

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	18 October 2018	7(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. Lancashire District and Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives Meetings

- 2.1** On the 11 September Lancashire District Leaders met in the morning followed by an afternoon meeting of Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives. Leaders discussed in depth the 75% pilot business rate retention opportunity and I spoke in favour of a bid subject to the Districts retaining the majority of an increase in business rate growth and was pleased that consensus was reached and that my views were supported. Members will be aware that on the 24 September at our Special Meeting of full Council the decision to support a bid was approved and I will keep Members up to date with how the bid progresses.
- 2.2** Cllr Matthew Brown, Leader Preston City Council introduced Tony Greenham, Director of Economy, Enterprise and Manufacturing at the RSA and Charles Moore, Director of the Community Banking Association who gave a presentation on Community Banking. Whilst the presentation was interesting at this current time there was little appetite amongst Leaders for a Community Bank.
- 2.3** Updates were presented on the work themes: Economic Growth; All age skills, education and employment; Housing; Environment/climate change; Health and Wellbeing and Policing and Blue Light Services. The members of each group was finalised with draft scoping documents to be prepared for future cross party working.
- 2.4** In November 2017, the Government's Industrial Strategy White Paper announced a national review of the roles and responsibilities of Local Enterprise Partnerships, with a focus on leadership, governance, accountability, financial reporting and geographical boundaries. The Review has been led by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Treasury Ministers with additional input from an

advisory panel comprising Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), local authorities and business organisations.

- 2.5** On the 24 July 2018 the Ministerial review team published its final report "Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships". The Review re-states the importance of LEPs and confirms that LEPs will be central to the delivery of prosperous communities in England. LEPs will continue to drive local growth by leading the development of Local Industrial Strategies and informing the use of the emerging UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Graham Cowley from the Lancashire LEP presented an action plan including a detailed timetable of the review of the Lancashire LEP and as this matter progresses I will, in due course, provide Members with further updates.

3. Other Activities

- 3.1** On the 19 September I attended the unveiling of a 'Tommy' silhouette in the Civic Centre reception as a poignant tribute to all who lost their lives in World War I. The commemorative Tommy figure is part of a nationwide installation for the fallen entitled 'There but not There'. I am pleased to state that we were one of first to purchase a Tommy.
- 3.2** 'There but not There' is a charity project which aims to place representative figures across the country in memory of those who died, in the communities they left behind. The campaign hopes to educate all generations about why the fallen made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as raise funds to help heal those suffering from the hidden wounds of war. These silhouettes will represent Tommies being back within their communities for Remembrance 2018, the centenary of the end of the First World War.
- 3.3** Each Tommy is made by the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) and by ex-service Veterans employed by RBLI.
- 3.4** On the 20 September I attended a Local Government Association (LGA) event at County Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to meet Councillor Mike Wilcox, the LGA's newly appointed Conservative Regional Peer for the North West and Claire Hogan, the LGA's Principal Adviser for the North-West. Claire outlined the role of the North West officer team and the support available to member councils such as Peer Reviews.

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.