



Leader's Report

13 March 2019

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.

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

Information on Cabinet matters are provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on 12 February 2019 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 30 January 2019.

3.0 Leader's Comments

On January 23rd I attended a meeting with Veolia. They are a London based French Company and a huge employer all over the country. In Lancashire they are a waste processing company dealing with around 300,000 tons of waste in a County site. They are hoping to build an Energy Recovery Facility at Heysham Port with a planning application in now. It will take 3 years construction if agreed and it is a huge investment. They will self fund and employ 25 workers. After 30 years it will revert to Lancashire County Council. It will cater for Lancashire and probably South Cumbria. The jobs will be a mixture of graduate, electrical, technical accounting etc.

The Lancaster and South Cumbria Economic Region Officer and Member Meeting was on January 24th. The Chair of Northern Tidal Power Gateway (NTPG) presented a scheme and its ambitions. The initial concept began in 2012 and is made up of 30 businesses in the North West. The overall aim of the scheme is to improve connectivity across the Bay whilst incorporating tidal turbines to generate energy. Their work is divided up into 4 factors; environmental, community, connectivity and renewable energy. They are currently at a position where a proof of concept appraisal is required, from here NTPG can look at the exact position of the barrage. They are working closely with the

Environment Agency, Natural England and other environmental protection agencies. The overall cost of delivery is estimated at £8 billion with expected income from the turbines at £1.8 million. They are currently assessing regional support for the project, and are holding a conference in March 2019.

The launch event of the Joint Project will take place on Friday 14th June at Lancaster University. The prospectus is now complete and ready to send out and each authority will determine which businesses and representatives it will be sent to.

The Holocaust Day Memorial Event took place on Thursday 24th January. It was a well attended occasion and very quietly moving at the ceremony in the Memorial Garden. I am always surprised by the numbers who attend and the variety of reasons for their attendance. Inside the Town Hall the music, singing and speeches were appreciated by all and we left with a feeling of community remembering together and recognition of the need to come together to oppose all antisemitism and racism of any kind. I am not proud of many things that I have made possible to happen annually, but this one I am proud of.

Lancashire Leaders took place on 6th February at Lancashire County Council. We received a presentation of a Cultural Strategy for Lancashire from consultants commissioned by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. The primary objective of this work is to maximise the impact of culture as a catalyst for economic growth and regeneration across the county. It will identify where heritage, cultural and creative assets and opportunities could facilitate growth and how local partners can maximise public funding to deliver wider public and private investment frameworks. It is the first time that the LEP has produced this.

A discussion on Brexit preparedness also took place, and we were advised that a Lancashire Resilience Forum has been set up.

4.0 Other Matters

Cabinet minutes for 12 February 2019 are attached at the end of this agenda.

5.0 Key Decisions

The following Key Decisions were taken by Cabinet on 12 February 2019:

- (1) Budget and Policy Framework 2019 - 2023
- (2) Budget and Policy Framework Update 2018 to 2022 - Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme
- (3) Corporate Fees and Charges Review – 2019/20
- (4) Communities and the Environment – Future Direction

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

- (1) Balcony Railings and Walkways – Tunstall House
- (2) Lean Process Reviews
- (3) Altham Walk Conversion of House to Flats

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 12 February 2019.