

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	6 December 2018

<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. Lancashire District and Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives Meetings**

- 2.1** On 22 October Lancashire District Leaders met in the morning followed by an afternoon meeting of Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives.

- 2.2** At the District Leaders meeting we discussed the ongoing LEP Governance Review and it was agreed that the LEP should be more business focussed. Concerns were raised that democratic accountability needed to be protected, as well as the Board being more diverse regarding women and ethnic minority representation. It was also suggested that a mix of small and big businesses would be beneficial, and all appointments should follow a proper process with proposals for Directorships to be time limited to four years.

- 2.3** In addition we discussed Lord Alf Dubs' Campaign to House Refugee Children and we received an update on the Local Government Pension position.

- 2.4** At the meeting of Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives we had updates 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.

- 2.5** We agreed that representatives of the Leaders of Lancashire County Council, Blackpool, Blackburn and Burnley should meet Jake Berry MP to discuss various matters including the Governments appetite for Combined Authorities. The meeting took place on the 13 November 2018 and I will provide Members with a verbal update on the outcome of the meeting.

### **3. Other Activities**

- 3.1** November was indeed a very busy month and on 6 November I attended the Northern Festival of Remembrance at Marine Hall where there was virtually a full house. I would like to put on record my thanks to County Councillor John Shedwick who yet again organised a fantastic event, a supposedly one off event, which next year will be its 10<sup>th</sup> year.
- 3.2** On 9 November I attended the opening of the rejuvenated Vicarage Park Community Hall, Poulton. The Hall was built in 1925 in memory of those that had given their lives in the First World War and it was a pleasure to see first-hand the benefit of community determination and resilience which has resulted in a facility that provides first class accommodation for various local community groups.
- 3.3** On 12 November 2018 I, along with Madam Mayor, the Mayoress, Deputy Mayor, fellow Councillors, Chief Executive and Senior Officers attended the Homecoming Event to celebrate 100 years since the end of the First World War. The march from Memorial Park to Marine Hall Gardens was very well attended with well over a thousand people taking part, many dressed in clothing akin to the 1900's. We marched with local schoolchildren, representatives from the armed forces, civic society, RNLI Fleetwood and many others and it was truly a memorable day.
- 3.4** On 16 November I was given a tour of the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone, Thornton and the growth and number of jobs that has been achieved over the past 10 years is impressive and a clear demonstration of the benefits that working together can make.
- 3.5** On 26 November Staff Briefing sessions commenced and my role at the sessions is to continue to raise the profile of elected Members, further develop the positive relationship between elected Members and staff and work with the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team to embed our core values. Whilst we are and will continue to be a Member led authority the strong positive relationship between Members and staff is clearly evident and this positive relationship has been referenced by external bodies such as the Local Government Association Peer Review Team. I have no doubt the strong positive relationship sets us apart from many other authorities.

### **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.