

## Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Individual Cabinet Member Decision</b>	<b>Date</b>	19.11.21
<b>Title</b>	<b>Memorandum of Understanding with Lancaster University</b>		
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To propose that the Chief Executive be delegated to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Lancaster City Council and Lancaster University.			
<b>Key Decision (Y/N)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Date of Notice</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Exempt (Y/N)</b>	<b>N</b>		

### Report Summary

Lancaster City Council and Lancaster University, alongside many other local partners, share an ambition to work together in a coordinated and impactful way for the benefit of the Lancaster district.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared by representatives of both organisations to set objectives and principles for working together. The document also makes a commitment to initiate a number of activities which will enhance the ability of each partner to collaborate successfully.

Whilst the Memorandum of Understanding is bilateral between the two parties, the nature of future collaboration is intended to include and engage with all other relevant partners with a stake in the district's success.

### Recommendations of Chief Executive

That the Chief Executive be delegated to sign the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Lancaster University.

### Relationship to Policy Framework

The successful achievement of the Council's strategic priorities for the district's environment, economy and communities is heavily dependent on a high level of engaged, collaborative partnership working.

The Memorandum of Understanding represents the commitment of both organisations to pursue these strategic goals in a coordinated way, along with other relevant local partners.

The Memorandum of Understanding also describes the initial activities that will contribute to effective partnership working, and as such increase the chances of successfully delivering against key local priorities.

**Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s) where applicable**

The completion of the Memorandum of Understanding has no direct impact in and of itself; activities arising from collaborative working between local partners will be considered in their own right.

**Details of Consultation**

The Memorandum of Understanding has been developed by representatives of Lancaster City Council and Lancaster University as it relates specifically to the relationship between the two organisations; however, as stated in the document, successful delivery of future projects will be based on principles of consultation, community engagement, and collaboration.

**Legal Implications**

Whilst the MoU will not be legally binding, going forward legal services will advise on any Collaboration Framework that will be developed to support the legal, resource and financial aspects of collaborations in the Insights Hub.

**Financial Implications**

No direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Other Resource or Risk Implications**

The Memorandum of Understanding sets out the commitment of both partners to pursue existing and future collaborative projects. The resource and risk implications of each project will be evaluated in their own right.

**Section 151 Officer's Comments**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

**Monitoring Officer's Comments**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

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**Links to Background Papers**

**Appendix A:** Proposed Memorandum of Understanding

**Appendix B:** Schedule A, Insights Hub Proposal

**Appendix C:** Schedule B, Collaboration Framework Proposal

**Appendix D:** Schedule C, Current Collaborations

### Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	<b>Option 1:</b> That the Chief Executive be delegated to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.	<b>Option 2:</b> That the Chief Executive is not delegated to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.
<b>Advantages</b>	<p>The partners will have an articulated commitment to work together, and with other partners, in a collaborative and inclusive way.</p> <p>This could unlock further resourcing and funding opportunities by demonstrating the level of local commitment.</p>	<p>Schedule C to the Memorandum of Understanding sets out the current range of collaborative working. The ongoing partnership will continue in the absence of formal documentation.</p>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<p>Whilst the Memorandum of Understanding is explicit in its commitment to working with a wider range of partners, further efforts will be required to ensure that this commitment is successfully pursued.</p>	<p>Schedule C to the Memorandum of Understanding sets out the current range of collaborative working. The ongoing partnership will continue in the absence of formal documentation.</p> <p>However, declining the opportunity to commit to a coordinated approach could compromise partners' ability to access resources and funding for local partnerships.</p>
<b>Risks</b>	<p>No specific risks identified beyond the disadvantages expressed above.</p>	<p>The risk of missing out on resourcing opportunities is detailed above.</p>

### Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

The officer preferred option is Option 1, due to the advantages and disadvantages expressed above.