

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	1 December 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. Police and Crime Panel

- 2.1 On 19 October I, along with Cllr Berry, attended the Police & Crime Panel meeting in Blackburn. The agenda was extensive and we discussed in great detail a number of matters including the appointment of additional co-opted Members to the Police and Crime Panel, Performance Monitoring Report, draft Police and Crime Plan 2016-21, Protecting Vulnerable People Scrutiny, Chief Constable recruitment, Early Action, etc. Members can access the full agenda by typing the following web address into their browser:

<http://blackburn.cmis.uk.com/blackburn/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1475/Committee/406/Default.aspx>

- 2.2 Members will note from paragraph 2.1 that one matter discussed was the recruitment of a Chief Constable. The current post holder Steve Finnigan has announced that he will retire on 28 June 2017, following his 41 year service in policing. The recruitment of a new Chief Constable will commence in January 2017 with a confirmation hearing with the Police and Crime Commission scheduled for the week commencing 13 March. I would like to place on record my thanks to Steve for the way he has served the people of Lancashire and look forward to working with his successor.

- 2.3 At the meeting it was agreed that Victim Support would be the subject for a Task and Finish Group and the Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner has provided additional information and the opportunity to discuss the Commissioner's arrangements for Victim Support. I would like to thank Councillor Roger Berry who has agreed to join the Task and Finish Group and I am sure that he will make a very valuable contribution to the Group.

3. Overview and Scrutiny

3.1 On 7 November the Chief Executive and I attended an Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) meeting where we presented the Strategic Narrative - our vision and goals and whilst this matter is the subject of a separate report on this agenda I would like to place on record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of O&S for their input and interest in helping to shape the narrative which proposes a vision based on the principles of collaboration and commercial awareness.

4. District Leaders and Chief Executives meeting and Lancashire Leaders Group

4.1 On 10 November I attended the District Leaders and Chief Executives meeting which was followed by a Lancashire Leaders Group meeting.

4.2 The purpose of the District Leaders and Chief Executives meeting was to discuss progress of the Combined Authority and the matter of an Elected Mayor. The Chair of the Lancashire Shadow Combined Authority informed all those present that in order to secure a devolution deal of any worth, it would require acceptance of an elected Mayor. It was made clear that without an elected Mayor the devolution deal would be extremely limited. If agreement were to be reached on forming a Combined Authority for Lancashire with an elected Mayor the Mayor would have no influence on local decision making or sovereignty. An elected Mayor for Lancashire would be the conduit through which Government would have discussions and whilst a Mayor in such a role would have some extended powers that would only be in respect of the Combined Authority.

4.3 On 3 December 2015 full Council made the following resolutions:

- a) That the contents of the report, including the Lancashire Governance Review and draft scheme be noted.
- b) That Wyre Council does not participate in the stakeholder consultation exercise as referenced in Paragraph 5.3 of this report.
- c) That the Leader formally withdraws from Lancashire Leaders meetings where discussions are solely on the subject of a Combined Authority for Lancashire and currently Wyre takes no formal part or role in the proposed Combined Authority for Lancashire.

4.4 I have consistently stated that Wyre will continue to collaborate with our extensive range of partners for the better benefit of our residents, businesses and visitors. I have also stated that if the benefits of being part of a Combined Authority were clear then I would bring the matter back before full Council. To date I have, however, seen no clear benefits for our residents/businesses/visitors. When the full details of any negotiated devolution deal become clear I will bring a formal report back to full Council so that Members can take the final decision on membership of a Combined Authority.

- 4.5** Members are aware that Lancashire County Council has entered into a contract with PwC the objective being to assist LCC with developing a plan about future service delivery for Lancashire. The Lancashire Leaders Group meeting was convened to discuss this matter but unfortunately no conclusive conclusions were reached and I look forward with interest to receiving further information from LCC and PwC on their emerging plan.

5. Other Matters

- 5.1** On 9 November I met Andrew Percy MP Minister for the Northern Power House for the signing of the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Memorandum of Understanding. Later that evening it was a privilege to attend the Northern Festival of Remembrance where our current Mayor, Cllr Lees, took an active part in proceedings.
- 5.2** In August 2016 the Resources Portfolio Holder approved the subdivision of the Teanlowe Day Centre to let part of the building to the Teanlowe 60+ Community Centre and the remaining part to a new tenant. On the 14 November I attended the re-opening of the refurbished Teanlowe Day Centre. The Centre is operated by volunteers and frequented mainly by elderly people and I would like to thank the volunteers for providing an excellent service.
- 5.3** On the 16 November Cabinet were given a tour of the Rossall Sea defence works and the extent of the works completed thus far are truly breath-taking. The work at Rossall is the biggest sea defence scheme in the Country and Officers are working in partnership with Balfour Beatty so as to ensure the £63 million scheme is delivered on time and on budget.
- 5.4** On the 18 November at the request of the Leader of Chorley Council Cllr Alistair Bradley and the Chief Executive Gary Hall, I and our Chief Executive attended a meeting to discuss various matters related to joint working. On 23 November I and the Chief Executive meet with the Leader and Chief Executive of Blackpool, Council Cllr Simon Blackburn and Neil Jack (again at their request), to continue discussions about collaboration and opportunities for joint working.

6. Comments and Questions

- 6.1** 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.