

Leader's Report

19 July 2017

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 meeting held on 26 June 2017 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 12 April 2017.

3.0 Leader's Comments

Now that the County Elections and the General Election are over, we can get back to work. Some changes will come from those results. The meetings of the Shadow Combined Authority could be very different and also there could be a change of thinking about public services in the light of the hung parliament.

The two terrorist incidents in Manchester and London have happened since our last meeting and possibly affected the election results. The horrific fire in Kensington has made all Local Authorities look at their tower blocks and I know that we have looked at ours to make sure that people feel safe in them. There is no reason to believe that there is a problem locally, but listening to the news, building regulations are said to need updating and a report that has been held back should be made public.

On the 05 April, the Lancaster Museums Joint Steering Group met. We received an update on the County Council changes to their museums service. Two Lancashire mills have still not been transferred. It was pleasing to note that the visitor targets to Lancaster City Museum was exceeded last year by 21.59% (60,797 people visited) and the target was 50,000. The Maritime Museum was closed for capital works and then hit by flooding and the Cottage was 29.42% below target. Opening hours at the Maritime are to change from 11:00-17:00 to 10:00-16:00 to encourage more use of the café. A variety of exhibitions throughout the year are arranged. At the City Museum these are very much based on the City's History, including the Moor Hospital, Standfast and the Barracks site and White Lund.

Further feasibility work is going on concerning the review of museums. We received an update on capital works and on Beyond the Castle. We were told that finds are now recorded by the Museums Service and Our Museums Consultant is to look at the whole archaeological site. The well is the special interest.

Cabinet met the Chamber/BID on the 18 April. We discussed: commercial land availability, University/Business/Council engagement, District Gateways, LCC Procurement and an Investment brochure and video. More generally, Policing, Parking and Rates, the Greyhound Bridge proposed closure and the Canal Corridor. They also received updates on Bailrigg Garden Village and our proactive Economic Development and the Combined Authority.

Group Leaders also received an update on Canal Corridor progress on the 25 April.

The University Community Day on the 06 May was a real success. The weather was sunny and it was very well attended. If you missed it, don't miss it next year. The variety of things to do and see and to take part in was excellent and it was a real family day.

The Cabinet is having a series of "Briefings for Change and Challenge". These are in-depth presentations from each service area on their work. We are looking at what we do and how we do it, and the value that services provide in order to improve and to inform our Corporate Plan. We also had a Strategic Planning Workshop on the 23 May. This was a full day with a facilitator. This helped us to look at our priorities, our aims, our progress against our existing strategy and at the new Morecambe Bay proposal. This work is continuing because it was interrupted by the General Election.

On the 17 May, representatives from Barrow and South Lakes come to Lancaster to receive a presentation on a sub-regional economic development approach for Morecambe Bay. We agreed a list of ways to co-operate. The next steps are that a collaborative statement of intent will be produced and a proposal presented to Council. The atmosphere was friendly and positive and I hope that all Councillors will see the benefits of working together while maintaining our own autonomy.

The Diversity Event on the 20 May was very well attended and showed the variety of our area and the talents of all our different communities.

A business dinner at the Confucius Institute at the University was an opportunity to network with many local entrepreneurs. The Chinese Ambassador came from

London and told us how much they appreciate the close relationships with Lancaster. The Chamber President welcomed him and sang our district's praises and I was asked to give the vote of thanks. The Ambassador had enjoyed his visit and tour of the area and it is something to encourage as both business and the University have a very close economic relationship with China and we may be needing even more if Brexit goes ahead by 2019.

A successful partnership between the Dukes and Lancaster University has scooped a top accolade at the inaugural North West Cultural Education Awards. They won the award in recognition of their work to develop arts, education and learning in Lancaster and to invest in, enrich and sustain the City's cultural life. Working with young people and communities which are traditionally under-represented in Higher Education and in the participatory arts has been a focus on the work with the University since 2014. Projects to inspire and support communities often seen as "hard to reach" including those from a pupil referral unit, young carers, people with dementia and Gypsy, Roma.

A meeting with Morecambe Town Council took place on the 20 June. Items raised and discussed were: anti-social behaviour in Morecambe, fly tipping, the telephone exchange in Market Street, new paving in Central Morecambe, possible proposals for the drive-through takeaway and for school parking. This meeting was followed by a presentation from GVA who produced the report on Canal Corridor. There will be meetings with all Councillors soon to keep members updated.

Other Matters

Cabinet minutes for 26 June 2017 are attached at the end of this agenda.

4.0 Key Decisions

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 26 June 2017:

- (1) Variation of central Lancaster's Air Quality Management Area to include the 1 hour air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide.
- (2) Salt Ayre Leisure Centre Income Share Arrangement
- (3) Land at the Superbowl, Marine Road, Morecambe
- (4) Development Project – funding request towards feasibility study

The following Officer Delegated Key Decisions were taken during this period:

- (1) Plumbing Materials – Kitchen and Bathroom Contract 2017/2018
- (2) Flooring Contract – Kitchen and Bathroom Contract 2017/2018
- (3) Electrical Materials – Kitchen and Bathroom Contract 2017/2018
- (4) Lancaster City Council's Approach to Responding to Dangerous Buildings – Contractor Framework LOT 2 – Scaffolding Contractors
- (5) Lancaster City Council's Approach to Responding to Dangerous Buildings – Contractor Framework LOT 3 – Demolition Contractors
- (6) Purchase of Refuse Collection Vehicles
- (7) Provision of Hosted Case Management System for Planning
- (8) Purchase of Two Cage Wagons
- (9) Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme

- (10) Provision of Event Safety Management for Light Up Lancaster
- (11) Development Partner for Microsoft Dynamics CRM
- (12) Lancaster Bus Station

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 26 June 2017.