



Leader's Report

12 March 2025

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 No meetings of Cabinet have occurred since the last Leader's Report. The next scheduled meeting will take place on 15 April 2025.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently.

- 2.1 No urgent Cabinet decisions have been taken since the last Leader's Report

3.0 Leader's Comments

- 3.1 Since the last Full Council meeting, we have had a very short 2 week interval which has included a quiet week over half term so this is a brief report.

3.2 Budget

This was passed after a great deal of debate and now proceeds to action including further work on refining the outcomes expected of the Fit for the Future process.

3.3 Cabinet matters

Cabinet has met twice as an informal group looking in particular at UKSPF, waste strategy, Local Plan progress and Morecambe matters.

3.4 Partnerships

The leader will be attending the Sheffield summit for the national campaign for Securing the Future of Council Housing initiated by Southwark Council. She also attended the LGA roundtable for Finance and Housing portfolio holders as did Cllr Hamilton-Cox. In Arts and Festivals a wider group of councillors has met to consider work as an advisory group and the Chief Executive and cabinet members attended a meeting at the university of Lancaster exploring widening arts and culture work.

3.5 Devolution and Local government Re-organisation Landscape

The city council working group on Local Government Reorganisation met for the third time, including an MBI participant observer. The meeting considered the proposal being drafted to put forward as part of the countywide response in March; district and county Leaders will have met before our Full council. The proposals include a three, four and five unitary model for Lancashire and will be refined over the months leading to the November deadline. Chief Executives have met with civil servants involves and ascertained this approach is acceptable. They are beginning to assemble the range of information we will need to make these decisions including the specific financial information which will determine the sustainability of any new authority taking on legacy debt and assets. The Chief Executive and Leader met with counterparts from Ribble Valley.

3.6 Eden

The Community Conversations in Morecambe restarted last week, very welcome to Morecambe residents who have questions and a good opportunity to showcase all the work currently going on with the Morecambe Bay Curriculum in schools.

3.7 Events

Bay Light gave us a lively very well-organised weekend with many installations that were interactive and particularly interesting to children. Morecambe was packed on Saturday night for the parade. We were fortunate with the weather and hopefully the event was a welcome boost to traders.

3.8 The following Saturday the Lancaster town hall hosted a sell-out Frank Turner concert as part of the Music with the Mayor events. It was fantastically well organised by all those involved and showed off what a good venue the town hall could be for more big events of this kind. Funds have been set aside to improve the lighting and sound system, so we are looking forward to promoting the venue far more in the future.

3.9 The Leader attended the two days of the Convention of the North in Preston, very well attended by leaders from business, councils, universities and colleges, as well as Mayors and some MPs including Angela Rayner. There was huge encouragement to the northern councils to be ambitious and collaborative in bringing projects and finance to the region.

Caroline Jackson

4.0 Decisions

There have been no meetings of Cabinet since the previous Leader's Report

No Officer Delegated Key Decisions have been taken since the last Leader's report.

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

ICMD 20	Lancaster Canal Quarter Early Phase Housing Regeneration Proposals: Nelson Street Preferred Developer – Development Agreement and Disposal Matters	Published on 19.02.25 Taken by: Cllr Caroline Jackson
ICMD 21	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement 2025	Published on 20.02.25 Taken by: Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox

Background Papers

None.