

Subject:

Charter between Rossendale Borough Council,
Lancashire County Council and Whitworth
Town Council

Status:

For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 18th June 2008

Report of: Executive Director of Regulatory Services

Portfolio

Holder: Finance and Resources

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To ask the Cabinet to consider a three way charter between Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Whitworth Town Council.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 By providing a framework and clarity regarding roles and responsibilities, the development of a Charter could reduce the risk of poor relationships between the three Councils.

3.2 If service delivery is to be undertaken by the Town Council specific risk management plans will need to be produced.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 At Cabinet in February 2007, a Charter between Rossendale Borough Council and Whitworth Town Council was agreed. The Charter was Phase 1 and included matters such as principles of partnership working, communication improvements, customer services and consultation.
- 4.2 As part of the Local Area Agreement process a Steering Group comprising Elected Members and Officers of Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Whitworth Town Council was established to develop a charter across all three tiers of local government.
- 4.3 A copy of the draft charter is set out in Appendix A. This has been agreed by Lancashire County Council at a meeting of Lancashire Local on 3rd March 2008 and by Whitworth Town Council on 10th January 2008.
- 4.4 Phase Two of the Charter will be developed to include neighbourhood working, neighbourhood plans and service delivery issues.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications of Phase One of the Charter. The financial implications of Phase Two will need to be considered for each proposal within it as part of the overall business case, as will risk and performance issues.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 Phase one has no implications but implications for Phase Two developments will need to be reviewed as part of the business case. Matters of governance will be required to be considered.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications at this stage.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The development of a Charter across all three tiers of local government will formalise the improved working relationship between the three Councils and set the framework for further development.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the Cabinet supports the development of a Charter to include the areas set out in the description of Phase One above.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Whitworth Steering Group, Lancashire Local, Whitworth Town Council.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached Yes

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