



Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council	Council	14 September 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 Devolution Deal

- 2.1** Lancashire County Council, together with Blackburn with Darwin and Blackpool Council continue to work with a small group of senior civil servants to progress a devolution deal for Lancashire.
- 2.2** The deal being discussed is based around a level two County Combined Authority (CCA) model without a mayor and will seek to devolve power and funding to Lancashire. The level two deal is seen very much as a starting point from which to build on.
- 2.3** It is estimated that a shadow county combined authority could be in place from this Autumn which would run alongside a period of public consultation and stakeholder engagement.
- 2.4** A Level 2 deal establishes the legally constituted governance that can support good decision making for Lancashire and provide a platform on which future negotiation with government is based. As such part of the work currently underway is to define what the governance and voting arrangements will look like, including understanding how districts and other key stakeholders will be engaged in the governance process.

3. Staff Listening Day Sessions

- 3.1** I attended a number of listening day sessions which were held with staff during July. It was fantastic to see so many staff attending these events and to have the opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication.

- 3.2** The sessions, led by the Chief Executive brought staff together to look at achievements over the last year and to have a discussion about what the Council does well that we can build on, what we could do better as an organisation and discuss the visibility and support of the Corporate Management Team.
- 3.3** All of the feedback from the sessions has been captured and a small officer working group has been established to start to explore and action some of the great ideas and suggestions which have been put forwards. Staff will be kept up to date on this work via the Council's intranet and an update on what has been delivered will be provided at the next round of listening day sessions later in the year.

4. Place Based Partnerships

- 4.1** Lancashire County Council have appointed Louise Taylor as the Director of Health and Care Integration for Lancashire and part of Louise's role is to develop and lead place based partnerships across Lancashire. The partnerships are a collaboration of planners and providers across health, local authority and wider community representatives who will take a collective responsibility for improving the health and wellbeing of residents within a place.
- 4.2** They will work together to makes sure services are joined up to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the population, prevent people from being unwell and reduce health inequalities across neighbourhoods.
- 4.3** In order to deliver this Lancashire has been split into three 'localities'; Central and West Lancashire, East Lancashire and North Lancashire. Wyre forms part of the North Lancashire locality together with Fylde and Lancaster and within this two Executive Oversight Groups have been established, one for Lancaster and one which covers Fylde and Wyre. Each Executive Oversight Group will feed into the integrated care partnership as required.
- 4.4** Our Chief Executive has been asked to sit on the Executive Oversight Group and will provide updates to the Council as this work progresses. One current proposal being discussed is around the delegation of additional funding and responsibility for service delivery at a district level. A workshop with the Lancashire Chief Executives group is being planned for September to discuss how best to take this work forward.

5. Other updates

- 5.1** I attended a meeting with Fylde Council's leader and Chief Executive last month to build on our existing strong relationship and share relevant information and learnings.

5.2 We have received our first information request from the Covid 19 public inquiry, which was regarding the procurement and distribution of key equipment and supplies including PPE. Clearly, our role in PPE procurement was limited however we have responded within the timeframes requested. We expect further requests to come through over coming months, but until they do it is uncertain whether there will be an impact in terms of capacity to respond to them.

7. Comments and questions.

7.1 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.