

## Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	<b>Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2020		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Establishing a Lancaster and South Cumbria Joint Committee</b>				
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>				
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>					
To seek approval to progress arrangements for the formation of a joint committee with Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland Borough Council.					
<b>Key Decision (Y/N)</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Date of Notice</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>	<b>Exempt(N)</b>	

<b>Report Summary</b>
Lancaster City Council, South Lakeland Council and Barrow Borough Council are proposing to form a joint committee. The committee would create a formal, shared link between the three councils, build on our collective strengths and increase our capacity to deliver on key issues and mutually shared interests affecting the region.

<b>Recommendations of the Leader Cllr Erica Lewis</b>
Cabinet approves the formation of a joint committee with Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council and seek approval on the recommendations below.
It is recommended that Cabinet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Establishes a Joint Committee with Barrow Borough and South Lakeland District Council covering all respective administrative areas to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the areas.</li> <li>(2) Delegates the Executive Functions within the Terms of Reference and adopts the Procedure Rules, as attached in Appendix 1 and outlined in the report, to the Joint Committee</li> <li>(3) Agrees that Lancaster City Council act as the initial host authority for one year.</li> <li>(4) Appoint the Leader and one other cabinet member (appointed from time to time by the Leader) to the Joint Committee.</li> <li>(5) Request Council authorises the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution at Part 2 Section 6 to reflect the delegations and joint arrangement</li> </ul>

<b>Relationship to Policy Framework</b>
Congruent with the wider economic prosperity agenda



<b>Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s) where applicable</b>	
<b>Climate</b>	<b>Wellbeing &amp; Social Value</b>
<b>Digital</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>
<b>Equality</b>	<b>Community Safety</b>
Not undertaken	
<b>Details of Consultation</b>	
<p>Promoting a strategic economic, social and environmental well-being development approach across the region has been promoted via the prospectus, the event at Lancaster University and directly with Ministers, MP's and bodies such as the Northern Powerhouse Partnership. The approach has been broadly welcomed and encouraged.</p> <p>The Leaders and Chief Executives of the constituent authorities have discussed options for creating more formal and accountable arrangements for the Councils to progress growth initiatives.</p>	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	
<p>The Joint Committee will be established pursuant to powers under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and under the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>The proposed arrangement will be for the discharge of executive functions only in order to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area.</p>	
<b>Financial Implications</b>	
Minor – a small resource implication in the year in which the Council is the host authority	
<b>Other Resource or Risk Implications</b>	
<b>Section 151 Officer's Comments</b>	
The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
<b>Monitoring Officer's Comments</b>	
<p>In accordance with Part 2 Section 6 of the Constitution, the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities and/or their Cabinets to exercise functions jointly, or advise the Council. The Cabinet are able to enter into various forms of joint arrangements. Such arrangements may involve the delegation of functions to another local authority, an Officer of another local authority or the establishment of a Joint Committee with another local authority or a number of local authorities.</p> <p>Details of any joint arrangements including any delegations to joint committees will be found in Part 2 Section 6 of the Constitution.</p>	

## **Background and Proposals**

- 1.1 In summer 2017, the three authorities approved a joint statement of intent to work collaboratively to drive forward agreed approaches to economic, social and environmental well-being development across the Lancaster and South Cumbria Region.
- 1.2 This statement was rooted in the findings of 2016 economic study work which confirmed the region as a functioning economic area with a combined Gross Value Added comparable to other North West economies. Strengths were identified in the sectors of marine engineering, energy generation, nuclear skills, advanced manufacturing and higher education. In conclusion, development opportunities could be better identified and realised working strategically across administrative boundaries.
- 1.3 In June 2019, the three authorities produced and launched a prospectus 'Driving Growth Together' at an event at Lancaster University attended by a wide range of businesses, agencies, authorities and media from across the region. The prospectus and approach to collaborative working was well received.
- 1.4 The authorities produced an outline proposal for a 'Growth Deal and presented it to the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse ahead of the Convention of the North, held in September 2019. This collaborative approach has successfully raised the profile of the region amongst the Northern Powerhouse, Ministers and local MP's and outlined potential investments in infrastructure, the business environment and place.
- 1.5 Current work is taking place to refine and focus proposals for a growth deal type programme to attract significant public investment to transformational growth projects and importantly drive COVID19 resilience to the region's economy. This requires a strong case, backed by demonstrable collaborative action, supported by visible commitment and accountability.
- 1.6 It is now considered beneficial and timely to establish a formal arrangement between the three Councils to drive this, reinforcing the sense of developing a functional economic area and will provide a forum for promoting other matters of shared interest such as addressing the climate change, wealth building and the promotion of the visitor economy and culture.
- 1.7 The proposal is to establish the Lancaster and South Cumbria Joint Committee using powers under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and under the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.8 This arrangement would not preclude other proposed arrangements for Lancaster for example in relation to a combined nor collaborating with other local authorities. In addition, any new arrangement does not supersede the Council's own decision making powers i.e. it can't force anything on the Council that the Council does not wish to undertake or action.
- 1.9 The proposed joint committee's Procedure Rules are presented in Appendix 1 and will be subject to review at the first meeting of the JC with any changes brought back to a future meeting. The joint committee's remit will be to provide political and democratic accountability and in doing so:-

- a) act as a key strategic forum for sustainable economic prosperity issues in the Lancaster and South Cumbria Region and to make representations and recommendations on sustainable economic development opportunities, programmes and investments to other bodies, to include Government, Local Government and the Cumbria and Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- b) act as a key strategic forum for meeting the climate emergency across the Lancaster and South Cumbria Region and to make representations and recommendations on sustainable economic development opportunities, programmes and investments to other bodies, to include Government, Local Government and the Cumbria and Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- c) act as the key strategic forum for reducing inequality across the Lancaster and South Cumbria Region and to make representations and recommendations on sustainable economic development opportunities, programmes and investments to other bodies, to include Government, Local Government and the Cumbria and Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- d) actively engage with a range of experts, community organisations, businesses and institutions in the Lancaster and South Cumbria Region in relation to economic, social and environmental wellbeing development decision making and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate
- e) consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic, social and environmental governance arrangements.
- f) to have direct and strategic oversight of key growth focused projects and initiatives that the Joint Committee has influence over the funding of and across the Lancaster and South Cumbria Economic Region

## 2.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

<b>Option 1:</b>
<b>Advantages:</b> As described above
<b>Disadvantages:</b> Some administration cost, possible perception of subsidiarity
<b>Risks:</b>

Each or any of the three constituent authorities do not agree or continue the joint arrangements with the consequence that the benefits and opportunities of collaborative working are not realised.

Joint arrangements are not recognised by other partners and Government

**Option 2:**

**Advantages:**

Disadvantages above avoided

**Disadvantages:**

The constituent authorities could continue with an informal collaboration. This option is not recommended as the requirements and options for promoting growth and investment proposals to Government and local partners will be strengthened if backed by a demonstrable joint commitment that a formal arrangement represents.

The existing informal collaboration is not open to political and democratic scrutiny other than individually through each of the constituent authorities.

**Risks:** As risks**4. Officer Preferred Option (and comments)**

4.1 Not applicable.