

Report of the Clerk

- 1. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:** At the inaugural meeting of the Steering Group Cllr. Turner was elected Chairman of the group. The next meeting has been arranged with Kirkwells for Thursday 14th January starting at 6.30pm.
- 2. Admin & Financial Review Working Group:** The Clerk has started working on the budget for 2016-17 and would like a meeting of the group at least a week before the January Council Meeting the best time would probably be one of the days between Boxing Day and the New Year.
- 3. 55 Gisburn Road:** The Clerk has spoken to the potential buyer who is still keen to buy and has contacted Pendle Borough Council's solicitor regarding the Land Registry problem, hopefully this will be sorted soon. The buyer is submitting planning permission for change of use.
- 4. LCC Consultation on Proposed Budget Options:** See attached letter from the leader of Lancashire County Council (**Appendix 1**). *The Clerk suggests that because the response needs to be submitted before the next full council meeting that this be delegated to the Admin Review Group with Councillors wishing to comment submitting them to the Clerk prior to their meeting.*
- 5. WITHDRAWAL OF SUBSIDIES FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICES:** See attached email (**Appendix 2**). *The Clerk suggests that this should be added to a future agenda when details of the services affected is available.*
- 6. Rainbow Homes:** Mr. Aindow called to see the Clerk last Friday regarding painting the container at Lowerclough Street Allotments after discussion he sent the attached email. (**Appendix 3**) The photographs show the container in its current light green colour and some of the short wooden flag poles that were stored on the roof. As can be seen from the email Rainbow Homes are willing to undertake the work at their expense if the Council agrees to the work being carried out.
- 7. Blackburn Cathedral Epiphany/Candlemas Service:** The Chairman has received an invite to attend the service being held on the 31st January 2016. *Does the Chairman wish to attend?*

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Appendix 1

Dear Partner

Consultation on proposed budget options

We are seeking the opinion of partners on Lancashire County Council's Cabinet proposed budget options.

The County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. We recently conducted an analysis based on current spending and forecast demand for services, which showed that the council would not have sufficient financial resources to meet its statutory obligations by April 2018, even if it no longer continued to deliver any of its non-statutory services. The review also showed that the council will need to rely heavily on its reserves in order to set a balanced budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services. Over the next five years to 2020/21 the council needs to make savings of £262m on top of those agreed within previous budget processes. Our proposed budget options seek to meet that need.

We are now consulting on Cabinet's policy decisions and budget proposals and a full list can be viewed [here](#). We would also like to hear your thoughts on any actions that may be taken to mitigate the impact of these policy decisions and budget reductions.

We will be considering your feedback and this will be reported back to the Full Council at their meeting on 11 February 2016 when the budget is set. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could provide any comments that you would like us to consider by the end of 18 January 2016. You can do this by completing our online questionnaire [here](#), or emailing moderngov@lancashire.gov.uk

There will be a second stage of consultations beginning in January, when we will be consulting in more detail when, for example, specific proposals are made in relation to future library provision.

Thank you and I look forward to receiving your comments by 18 January 2016.

Yours faithfully

County Councillor Jennifer Mein

Leader of Lancashire County Council

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Appendix 2

Dear All,

WITHDRAWAL OF SUBSIDIES FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Further to the proposed withdrawal of subsidies for local bus services, I am writing to advise you about the budget proposals which were approved at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday 26 November. The proposals aim to save £65m over the next two years, to tackle a £262m funding gap faced by April 2020.

The county council has had to make financial savings for the past five years to offset the Government's cuts to our funding and to account for significant cost pressures brought about by high demand for many of our services.

Based on current spending levels and projected demand for services, the council is facing a considerable challenge and unless we take further action, we will not have sufficient resources to deliver the statutory services by 2017/2018. It's also forecast the council would have a shortfall in its budget of £262m by 2020/21.

With regards to the proposals for withdrawing all subsidies for bus services, unfortunately, many of the proposals will affect a wide range of service areas and impact on frontline services. Where possible, we are continuing to look for more efficient ways of working that save money without affecting our customers and communities.

We have formally advised the bus operators of this decision and that the bus service subsidies will cease on 2 April 2016.

These local bus services are registered with the North Western Traffic Commissioner. It will be for the operator to either deregister the services with the Traffic Commissioner after 2 April 2016 or determine whether they could continue to provide some service in the area, without any level of subsidy from Lancashire County Council. We have asked operators if they could confirm their intentions as soon as possible on this matter.

When information about potential service coverage is known, we will forward details of those services, whole or sections, which we are anticipating not to be provided, to other operators to establish if there are alternative commercial opportunities to maintain some level of service in an area.

Following these discussions with bus operators, we would then be in a position to advise residents/local communities where conventional bus services would no longer operate and what, if any, mitigating action that can be taken to access/develop any potential Parish/Community Bus or Community Transport based transport schemes.

I trust this information clarifies the current position.

Kind regards

Andrew Varley

Public Transport Manager

Public and Integrated Transport

Lancashire County Council

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Appendix 3

Dear Iain, thank you again for your time on Friday morning, as agreed please find attached a few photos to show you the view from several of the new houses at Vale Mews, Lower Clough St.

If you would kindly agree to Rainbow Homes painting the container a dark green to camouflage it and authorise the removal of the timber from the roof when weather permits It will vastly improve the views across the allotments for the new house owners and as you mentioned help me sell the remaining houses a little easier.

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter and just to confirm labour and materials will be supplied by the Developer and just your authorisation to carry out the works is required and a contact to liaise with on the day if you would kindly reply ASAP so I can show the new owners who move in next week that the above has been agreed and will be carried out weather permitting hopefully by Spring 2016 by Rainbow Homes.

Kind regards, Andy

Andrew J Aindow

Sales Manager

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Rainbow Homes Ltd