



Leader's Report

11 December 2024

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 The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held 22 October 2024 and 3 December 2024 will be tabled at January's meeting of Council.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently.

2.1 The following decision has been taken during this period by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

UB137	WorkWell	Published 25.11.24 Call-In Waived.
--------------	----------	---------------------------------------

3.0 Leader's Comments

3.1 This report covers the week previous to 13th November but not the 10 days following due to the Leader's resignation and the dismissal or resignation of cabinet. It reports on any significant events since 25th November.

- 3.2 The week previous to 13th November included a number of important meetings and events.
- Cabinet received the first report and workshop regarding the future of the museums and indicated support for developing the role and function of both City and Maritime museums.
 - The Safe and Secure partnership for Lancaster held a breakfast meeting to look at the proactive ways businesses, agencies and council can together improve security in the run up to Christmas and beyond.
 - The Pan Lancashire Police Hate Crime event took inputs from both city councillors and local charity, Global Link which were seen as good practice across the county.
 - The follow up to the Morecambe summit took place with Morecambe Town Council Leader and Chief Executive
 - Budget preparations continued with consideration of capital projects put forward by departments and a presentation to cabinet of how the budget stands and will stand over following years if there are no changes.
- 3.3 The same busy week included the preparations and 3 days of Light Up displays as interesting and beautiful as ever. Lancaster felt busy and safe, and people were not even mentioning the lack of fireworks. In an amazing swift turnaround, everything was cleared and martialled for Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance Parades took place in Morecambe and Lancaster as usual and large crowds attended despite heavy rain. Huge thanks to members who attended, and all the officers involved in making those events across Morecambe and Lancaster happen, but especially to Will and his team who can't have had much sleep for a week.
- 3.4 Just previous to Full Council the Mainway Board met for an illustrated walkabout looking at new possible plans and layouts for Mainway itself based on residents' ideas, creating a mix of low-rise, including terraced accommodation with a new "village centre". The next steps will be developed with the board in January 2025,
- 3.5 I would like to record here thanks from those previously on cabinet and I am sure, all councillors, to Phil Black for his service as Leader of the council since May 2023. He has led council with aplomb and style during a period of significant activity for the district.
- 3.6 During the interregnum period city officers were fully involved in supporting a meeting run by CVS, Yak Patel, Lancashire County Council and Lancaster city. The meeting, Living Well Together was well attended by numerous communities and created a sensitive and challenging response to the civil unrest seen in Lancaster, Morecambe and across the country. There is a strong intention to follow up with both meetings and research in order to fund major work in our communities.
- 3.7 A supportive EggCup meeting took place at Morecambe Town Hall and progress appears to have been made over premises and emergency funding

from city and elsewhere. More is being done to strengthen governance and develop the business plan.

- 3.8 There are no new developments regarding Eden or Frontierland, well covered in the last Leader's Report however both expect to present news in the new year. Similarly, the previous leader gave extended coverage to the Finance Settlement which was confirmed on Thursday 28th. It is clear that the Extended Producer Responsibility funding (pEPR) is intended to boost our budgets rather than be simply spent on recycling. Please note the earliest we will actually receive it is Nov 2025.
- 3.9 There has been a great deal of activity within Lancashire in advance of the White Paper on Devolution expected to be published next week. The "leaked" proposal from Oliver Ryan Labour MP for Burnley and later supported by other Labour MPs puts back on the table unitarisation plans (or variations of) from nearly a decade ago. There are some very basic decisions to be made once the full consequences of government plans are known and I suggest we will need to work with support and as a full set of councillors after Christmas. District councils within Lancashire have taken very different approaches to this news but continue to meet and work together. I will keep group leaders up to date whenever I get any important news.
- 3.10 I should like to record my thanks to all those who voted for me as Leader on 25th Nov. I am honoured to take up the position. During this week I have assembled a team of Green, Lib Dem and MBI councillors. Their names and portfolios are detailed elsewhere in this report. I am confident they will form an excellent team to lead the district council.

Caroline Jackson
30th November 2024

4.0 Decisions

The following decisions were scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 3 December 2024:

Localised Council Tax Support
Delivering Our Priorities – Quarter 2 – 2024-25
Projects and Performance
Strategic Risk Register
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2029/30

The following Officer Delegated Key Decisions have been taken since the last Leaders report.

ODD1	Gas Contract Renewal	Published on 18.11.24
ODD2	Adult Social Care Transformation Funding: Accountable Body	Published on 25.11.24

No Individual Cabinet Member Decisions have been taken since the last Leader's report.

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda of the meeting held on 3 December 2024