

COUNCIL

Leader's Report

20 December 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 7 November 2017 and 5 December 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 15 November 2017.

3.0 Leader's Comments

Together with other Councillors of all parties, I was invited to the opening of a new Stroke Unit at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary on the 30th October. It is a much needed addition to stroke care as it is near to the emergency area and provides immediate accommodation for the vital first hours after a stroke.

The Social Media Briefing on the 9th November made me realise how important this is in spreading Council news. Well worth attending if it is repeated.

The Remembrance Service on the 12th November went as smoothly and movingly as always. I always wonder how it is timed so well that the wreaths are laid by 11:00.

The Star Chamber process has started. The first meeting was on Monday the 13th November looking at Health, Housing and Human Resources. Lots of good suggestions to save and invest to save.

The Chief Executive, Councillor Hanson and myself gave an interview with Ged Henderson of Lancashire Business View magazine on the 14th November. He asked to see us because he had been hearing great things about Lancaster and the work that is going on here. He took copious notes as the three of us bombarded him with good news stories and Council decisions. He promised to send us copies of the article.

Mark Smith, the Lancaster University Vice-Chancellor came to see us on the 21st November. We discussed the new proposals for the Council and Court of the University. The Innovation Park is at its third funding tier stage and it has caused some delays, but it should be going ahead soon.

The funeral of Councillor Roger Sherlock was very well attended on a very wet day. The family were pleased with the attendance and with the tribute to Roger, a well-liked and very hard-working Councillor.

On that very wet day and night our district saw an unprecedented amount of rainfall which led to flooding in many areas, including three areas of my own ward. The Chief Executive and myself were due to go to County Hall that day for the Shadow Combined Authority meeting. We decided to tour the flooding sites instead and speak to agencies and people who were flooded. It was heartbreaking to see elderly people leaving their homes for 6 months and to hear of others who have lost so much and are still not in new accommodation. Our job has been to work with others to clean up and provide assistance to residents. The staff worked day and night and over the weekend collecting and removing flood damaged goods and housing staff have been on hand to give help and advice, including providing temporary accommodation. Three meetings were planned. One has taken place in Halton and as I write one will be in Galgate and one in Bowerham. The Community Foundation for Lancashire has launched a Lancashire Flood Recovery Appeal and the Chief Executive is contacting the Local Government Association, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and others, appealing for help. She has also asked an Environment Agency representative to appeal to government for money for flood victims.

On a lighter note, I attended the Fashion Show arranged by the Mayoress on the 25th November. It was a really pleasant evening with a really wide choice of very attractive clothing. I did admire the Mayoress who had the courage to model some of the clothes. I really couldn't do that.

The workshop on the Heritage Strategy on the 27th November was very well attended. We think that we know our area but when shown pictures of some heritage buildings and monuments, we have to say "Where's that?" I look forward to further work on this. Some of the pictures were stunning, especially, for me, St Peter's Church at Heysham. Through the trees in sunshine with the sea beyond. We live in a beautiful area.

Other Matters

Cabinet minutes for 7 November 2017 and 5 December 2017 are attached at the end of this agenda.

4.0 Key Decisions

The following Key Decision was taken by Cabinet on 7 November 2017:

- (1) Request for Approval to Proceed with Grant Application to the Clean Bus Technology Fund.

The following Key Decision was taken by Cabinet on 5 December 2017:

- (1) Lancaster Caton Road (Phase 3) Flood Risk Management Scheme
- (2) Budget & Policy Framework Update

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

- (1) Provision for Development Facilitator for Bailrigg Garden Village, Lancaster
- (2) Lancaster Town Hall Phase 3

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 7 November and 5 December 2017.