



Leader's Report

19 July 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

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently

3.0 Leader's Comments

Future High Streets fund

The council has been successful in the first stage of Future High Streets fund. We have put in a bid for the maximum £25 million, and being one of the 50 areas going through to the second round secures us £150 000 to further develop the proposal. The Minister was very complimentary about the quality of our bid, and so thanks are due to the officers and partners involved in developing the proposal.

Community Engagement

The cabinet broadly, and Cllr Sinclair as the Cabinet member for Communities and Social Justice in particular, is reviewing our current engagement strategies. We think there is a need to distinguish between committees of councillors, committees where we seek to engage specific technical expertise, and broader consultation forums. At the moment these are all considered Cabinet Liaison Groups and it doesn't seem helpful to lump them all together. As always, we'd welcome any thoughts any councillor might have on how we could strengthen community engagement

Climate Emergency

We continue to develop our plans to meet the climate emergency target and increasingly we are contributing to national discussions. Cllr Frea has just helped to found a national network of councils working to meet the climate emergency, and we continue to engage strongly with the Association of Public Sector Executive (APSE) through both elected members and officers in contributing to their development of practical strategies to reduce council's carbon footprint.

It was also very welcome that the Local Government Association (LGA) adopted a climate emergency resolution. This means the LGA will now also play a role in sharing good practice and advocating for the support that council's need to respond to the climate emergency.

Local Government Association Conference

I attended the LGA Conference in Bournemouth July 2 – 4. It was a really interesting and productive three days, the speakers were excellent, the workshops engaging and the exhibition stands fascinating as directors and cabinet members are discovering as I share some of the information I've brought back.

Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES) visit

CLES were with us on the 8th and 9th of July speaking to cabinet members, officers and partners as we continue to develop both our community wealth building work specifically and more broadly work out how we will respond to the ideas of new municipalism. We expect CLES to report on their work in September, and will seek further opportunities to brief and engage all councillors.

Trainings & Briefings

We had the last of the four Road to Ambitions seminar, this time on the digital strategy. Thank you to everyone who has participated in or presented at one of the seminars. We'd appreciate feedback on how you've found the both the orientation training and briefings seminars, and welcome suggestions for future seminars. Briefings are already scheduled for the constitution (15/8) and the local plan, and we will continue to get regular updates on the Eden of the North project.

4.0 Other Matters

5.0 Key Decisions

Background Papers