

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	27 January 2022

Executive Report: Leader of the Council
--

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 8 December 2021 and 5 January 2022 Lancashire District Leaders met in the morning followed by a meeting of Lancashire Leaders in the afternoon.
- 2.2 At both meetings discussions continued on a potential Lancashire County Deal.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that the White Paper will set out in detail what is required to form a County Deal and whilst Government have indicated that the White Paper will be issued in mid-January, at the time of writing this report the Paper had not been issued. In anticipation of the White Paper being published early this year, Leaders have taken the decision that work should continue on Governance, a Communications Plan and the detail behind a County Deal. At this stage Councils will be considering simply the principles of working together to further develop a County Deal and this matter will be considered later in this meeting.
- 2.4 As I stated in my report to full Council on 2 December 2021 I am encouraged that all 15 Lancashire Local Authorities have agreed to continue to work together and develop a County Deal that will benefit the whole of Lancashire.

3. Covid-19

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the most recent Covid-19 strain Omicron is spreading fast but Health Professionals have stated that the vaccination and booster programme will give significant protection to people. Once again our staff have stepped up making our venues such as the Civic Centre and Thornton Little Theatre available so that our residents can receive their booster quickly and I would like to place on record my thanks not just to our staff but also those in the NHS and in particular our Doctors' Surgeries who are administering the booster programme here in Wyre.

4. Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

- 4.1** The Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Prosperity Board met on 9 December 2021 and we received a fascinating presentation from Neil Farley, Co-opted Private Sector Representative from Westinghouse Springfields on the future job opportunities from a business perspective - focused change in the market and green job growth (nuclear energy).
- 4.2** The site has the technology to manufacture fuel for all major designs of nuclear reactors worldwide. Most of the fuel requirements for the UK's nuclear power stations are met by Springfields and around 15% of all the electricity generated in the UK comes from power stations using nuclear fuel manufactured at Springfields. Around 900 employees are currently employed on the 83 hectare site. The company has a long tradition of offering traineeships but Neil had identified there was a skills gap locally. The Board Members agreed that at the March meeting the focus should be on job skills and the skills gap/opportunities on the Fylde Coast and that Blackpool and the Fylde College be asked to provide a report/presentation with the emphasis on green job opportunities, skills gaps on the Fylde Coast and how this can be addressed.

5. Comments and Questions

- 5.1** 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.