

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	27 October 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 22 September 2022 owing to personal commitments I was unable to attend but Councillor Michael Vincent was present on my behalf.

Lancashire District Leaders:

- 2.2** Matters discussed included COVID Recovery, Lancashire Economic Partnership (LEP), UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Refugees, Local Authority challenges with recruitment and retention and Residents' Energy Use Reduction Schemes in Lancashire.
- 2.3** Whilst positive COVID rates are now very low the Lancashire Resilience Forum COVID Recovery Group still continue to meet on a monthly basis to ensure information sharing continues. Our internal staff COVID Task Force Group meet as and when required but the Group have now completed a lessons learnt exercise and the outcome of this will be reported to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4** At our last full Council meeting I informed Members that we have submitted to Government our business case for our allocated share of the UKSPF and a detailed update will follow when our investment plan has been approved by Government. The UKSPF will be closely linked to the Regeneration Frameworks approved by Cabinet and the Frameworks provide supporting evidence for our proposed spend.
- 2.5** Senior Officers across Lancashire continue to meet, exploring options to minimise the impact on Lancashire Authorities of the current challenges of recruitment and retention and matters being discussed include opportunities for joint working and links to wider steering/working groups such as the

Lancashire Human Resources Group. I will update Members as work on the matter develops further.

- 2.6** In respect of the Residents Energy Use Reduction Schemes Lancashire Mark Broadhurst, Head of Housing and Community Services and the Housing Team are actively engaged in the scheme and are evaluating the range of options that are available and Cllr Berry will provide further details at a future meeting of full Council.

Lancashire Leaders:

- 2.7** The main focus of the meeting was a workshop on the emerging Lancashire 2050 Plan. Work continues on developing the vision and ambition statement and on the eight themes in the Plan (Economic Prosperity, Transport and Infrastructure, Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Environment and Climate, Education and Early Years, Employment and Skills and Communities and Place).

- 2.8** Key Questions discussed during the workshop were:

- Have officers articulated the intent/ambition, and priorities of the theme correctly?
- What are Leader's priorities for collaboration within this theme (is there a prioritisation to the sequencing)?
- What are leaders views on the structure and resources required to drive this theme?
- Who else is/needs to be part of the themes development?

- 2.9** There was general consensus amongst Leaders that the intent/ambition was correct, priorities were agreed with some additions, the matter of adequate resources was raised and Leaders were reminded that at the start of the process Leaders agreed in principle that financial contributions from each Authority would be required in order to develop the Plan and that at this present time keeping involvement to a minimum would allow the Plan to be effectively and efficiently developed prior to a wider consultation/engagement process commencing.

3. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

- 3.1** The meeting of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board scheduled for September was re-scheduled to 13 October and I will provide Members with a verbal update on 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.