

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council	Council	6 February 2020

<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 Leaders and Lancashire Leaders

- 2.1 On the 14 January I attended Lancashire District Leaders followed by Lancashire Leaders and both meetings were productive and whilst debate was robust there was a willingness by Leaders to work collaboratively for the better benefit of Lancashire.
- 2.2 At Lancashire and District Leaders we received an update from Councillor Brown (the Leader of Preston City Council) on a proposal to form a Lancashire Wealth Fund (the fund would operate as a Bank) and it was agreed that Cllr Brown would circulate further information.
- 2.3 In previous reports I have referred to the development of the Greater Lancashire Plan (GLP) and I can inform Members that Lancashire Leaders have agreed that work should continue on the GLP including three commissions for the GLP work streams:
- Economy and an Independent Economic Review
  - Climate Change and the Environment
  - Re-inventing Public Services and Public Reform
- 2.4 Lancashire Leaders also agreed that as part of the development of the GLP an Independent Panel should be appointed to provide strong challenge and a support function that brings with it, credible rigour, confidence and access to wider contributions, networks and intelligence that help position and grow propositions in a way that works for all. The Independent Panel will be made up of people from various professions including: Rowena Burns (CE Manchester Science Partnership), Diane Coyle (Professor of Economics Manchester University), Emma Howard Boyd (Chair of the Environment Agency), Louise Wyman (WMCA), Henri Murison (Director of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership), David Taylor (Chair UCLAN), Dame Stella Manzie, Sir Howard Bernstein and Rachel Cooper (Professor Design Management and Policy Lancaster University).

- 2.5** One Public Estate (OPE) is a collaborative public sector project jointly funded by the Cabinet Office and MHCLG. Lancashire entered the OPE Programme in 2016 and has successfully secured funding under four bidding rounds (OPE 4, 5, 6 and 7). Blackburn with Darwen Council is the Accountable Body. The Lancashire OPE Partnership has been successful in securing a total of £5,390,000 OPE revenue and Land Release Fund (LRF) capital funding since joining the OPE Programme in 2016. OPE revenue funding supports the development of project concepts, options appraisals and feasibility studies, whereas Housing LRF is capital funding for site preparation, remediation and infrastructure works to help release council owned sites for new housing.
- 2.6** The launch of the next One Public Estate funding round (OPE 8) has been delayed by the Brexit negotiations and the General Election. We now understand the launch will be in March 2020, with bids expected to be submitted sometime in April and funding awards to follow soon after.
- 2.7** Our Chief Executive, Garry Payne, is the Lancashire lead for the Housing Theme and he submitted a report on housing growth to the Lancashire Leaders meeting on 6 November. This included a number of recommendations to accelerate housing growth including developing a Lancashire Housing Strategy and undertaking a strategic land review. The report also included a recommendation concerning programme management and funding for the consultancy support needed to help implement the recommendations.
- 2.8** Lancashire Leaders agreed in principle that the Lancashire Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund should be used to enable the role of the One Public Estate Programme Team (OPE) to be expanded to provide programme management support for the Lancashire Strategic Housing Officers Group as well as mainstream OPE collaborative projects.
- 2.9** Stephen Fogg Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) provided a verbal update to Lancashire Leaders. The LEP has recently been independently reviewed and as a result, over the next few months, Board Members will be concentrating on developing strategy, clarity of role, actions to drive economic growth and delivery vehicles to support the Greater Lancashire Plan.

### **3. Comments and Questions**

- 3.1** 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.