



Leader's Report

21 June 2023

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

1.1 Information on Cabinet matters is provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held 11 April, later in this agenda.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently

2.1 No urgent Cabinet decisions had been taken in this period.

3.0 Leader's Comments

3.1 Firstly, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the members on their (re)election to the Council. The political landscape in the district has evidently shifted in favour of more progressive and compassionate politics, and this is clearly reflected in the composition of the Council.

3.2 With the inclusion of numerous new faces, I hope that everyone has taken the opportunity to acquaint themselves with council procedures, officers, and facilities. Being a Councillor is a position of privilege that carries the potential to make a tangible difference in the lives of the people residing in our district. I am

eagerly anticipating the opportunity to collaborate with each and every one of you.

Cabinet

- 3.3 As you may be aware, an administration has been formed comprising members from the Labour, Green, and Liberal Democrat Groups on the Council. The allocation of Cabinet seats among these Groups has been determined based on the respective sizes of these Groups on the Council. A report containing the names, portfolios, and individual responsibilities of Cabinet members has been made available to members.
- 3.4 Cabinet members have commenced the process of acquainting themselves with their portfolios and holding briefings with senior officers. The first Cabinet meeting took place on 6th June, and confidential minutes are accessible to members.
- 3.5 Meetings of Cabinet Advisory Groups will resume in due course, potentially following some minor restructuring and an evaluation of officer resources, which will be considered by Cabinet in July.

Devolution

- 3.6 There has been a recent development in the ongoing journey towards devolution in Lancashire. An announcement regarding an agreement between the County Council, Blackpool, and Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authorities was made on 25th May. If such a combined authority is formed, it will only include the "upper tier," thereby excluding district councils. The proposals do not involve the election of a Mayor, and the devolved powers and additional funding are relatively limited in comparison to devolution arrangements seen in other parts of the country. The sudden nature of this announcement, the modest ambitions for the County, the lack of cooperation, and the exclusion of district councils have raised concerns among several district council leaders. A meeting of Lancashire Leaders is scheduled for 15th June, and further details are expected to emerge.

4.0 Decisions

The following decisions were scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 6 June 2023:

Redevelopment of 1a Alder Grove site

There have been no Officer Delegated Key Decisions taken since the last Leaders report.

The following Individual Cabinet Member Decisions have been taken since the last Leader's report.

ICMD24	UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Round 2 Award: Community and Place / People and Skills	Published on 28/04/23 Taken by Cllr C. Jackson
ICMD25	UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Round 2 Award: Arts, Culture & Leisure	Published on 28/04/23 Taken by Cllr Thornberry
ICMD26	UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Round 2 Award: Improving Town Centres and High Streets	Published on 28/04/23 Taken by Cllr. Brookes
ICMD27	UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Round 2 Award: Supporting Local Business / People and Skills	Published on 28/04/23 Taken by Cllr. Hamilton-Cox

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda of the meetings held on 6 June 2023.