



ARTICLE NO: 1G

MEMBERS UPDATE 2010 - 2011

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Article of: Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services

Issue : 4 February 2011

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SUBJECT: MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS ABOUT FUNDING ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE

1.1 The purpose of this Article is to advise Members on how the Borough Council responded to the County Council's consultation entitled, "Making Difficult Decisions about funding Adult Social Care Services".

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The background to this report is that the County Council launched a consultation period starting on Monday, 6 December 2010 concluding on Monday, 28 February 2011 regarding the way that Adult Social Care Services are funded. The consultation looked at 3 areas that the County Council are reviewing, these are:

1. Whether charges should be raised for people asked to pay for services?
2. Review the possibility of reducing fees paid by the County Council for care services, or
3. Raising the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria used by the County Council which would reduce the number of people eligible to receive support.

2.2 A copy of the consultation paper was sent out to all Members on 13 January 2011 and following this further information was provided to Members on 15 January 2011 regarding the comparative costs charged by other Councils as a way of gauging value for money.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The current position is that after consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services, I have completed the questionnaire and sent this back to the County Council.
- 3.2 Members can, individually or as groups, provide responses on this difficult subject.
- 3.3 A copy of the response is attached at Appendix A.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 4.1 Lancashire County Council, like all Councils in the Country, have to adjust service delivery in line with their income.
- 4.2 The consultation makes it clear that the Service will need to change because of this and looks at the options and seeks views on how the Service can be made sustainable.
- 4.3 The decision on bridging the budget gap will have implications for the Community Strategy.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications for this Council but there will be an impact to residents of West Lancashire.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The action that Lancashire County Council are taking in addressing the budget shortfall and aligning the Service within future resources will mean that there will be less likelihood of service failure for those using Adult Social Care Services in the future.

Appendices

Appendix A – Completed response to questionnaire