



Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

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**SUBJECT: LANCASHIRE SCRUTINY PARTNERS FORUM (LSPF)
REPRESENTATION**

Borough wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider this Council's representation on the Lancashire Scrutiny Partners Forum.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That two Overview and Scrutiny Link Members (1 Conservative and 1 Labour) or their nominee be appointed to serve on the Lancashire Scrutiny Partners Forum (LSPF) in addition to the Link Officer.

2.2 That Constitution 4.1C (Appointments to Outside Bodies) be updated accordingly.

3.0 REMIT OF THE LSPF

3.1 The LSPF was established in 2004 and is open to officers and elected members from District/Borough Councils in Lancashire and the County Council and its aim is to promote the development of the Overview and Scrutiny Function in Lancashire.

3.2 The Forum:-

- provides an opportunity for Lancashire's scrutiny officers and elected members to meet and discuss scrutiny matters of common concern and interest;
- disseminates information about scrutiny work plans adopted by Lancashire's District and County Councils;

- enables officers and elected members to participate in discussions about best practice in Overview and Scrutiny, and to learn from each other and from other authorities who have been successful in the scrutiny process; and
- addresses any training needs which representatives may identify.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Membership of the LSPF consists of 1 Link Member and 1 Link Officer from each Council, although West Lancs. has 2 Link Members (1 Conservative and 1 Labour) in addition to the Link Officer. The Link Officer is currently a representative from Member Services. On some occasions additional officers and members are invited to attend, particularly in the Forum is considering items such as new legislation or when training is being provided.
- 4.2 The Committee are being asked to nominate two Overview and Scrutiny Members (1 Conservative and 1 Labour) to attend Forum meetings.

5.0 MEETINGS

- 5.1 The LSPF meet around 3 to 4 times per year and are held at different Council venues around the County on a rotational basis and are chaired by an elected Member from the host authority. The last meeting held in West Lancs. was on 15 July 2005 and it may be necessary to host a future event.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 Enhanced Overview and Scrutiny arrangements give a greater level of involvement for non Cabinet members in the decision making process and could allow stake holders to influence the Council as well as to allow feed back opportunities for the Community.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are financial and resource implications in respect of officer and member time in dealing with these matters and there may also be a requirement for this Council to host a future event. However, these will be met from existing resources.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Maintaining this link with the County Council and other Lancashire authorities in the County portrays a positive image of this Council, an authority that is willing to work in a 'joined up' manner to achieve best practice.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 Members appointed to serve on the Forum will report back to their respective groups on the activities of the Forum.
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Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

None