



## **Leader's Report**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016**

### **Report of the Leader of the Council**

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>
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 meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

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

Happy New Year to everyone. My last report was in late December so there have been very few meetings.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the Appraisal Panel met. This is a Group of 7 that meets each quarter to appraise the C.E.O. A number of objectives are set out and Performance Measures and he informs us of the Actions Taken. We are then able to discuss future objectives.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January, the Lancaster Museums Joint Steering Group met. The meeting focussed on the County Budget changes and their impact on museums in Lancaster and on service delivery. The Arts Council England have notified us

that the Accreditation process has been experiencing some slippage and therefore we will now be receiving their “invitation” to submit on 15<sup>th</sup> June until 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to present our review reports. After the flooding and the changes to come, this gives us more time. Our review has involved well-qualified consultants looking at all our museums. Their report is expected by 31<sup>st</sup> January and will be coming to Cabinet. They will be appraising our plans.

Work on the leaking gutters at the City Museum has begun. The Maritime Museum suffered serious flooding. Up to two feet of water covered significant areas of the ground floor, affecting both the shop, public toilet and gallery spaces. Carpets and other floor coverings were destroyed along with large amounts of shop stock, fixtures and fittings. Fortunately, few museum objects were directly affected by the flood but subsequent rises in the humidity of these areas has led to some objects requiring conservation intervention. Humidity levels remain high and the conservation team are involved in work required in the galleries. A small group of Councillors and an officer went to Rossendale Museum before Christmas to look at the changes that they have made. This will help us in our review.

Our thanks go out to all those who worked so hard during the flooding. Some businesses are still closed and householders are dealing with the after effects. The Council worked with County and all the agencies and keeping Salt Ayre open 24 hours a day was wonderful. The Environment Agency, the Council and partners are inviting residents to have their say on flooding and find out more about the support available at a Community Roadshow on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at Our Lady’s Catholic College from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm. It is important that we learn as many lessons as we can to ensure that we are as prepared as possible in the future. I would encourage anyone who was affected by flooding to go along.

Our main task in the last few weeks has been in looking at the Budget proposals. None of us want to make cuts but the threat of the loss of £5 million in the next four years hangs over us. I know that members will not always agree with the changes but unless they can find alternatives, these have been carefully thought through so that we can maintain our services and our environment as well as the heritage assets that we all value.

#### **4.0 Other Matters**

Cabinet minutes are attached at the end of this agenda

#### **5.0 Key Decisions**

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016:

- (1) Morecambe Business Improvement District (BID) – Draft Proposal Document
- (2) Salt Ayre Sports Centre Development Project
- (3) Budget & Policy Framework Update 2016/20

**Background Papers**

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.