

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	28 October 2021

<b>Executive Report: Leader of the Council</b>
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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on a number of issues, as set out below.

**2. Lancashire District Leaders and Lancashire Leaders**

- 2.1** On 11 October Lancashire District Leaders met in the morning followed by a meeting of Lancashire Leaders in the afternoon.
- 2.2** In the morning meeting District Leaders received a presentation from the North West Mutual Bank and discussions took place on a number of topics including those outlined below.
- 2.3** COVID recovery; the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership; the Ministerial Task Force and the Lancashire County Deal.
- 2.4** In the afternoon Lancashire Leaders met and the main topic of discussion was the Lancashire County Deal.
- 2.5** Members will recall that at our last meeting of full Council I informed you that all 15 Leaders had agreed to a model that ensured the Districts had an equal part in any future formal decision making Lancashire County Deal structure (Model A).
- 2.6** Lancashire Leaders agreed that further work should be undertaken on a Lancashire County Deal and as a consequence a Group of Senior Officers will work together to scope out a potential Lancashire County Deal based on Model A covering Governance; Scope and Initial Timescales with an Annex on potential Outcomes. The Lancashire County Deal will be provided in conjunction with the Greater Lancashire Plan Evidence Base including the Independent Economic Review and Environment Commission. I am pleased to report that we will be represented on the Senior Officer Group by Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities.

**2.7** I am sure Members will be aware that the Government intend to rebalance the economy through the Levelling Up agenda and a White Paper formally setting out how this will be achieved is expected either later this year or early next year. It is anticipated that County Deals will be referenced in the White Paper and a Lancashire County Deal would provide a formal structure via which significant funding could be devolved down and Members can be assured that I will bring before full Council any Lancashire County Deal for your formal approval but owing to timing this may require an Extraordinary meeting.

### **3. Climate Change**

**3.1** I am delighted to inform Members that we are the the first Carbon Literate council in Lancashire and have been awarded a Bronze level accreditation from the Carbon Literacy Project in recognition of our awareness of the impacts of carbon dioxide in everyday activities as well as our ambition to reduce emissions. The Carbon Literacy Project was recognised by the United Nations at the COP21 climate negotiations in 2015 as one of 100 'Transformative Actions Projects' worldwide that could materially change the way we deal with climate change. This is just one step on our journey to be carbon neutral in the future and a wider roll out is planned.

### **4. Comments and Questions**

**4.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.