

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	19 January 2017	8(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. General Matters**

- 2.1 Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to wish fellow Members, Council officers, residents and partners a Happy New Year and if 2017 is as eventful and as fruitful as 2016 this year will be another year to remember.

- 2.2 At the end of 2016 we received our four Year Local Government Settlement and whilst the Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder Cllr Alan Vincent covers this subject in greater detail in his executive report I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members and officers for producing an Efficiency Plan and a Medium Term Financial Plan that puts us in a very strong financial position and enables us to continue to deliver exceptional services for our residents, businesses and visitors.

- 2.3 The Lancashire County Council Elections will be held in May this year and I would like to wish all candidates good luck.

- 2.4 The results of the bi-annual Life in Wyre Survey were received at the end of 2016 and Cllr Vivien Taylor will cover this matter in greater detail when she presents her executive update, but I am delighted that the survey has once again been extremely positive and credit must go to Members and officers for ensuring Wyre is a great place to live, work and visit.

**3. Lancashire District Leaders meeting**

- 3.1 On the 19 December 2016 I attended the Lancashire District Leaders meeting in Preston. We discussed various matters including devolution and the Combined Authority, an update on waste collection and disposal and the Local Government Settlement.

- 3.2** It was clear at the meeting that there are a number of District Leaders who are becoming increasingly uncomfortable with both the pace of the progress to a Combined Authority and the fact that in order to secure a devolution deal of any worth there will need to be an elected Mayor for Lancashire. In my opinion Authorities in Lancashire could deliver the objectives set out in the shadow Combined Authority by simply working together or by working in clusters. In the next few months I will be bringing a paper to full Council that will set out options on how we can work with neighbouring authorities to deliver a range of services that will be for the better benefit for our residents, businesses and visitors. I have stated on numerous occasions that collaboration on a cluster footprint is an alternative mechanism to a Combined Authority, but collaboration does not require a Mayor or a detailed and convoluted Governance structure to deliver enhanced services.

#### **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.