



## Leader's Report

13 April 2016

### 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 29 March 2016, 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 2 March 2016.

##### 3.0 Leader's Comments

The County Budget proposals were presented by their Deputy Leader to the Budget and Performance Panel on the 26 January. This was a most dispiriting list of cuts that the County felt that they must make in order to balance their budget. Our district will be very affected by them. I especially hope that the new Working Groups that are being set up to help manage the changes are successful. The latest one is to look at the Museums.

Lancashire Leaders met on the 24 February to receive initial feedback from the consultation exercise about Combined Authorities which was favourable. Some outstanding matters related to governance and a potential work programme, operating in shadow form were discussed. This is all subject to decisions by Councils. The Overview and Scrutiny arrangements presented at the last meeting

were agreed. A number of partners have shown a keen interest in the Combined Authority proposals. It was recommended that a nominated person will provide updates on progress to the Police and Fire authorities as well as health and social care integration as part of the Public Services Working Together theme and therefore will keep health colleagues informed. Council will be making a decision on the Combined Authorities very soon when more detailed information will be available.

The Deputy Leader and myself met representatives of British Land at The Storey on the 02 March. This was a much more positive meeting than our previous one. They met representatives from The Grand Theatre, The Dukes, and the University among others and we hope that this is the first of more productive discussions that will lead to a new development.

Budget Council was on the same day and I wish to thank those who had the courage to support Richard's Budget, and I look forward to some of the growth items improving Morecambe Town Centre and Salt Ayre for the benefit of our area. Many ideas were put forward and we will not be dismissing them. Some will be reviewed during the year.

On the evening of the 04 March there were two art exhibitions on in Lancaster. Catriona Stamp's wide ranging art was at The Storey and is well worth a visit and the China Exhibition at the Museum was also excellent. The Confucius Society based at the University lent several amazing exhibits, as did Tullie House in Carlisle.

We are very fortunate to have Lancaster Arts at Lancaster University who present a series of classical concerts each winter season. I was invited to the Great Hall to hear Kathryn Stott's piano concert, which was very well attended and much appreciated. The Friends sponsored the concert and provided a link between the concert audience and management of Live at LICA. Lancaster is known County-wide as The Arts City. Long may it continue to bring people to live and work here who want to enjoy a wide variety of life enhancing experiences.

A meeting with Lancaster University's Vice Chancellor on the 10 March updated us about progress on the Innovation Park. It has now gone through Planning and has Lancashire Enterprise Board approval. They are hoping to break ground in May, opening up the entrance off the A6, with full building going ahead in July and August.

We discussed the University's interests in the Canal Corridor and their desire to continue their positive work with The Dukes and their need for a presence in the City. The Museums and the Castle are of common interest and the VC promised to visit the Judges' Lodgings very soon.

Voter registration is still a problem in our district, but the University are now looking at the Sheffield model when the autumn terms begins.

We have all experienced two very early deaths and two very moving funerals. Both the services expressed the feelings of loss of two Councillors who were

taken too early and were obviously well like and respected. My thanks for all the kind words of sympathy.

#### **4.0 Other Matters**

Cabinet minutes are attached at the end of this agenda

#### **5.0 Key Decisions**

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 29 March 2016:

- (1) Corporate Plan 2016/20
- (2) Disposal of the Site off Central Drive, Morecambe
- (3) St Leonard's House
- (4) Town Hall Tours and Events

The following Officer Delegated Key Decision was taken during this period:

- (1) Microsoft Enterprise Agreement
- (2) Security Services Whitelund
- (3) Provision of Building Control Services

#### **Background Papers**

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2016.