



Director of Transformation  
Kim Webber B.Sc., M.Sc.

PO Box 16  
52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
West Lancashire  
L39 2DF

Telephone: 01695 577177  
Email: kim.webber@westlancs.gov.uk

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011

Raymond Brookfield Esq.  
Secretary of West Lancashire Pensioners'  
Forum

**(By e-mail)**

KW/CMT  
Ms. K. Webber  
01695 585005  
5005

Dear Mr. Brookfield,

**Petition: Public Equality and Human Rights Forum**

Thank you for your petition in respect of the above, received on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011, in which you petition that:

“..... Council meet with the officers of the West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum as soon as possible to establish a Public Forum that will meet regularly at the Council Offices to discuss issues of equality and human rights before decisions are made about us, our houses, our safety, our wellbeing, our community, and address all issues of age equality and discrimination, and that Council puts forward to the West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum a draft document in the form of a proposed constitution of such a Forum.”

In response to this request I would like to stress the importance the Council places on ensuring that equality issues are a consideration when making decisions which impact on local people.

In connection with this the Council has an Equality Impact Assessment process in place, and is involved in/supports a range of listening and involving mechanisms to ensure it can accurately gauge the views of its local community, including those of groups with protected characteristics in the community including older, and disabled, people.

Whilst respecting the views of the Forum as expressed in the Petition, the Council takes the view that, at this point in time, there are sufficient mechanisms in place for communities to raise issues of equality and human rights with the Council, and that there is no need for a Forum of the type requested.

Yours sincerely,

**Kim Webber**  
**Director of Transformation**