



Leader's Report

2 February 2011

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

Information on Cabinet matters is provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held on 17 December 2010 and 18 January 2011, later in this agenda.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently

There are no decisions to report since the last Leader's Report on 15 December 2010.

3.0 Leader's Comments

Much of the Cabinet's time since the last Council meeting has been spent on the budget and on understanding the implications for the district of the settlement figures. Cabinet has been meeting on a weekly basis to discuss priorities, options for savings and the future. A full report on the budget is part of the agenda for this meeting and it contains Cabinet's initial recommendations.

Other items of interest.

Visitor Economy.

Morecambe exhibition in the Platform – I am pleased to be able to report that an exhibition of pictures of old Morecambe has been placed on display in the Platform. This idea aims to develop the venue and is a small start in expanding the visitor offer in the town.

Report on Fireworks Spectacular - This has been produced by Lancashire Blackpool Tourist Board who have analysed the feedback of 142 people, taken on the night of the fireworks display.

Using the information and a range of criteria they use to assess economic impact they believe this event delivered over £400,000 of tourism value to the area. The VIC at Lancaster reported one of its busiest ever days.

A similar assessment gave a figure of approximately £194k for the Seaside Festival. This underlines the importance of the visitor economy to the district and the council's commitment to this as a corporate priority.

Winter Gritting.

I am pleased to be able to report that the partnership working with the County Council produced an improved reaction to the snow before Christmas. This resulted in limited disruption to waste collection – despite the comments of the minister on the national picture.

Other meetings:

Lancaster Public Sector Leader's Symposium.

A second meeting of this group has emphasised the impact that both reductions in budgets and changes to the public sector will have on the district. Though there remains a large degree of uncertainty about the future there is a recognition that it is important to talk about these changes and to work more closely together.

Arts Council England.

Officers and myself met with representatives from the Arts Council to discuss the importance of their funding in the district.

University Vice Chancellors.

A meeting was held to discuss future issues relating to this sector.

4.0 Other Matters

Cabinet minutes are attached at the end of this agenda.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meeting on 17 December 2010 and 18 January 2011.