

# COUNCIL

## Leader's Report

11 April 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 20 March 2018 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 February 2018.

##### 3.0 Leader's Comments

The celebration of the Chinese New Year took place on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Moorside School. This is always a very pleasant occasion where children and adults perform their traditional music. 'More Music' in Morecambe took part playing the most unusual instruments and a buffet of traditional food was served.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February I attended the District Leaders Meeting, followed by the Lancashire Leaders in Preston. This was the first meeting to talk about the position of the Shadow Combined Authority with the new chair of the County Council. It was a robust exchange of views and it was agreed that some changes should be made to previous proposals and that we would discuss them again in March.

The Barrow leader invited South Lakes and Lancaster Council leaders to attend a working lunch with Jake Berry, the Northern Powerhouse Minister at the Dock Museum

on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. The three councils were able to convey to the Northern Powerhouse Minister our intentions for the future in working together.

On Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, stakeholders were invited to attend Lancaster Town Hall to discuss our draft proposals for the Council Plan, now titled "Ambitions". It was very well attended and organised and we received very many positive and useful comments and ideas. I would like to thank those who took part and also the Overview and Scrutiny members and Budget and Performance members, who have also given us their input into the draft plan.

The Commonwealth Flag Raising on Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> took place with the Mayor and a representative of the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Pamela Barber performing the ceremony.

Lancaster, South Lakes and Barrow Council Leaders met on March 15<sup>th</sup>, reflecting on the discussion with the Northern Powerhouse Minister where the Minister had given a positive steer to our initiative, praised our collaborative working to date, and our hard work and commitment to achieving greater economic benefits for the area.

At the meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> the three councils agreed upon the working title of 'The Lancaster and South Cumbria Economic Partnership', under which we will work together to drive economic growth. We want to be a nationally significant area of economic prosperity. We agreed that whilst our economic data is good individually it is even better together.

We discussed our joint view to take advantage of the economic successes of the Morecambe Bay Area and create greater opportunities for residents. Also to maximise investment. We have the benefits of the Energy Coast, Marine Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing, Health Innovation, Visitor Economy and Higher Education which can provide access to work opportunities, and an unrivalled quality of the life.

One of the actions for the partnership will be to produce a prospectus for industry and government about the opportunities and needs across the Bay Area. We will also work together with our respective LEP's, Counties and politicians, and our partners large and small, to seek out opportunities.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March I attended an Older Peoples Champion event at Lancaster Town Hall. The Mayor opened the proceedings and I spoke on how pleased we were to welcome them all to Lancaster and on caring for the carer. It was very well attended by people from all over the North West and Dr Knox gave us an impassioned presentation on combating loneliness. The event showcased the fantastic work that is going on in our area, especially in Carnforth and it deserves more publicity.

Lancashire Leaders met again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and further positive agreements were made, and put forward for discussion at our April meeting. A Combined Authority for Lancashire seems to be back on the table, with Lancashire not wanting to miss out on a devolution deal.

Receiving "Your District Council Matters" recently made me realise how good our Communications Department is. The booklet conveys the breadth of services and projects being undertaken to improve the lives of our residents. It is a good read and it

incorporates a huge amount of information in a small and very useful booklet, Congratulations!

Visiting the launch of The Storey Garden on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March was a pleasure. The Friends have been working hard to clear the grounds and lay new paths with Council help. The garden is an oasis of green in the city and now will be open to the public and also be a useful addition to The Story for events and lettings. Well done to all.

The Mayors Charity event that evening was a real success with over 100 people there. It was nice to see old friends and enjoy the company.

### **Other Matters**

Cabinet minutes for 20 March 2018 are attached at the end of this agenda.

### **4.0 Key Decisions**

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 20 March 2018:

- (1) Changes to Council Housing Tenancy Agreement.
- (2) Review of Housing Allocation Policy.
- (3) Review of the Consultation on the Implementation of Additional and Selective Licensing in a defined area of the West End of Morecambe.

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

- (1) Appointment of Consultant to Undertake Transport Assessment as part of the evidence for the Lancaster Local Plan.

### **Background Papers**

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 20 March 2018.