

Leader's Report

14 December 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 2 November 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 9 November 2016.

3.0 Leader's Comments

The opening of the new link road on 31 October was a major event of the last month and in fact, of the last decades. It is already proving to be very well received and should be a catalyst for future economic development and a tremendous boost to Morecambe and particularly to Heysham. When I think of the opposition to it in the past it is hard to believe that some political parties opposed it.

Light Up Lancaster took place on the 04 November. The weather was not kind, but a magnificent crowd turned out. Lancaster was buzzing. A Spanish contingent came to exhibit their equivalent "Fallas" and to build relationships with Lancaster. I thank our staff who worked hard to make their visit possible and to the Arts Partnership members who saw the possibilities. This is the fourth year of the

festival and it was one of the best. The whole area put on a variety of artworks, light, sound and food. The Arts Council supports us and is delighted with the work. My congratulations to all.

On the 21 November the Chief Executive and I went to Leyland to discuss the possible future for the Combined Authority. Updates on the five themes were given, as well as a presentation on “Devo Lite” and “Devo Max”. These were in the form of options and possibilities and it was the first time that the Leaders’ Group had seen them. We did not receive them in written form on the day. No votes were taken, but on the following day there was to be a meeting with the Minister and the Chair and he was pleased that Lancashire Leaders’ were working together and taking a measured approach to getting our governance arrangements agreed for the Combined Authority. In April 2017 the Lancashire Combined Authority will be formally established. The Leaders’ Group also discussed the Price Waterhouse Cooper Day and their report and the financial position of the County Council. The problem of social care underfunding nationally was recognised. It was extremely worrying that the Autumn Statement failed to even mention the problem.

On the 11 November the Mayor, Mayoress and I attended a Service of Remembrance held on behalf of the Regiment. It is usually held in Manchester and it was the first time that The Priory was the venue. It was a moving, well attended occasion and everyone was complimentary about the church and the organisation of the service.

On the 13 November our own Remembrance Services took place. I was at the Lancaster Service which continues to draw bigger and bigger crowds each year.

Councillor Hanson and I met the Leader and Deputy Leader of Barrow on the 15 November. This was the first time that we have met and we are to meet them again in Barrow in December. We have many things in common, especially work on The National Grid and a shared Hospital Service. It is always useful to speak to other leaders about common problems, but there is also some urgency about work on the Grid and officers will be coming with us in December.

The Museums Workshop on the 17 November was very interesting. This was a follow-up to the Consultant’s report. We were given a presentation on the context of the report and key issues facing the Museums Service and how they can be addressed. It was a very good presentation showing outline design responses to the Museums Service Challenges and the proposals looked at value for money, capital investment, revenue returns, improved collection management and forward-looking service. Some of the proposals are quite radical, but very imaginative. All parties were represented, as well as County members and officers, Friends of the City and Maritime Museums, and the Kings Own Royal Regiment Chair. Many questions were asked and I felt that the proposals were well worth considering if we want to keep our museums service alive for the future.

On the 24 November the Mayor and I attended the Inauguration of the new Vice Chancellor of the University of Cumbria at Carlisle Cathedral. It was a very pleasant occasion in a packed Cathedral and it is good to feel that Lancaster and Cumbria have this strong link. I have not yet met the new VC, but at the reception after the service, the Mayor and I met and talked to Archbishop Sentamu and

particularly his wife Margaret who sat with us and chatted about how they met and what they are working on. A delightful couple.

After a very busy month, I would like to wish everyone a very restful, happy and enjoyable Christmas.

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 2 November 2016:

- (1) Storey Gardens Update

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

- (1) Provision of Repairs to Void Council Housing Stock
- (2) Telephony, Call Centre, Unified Communications and Collaboration
- (3) Re-Roofing to Park House Mainway

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2016.