

Executive Annual Report 2016/17

Councillor Janice Hanson

**Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder responsible for Economic
Regeneration and Planning**

Executive Membership

- Cabinet
- Canal Corridor Cabinet Liaison Group (Chairman)
- Housing Regeneration Cabinet Liaison Group
- Museums Cabinet Liaison Group
- Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group (Chairman)

Executive Appointments to Outside Bodies etc

- Management Group of Lancaster Business Improvement District (BID)
- Morecambe Bay Partnership

Overview of Portfolio Responsibilities

Responsible for Economic Regeneration and Planning

Corporate Plan Key Outcomes/Success Measures

Corporate Plan - Key Outcomes	Success Measures
Sustainable economic growth and jobs will be created in key sectors, including energy, knowledge, health and the visitor economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regenerate central Morecambe through the Morecambe Area Action Plan.• Complete Local Plan for the Lancaster district, setting out a vision for the natural and built environment to 2031.• Achieve the annual requirement for the availability of land for housing development.• Adopt the Lancaster City Masterplan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain small businesses as important components of thriving retail centres.
The attractiveness and offer of the district as a place to visit or invest in will be improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Lancaster's urban centre through investment in the built environment, heritage assets and the public realm. • Improve inward investment through the attractiveness of the district as a place to live and work. • Evaluate economic impact, delivery and funding of the arts in the district.

Progress made during 2016/17

1. 2016/17 has seen a significant upturn in the district's fortunes on a number of fronts. The new Chief Executive has made very clear to a wide number of stakeholders in the district the Council's commitment to promoting economic growth and its desire to re-engage in economic development activities.
2. With an upturn in development activity the Council has been able to stabilise its professional staffing resources in its Development Management team to ensure that the Council's decision making process on planning applications can meet the exacting demands of new Government targets. The City Council is now the highest performing local authority in Lancashire in relation to planning application decisions.
3. After two years of careful and sometimes agonising debate about how the Council should deal with the considerable challenges surrounding housing growth, agreement was reached in December to publish a draft Local Plan for public consultation, thus enabling the Council to prepare for submitting a plan for examination in 2018.

4. The Council has engaged specialist commercial and legal consultants to advise it in its negotiations with British Land and the University of Lancaster on the potential development proposals for the Canal Corridor North. Whilst the scheme has the potential to deliver transformational change to Lancaster's cultural and retail offer, the Council is committed to ensuring that the costs and benefits of this major investment are appropriately distributed between the parties promoting it.
5. The Council has also been successful in being selected to plan for the delivery of a new Garden Village at Bailrigg. This is a Central Government initiative which brings with it funds and support from the Homes and Communities Agency to master plan and deliver a completely new community to the south of Lancaster, adopting high quality design and integrated infrastructure principles.
6. The Council was also successful in bidding for a contribution from the Lancashire Growth Deal to assist in the delivery of improvements at Junction 33 on the M6 to unlock the growth potential in south Lancaster.
7. This year has seen considerable progress on the construction of the new Wave Reflection Wall along Morecambe promenade. This will upgrade protection levels from coastal flooding as well as enhancing the visual quality of the public realm in the town. Morecambe Town centre has also benefitted from a significant upgrade to its public realm with the Council's Regeneration Team utilising external funding to assist with design and delivery.
8. With the Council's support Morecambe has also been awarded funding for a Coastal Communities Team which will work with other teams around Morecambe Bay to coordinate cultural and economic regeneration activities locally.

9. At the beginning of the year the Council took up its seat on the Yorkshire Dales National Park as part of the district became part of that national landscape designation. The City Council assisted the National Park Authority with sharing historic planning application and planning policy data to make this shift in responsibilities as smooth as possible.

10. In the year when the Government published its Housing White Paper, housing completions have returned to normal levels thanks to consistent delivery on new sites such as Lancaster Moor Hospital, Nightingale Hall Farm, Luneside West and Lancaster Leisure Park. The impressive regeneration of Chatsworth Gardens is also transforming this part of the West End after considerable effort by the Council over many years to deliver it.

11. Last, but by no means least, the district is now feeling the immense benefits of traffic relief following the opening of the Heysham/M6 link road. This was another project agonised over for many years and which required strength and tenacity from both Councils to deliver, and is already proving its worth with immediate developer interest in Heysham Gateway occurring.