

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	15 June 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. Events and activities**

- 2.1** We are now entering a period in the year when events and activities come thick and fast. On Sunday the 14 May I attended Civic Sunday to celebrate the new Mayoral Year and I was made to feel very welcome at both St Luke's Church and at the Village Hall in Winmarleigh. Thanks to the efforts of local residents and staff at Wyre the Village looked pristine, a great example of collaboration in action.

**3. Elections**

- 3.1** The election at Lancashire County Council (LCC) and a local by-election took place on the 4 May 2017 and I would like to formally congratulate the eight candidates who were elected to the position of County Councillors to represent Wyre but in particular I would like to congratulate Cllr Vivien Taylor who has been offered and accepted a Cabinet role at LCC for Health & Wellbeing. I would also like to formally welcome Cllr Ellison who was elected in our local by-election and will serve the people of Bourne Ward.
- 3.2** At the time of writing this report I did not know the outcome of the General Election but I would like to pay tribute to the Elections Team particularly Joanne Porter and Andrea Mullin who coped admirably with the County Elections and at short notice ensured everything was in place for the General Election. Members will be aware that for a General Election Parliamentary Constituencies are not co-terminus with Local Authority boundaries and the logistics associated with the General Election are challenging but the Elections Team collaborated early with colleagues in Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster to ensure the process ran smoothly.

## **4. LGA Peer Challenge**

- 4.1** In my last report I made reference to the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge that took place between the 14 and 16 March 2017. We have now received the final report which extends to 13 pages and whilst Cllr Vivien Taylor will cover this matter in greater detail I would just like to highlight a few comments from the report:

*“The Council has a positive ‘can do’ culture amongst staff and Members...”*

*“The Council has strong and credible political and organisational leadership with effective governance and decision making arrangements in place to respond to future challenges.”*

*“Following a Senior Management Team restructure implemented in July 2016, the leadership team are building a positive and empowering culture for staff.”*

*“Recently the Council have worked with the Fylde & Wyre CCG to co-locate a GP and Extensive Care Service to the Civic Centre. This is both innovative and a game changer and an example of exceptional partnership working.”*

- 4.2** I would like to take this opportunity to thank the LGA Peer Challenge Team Jason Gooding (CEO Carlisle Council), Cllr Jonathan Owen (Dep. Leader East Riding), Ann Crawford (Dep. Director Public Health England), Victoria Gibbs (Head of Integrated Commissioning North Lincolnshire Council) and Cindy Lowthian (Peer Manager LGA) and all the staff, Members and Partners that took part in the review, we have achieved a truly outstanding result!

## **5. Combined Authority and Collaborative Working**

- 5.1** On 3 December 2015 Full Council took the decision that Wyre takes no formal part or role in the proposed Combined Authority for Lancashire and since that formal decision other District Councils have taken a similar stance and I understand that the new Administration at County Hall are to review their commitment to a Combined Authority.
- 5.2** As I stated in a report to Full Council back in December 2015 the value and or indeed the need to form a Combined Authority at the exclusion of other alternatives such as the proposed Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) must be questioned.
- 5.3** I, along with other Members and staff from this Council, have consistently demonstrated our commitment to collaborative working as evidenced in the LGA Peer Review Challenge report and I have consistently stated that I will support informal and formal collaborative working when there are clear benefits. Members will be aware that the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company (EDC) has been operating for a number of years and our Chief Executive is a Director of that company along with the Chief Executives of Blackpool and Fylde (LCC withdrew from the company in 2014). The EDC have achieved positive outcomes

such as securing Enterprise Zone Status (EZ) at Blackpool Airport, Wharton (as part of the Samlesbury EZ) and Hillhouse, Thornton but we now have an opportunity to review and reconsider how the EDC operates to further improve collaborative working. In July I will be bringing a report to Full Council that will propose the EDC be dissolved and that an EPB be formed for the Fylde Coast. The creation of an EPB will provide for a stronger and more robust governance framework for the economic development and growth agenda across the Fylde Coast, bringing in greater political accountability and enhanced collaborative working.

## **6. Comments and questions**

- 6.1** 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.

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