



## **Leader's Report**

**16 October 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 6 September and 4 October 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 14 September 2011.

##### **3.0 Leader's Comments**

At the end of September, a meeting was arranged between myself and the Leader of Preston Council. Due to traffic problems, only the Deputy Leader came. We discussed our shared Revenues and Benefits Service and the possibility of working together in the future. Since then Councillor Bryning and the Head of Finance Services came with me to our first meeting about the Service which was a report on how the Service is working and the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair. We must be fated with traffic problems as Preston was gridlocked on our return journey.

30<sup>th</sup> September was my first Vision Board meeting at the University. I found it a most worthwhile meeting with many ideas for our area. The future use of the Castle was a major topic with a report being produced. Professor Wellings is leaving very soon and I hope that the new Vice-Chancellor will join the Board.

The Budget Consultation process has begun with many groups throughout the district. I attended three of these culminating in a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce. It has been interesting and informative to listen to the various groups.

A small group of Councillors endured a day of Media Training which took away any illusions about how capable we were in the face of quick fire questions. It was so difficult to keep calm and still while pretending to be in command of our briefs. All of us found it difficult but probably worthwhile.

Councillor Hanson and myself visited Liverpool with two officers to see for ourselves how Liverpool Direct is working. Liverpool Direct is a joint venture put in place between Liverpool City Council and BT some ten years ago. It is therefore similar to One Connect Ltd (OCL), the joint venture between Lancashire County Council and BT. We also had a private meeting with Joe Anderson, the Leader of Liverpool City Council. We asked questions and queried stories about problems in the past with the BT Service.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England members came to Lancaster to discuss the start of an electoral review of the District. The review will decide the size of the Council, the number of Wards and their boundaries. This is a five year forecast in time for the next election. They will be coming to the November Council today to explain the process and to answer questions.

Unfortunately the District Leader's Leaders' Meeting was held this month at a difficult time for me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cards, letters and expressions of sympathy. They were much appreciated.

#### **4.0 Other Matters**

Cabinet minutes are attached at the end of this agenda.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings on 6 September and 4 October 2011.