

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council	Council	20 April 2023

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** Since my last report to full Council Lancashire District Leaders and Lancashire Leaders meetings have taken place and matters discussed include the following:
- 2.2** Integrated Care Partnership (ICP): The ICP was required to develop an initial interim Integrated Care Strategy by the end of December 2022. The Partnership identified at its inaugural meeting a set of initial priorities which formed the basis of a consultation exercise in October (involving residents and stakeholders). Following further scoping through a number of professional leads the ICP further refined the core priorities at a workshop in December. From the initial priorities that were set out for early engagement, they have been shaped further. The partnership agreed the following priorities: Starting Well, Living Well, Working Well, Ageing Well and Dying Well.
- 2.3** Asylum Dispersal: Lancashire County Council (LCC) worked with our officers to complete the Asylum New Burdens Assessment and we anticipate a response to the funding implications of the assessment soon. LCC are beginning discussions with District Leads on how the cost of asylum dispersal can be monitored on an ongoing quarterly basis. We are still awaiting further information from the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership on the next steps of the Asylum Dispersal Consultation and Members will be updated as and when additional information is received. Lancashire County Council have proposed that a piece of work be undertaken to examine the benefits of a county wide strategy. While I shall withhold any opinion on this until we have had sight of such a proposal, I am broadly supportive of this.
- 2.4** Lancashire Leaders have commissioned work to establish what opportunities exist for Authorities to work closer across Lancashire. At this early stage information gathering has been limited to County, Unitary and District

Councils, within Lancashire. The information gathered indicates there are potential opportunities for greater working together. Based on the information provided to date it would seem there are common services for closer working including: Estates, Building Control, HR / Legal and Environmental Health / Regulatory Services. This is also something that we have been exploring directly with other districts in an attempt to build closer links with them when it is mutually beneficial for us to do so. Talks on new partnerships are in their infancy and I shall update full council when they have progressed further.

2.5 Lancashire 2050 (L2050): Work continues on developing in greater detail the eight Themes in L2050 and I will be part of the Leadership Group for the Climate and Environment Theme and our Chief Executive, Rebecca Huddleston, will be supporting Leaders who are leading on the Economic Prosperity Theme.

2.6 The Climate Change group has now met and the work undertaken by the officers is broadly supported by the members with some suggestions for improvements having been made. We have also discussed how we can work more closely together with the County Council and other districts to reduce our carbon emissions by working together.

3. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

3.1 The meeting of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board was held on 2 March 2023 and Cllr Henderson attended on my behalf.

3.2 The Economic Prosperity Board agreed that relevant officers from the Fylde Coast Local Authorities progress a number of carbon emission reduction projects which include: Solar Car Park Canopies, Roof Mounted Solar and Climate Adaptation and Nature-Positive Development.

3.3 Finalisation of the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ) delivery plan has been held in abeyance pending the findings of interested parties in developing large areas of the EZ and a decision by Government on the Rail Reinstatement Project for the Poulton to Fleetwood line, which is presently subject of further studies being led by Network Rail. Network Rail will be submitting the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) to the Department for Transport for the re-opening of the Fleetwood/Poulton rail line. This SOBC is expected to show that a Tram/Train option is the most impactful in terms of Benefit/Cost analysis but all options remain open for consideration. However, this would only become a preferred option if the relevant Minister approves the project to progress to the next stage. I will update Members when we receive the SOBC and a ministerial decision.

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.