



Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	15 September 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** Lancashire District Leaders and Lancashire Leaders met on the 21 July 2022 and at that meeting a number of issues were discussed including:
- 2.2** Lancashire 2050 - Leaders agreed that work should be undertaken on the issue of recruitment and retention of staff across authorities in Lancashire and opportunities to develop skilling up and training opportunities jointly including pooling/shared services especially in the HR and Legal specialisms. It was agreed that this should be taken forward through the Employment and Skills Workstream of the Lancashire 2050 governance structure and a meeting of Lancashire Chief Executives has been convened to progress this work.
- 2.3** Ukrainian/refugee housing issues - Leaders requested that a briefing note setting out the position in respect of refugees in Lancashire and further wider discussion on the housing, financial and other support issues arising from the increasing numbers settling in the county be brought back to a future meeting.
- 2.4** County Council Resolution on Warm and Welcome Public Spaces - An update on action taken so far by the County Council has been shared with Leaders and we will be developing our own plan on how to assist people who may find themselves homeless during Autumn/Winter and Cllr Berry, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety will provide Members with a detailed update when full Council meet in October.
- 2.5** Lancashire Leaders supported the continuation of Lancashire 2050.

Comments and actions included:

- The Cost of Living crisis to be featured in the priority themes and a Cost of Living Crisis Senior Officer Group has been formed to develop options to help those in most need and our representative on that Group will be Peter Mason, Head of the Contact Centre.
- Engagement of external stakeholders such as Network Rail etc. in the L2050 work was considered to be critical and needs to be factored in as part of the thematic scoping exercise.
- Leaders noted that a group was being established to look at the Bus Service Improvement plan and commented on the need to think about how this connected with the transport and infrastructure theme.
- Leaders were keen to ensure that they maintained a strong and active lead in the L2050 work as it progressed.
- Leaders discussed the need to identify and address any contradictions/clashes across the priority areas, for example, economic growth and climate emergency.
- L2050 Workshop - report to be brought to the September meeting following the workshop highlighting the key messages and issues going forwards.
- Leaders requested that a communications plan be developed to support this work and to better support conversations with Government.
- Leaders discussed the Warm Places notice of motion passed at LCC on 21 July and all Leaders were in agreement that the use of publically accessible County buildings, such as libraries, as places where people can keep warm should be supported. Mark Broadhurst, Head of Housing Services, the Housing Team and Communications Team will be working with Officers from LCC to promote and support the Warm Places scheme in Wyre.

2.6 Devolution

- Leaders commented that, whilst there was some possibility that a new incoming Prime Minister could alter the Government's approach to the levelling up agenda and funding, Lancashire's approach was 'business as usual' with a clear agenda to continue working on plans for future levelling up projects.
- Leaders noted and discussed the proposed deal for Devon County Council.
- Leaders supported the idea of engaging Finance Directors early in the process.

3. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

- 3.1** On 8 September I attended the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting and I will provide Members with a verbal update of the matters discussed at that meeting.

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.