

## **Statement of Intent in relation to Economic Development activity across the Morecambe Bay Area.**

### ***Introduction:***

This Statement of Intent has been prepared by The Borough Council of Barrow in Furness, Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council (The Councils) to set out our intentions regarding collaboration, working together and resource sharing. The Councils recognise a shared geography, economic interests and a shared objective to exploit opportunities to boost the economic performance of Morecambe Bay (defined as the combination of the three Local Authority administrative areas). There is a common understanding that working closely together and engaging in joint initiatives has the potential to increase our understanding of common issues and opportunities and ultimately maximise our ability to achieve a positive economic impact for the Morecambe Bay area and beyond.

### ***Purpose of the Statement:***

To provide clarity on the intentions of the Councils to work together constructively and in good faith to jointly drive forward agreed initiatives positively. This document is not legally binding but seeks to set out the general principles by which the Councils will approach a new way of working.

### ***Background:***

This Statement of Intent reflects informal discussions between the Councils and shared aspirations for economic growth across the Morecambe Bay area, in the context of the wider sub regional economies of both Lancashire and Cumbria, the North West and nationally.

### ***Objective:***

The agreed Objective is to exploit opportunities to boost the economic performance of the Morecambe Bay area. In order to achieve this, we will identify, consider and develop initiatives and activity where joint working and shared resources offer a means by which additional benefits can be effectively delivered.

### ***Administration/Governance:***

- Elected Members Group
- Officer Group(s), which may vary according to areas of interest
- A named officer in each Council to act as a key point of contact
- Reporting and Decision making arrangements

Initial work will be informal and exploratory and will allow us to consider and investigate where the best results can be achieved.

Any formal joint working proposals and allocations of resources will be considered initially by the Elected Members Group, and ratified by the Councils, if required. Evaluation of the effectiveness of any joint working will also be provided at agreed intervals to the Elected Members Group and to each of the Councils, as required.

***Specifically, we will explore collaborative opportunities including the following:***

1. Work jointly with partners in each sub region to promotion and raise the profile of the area for inward investment and indigenous business growth.
2. Work with Cumbria and Lancashire County Councils and the sub regional Destination Management Organisations to create a 'Prospectus of Opportunity' setting out the sectoral strengths and opportunities for investment and Growth across Morecambe Bay.
3. Establish and develop a productive relationship as Morecambe Bay partners with both the Cumbria and Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) to ensure that decision making at a LEP level is aligned with opportunity across Morecambe Bay.
4. Set out a clear vision and strive to implement initiatives and activity which will provide the best chance for inclusive growth across Morecambe Bay which benefits all our communities.
5. Formally engage with central government as partners to get the best deal for our communities.
6. Agree priorities and lobby with one voice for major investments to allow Morecambe Bay to fulfil its economic potential, for example, important infrastructure.
7. Work closely together, both officers and Elected Members, to plan our housing and employment growth.
8. Jointly promote the area as a great place to live and build a career and ensure our young people and student populations are aware of the world class employment opportunities located across Morecambe Bay.
9. To address the skills challenges work collectively with our schools, colleges and universities to ensure that our businesses receive the maximum benefit from being located with world class education providers.

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Cllr Dave Pidduck  
Leader – Borough Council of Barrow in Furness

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Date

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Cllr Eileen Blamire  
Leader, Lancaster City Council

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Date

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Cllr Giles Archibald  
Leader, South Lakeland District Council

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Date