



LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, 26 June 2019 –
6.00 p.m.
Morecambe Town Hall**

Lancaster City Council welcomes members of the public to attend meetings. However, space in the public gallery is limited to 30 seats due to Fire Regulations. The seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis and no standing is permitted. If you require support in accessing the building, please contact Democratic Services on 01524 582132, or email democracy@lancaster.gov.uk

Kieran Keane,
Chief Executive,
Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
LANCASTER,
LA1 1PJ



Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Lancaster City Council to be held in the Town Hall, Morecambe on Wednesday, 26 June 2019 commencing at 6.00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **MINUTES**

To receive as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 17th May and 20th May 2019 (previously circulated).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations by Councillors of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Councillors are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Councillors should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code Of Conduct, Councillors are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

4. **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements which may be submitted by the Mayor or Chief Executive.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 11.1 and 11.3 which require members of the public to give at least 3 days' notice in writing of questions to a Member of Cabinet or Committee Chairman.

7. PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

To receive any petitions and/or addresses from members of the public which have been notified to the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

8. LEADER'S REPORT (Pages 1 - 8)

To receive the Cabinet Leader's report on proceedings since the last meeting of Council.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

9. MOTION ON NOTICE - CATERING CONCESSIONS (Pages 9 - 13)

To consider the motion submitted by Councillors Tricia Heath, Geoff Knight, Merv Evans, Cary Matthews and Roger Dennison;

"It has not escaped the general public's attention that there were no ice cream vans in their usual spots on Morecambe promenade during the very hot spell of weather at Easter.

Lancaster City Council has for many years received guaranteed revenue from leasing these sites to local business. This ended this year as Lancaster City Council has apparently decided it would make much more money from selling ice creams themselves.

We all know this will never be the case. It has been proved by the council's failed attempts to run business in the past.

Lancaster City Council has already lost 1/2 years rental income from concessionaires and we see no evidence that the council has put any money aside to provide their own ice cream vans. Does this mean that this council no longer has any plans to provide ice cream vans on Morecambe promenade? If so, we are leaving the door wide open for unregulated traders to turn up which raises Health and Safety concerns.

Apparently it has also been the policy to cancel leases on cafes at the end of their term. This means that a local resident who has worked hard and put their heart and soul into building up a business will have this taken away from them by the council on the grounds that the council will now keep the profit. This does not inspire entrepreneurship in the town nor does it inspire being in partnership with Lancaster City Council. Is there any member here that thinks this is a sensible or desirable way forward?

Other cafe owners have now been told that they will not be able to renew their lease - what incentive is there to invest in or improve their business.

We propose that the Council:-

- 1) Does not take the livelihoods of local residents away from them by not renewing their leases;*
- 2) Does not begin the business of selling ice creams on Morecambe Promenade;*

And that:

- 3) The Council's priorities should be on fulfilling its statutory duties"*

An officer briefing note is attached.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. **APPOINTMENT TO AN OUTSIDE BODY - COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP** (Pages 14 - 15)

To consider the report of the Chief Executive.

11. **APPOINTMENT TO POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

To consider the report of the Chief Executive.

Report to follow.

12. **APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Group Administrators to report any changes to Committee Membership.

13. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 12.2 and 12.4 which require a Member to give at least 3 working days' notice, in writing, of the question to the Chief Executive.



.....
Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
LANCASTER,
LA1 1PJ

Published on Tuesday 18th June 2019.

COUNCIL

Leader's Report

26 June 2019

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT

1.0 Leader's Comments

Like other new councillors my first weeks in office have been a bit of whirl of training, getting set up, finding my way around and just getting stuck in.

The Local Plan

On the morning of the additional hearing day on the question of housing need, I met with a concerned group of councillors and their expert advisor, and spoke to both planning officers and the QC representing the council at the hearing. As a result of those discussions and on the advice of our barrister, the Planning Inspector was advised that following our elections there had been significant changes in the make-up of the council and in the council's leadership across parties.

The Local Plan remains under consideration by the Inspector and we await his decision as to whether the plan is sound or not, and whether he requires us to do any further work before the plan can be considered for adoption by the council. While we await the Inspector's decision, discussions have already begun within the council as to whether the changes between the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the 2018 NPPF mean that there are highly targeted and swift revisions we should make to the local plan (if recommended for adoption) to make more progress on our climate change emergency targets and to ensure that future development best meets the needs of our community.

Lancaster & South Cumbria Economic Region (LSCER)

Returning councillors may remember that over the last couple of years there have been discussions between Lancaster City Council, South Lakeland District Council, and Barrow Borough Council about collaborating to better promote our region as an economic area.

The Chief Executive and I have been up to Kendal to talk to South Lakeland, and the Chief Executive has had conversations with Barrow, and I will catch up with both leaders at the Local Government Association (LGA) to continue the conversation. Barrow also have a new Leader and a new Chief Executive so for two of the three councils we are coming in fresh to the discussion.

Formally the project was launched on Friday 14th June at Lancaster University to an engaged and enthusiastic range of stakeholders from across sectors and across the region.

As most councillors may not have had previous engagement with this project we are looking to set up a briefing for councillors on this.

Eden North

Many people will have seen that the Eden Project has now submitted its Environment Impact Assessment Report, and I hope that many councillors will have been able to attend the briefing by Si Bellamy of Eden Project International on Tuesday 18th June.

Lancaster Cycling Grand Prix

On 9th June we hosted the inaugural Lancaster Cycling Grand Prix and by all reports it seemed to go very well. Discussions are already happening about how the event might grow and improve next year. Congratulations to everyone involved, particularly the Lune Racing Cycling Club and our staff at Williamson Park.

General Processes

One of the things we are keen on as a new administration is trying to engage councillors earlier in significant discussions, this is a large part of why the Cabinet meeting scheduled for June was cancelled, and why the agenda for this Council meeting is quite light. If you have thoughts on how there could be better engagement in the development of projects and policies, I'd welcome those suggestions.

Background Papers

LSCER MOU

COUNCIL

**Morecambe Bay Collaborative Agreement
19 July 2017**

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to provide further information on potential collaborative arrangements with South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council and to present a Joint Statement of Intent for Council's consideration.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- (1) The Council explores collaborative opportunities with South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council in order to take a strategic approach to delivering economic and other benefits for the Morecambe Bay area and the Lancashire and Cumbria sub regions.**
- (2) The Joint Statement of Intent between the three Councils is agreed.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Discussions over the last year between Lancaster City Council, South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council have highlighted a shared geography, economic interests and a common objective to exploit opportunities to boost the economic performance of Morecambe Bay, in the context of the wider sub regions. A Joint Statement of Intent is now provided to provide the basis of a developing collaborative relationship between the three councils.
- 1.2 District and county administrative boundaries serve a purpose in terms of public administration but do not necessarily define the economy, which develops around key sectors, supply chains and markets, as well as people and skills. Important economic drivers such as universities and major employers also have an impact that is far wider than the district in which they are based. Communities can function naturally around key service, housing and employment centres but also with a sense of connection, which is built upon how people move around rather than necessarily administrative boundaries.

- 1.3 County wide arrangements, including Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's), are established on a spatial, sub regional footprint but there are potential strategic advantages in seeing beyond the administrative boundaries to achieve a greater impact across a wider area. In some cases, this strategic approach could create the platform for quite ambitious developments or to prioritise key projects that deliver benefits beyond an individual sub region.
- 1.4 Lancashire LEP recognises the potential connections for Lancashire in all directions. Lancaster has strong links within Lancashire but also has interests in common with South Cumbria. Separately, East Lancashire connects closely with Manchester on many issues and West Lancashire often looks towards Merseyside. The Lancashire LEP is exploring how the potential to increase economic impact across sub regions can be achieved, taking a strategic and ambitious approach to growth.
- 1.5 Lancaster is well situated and recognised within Lancashire as an area for growth. Major funding has been allocated to key initiatives with LEP support including, for example, the Innovation Campus at Lancaster University, and Bailrigg Gardens. Funding for major developments in the district, such as these, need to demonstrate economic impact and, in the case of strategic investments, this will be beyond district boundaries. Lancashire wide arrangements underpin sub regional impact for Lancashire and there is now the opportunity to drive benefits across the wider Morecambe Bay area.
- 1.6 Recent discussions have covered a range of opportunities for potential collaboration between the Morecambe Bay authorities that can be explored and the Joint Statement of Intent suggests some possibilities. This list is not intended to be conclusive in any way and may develop over time, for example, as growth opportunities develop in nationally significant sectors such as energy, marine engineering, health and higher education.
- 1.7 Whilst collaboration around Morecambe Bay is being driven by the three district councils, the engagement and involvement of Lancashire and Cumbria County Councils and LEP's will be required as arrangements move forwards. In order to ensure that wider sub regional opportunities and impact are fully considered and major investment support is gained.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Council agrees the Joint Statement of Intent and begins to explore collaborative opportunities with South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council, focusing on achieving clear economic and other benefits for the district and beyond.
- 2.2 In terms of progress, first steps will be small and will explore what potential opportunities mean in practice, what benefits can be delivered and, in particular, how the strategic advantage of this joint working relationship can add value. Work is ongoing to examine evidence and better understand the economy and other shared interests around Morecambe Bay. Early exploratory work and relationship building within existing resources can proceed informally, although any key decisions or resource implications will need to be considered by each of the Councils as part of their decision making processes.
- 2.3 The Statement of Intent suggests governance arrangements to provide a framework for further discussions and development and to ensure an opportunity for regular meetings between the three councils.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 Early consultation has been undertaken with some key partners but further engagement will need to be ongoing in order to involve and include strategic partners and delivery organisations, as well as consider the impact for stakeholders. Key developments will no doubt require the commitment and potentially the resources of a range of partners, as appropriate.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	Option 1: Agree the Joint Statement and begin to explore collaborative opportunities	Option 2: Do not agree the Joint Statement
Advantages	<p>Potential strategic advantages for the Morecambe Bay area and the Lancashire/ Cumbria sub regions.</p> <p>Potential additional impact from key developments around the Bay.</p> <p>Potential improvement in sub regional and national positioning for Lancaster and the Bay.</p>	<p>No practical or resource implications as a result of collaborative working.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Short term resources required to develop this approach - can be managed as part of priority setting within services</p>	<p>Lost opportunity to achieve a strategic advantage for the Morecambe Bay area and the Lancashire/ Cumbria sub regions.</p> <p>Lost opportunity to achieve additional impact from key developments around the Bay.</p> <p>Lost opportunity to develop the sub regional and national position of Lancaster and Morecambe Bay.</p>
Risks	<p>Any loss of support from sub regional partners, including LEP's, would be damaging. <i>Mitigation: Strategic involvement of County Councils and LEP's in the developing approach can be facilitated.</i></p> <p>No track record of joint working or strong relationships in place. <i>Mitigation: The exploratory phase will establish stronger relationships and understanding and assist in identifying strong options for development.</i></p>	<p>Opportunity loss as above. <i>Mitigation: Project specific joint working could mitigate these risks to some extent but are less likely to create strategic advantages and longer term benefits.</i></p>

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Informal discussions between the City Council, Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council suggest that stronger collaboration around Morecambe Bay provides potential strategic advantages for the three councils and the Lancashire and Cumbria sub regions. It is recognised that this is the beginning of new approach and, to provide the basis of a working relationship moving forwards, a Joint Statement of Intent has been drafted for Council's consideration.

<p>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):</p> <p>The proposals in this report may lead to actions that will create positive impacts for the district in a number of ways and which will be identified as work progresses.</p>	
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report.</p>	
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. Any short term resource requirements will be met from within existing resources with any specific proposals / developments being appraised and reported back to Members for final agreement prior to entering into any financial / contractual commitment.</p>	
<p>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:</p> <p>At this stage, the primary resource implication relates to that required to progress the proposed collaborative arrangements. What this involves in practice will become clearer as work progresses.</p>	
<p>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</p> <p>The Deputy Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.</p>	
<p>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.</p>	
<p>BACKGROUND PAPERS</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>Contact Officer: Anne Marie Harrison Telephone: 01524 582308 E-mail: amharrison@lancaster.gov.uk</p>

Appendix 2

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.

Cllr Dave Pidduck
Leader – Borough Council of Barrow in Furness

Date

Cllr Eileen Blamire
Leader, Lancaster City Council

Date

Cllr Giles Archibald
Leader, South Lakeland District Council

Date

To consider the motion proposed by Tricia Heath, seconded by Geoff Knight, Merv Evans, Cary Matthews and Roger Dennison.

“It has not escaped the general public’s attention that there were no ice cream vans in their usual spots on Morecambe promenade during the very hot spell of weather at Easter.

Lancaster City Council has for many years received guaranteed revenue from leasing these sites to local business. This ended this year as Lancaster City Council has apparently decided it would make much more money from selling ice creams themselves.

We all know this will never be the case. It has been proved by the council’s failed attempts to run business in the past.

Lancaster City Council has already lost 1/2 years rental income from concessionaires and we see no evidence that the council has put any money aside to provide their own ice cream vans. Does this mean that this council no longer has any plans to provide ice cream vans on Morecambe promenade? If so, we are leaving the door wide open for unregulated traders to turn up which raises Health and Safety concerns.

Apparently it has also been the policy to cancel leases on cafes at the end of their term. This means that a local resident who has worked hard and put their heart and soul into building up a business will have this taken away from them by the council on the grounds that the council will now keep the profit. This does not inspire entrepreneurship in the town nor does it inspire being in partnership with Lancaster City Council. Is there any member here that thinks this is a sensible or desirable way forward?

Other cafe owners have now been told that they will not be able to renew their lease - what incentive is there to invest in or improve their business.

We propose that the Council:-

- 1) Does not take the livelihoods of local residents away from them by not renewing their leases;*
- 2) Does not begin the business of selling ice creams on Morecambe Promenade;*

And that:

- 3) The Council’s priorities should be on fulfilling its statutory duties.”*

OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE

Background / Context

As the Council has much experience of successfully operating cafes and selling ice cream. It makes commercial sense to plan to generate much greater additional ongoing income by directly operating the cafes that we own and selling ice cream from

locations formally leased to other operators. Plans have been made to directly operate two cafes on Morecambe promenade and directly sell ice cream. These plans are underpinned by sound business cases, support the Council's wider ambitions and add value for our public.

The Council's approach to running its own cafes and selling ice cream from its own sites, does not undermine, in any way, private enterprise. Indeed, the Council very much wishes to encourage its local café trade and it is always willing to consider applications for site licences for local businesses.

Policy issues

As the motion highlights, this Authority currently does much more than fulfil its statutory duties. Its ambitions and aspirations for the district goes much further. These ambitions are set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and if we are to have any real hope of not cutting local services and achieving progress with our ambitions then we need to be bold and ambitious in the way in we manage our finances and the way in which we create opportunities for local businesses. This includes the way in which the Council generates and manages its income.

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) describes the situation well in its research document 'Taking a Commercial Approach' -

Local Government is facing a number of challenges. Resources are not unlimited and yet demand for local council services is ever increasing. We have an ageing population alongside ever more discerning citizens who expect top class public services. Reliance on ever decreasing central funding for local councils means difficult choices; cut services or find other ways to meet these on-going challenges.

By commercialisation we are talking about those activities that local councils can provide at a charge in order to generate additional income. Councils can add value to services that they already provide and are more than capable of entering into markets; both new and existing, to bring added value to citizens and to local economies. Many councils can legitimately act as market disruptors by bringing in better goods and services into local economies that work in the public interest and not against. Councils selling additional services can enhance user experiences beyond the basic service offering and in doing so create financial returns that support the continuance of local public services.

We also know that local councils are uniquely trusted by the public; our people have the skills, knowledge trust and training to deliver high quality additionality to local people and local economies. This agenda is not about local councils making a profit at any costs but about a measured and balanced approach to generating additional income to support local services. It is driven by an agenda to enhance social justice for local citizens by safeguarding local services. It is about new municipalism in an era of budgetary challenges.'

This well describes the direction that is currently being taken by the Council and indeed commercialisation is one of the four pillars that underpins the Council's medium term financial plan.

That this approach has a solid foundation is evidenced by successful direct delivery of a diverse range of services in a competitive market– e.g.

- Cafes- Williamson Park, Salt Ayre, Storey
- Williamson Park weddings
- Trade waste collection service
- Grounds maintenance / cleansing contractual operation
- MOT service
- White Lund nursery

Impact on wider economy/ added value

Directly provided commercial operations make use of local suppliers which further multiplies the local economic impact of having a Council that directly delivers a wide range of services.

Staff employed in delivering these services have local government terms and conditions. Grade 2 staff are paid between £9.36- £10.13 per hour, regardless of age. As a guide this compares with the National Minimum Wage rates of £4.35 for U18, £6.15 for 18-20, £7.70 for 21-24 and £8.21 for 25 and over.

The net income generated from these services in turn contributes to the ongoing management and maintenance of well-loved non –statutory provisions like parks and play areas and also the wider ambitious plans that the Council has.

As an example Williamson Park generates £624,000 if income from directly provided commercial activities. Thus significantly reducing the amount of direct Council funding required.

Impact on Services and upon the Environment

Directly providing cafes / ice creams etc means that the Council can generate additional income to help delivery both statutory and non-statutory services. It also has the opportunity to lead in the way in which cafes and businesses can run environmentally. For the example, by switching from use of single use plastics, ensuring that there is a wide range of plant based food on offer, using local suppliers, looking at how best to ensure energy efficiency in operations and reduce NO2 emissions (e.g. bicycle ice cream vending on the promenade).

Conclusion

The specific scenarios raised in the motion are the inevitable consequence of the Council responding to austerity and the needs of its residents by adopting a commercial approach.

As point 3) of the motion makes clear, an alternative strategy for the Council is to cut back on its ambitions and merely fulfil its statutory duties. This is not an approach Lancaster City Council has taken.

However, this Council may have a different view on this matter than that which went before.

In which case it would need to consider the much wider strategic implications raised by this motion, specifically –

- a) What kind of Council it wants to be and what is the extent of its ambition.
- b) What strategies it adopts to fund the above.

Based on these policy decisions it would then be necessary to determine which non-statutory services should no longer be delivered. This could include the examples cited in the motion.

The Council could of course make exceptions for the cases raised in points 1) and 2) but would need to consider the wider strategic, tactical and operational implications of responding to the motion in this way. Officers would need to consider the implications of this and would need to provide Council with a full report setting out the ramifications and options available.

STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

Deputy Section 151 Officer Comments

As outlined within its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) the Council faces a number of significant financial challenges in both the short and medium term, with a forecast budget deficit of £2.3M (2020/21), potentially rising to £2.8M (2021/22).

In order to address this challenge, support the Council's ambitions and protect its current level of services in February 2019 Council endorsed its "Funding the Future Strategy". This strategy sets out the Council's strategic approach to deficit reduction through a number of Pillars, each underpinned by a series of initiatives, including putting the Council on a more commercial footing.

Many Councils face similar financial pressures and the increase in commercialisation is common within Local Government and the wider public sector, and has been

supported by bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE). All commercial opportunities are required to provide a detailed business case which is subject to robust review and challenge of the underlying assumptions and estimates by Officers and Members. The revenues generated through our commercial ventures contribute directly to the delivery of both statutory and non-statutory services across the whole district.

Council may wish to reconsider its approach to deficit reduction, delivering its ambitions and the range of services it offers its residents, as well as the strategic implications as part of the 2020/21 budget cycle.

Monitoring Officer Comments

Change in the strategic direction of the Council in terms of its stated ambitions and its approach to commercialisation and income generation would be significant. There would need to be careful consideration by officers and members of any new ambitions, modification to stated ambitions or change in the strategic direction of the Council affecting current policy. This would involve careful consideration of the implications of any change to the Council's policy and budgetary framework.

The Council is entitled, via service of statutory notices, to terminate leases at the expiry of their term. Business leases are afforded statutory protection and security under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 (unless the provisions are excluded by the parties). This includes, a requirement on landlords to serve notices, within a prescribed period of time, setting out particular grounds for termination, and the right of tenants to apply to the Court for adjudication.

COUNCIL**Appointment to an Outside Body –
Community Rail Partnership****26 June 2019
Report of the Chief Executive****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To appoint a Council representative to the Community Rail Partnership.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) **That nominations be received and an appointment made at this meeting, to fill the vacancy for a Councillor representative on the Community Rail Partnership.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Appointments to outside bodies were made at the last Council meeting. Councillor Dowding was appointed to the Community Rail Partnership. Since that meeting, Councillor Dowding's circumstances have changed and she is now unable to attend Partnership meetings. For this reason she has not taken up the position and Council is asked to make a fresh appointment at this meeting.

2.0 About the Community Rail Partnership

- 2.1 Formerly known as the Leeds-Morecambe and Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Partnership, Community Rail Partnership meetings are held roughly every quarter and there is also an AGM. The dates of the next meetings are:

Wednesday **10th July 2019**, AGM, Bentham Town Hall, 12:00

Wednesday **31st July 2019**, Management Group, venue & time to be confirmed (but during office hours)

Wednesday **30th October 2019**, Management Group, venue & time to be confirmed (but during office hours)

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Council is asked to receive nominations and make an appointment to the Community Rail Partnership.

<p>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing) None directly arising from this report.</p>	
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS None directly arising from this report.</p>	
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Members of outside bodies are entitled to travel expenses. Costs resulting from any appointment should be minimal and would be met from existing democratic representation budgets.</p>	
<p>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Human Resources: None</p> <p>Information Services: None</p> <p>Property: None</p> <p>Open Spaces: None</p>	
<p>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.</p>	
<p>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.</p>	
<p>BACKGROUND PAPERS</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers Telephone: 01524 582057 E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk Ref:</p>