

## **Leader's Report**

**9 November 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 4 October 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 28 September 2016.

##### **3.0 Leader's Comments**

The Lancaster District Communities meeting on the 12 September was given a briefing on dementia and an Annual Lancashire North Clinical Commissioning Group update. The problem of a fixed budget and increasing demand resonates throughout the NHS and Local Government. We also received a presentation on "Victims Voice". The EU Referendum result's impact that has or will have on community cohesion in our district was led by a Lancaster University member.

Lancaster Museums Joint Steering Group on the 13 September included an update on implementation of County changes to the museums service and the planned restructure of libraries, culture and the Registrar's' Service. A price for re-roofing

the City Museum is being sought and further work on the Maritime Museum is on hold pending a review of our buildings.

The Lancashire Shadow Combined Authority meetings now take place monthly at venues throughout Lancashire. At the meeting on 15 September a Work Programme was presented based on the five themes. These are: Skilled Lancashire; Better Homes; Connected Lancashire; Prosperous Lancashire; and Public Services Working Together. They addressed – “Where are we now?”, “Where do we want to be?”, “How do we get there?”. Our Chief Executive has become involved in two of the themes: Better Housing and Public Services. A Communications Strategy has been updated to reflect the need to raise the profile of the LCA nationally and to address engagement with key stakeholders locally. Four Enterprise Zones were also discussed.

Cabinet Members went on a site visit to Heysham Gateway on the 21 September. This was a most useful experience as it allowed us to see the future possibilities for economic development in the area when the road opens. We are told that there is real interest in the sites that the Council and County own in the area. After all the years of waiting for the road, it is now a reality that should be a huge benefit to the area.

As a Member of the Dukes Board, I attended an Away Day on 01 October. This was a very important meeting about the bid to the Arts Council for the new Arts Building by the Canal. Arts Council England want a porous building with partnerships – a meeting place – public/artists, theatre, film, dance and music, with illumination both inside and outside. A home for authors, writers, musicians and a creative place for the public and students. It will have to have commercial acumen to sustain it. All spaces should have connectivity and could include a dance studio, a creative learning studio, rehearsal space, dedicated film studios and teaching and learning rooms, as well as a café bar. A partnership bid for £5m has been submitted on time, to the Arts Council with the Council as the Accountable Body. Demand is massive for Arts Council money, but we live in hope. I will be sorry to lose Joe Sumsion, the Dukes Arts Director, very soon. He is moving on and they are now recruiting. He has been an excellent director and I congratulate The Dukes and Joe on winning a National Award for this year’s Play in the Park.

County arranged an Away Day at the Woodlands Annexe on the 05 October. This was attended by Councillor Anne Whitehead, the Chief Executive and myself. Timescales are short to address the massive financial problems. It was well attended by all public services and it was obvious that collaboration is vital and a focus on possible solutions to cut costs and to promote effective spending. However, the problems of Social Care, Mental Health and rising demand without extra funding are impacting on all services. A further report is to be produced in December. I am delighted to hear that all parties are joining together at County to make the case that Lancashire is underfunded.

The Mayor’s Wine tasting was a very successful and enjoyable evening. Congratulations to him and to the organisers. On the following evening the Hindu Society’s Diwali event took place and again it was well attended and as always it was an opportunity to meet and enjoy the music, dancing and singing as well as the

excellent food. These occasions bring all the ethnic communities together and encourage community cohesion. My thanks to the organisers.

On the 17 October, I attended a District Leaders' meeting at Preston where we discuss common concerns. Feedback on the Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) Day was given and we are to meet County again next month to give our opinions. This meeting was followed by the monthly Lancashire Shadow Authority meeting at Blackpool Winter Gardens. The Chair has met the DCLG Minister and they are aware of our keenness and are pleased that we are working well with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. We stressed that housing was a priority and the government agreed. They are keen to look at a two tier deal for devolution. They may look at Devo Light or Devo Max. In Devo Light we may not need a mayor, but that is for a future decision. We need to talk to our councils about powers and whether any mayor/advocate will need a huge amount of power.

Oral update on the five themes were given and a Health and Social care report was also given. There was some feedback from the PwC event and it was agreed that Leaders give their feedback at another meeting in two weeks.

The Cabinet went to Salt Ayre on the 18 October to see the first stage of development. We were amazed at the change and delighted that it is progressing on budget and on time. The anticipation on social media is building and it will open for the school holiday week. All Councillors need to see it. I hope Councillors were able to attend the Open Day/Launch on Saturday 29 October, or arrange another time for a visit. It is going to be fantastic. Well done to our officers and to Alliance! Bay Radio will be there on the day.

A Lancaster Destination Development Meeting was held at the University of Cumbria on the 20 October. This was to finalise the Development Plan. We await a Lancaster Vision Plan and a Masterplan from our consultants. Another meeting in December will look at the final plan and the Draft will go to stakeholders.

#### **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 4 October 2016:

- (1) Festivals and Events
- (2) Canal Corridor North Dukes Capital Scheme Development
- (3) Charging for Green Waste

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

- (1) External Repairs and Redecoration of Glebe Court and City Heights
- (2) Re-Shaping Lancaster District's Museums Offer: Consultancy Support Services
- (3) Fire Precaution Works and Communal Area Upgrades - Mainway

- (4) Phase 2 Communal Entrance Renewals to Park Square, St Oswald House and Peel House
- (5) External Works - Penhale Gardens
- (6) Fire Precaution Works and Communal Area Upgrades - Ripley Court Sheltered Scheme
- (7) Internal Refurbishment Works and Health and Safety Works at 5A King Street
- (8) Internal Works to the Ashton Memorial Dome

### **Background Papers**

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2016.