. J Fiddler P.A. Fieldhouse R. A Fulford- Brown P. Hardy P.J. Hayhurst H. Henshaw, A.D.K (Malaysia) K.M Henshaw J. P K. Hyde A. W Jealous N.P D. E Lancaster J. G. Longstaff	Councillors	S. L. Mason J.K. Mulholland R. J. Norsworthy L.J. Nulty E.A. Oades J.C. Owen B. Pagett A.G. Pounder D.S. Prestwich W.J. Prestwich S. P. Renwick L. Rigby P. Rigby R. S. Small H.A Speak M. K. Taylor W. Thompson T. Threlfall S.M. Wall C. Walton A.M. Whittaker F.C Wilson H .M. Wilson R.J. Wilson K Wright
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Contact: Peter Welsh (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

PART I - MATTERS DELEGATED TO COUNCIL

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PART I - MATTERS DELEGATED TO COUNCIL

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive to report receipt of any relevant communications that have been received subsequent to sending out this agenda.

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE	SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING	19 DECEMBER 2005	4

DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Public/Exempt item

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

Summary

To inform members of the results of the consultation exercise in respect of the Council's proposed new governance arrangements.

Recommendation/s

That the Council considers and confirms its resolution of 26th September of moving to a system based on Leader and Cabinet in light of the outcome of the consultation

Executive brief

The item falls within the following executive brief: Quality Services (Councillor John Coombes)

Report

1. At its meeting on 26 September it was resolved:

- *That the authority moves towards an executive system based on the leader and cabinet model*
- *That the new system of governance should include area committees covering the whole district*
- *That consultation required to move to such a system is begun at the earliest opportunity*
- *That the constitution be revised 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*

2. A Consultation and Communication Plan was developed in accordance with advice from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and presented to the Policy and Service Review Community Outlook Forum at its meeting on 3 November. The different elements of consultation proposed were comparable to those undertaken by other councils who had moved from fourth option to other arrangements. These consultations had comprised a light touch review, following which the ODPM had endorsed changing governance arrangements.

3. Following some revisions suggested and agreed by the Policy and Service Review Community Forum, the consultation consisted of the following:

- An article in LSP newspaper, Fylde In Focus, with front-page banner headline. Feedback facility was offered through correspondence, telephone or via Internet. The article directed residents to the council's web site for a detailed explanation of the proposals or to contact Fylde Direct, whose staff also had an explanation of the proposals to run through with residents.
- Consultation information/e-mail back voting facility on the home page of the Council's Internet site.
- Consultation information/telephone voting facility available from Customer Service Specialists within Fylde Directs.
- Awareness raising through press releases.
- Direct consultation and information to Town and Parish Councils together with a discussion item tabled at the Parish/District Liaison Meeting. The Town and Parish Councils were forwarded a consultation letter on 7 November and were invited to respond by 1 December.
- Direct consultation and information to all partner organisations involving the Local Strategic Partnership, including information forwarded to around 55 community and voluntary sector organisations which cover the Borough. These consultees were again forwarded the consultation on 7 November and invited to respond by 1 December.

- Consultation with employees through the use of Grapevine, a weekly corporate internal communications newsletter together with information posted on the intranet
 - Residents' Focus Group held for Lytham St. Annes residents, together with one for Kirkham, Wesham and Rural Fylde Residents. The Focus Groups were a way of probing underlying attitudes and obtaining an understanding of the importance of issues.
4. It was originally intended that the consultation with residents would close on 1 December but to allow more time, this was extended to midnight on 12 December. This was publicised through the Fylde Direct One Stop Shops and by way of a notice on the Council's Internet site.
5. The consultation responses are shown below.

	Leader and Cabinet	Directly elected mayor with cabinet	Directly Elected Mayor and Council Manager	Streamlined Committee System	None of the Options/No Comment
Residents	158	0	0	140	1
Organisations	3	0	0	5	
Employees	32	5	3	4	
Parishes	0	0	0	4	
Total	193	5	3	153	1
Focus Group 1 – Lytham St Annes			X		
Focus Group 2 – Rural Areas			X*	X*	*Split Vote

* Split opinion across the two options

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Employee resources will have to be adjusted in light of a move to a Leader with Cabinet model. In addition, resources will need to be made available to administer Area Committees
Legal	Members will have to formally amend the Constitution in light of any proposed change and this will be a part of the Council's submission to the Office of the ODPM for consent.
Community Safety	There are no Community Safety implications arising from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no Human Rights and Equalities implications arising from the report.
Sustainability	There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Government guidance provides a number of principles that councils should follow in the consultation exercise. One of these is that all local electors should have an opportunity to respond to the consultation. The council will need to satisfy itself this has been achieved given reported allegations that the Fylde In Focus newspaper has not been delivered to some households within the borough.

REPORT AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
Phillip Woodward	01253 658600	13 December 2005	Consultation

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
NAME OF DOCUMENT	DATE	WHERE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION
Consultation responses	13 December	Included within report. Further details from Tracy Scholes. (tracys@fylde.gov.uk /telephone (01253) 658521

Attached documents

APPENDIX 1 – COMPARISON OF CONSULTATIONS 2001/2005 AND SUMMARY OF VOTES/GENERAL COMMENTS TOGETHER WITH ORIGINAL CONSULTATION LEAFLET

APPENDIX 2 – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF TWO RESIDENTS FOCUS GROUPS ON THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

APPENDIX

1. Comparison of Consultations 2001 / 2005
2. Summary of votes and general comment

Consultation Comparison

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was consulted, by telephone in October 2005 on the process required to make changes to governance arrangements. Comments were received as follows:

- Consultation required now does not need to be as intense as in 2001 for two main reasons –
 - Every council in the country was involved with this process in 2001 and the general level of public awareness needed to be raised at the time,
 - as these arrangements have now been in place throughout the country for a few years, a higher level of knowledge is now assumed about executive / governance arrangements and consultation does not need to be so robust.
- ODPM is unlikely to intervene at any point during the consultation. Keep them informed by all means.

The ODPM was subsequently forwarded a copy of the Communication and Consultation Plan and commented that although it was not within their remit to give it a formal endorsement, it did appear to cover the basic elements required.

A comparison and the 2001 consultation against that which was undertaken in 2005 is set out below.

2001 consultation	2005 consultation
Approx. 34,000 Leaflets (copy attached) were distributed with electoral information which was being delivered at the same time.	This facility was not available at the time of the 2005 consultation. The Fylde LSP newspaper (Fylde in Focus) was used to publicise the consultation.
Press release	Press release and "Council Matters"
Leaflet reproduced for visually impaired	Website & Intranet
Leaflets in local public buildings	Fylde in Focus in local public buildings
Direct correspondence with key local stakeholders	Direct correspondence with key local stakeholders
Direct correspondence with town & parish councils	Direct correspondence with town & parish councils
Employee consultation	Employee consultation
2 focus groups	2 focus groups
	'Fylde Direct' telephone voting

In the 2001 consultation 2648 responses were received with 65% indicating support for the Council's preferred option (streamlined committee system). 9% opted for Leader & Cabinet and the remainder for elected Mayor.

Summary of 2005 votes and general comment

In the 2005 consultation 354 responses were received with the following breakdown of percentages:

55 per cent of the responses for Leader with Cabinet
1 per cent of the vote for Directly Elected Mayor with Cabinet
1 per cent of the vote for Directly Elected Mayor with Council Manager
43 per cent of the vote for Streamlined Committee System

Some individuals/organisations did not provide qualifying remarks and simply stated a view. Others did provide additional comment, and this appendix tries to capture this..

The first of the two Focus Groups which covered Lytham St. Annes expressed a preference for Directly Elected Mayor with Council Manager and the latter Focus Group for Kirkham, Wesham and rural Fylde had a split of opinion across both Directly Elected Mayor with Council Manager and Streamlined Committee System (Focus Group results attached as a separate appendix).

Adverse feeling towards the Leader with Cabinet model was strong from the Kirkham area in particular. A leaflet had been delivered to Kirkham residents and a Public Notice was placed in the Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser summarising a view that anything other than the existing committee system would be detrimental to Kirkham residents. Kirkham Town Council published the leaflet. The Public Notice did not indicate who had placed it.

The main reason given by many Kirkham and rural Fylde residents in support of retaining a Streamlined Committee System was a strong feeling that a move to Leader and Cabinet would result in a Cabinet being comprised of Lytham St. Annes councillors. Residents believed that they had as much right to representation as Lytham St. Annes residents. The changes were noted to give power to a select few rendering local politics unrepresentative of the borough demographic. 106 of the responses expressing a preference for the streamlined committee system were received from the Kirkham area. Of these, well over half (around 60 per cent) qualified their 'vote' with the view outlined above.

The view of Kirkham Town Council echoes the sentiment of the residents of Kirkham and stated the following to support this view in its leaflet:

"The current ruling party of Fylde Borough Council is almost exclusively made up of Lytham St Anne's members (22 out of 26) the Town Council considers anything but the present Committee Structure which has by law to be politically balanced would be a disaster for Kirkham".

Many who have voted for the Leader with Cabinet model have stated that it leads to effective and fast decision making as evidenced in other Councils elsewhere. Many employees noted the majority of Councils in Lancashire operate with a Leader and Cabinet model and find this to be an effective method of decision making (some employees having had experience of working under this model).

General feeling from the Town and Parish Councils who expressed a view was that the Streamlined Committee System is preferable as it was viewed as the most democratic.

Two organisations, the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Defend the Dunes supported the Streamlined Committee System stating that other options involve a reduction in the opportunity for Councillors representing all wards to have an influence in the decision-making processes. CPRE stated: "Fylde Borough is a disparate community with urban wards that have high population densities and high concentrations of amenities, and also large rural wards with potentially reduced influence. We do not believe that such differences can be adequately represented by a small executive body which is likely to be biased towards the type of wards represented".

Whilst the current system was noted as being slower at reaching decisions it was felt to be more democratic. CPRE also proposed the following improvements to Scrutiny. It was felt that the committee assisting policy formulation and development should be different to the committee reviewing decisions, to maintain impartiality. They should have different chairpersons and significantly different membership. CPRE fully supported co-opting local people onto these committees and noted that the new LSP Fylde People's Panel could be the source of such members.

There was some reservation expressed about the move to an Area Committee structure. This was with respect to the potential cost of Area Committees given the budget situation. The potential for duplication of things already undertaken by Parish and Town Councils and the Lancashire Locals was also noted. There was potential for adverse reaction from such bodies if they saw the Borough Council trying to do something they have done for some time.

It should be noted that either of the Directly Elected Mayor options would require a referendum of Fylde residents registered on the electoral register.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SUMMARY AIMS ONLY TO GIVE A FLAVOUR OF THE NUMEROUS COMMENTS MADE IN SUPPORT OF PREFERENCES ACROSS RESIDENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND EMPLOYEES

APPENDIX

SUMMARY REPORT – OUTCOME OF RESIDENTS FOCUS GROUPS

This section of the report summarises residents' attitudes and opinions to all four options once they have had the opportunity to clarify any questions or queries relating to each option. Each option has been reported by perceived advantages and disadvantages and is supported later in the report with illustrative quotes.

(For Lytham read the Lytham St. Annes Focus Group and for Wesham read the Kirkham, Wesham and Rural Fylde Focus Group)

Option One- A Cabinet with Leader

Advantages of Option One- A Cabinet with Leader

The majority of residents believe there are few or no advantages to option one. A minority of residents, in both areas, favour the simplification of the decision making process by retaining only a small amount of Councillors in the Cabinet. The positive aspects of option one are:

Appointing a 'strong' leader

A small cabinet

A simplified decision making process

A Leader is a positive aspect if they are 'strong' leaders

The main advantage suggested by some is that if the appointed Leader is a strong Leader he could action decisions effectively.

A small Cabinet

Inextricably linked to appointing a strong Leader, some residents in both groups consider the limited number of Cabinet members i.e. 9 a positive aspect as it allows decisions to be examined and executed more quickly.

A simplified decision making process for Fylde Borough Council

Some residents suggest it could be an option desired by Fylde Council as it presents a less complex decision making process.

Disadvantages of Option One- A Cabinet with Leader

For the majority of residents in both groups, the disadvantages to option one far outweigh the benefits of options one. These comprise of the following:

Lack of resident involvement in the selection of the Leader and the Cabinet

Limited involvement by the majority of Councillors

Less Political Representation

Disapproval of the 'power' of the Cabinet and Leader

Lack of resident involvement in the selection of the Leader and the Cabinet

Residents identify one of the key disadvantages to The Cabinet with a Leader system is the lack of resident involvement in the selection process. Although they elect the 51 Councillors at one level of the decision making process, once this level becomes seemingly more complex and authoritative i.e. electing the Leader and the Cabinet,

controversially there is no opportunity for residents to choose or affect choice of the Leader and their Cabinet.

Limited involvement by the majority of Councillors

Despite being informed a number of times through the consultation, that all 51 Councillors will still be involved in the decision making process in some capacity, the majority of residents oppose the perceived idea of only 10 members being at the top level of the decision making process.

Contentiously, this is because it is perceived to be open to misuse such as the 10 members could examine only issues pertinent to their interests. This is especially so if the cabinet is drawn from one political party.

Less Political Representation

By only introducing 10 members, there is a high level of disapproval among most residents that the Cabinet with Leader option could result in less representation of all political parties. This concern also extends to disproportionate representation of rural and more urban areas who each have their pertinent issues.

This is viewed as particularly contentious if the Cabinet is drawn from one political party.

The widespread negative disapproval of the possibility of politically limited representation, primarily relates to the limited involvement of Councillors whose political party is not in the Cabinet. This is especially if the Cabinet is drawn from a singular political party which residents believe could adversely result in less direct involvement in the main decision making process.

Disapproval of the 'power' of the Cabinet and Leader

Controversially there is a strong consensus that such a decision making system within the Cabinet with Leader system could be autocratic. This is inextricably linked to the belief this could involve the Leader having their own agenda and interest in specific issues which could lead him to choose his cabinet accordingly.

Despite residents being informed about the nature and composition of overview and scrutiny, regulatory and standards committees, for the majority of residents such an option consequently this leads to suspicion that such a system is designed to minimise the level of transparency of the decision making process, in addition to providing too much internal power among a limited amount of people.

Evaluation of Option Two- A Directly Elected Mayor with Cabinet

This following section of the report summarises residents' attitudes and opinions of option two once they have had the opportunity to clarify any questions or queries relating to the option. It has been divided into perceived advantages and disadvantages of option two.

Advantages of Option Two- A Directly Elected Mayor with Cabinet

All residents praise option two for having a Mayor democratically elected by registered voters. However, for most residents the combination of a Mayor with a Cabinet reduces this appeal as it could contain a number of disadvantages (please see next section). The main advantage of option two (which is also applicable to option three) is that residents can elect the Mayor.

Residents can elect the Mayor

Especial approval is given to residents' involvement in the election of the Mayor. This has many advantages linked to residents' feeling they have been involved and consulted in the process and that they have personally elected the political leader for the community.

Disadvantages of Option two-A Directly Elected Mayor with Cabinet

The main disadvantages of option two suggested by residents relate to:

Lack of representation

The Mayor could have an agenda

Disapproval of the 'power' of the Mayor

The Mayor could have no Local Government Experience

Lack of representation

One of the main criticisms of this option is the high likelihood that the Mayor could choose all his Cabinet members who share his political beliefs. This is not seen to be a democratic process and concerns many residents.

The Mayor could have an agenda

Fairly contentiously some residents across both groups are suspicious that a Mayor could stand for election on the basis they have an agenda they want addressed. Under option two, this could enable the Mayor to have the authority to implement their agenda with minimum opposition.

This could result in administering time and resources to the Mayor's favoured issues which may or may not benefit the Borough as a whole. This is particularly felt to be applicable if they represent a singular political party.

Disapproval of the 'power' of the Mayor

Inextricably linked to the above disadvantage, is the impression by some residents that this option gives the Mayor too much authority and hence power to execute issues pertinent to their own interests. This is problematic as it could involve choosing Cabinet members who he believes will agree with his policy making.

The Mayor has no Local Government Experience

Some residents are sceptical of a Mayor's ability to conduct such a role without local government experience. For some this is not problematic as he can look at views from a fresh perspective, whilst for others it raises questions regarding his competency to administer such a role.

Evaluation of Option Three-A Mayor and Council Manager

Advantages of Option Three—A Mayor and Council Manager

The main advantages suggested to option three can be summarised as follows:

The Mayor would be elected by Voters

There would be a High Level of expertise of a Council Manager

An expectation of New Ideas and Progressive Management

An expectation of 'Dynamic' Management

There would be an efficient decision making process

Councillors will still be actively involved via Overview and Scrutiny, Regulatory and Standards Committees

The Mayor would be elected by Voters

As in option two, all residents welcome the Mayor being elected by registered voters. This involves a democratic selection process and the impression that he should and would represent the areas' interest at heart. The Mayor is favoured in this option as although

he is a key decision maker, to make informed decisions, he also has the benefit of the knowledge and expertise of the Council Manger.

There would be a High Level of expertise of a Council Manager

There was much debate and discussion when residents are told the Council Manager could either be an internal or external appointment. It is presumed that such a role would involve a strict set of recruitment criteria and require a person with extensive experience in: financial planning, managing budgets etc.

The majority who prefer this option expect such a Council Manager with such experience to command a high salary. Some residents would expect there to be a very high level of accountability to justify their salary such as making savings commensurate to annual salary. Other residents dislike such a stipulation as it could result in a cut of desired services.

An Expectation of New Ideas and Progressive Management

Inextricably linked to the above strengths of option three, for many respondents is the key benefit that a Council Manager could be an external appointment. With this comes the expectation they will inject new ideas and methods of working which could result in implementing more modern approaches to, for instance, business management within a financial role.

An Expectation of 'Dynamic' Management

The residents expect a Council Manager to move away from the perceived bureaucratic nature of the current Council system and introduce a more 'dynamic' style of management which is run more like a business.

There would be an efficient decision making process

Many residents support only having two people involved in the higher level decision making process as it simplifies the ability to deliver actions. Its main benefit would be to speed up the

consultation on policy making and enable decisions to be quickly processed.

Councillors will still be actively involved via Overview and Scrutiny, Regulatory and Standards Committees

Some residents are in favour of the apparent different layers of decision making and that the 51 Councillors will still be able to be involved within the Overview and Scrutiny, Regulatory and Standards Committee systems (as with all options).

Disadvantages to Option Three-A Mayor and Council Manager

Potential tensions between the policy framework established by the council set against views of the Mayor/Council Manager.

Instead, some residents suggest the Mayor and Council Manager should have equal amount of powers over decisions. Although many residents feel this may result in a stale mate with no recommendations being actioned.

Some residents in both areas disapprove of lack of representation within this option as the Mayor and Council Manager still appear to have the main authority.

Interestingly, it appears that the absence of the Cabinet in this option and the presence of a highly qualified Council Manager, for many dissolves but not necessarily eradicates, the strength of concern regarding the perceived disadvantages of appointing a Mayor for such a senior position outlined under option two (namely: power of the Mayor, lack of local government experience and the Mayor having an Agenda).

Evaluation of Option Four-A Committee System with Leader

This section of the report summarises residents' attitudes and opinions of option four once they have had the opportunity to clarify any questions or queries relating to the option. It has been divided into perceived advantages and disadvantages of option four.

Advantages to Option Four-A Committee System with Leader

A high proportion of residents in both Lytham and Wesham areas, favour the current option four system. The main advantages are:

The political representation of the Councillors within the committee system.

In addition some residents also praise this option for being able to utilise the experience of relevant Councillors.

Fair Representation of the Councillors

For those who prefer this option, both in Lytham and Wesham areas, (it is also true of others who voted for another option), this option four is viewed as a fair method of Councillors being representative of the Borough. Residents praise the fairness and transparency of political representation associated with this option four system.

In addition to political representation, especial approbation is given to the fact it can include Councillors who represent more rural areas and more urban areas. This indicates that for quite a large number of residents, decisions by a committee system is a more democratic decision making tool than the other options as it is perceived to involve all Councillors relatively equally.

The resident's opinions also reflect some of the residents' apparent lack of understanding (despite being pointed out a number of times by both Caroline Armstrong and the representatives from Fylde Borough Council) that in the other 3 options the Councillors will still be playing an important role in shaping decision making through overview and scrutiny.. It could be more to do with the layers of perceived power of decision making rather than excluding those

Councillors who are not either the Leader, in Cabinet or the Council Manager.

Utilising the Experience of relevant Councillors

One of the strengths of Option four is the ability and facility to call upon relevant councillors' experience and correlate it directly with pertinent issues.

Disadvantages of Option Four-A Committee System

The main disadvantages linked to option four can be summarised as follows:

The decision process can be a lengthy, and hence financially costly process

Appointment of the Leader is by the Council

There could be an imbalance of political views

Lengthy and financially costly decision process

Many residents across both Lytham and Wesham areas, dislike the current perceived lengthy process of a committee system. This is an antithesis to the desire of ensuring decisions are made as quickly as possible which in turn could be an expensive process.

There is a strong perception by many residents across both Lytham and Wesham areas, that option four is an 'inefficient' system as it relies on too many people being involved in the decision making.

Appointment of the Leader is by the Council

Some residents, especially in Wesham, dislike the Leader being appointed by the Council as there is limited resident influence or involvement by residents in the selection process.

Governance Option Preference

When residents had been allowed time to ask Fylde Borough Council representatives their questions and absorb their answers, they were each asked to vote for their preferred Option. Although there is a split in support for Option Three- A Mayor and Council Manager and Option Four- A Committee System with Leader, the majority of residents prefer **Option Three- A Mayor and Council Manager**.

In total: the following votes were cast:

18 out of 30 residents voted for Option Three-A Mayor and Council Manager.

11 out of 30 residents voted for Option Four-A Committee System with Leader

1 resident voted for Option One as it should be efficient and simple

Although there is a split vote overall in both groups it was divided as follows:

In St Annes Lytham Group 12 residents voted for Option Three A Mayor and Council Manager, 5 residents voted for Option Four the Committee with Leader and one resident voted for Option One- A Cabinet with a Leader

In Wesham/Kirkham Group there is split vote with 6 residents preferring Option Three-A Mayor and Council Manager and 6 residents voted for Option Four-A Committee System with Leader

OPTION 1

Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet

You would elect a Mayor who would be responsible for the way the Council is run. Separately you would also elect Councillors in the usual way. The Mayor would appoint 2-9 of these to form a Cabinet to help him/her in providing direction for the Council.

The full Council would continue to have the important roles of agreeing major policies, fixing the budget and council tax and making certain appointments.

At least one Scrutiny Committee, made up of Councillors from all political parties, would be set up to hold the Directly Elected Mayor and the Cabinet to account in public, to help them develop new policies and to examine matters of wider interest in the local community.

OPTION 2

With a Leader and Cabinet

25

You would elect Councillors in the usual way.

The elected Councillors would then choose a Leader to be responsible for the way the Council is run.

The Leader (or the Council) would then appoint 2-9 Councillors to form the Cabinet and help the Leader in providing direction for the Council.

The full Council would continue to have the important roles of agreeing major policies, fixing the budget and council tax and making certain appointments.

Again, a Scrutiny Committee(s) would be appointed to act as broadly described in option one.

OPTION 3

Directly elected Mayor with Council Manager

You would elect a Mayor who would be responsible for the way in which the Council is run. Separately you would elect Councillors in the usual way.

The Council would appoint a Council Manager who would manage Services and the staff who run them.

The Mayor would work closely with the Council Manager in providing direction for the Council.

The full Council would continue to have the important roles of agreeing major policies, fixing the budget and council tax and appointing the Council Manager.

Again a Scrutiny Committee(s) would be appointed to act as broadly described in option one.

(Options one and three would require a full referendum of the electorate before the Council could proceed with either of these options).

OPTION 4

Streamlined Committee System (termed the 'Alternative Arrangement' by the Government)

This is very similar to the way the Council currently operates but would be more streamlined in structure.

You would elect Councillors to the Council in the usual way.

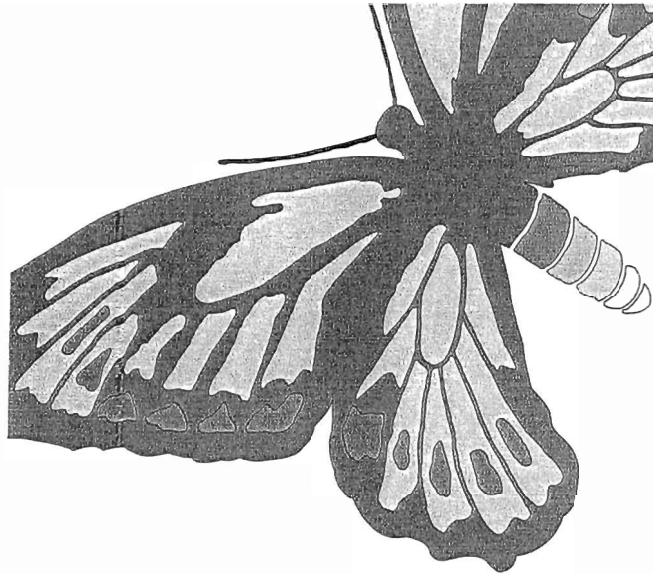
The Council would decide policies and agree budgets based on recommendations made by one or more of its Committees.

The Council would establish no more than five Policy Committees with a maximum of 15 Councillors on each Committee. The number of Councillors from each political party would be in proportion to the number of seats it had on the Council. Each Committee would have authority to implement the policies agreed by the Council and could make suggestions for new or amended policies.

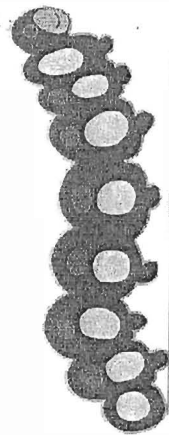
A Mayor would be elected each year by the Council to act as the Council's civic figurehead.

Again, a Scrutiny Committee(s) would be appointed to act as broadly described in option one in relation to the Policy Committees.

Option four is the preferred option of the Council but your views count and are important to us.



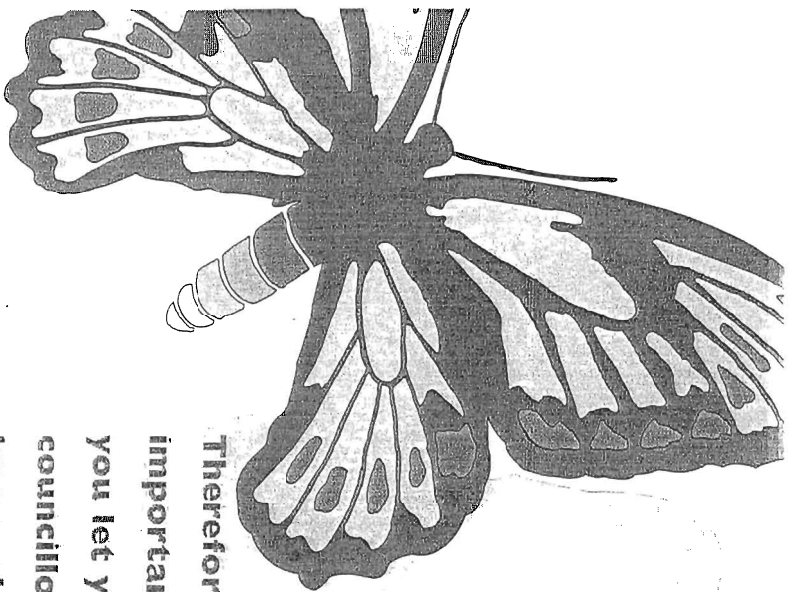
We are changing



FYLDE



Borough Council



**Your Council
takes vital
decisions
affecting your
money, where
you live and
your
quality of life.**

**Therefore it is
important that
you let your
councillors
know which
decision-
making option
you think they
should consider
for adoption.**

Fylde Borough Council, like all other local authorities, in partnership with Government, business, the voluntary sector and others, has a vital role to play in improving the quality of people's lives, providing vision and leadership for the community and delivering high quality services.

The Government has put forward a modernisation agenda which will change the way in which local government works.

The Government's recent legislation gives you, the public, an opportunity to influence the way in which the Council is run. It is the Government's wish that this change will deliver identifiable, corporate leadership for all local authorities and the communities they serve and provide efficient, transparent and accountable decision making. The Council supports these aims and we hope to improve our existing accountability to you, our customers.

The Council has 49 members who are elected every four years. The full Council, on which all members of the Council serve, meets nine times each year including the Annual meeting of the Council at which the Council elects one of its Councillors to be Mayor, based on years of service.

The Mayor acts as the Council's figurehead, its ambassador meeting local citizens and representing the Council at public and ceremonial events.

The Council has a number of committees which are specifically appointed to consider and make decisions and/or recommendations to the full Council about services for which they are responsible.

These committees are supported by sub-committees, working parties and other advisory groups appointed by the committees.

**Central Government has proposed
four different models by which a new,
clearly accountable decision making
process can be taken forward:**

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR YOUR OPTIONS

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	COUNCIL	19 DECEMBER 2005	5

MEMBERS CHOICE DEBATE

Public/Exempt item

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

Summary

To select a member to lead the members choice debate at the next ordinary meeting of the council.