

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	4 April 2019

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 February to March 2019

- 2.1** Since my last Executive report update there have been a number of Lancashire District Leaders and Lancashire Leaders meetings.
- 2.2** I am sure Members will have read in the press that some of the East Lancashire Authorities namely Blackburn (Unitary Council), Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale (District Councils) have made a public announcement that they have written to Government expressing their wish to pursue reorganisation with the objective of forming one Unitary Authority. Interestingly the proposal doesn't include Hyndburn or Ribble Valley and I await with interest the response from Government.
- 2.3** We received an interesting presentation on the Government's Waste and Resources Strategy which is currently at the consultation stage and our officers will be providing detailed comments to the Lancashire Waste Partnership, who will in turn collate all responses and feed back to Government.
- 2.4** All Leaders agreed that improving connectivity within, into and out of Lancashire is critical if we are to maximise growth opportunities and at the same time tackle climate change. We discussed the implications of Transport for the North and Transport for Lancashire (TfL) proposals. Members will be aware that at our last meeting our Business Plan was unanimously approved and under Economy we will not only support growth by attracting investment but will also collaborate with our partners to improve local transport infrastructure which will involve exploring and analysing all transport options.
- 2.5** Updates were provided and detailed discussions had on the six agreed Lancashire themes: Economic Growth; Housing; Health & Wellbeing; Environment/Climate Change; All Age Skills, Employment & Education; and Community Safety. If Members wish to read the papers in detail

please contact the Democratic Services Team.

- 2.6** David Taylor (Interim Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP)) gave an update on progress on the review of how the LEP is structured and Leaders commented that the LEP should implement changes that would improve both transparency and communication, particularly with the Leaders.

3. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board 5 February 2019

- 3.1** At the meeting of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board we agreed to jointly fund an Economic Impact Toolkit which will also be of use in monitoring activities in the Local Plan and we discussed various matters including a Marketing Strategy and the Lancashire European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Programme 2014-20. The ESIF programme provides funds to help local areas grow. The funds support investment in innovation, business, skills, employment and creation of jobs. Funding through this programme will be available up to 2020 and the Board agreed that if appropriate we will work to secure funding for investment across the Fylde Coast.

4. Activities

- 4.1** Over the past couple or so months I have attended a number of functions and events including the Mayoral Ball at the North Euston, Fleetwood and the Commonwealth Day Flag Raising. I also appeared on the Sunday Politics Show where I stated that I would, in principle, accept funding from the Stronger Towns Fund, a £1.6bn government fund launched to boost less well-off towns in England after Brexit.

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.