

Leader's Report

31 January 2018

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 16 January 2017 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 20 December 2017.

3.0 Leader's Comments

In December flooding meetings were held around the area. They were packed with people and all the agencies were represented. There was anger of course but also painful stories of how residents had been affected. We now await some of the findings, what happened and why and what is going to be done to prevent it happening again.

A Loneliness Summit was held in Lancaster Town Hall on 6 December 2017. It was very well attended and it was pleasing to see so many Councillors there. The Ashton Hall was filled with stalls. There are so many voluntary organisations of all kinds offering help and advice and a chance to join them. We are lucky to have so many volunteers.

The Budget preparation continues and we finally received the settlement just before Christmas. A lot of work has gone into producing it and there will be a Budget and Performance Panel presentation on Tuesday 23 January 2018 at Morecambe Town Hall.

A representative of ThinkingPlace place marketing interviewed me about the district on 8 December 2017. It was a long interview about what Lancaster District has to offer and what our hopes for the future will be. The interviewer was from Preston and at the end he said how much he liked our area and that he felt we had so much to offer and such good prospects. I await a copy of his research. I know that other Councillors also took part.

The Revenues and Benefits Shared Service meeting took place in Preston on 12 December 2017. This has been an excellent shared service partnership producing considerable savings every year since it started.

A meeting on Reshaping the Council's Museums Service was held on 13 December 2017. This was to discuss the service and elements of the programme as it evolves. Notice has now been given to the County Council and the City Council will take back the service on 1 October 2018. It was an interesting meeting with many items of discussion that will inform the Cabinet and Council of the proposed direction for the service. This included a report on the archaeology of the Castle Hill area.

A lot of work has gone into producing a new Corporate Plan and the draft will be going out to all Councillors soon for your comments as well as discussion with local stakeholders.

On 15 January 2018 an Away Day was held for the three authorities around Morecambe Bay. The aim was to develop some priorities and an Action Plan and to move the work on. We hope to bring private and public investment to the area and for economic growth through joint working that brings jobs, businesses and business growth, with benefits such as providing training opportunities for lower-paid workers. We want to encourage a local Industrial Strategy to promote our Morecambe Bay area.

I have received replies from the two MPs about the Holiday Hunger motion. I thank the Council for its support on this and I hope that it goes successfully through Parliament.

I wish you all a Happy New Year, may our district thrive in 2018.

Other Matters

Cabinet minutes for 16 January 2018 are attached at the end of this agenda.

4.0 Key Decisions

The following Key Decision was taken by Cabinet on 16 January 2018:

- (1) Budget and Policy Framework Update

There were no Officer Delegated Key Decisions taken during this period.

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2018.