



## Leader's Report

26 June 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 Leader's Comments

Like other new councillors my first weeks in office have been a bit of whirl of training, getting set up, finding my way around and just getting stuck in.

##### *The Local Plan*

On the morning of the additional hearing day on the question of housing need, I met with a concerned group of councillors and their expert advisor, and spoke to both planning officers and the QC representing the council at the hearing. As a result of those discussions and on the advice of our barrister, the Planning Inspector was advised that following our elections there had been significant changes in the make-up of the council and in the council's leadership across parties.

The Local Plan remains under consideration by the Inspector and we await his decision as to whether the plan is sound or not, and whether he requires us to do any further work before the plan can be considered for adoption by the council. While we await the Inspector's decision, discussions have already begun within the council as to whether the changes between the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the 2018 NPPF mean that there are highly targeted and swift revisions we should make to the local plan (if recommended for adoption) to make more progress on our climate change emergency targets and to ensure that future development best meets the needs of our community.

### *Lancaster & South Cumbria Economic Region (LSCER)*

Returning councillors may remember that over the last couple of years there have been discussions between Lancaster City Council, South Lakeland District Council, and Barrow Borough Council about collaborating to better promote our region as an economic area.

The Chief Executive and I have been up to Kendal to talk to South Lakeland, and the Chief Executive has had conversations with Barrow, and I will catch up with both leaders at the Local Government Association (LGA) to continue the conversation. Barrow also have a new Leader and a new Chief Executive so for two of the three councils we are coming in fresh to the discussion.

Formally the project was launched on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Lancaster University to an engaged and enthusiastic range of stakeholders from across sectors and across the region.

As most councillors may not have had previous engagement with this project we are looking to set up a briefing for councillors on this.

### *Eden North*

Many people will have seen that the Eden Project has now submitted its Environment Impact Assessment Report, and I hope that many councillors will have been able to attend the briefing by Si Bellamy of Eden Project International on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

### *Lancaster Cycling Grand Prix*

On 9<sup>th</sup> June we hosted the inaugural Lancaster Cycling Grand Prix and by all reports it seemed to go very well. Discussions are already happening about how the event might grow and improve next year. Congratulations to everyone involved, particularly the Lune Racing Cycling Club and our staff at Williamson Park.

### *General Processes*

One of the things we are keen on as a new administration is trying to engage councillors earlier in significant discussions, this is a large part of why the Cabinet meeting scheduled for June was cancelled, and why the agenda for this Council meeting is quite light. If you have thoughts on how there could be better engagement in the development of projects and policies, I'd welcome those suggestions.

## **Background Papers**

### **LSCER MOU**