

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	6 September 2018	7(a)

**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. Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Prosperity Board**

- 2.1** On the 17 July the second meeting of the Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) took place at the Lancashire Energy School (Blackpool & The Fylde College) located within the Blackpool Enterprise Zone and in the absence of Cllr Simon Blackburn I chaired the meeting.
- 2.2** We received a presentation from Nigel Wilcock of Mickledore about the findings of a Business Investment Marketing Perceptions Study and of particular interest was the above average attainment levels of students studying A levels or equivalent and the need to create job opportunities on the Fylde Coast to retain young local talent.
- 2.3** We agreed the following four priorities:

**Housing Growth and Quality of Life**

Improve the quality of rented housing through new potential flexibilities from Government via the ability to vary Housing Benefit / Local Housing Allowance rates. Include housing growth in the urban areas and on difficult sites, incorporating affordable energy costs, access to health and community provision to establish a destination with a 'sense of place'

**Connectivity**

Develop physical infrastructure, strategic partnerships and digital networks that support growth within and around the Fylde Coast. Connectivity on a Lancashire and North West footprint through the promotion of skills, accessibility and technological provision in comparison to the offer of others. Strengthening partnerships at the regional level to drive forward opportunities developing higher skills in specialist sectors not necessarily within the Fylde Coast.

## **Accelerated Growth focusing on our Enterprise Zones**

Ensure the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zones and identify the skills needed to support meaningful growth for businesses and individuals. Identify and develop supply chain networks via partnerships and educational institutions with particular focus on Research and Development opportunities across Lancashire and the North West. Development to establish best practice, accessibility and promotion of continuing business support initiatives to provide longevity to harness businesses growth aspirations.

### **Marketing**

Ensure effective marketing as a business investment location to complement the tourism marketing offer at a local/sub-regional/national/international level. Focusing on priority sectors and working with Marketing Lancashire to ensure effective coordination and integration with the Lancashire offer.

## **3. Lancashire District and Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives Meetings**

- 3.1** On the 24 July Lancashire District Leaders met in the morning followed by an afternoon meeting of Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives.

### **Lancashire District Leaders :**

- 3.2** It was agreed that Cllr Matthew Brown, Preston City Council, be appointed to the Lancashire Local Economic Partnership Performance Committee.
- 3.3** The Chair and Chief Executive of the Fire Authority gave an excellent presentation including clear, compelling and well evidenced reasons as to why the Police and Fire Service should remain independent organisations. There was unanimous support amongst Lancashire District Leaders that the Fire Authority and Police Service should remain independent organisations.

### **3.4 Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives Meetings:**

At this meeting we had a presentation from Professor Sue Smith and her colleagues from UCLAN on the Lancashire Economic Picture and Productivity Analysis but the main focus of the meeting was a discussion on the economic and growth priorities for Lancashire that would form the basis for a refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and I put forward the four high level strategic priorities agreed at the EPB meeting.

- 3.5** In addition Cllr Simon Blackburn gave an update on the proposal by the Police and Crime Commissioner to take control of the Fire Service and we also discussed the merits and opportunities of a Community Bank.
- 3.6** We also agreed work themes and I, along with the Leaders of South Ribble and West Lancashire, (with support from David Welsby CEO

Hyndburn) have agreed to develop a work programme for Environment/Climate Change which will cover the following:

- Air quality
- Green spaces
- Waste and future recycling
- Clean energy
- Flood alleviation and prevention

**3.7** Cllr Simon Blackburn along with the Leaders of Lancaster and Ribble Valley (with support from our CEO Garry Payne) have agreed to develop a work programme for Housing which will include the following:

- Quality, affordability and choice
- Housing benefit
- Relationship with Homes England
- Housing growth

#### **4. Other Activities**

**4.1** On the 19 July the Chief Executive and I attended a meeting at Flakefleet Primary School. The meeting had been arranged by Regenda to develop closer working relationships with the Regenda Group, schools and other Partners but the main focus and purpose was around raising young people's aspirations.

**4.2** Ward Members, as representatives of their communities, can play a key role in helping to raise the aspirations of young people and the Regenda Group are focusing their attention on the area of Fleetwood. I have suggested to Steve Newsham (Regional Director Lancashire, Regenda Homes) that he should contact Ward Members in Fleetwood for their support and I am sure that those Ward Members will relish the opportunity to actively engage in this project.

**4.3** On 25 July Cllr Berry and I attended a verification meeting of the Police and Crime Panel. The purpose of the meeting was to verify the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) proposal to establish the post of Deputy PCC. Whilst the Panel's decision was not to support the proposal, on the 26 July the PCC went ahead and advertised the role, a decision which, in my opinion, makes a mockery of the Panel verification process.

#### **5. Comments and Questions**

**5.1** 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.