

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	20 October 2016	8(a)

Executive Report: Leader of the Council
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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. A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool improvement – Public Consultation

2.1 The public consultation process by Highways England (HE) on 2 options for a new road from Windy Harbour to Skippool has commenced and on the 11 September I, along with Cllr Henderson and Cllr Murphy, attended a public consultation that was held in Singleton. The new road is critical if we are to deliver growth in the urban area and maximise opportunities in Fleetwood, Poulton and at the Hillhouse International Business Park Enterprise Zone, Thornton.

2.2 The Chief Executive and I have written a joint letter to HE stressing how important the new road scheme is for the Borough and once implemented the new road will both increase and maximise the capacity of the A585 to support growth.

2.3 Whilst at this early stage the detailed highway scheme has not been fully worked up, I have emphasised to HE the need for the final scheme to take account of the future growth potential in the Borough. Option 1 would provide a dual carriage way and a greater carrying capacity with Option 2 being a single road. Whilst Option 1 is more expensive than Option 2 I consider that Option 1 will futureproof the road network and impact less on local residents.

2.4 I have therefore informed HE that our preferred option is “Option 1: A bypass to the south of the A585” and whilst Option 1 is our preferred option I have requested that the detail design of the scheme consider improvements to the current A585/A588 junction. This junction is also a major pinch point that constrains growth Over Wyre. Currently the junction operates giving priority to traffic on the A585 with consequent queuing on the A588 over Shard Bridge. I am sure Members would agree that we would like to see the A588 as a continuous priority route to Skippool roundabout with Mains Lane becoming a secondary access road for Little Singleton.

3. District Leaders Meeting

- 3.1** On the 15 September I attended the District Leaders forum in Preston. We discussed various matters including Combined Authority / Devolution status, financial outlook/challenges and appointments to Regional/Outside Bodies.
- 3.2** In respect of Combined Authorities (CA) the CA has moved into Shadow form (SCA) and Members should be aware that the existing Chairman Cllr Alistair Bradley (Leader Chorley Council) has been replaced by Cllr Simon Blackburn (Leader Blackpool Council). At the District Leaders meeting I placed on record my thanks to Alistair but expressed my disappointment that the Chairman of the SCA was not a Leader from a Lancashire District Authority.
- 3.3** Members may have read in the media that Burnley have to make significant financial savings and because we have been financially prudent and made tough decisions early, such as Senior Management Team restructures, charging for Green Waste etc., I reported to the meeting that we were in a strong financial position. Whilst we are currently in a good financial position we are not complacent and on the 7 September the Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder Cllr Alan Vincent presented the Medium Term Financial Plan to Cabinet where it was unanimously agreed. Also on the 27 September Clare James, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer, gave a presentation to Members on the MTFP and whilst I was unable to attend the MTFP presentation I have received positive feedback from a number of Members and I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to Clare.
- 3.4** At the Lancashire District Leaders meeting it was agreed that for the period 2016-17 Cllr Viv Wilder (Fylde Council) would be the Fylde Coast District Representative on the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board.

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.