

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
Cllr. David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	19 July 2018	7(a)

<b>Executive Report: Leader of the Council</b>
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**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. Recent Activities**

- 2.1** On 20 June I attended a Wyred-Up event at Thornton FC and I would like to congratulate the chair Jane Littlewood and the Economic Development Team as Wyred-Up has celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. During the past 10 years numerous businesses have used the networking opportunity to grow their business. The focus and ethos of Wyred Up is very much private sector led and whilst the Chief Executive will be attending each event I will attend future events on an ad hoc basis ensuring the focus remains and is driven by the private sector.
- 2.2** On Sunday 24 June I attended Civic Sunday held at St Peters' Church in Fleetwood. The afternoon was a splendid occasion and Madam Mayor I wish you all the very best for this your Mayoral Year and I am sure that every Member will support you in your role.
- 2.3** On Monday 25 June the Chief Executive and I accompanied Madam Mayor to the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony, here at the Civic Centre. Members will be aware that a number of years ago we signed an Armed Forces Covenant and Cllr Andrea Kay and Town Councillor Terry Rogers are championing a number of projects to support both serving and former service personnel from not only the armed forces but also former personnel of other services including the Police and Fire Service etc.
- 2.4** Early in 1917, councillors in Thornton made Joseph Blackburn exempt from military service. In May of that year, Joseph's exemption was taken away after a hearing in the Central Tribunal, which sat in Westminster and was the final authority in cases of this kind. The councillors were outraged by the decision made in Westminster and in June 1917 – in protest at the way that they, Joseph and the people of Thornton had been treated – they went on strike. Joseph was sent off to fight and was killed on the Western Front in the final weeks of the First World War.

- 2.5 On Thursday 28 June the Chief Executive, relatives and descendants of Joseph Blackburn and I attended a dedication service at Thornton Cenotaph for the unveiling of the Joseph Blackburn Commemorative Bench.
- 2.6 On Monday 2 July Cllr Berry and I attended the Police & Crime Panel AGM. Members may be aware of the proposal by the Police & Crime Commissioner to take control of the Fire Service and this matter was discussed at both the District Leaders and Shadow Combined Authority meeting.
- 2.7 A number of months ago I accepted an invitation to attend Tram Sunday in Fleetwood and I am fully aware of the months of planning that goes into holding and running this event and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and the Tram Sunday Committee who give their time free every year to ensure this prestigious event is a success.

### **3. Lancashire District Leaders and Shadow Combined Authority Meetings**

- 3.1 On 21 June Lancashire District Leaders met in the morning followed by an afternoon meeting of the Shadow Combined Authority.

Lancashire District Leaders:

- 3.2 At this meeting we discussed various matters including a presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on his proposal to combine the Police and Fire & Rescue Service. Whilst the presentation was informative I suggested that in order to ensure Leaders received information that was equally balanced, a representative from the Fire Service should be invited to make a presentation to the next District Leaders meeting. My suggestion was unanimously agreed.

- 3.3 It was also agreed that Cllr Alice Collinson be appointed to the outside body Lancashire Best Kept Village and Cllr Roger Berry be appointed to Lancashire Partnership Against Crime.

Shadow Combined Authority:

- 3.4 We received a presentation on the National Economic Picture, Strategic Economic Plan refresh and an update from the Lancashire Local Economic Partnership (LEP). In addition it was agreed that Cllr Alison Barnes Leader of Rossendale Council be appointed to the North West Regional Leaders Board.

- 3.5 We are still waiting for a letter from the Secretary of State for advice and guidance on the Government's view on a Combined Authority that would not include all Lancashire Authorities; the view of Government will influence the shape and direction that will be taken and I will in due course bring a full and detailed report back to full Council.

- 3.6 Lancashire Leaders discussed the proposal by the PCC to bring together the Police and Fire and Rescue Service and I reiterated my views expressed at the District Leaders meeting and it was unanimously agreed that the PCC and representative of the Fire and Rescue Service be invited

to make presentations to all members of the Shadow Combined Authority so that all Leaders at District, Unitary and County levels are in a position to express their views and comment on the proposal.

#### **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.

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