



Leader's Report

26 September 2018

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To receive the report of the Leader of Council.**
- (2) To note an amendment to the Executive Scheme of Delegation detailed in paragraph 4.0.**

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

Information on Cabinet matters are provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held on 3 July 2018, 7 August 2018 and 4 September 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 18 July 2018.

3.0 Leader's Comments

It seems a long time since councillors were invited to see the work being done at St Leonards House. That was in July when some of us went up to the top of the building and were able to get a bird's eye view of Lancaster and out to sea. It has been a long time since the work started and it is now stripped out, we were promised that we could go back in the spring to see the finished product. This was a building in much need of improvement, adjacent to the Canal Quarter and it should contribute to an improved City Centre.

The Lancaster Leaders meeting on 24 July had a presentation on Lancashire Economic Picture and Productivity Analysis from professor Sue Smith of UCLAN and Martin Kelly from County. Leaders were asked to identify the key opportunities and challenges that we

all need to focus on to make Lancashire more economically productive, prosperous and inclusive.

A letter from Jake Berry MP was positive and clearly articulated the process for forming a combined authority and a timetable – subject to government timescales. Officers are seeking advice from civil servants on the approach to public consultation.

Lancaster and Morecambe BID and the Chamber met the Cabinet on 31 July. They updated us on their progress and we discussed their current priorities. The Council, Chamber and the BID are working together closely in view of many exciting and innovative changes to come.

Lancaster University rang to ask my opinion on their decision to stand down The Court of the University in favour of more public meetings. The decision was made earlier this year. I said that I would be sorry to lose the Court as it was a varied and inclusive body that promoted the university throughout the country and was a critical friend.

On 15 August a telephone briefing took place between the University, County, the LEP and the city to discuss our next steps with regard to the Eden Project. Since then Eden have spoken to the media about their proposals for Morecambe. At our meeting, we agreed that funding is a major challenge and that we need to approach central government. All partners are positive about the project and we will be contacting Eden and looking at other funding options to explore.

A series of briefings on Growing our Economy have taken place, enabling a wide discussion with stakeholders on developing an Economic Growth Plan for the district.

A Canal Quarter Liaison Group has been set up and will meet again in September. This is a cross-party group and I sincerely hope that we can work together on developing this important area to the benefit of the whole district.

My thanks go to all those who have organised so many events over the summer. The weather has helped a lot and our area has benefitted from a really good summer, celebrating new events such as the recent Festa Italia. Well done to all involved and thank you for your hard work.

4.0 Amendment to the Executive Scheme of Delegation – Flying of Flags

The Council receives requests each year to fly flags to support different national/international campaigns, events and organisations. Currently such requests are dealt with as Individual Cabinet Member Decisions requiring a report and Decision Notice. If the request is received at short notice, it would also be necessary to consult the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The delegation to officers which I have authorised will ensure that appropriate action can be taken without delay or the need to complete the paperwork that is necessary to implement an Individual Cabinet Member Decision. In practice, this delegation will be to Civic and Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer who will consult with the Mayor before making a decision.

5.0 Other Matters

Cabinet minutes for 3 July 2018, 7 August 2018 and 4 September are attached at the end of this agenda.

6.0 Key Decisions

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 3 July 2018:

- (1) Coastal Revival Fund Co-Op Building Bid and Accountable Body Arrangements
- (2) Executive Team: Roles and Structure

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 7 August 2018:

- (1) Lancaster Caton Road (Phase 3) Flood Risk Management Scheme
- (2) Budget Support Reserve – Proposed Allocations
- (3) Land forming part of Lancaster Leisure Park, off Wyresdale Road, Lancaster
- (4) Heysham Gateway

The following Key Decision were taken by Cabinet on 4 September 2018:

- (1) Review of Council Housing Tenancy Agreement – Consultation Response

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

- (1) Smoke Alarm and CO Detector Installation
- (2) Bruntons Warehouse Internal Fire Doors and Screens
- (3) Flats Communal External Doors and Glazed Screen Replacement
- (4) Ripley Court Remodelling of Bedsits
- (5) External Works – Render & External Door Replacement Contract 2018/19
- (6) Replacement of Refuse Collection Vehicles
- (7) Supply of Geographic Information Systems and Services
- (8) Refurbishment of Refuse Collection Vehicles
- (9) Supply of Liquid Fuel to White Lund Depot

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 3 July 2018, 7 August 2018 and 4 September 2018.