

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
Lancaster City Council and Morecambe Town Council

Introduction

Below is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that sets out principles of how **Lancaster City Council and Morecambe Town Council** will collaborate to deliver outcomes for Morecambe and the surrounding area. It is not intended to be legally binding.

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“**MOU**”) is made by and between:

- Lancaster City Council
- Morecambe Town Council

Background

- A. The Morecambe Summit for local government and partnerships took place on 18th October 2024, at Morecambe Town Hall.
- B. The summit brought together Elected Members and Officers from Lancaster City Council and Morecambe Town Council, to enable shared learning of respective responsibilities and priorities. The event also explored how local government can work collaboratively for shared benefit and to deliver the best outcomes for the Morecambe community.
- C. The aim of the event was to foster collaboration, promote understanding of responsibilities, and explore ways of working together to unlock the town’s potential and capitalise on opportunities.
- D. Elected Members and Officers took part in workshops that addressed some essential topics for collaboration. Four central questions were discussed:
 - 1. What do we see as the issues / challenges in Morecambe
 - 2. What do we need from each other, and how can we work together
 - 3. What impacts could be achieved?
 - 4. Where do we need to engage with the wider system to deliver local outcomes in our district?
- E. Following the event some clear topics to be developed were identified including:
 - 1. Lines of Communication
 - 2. Aligning local government collaborations with other place-based partnerships and networks
 - 3. Consider and establish regular meetings and steering groups
 - 4. Build working relationships with the wider Local Government family to get the best local outcomes.
 - 5. Identifying and focusing on short term and long-term actions for place-based outcomes

6. Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding as the platform for continued collaboration and implementation of outcomes
- F. This MOU sets out some principles which have been agreed in subsequent discussions between members and officers to work together on in order to progress the objectives. Collaboration being the key enabler to meet ambitions.
- G. Governance arrangements will be explored to ensure that objectives and outcomes are reviewed and from the point in which the MOU is signed.
- H. Officers and Cabinet Members from Morecambe Town Council and Lancaster City Council will establish a steering group for regular communication and to deliver agreed outcomes.

Principles

1. Local government should work together to achieve mutual benefit.
2. Our community recognises positive outcomes. Collaboration is required to deliver the best outcomes for the Morecambe community.
3. It is fully accepted that MTC / LCC have different ways of working to achieve outcomes and MTC / LCC will show mutual respect and understanding in situations where there may be different ways of achieving the same outcome.
4. Effective communication will be the key enabler for collaboration for local government. This can be achieved with regular and improved lines of communication.
5. It is anticipated that this MOU will form the basis for collaboration between Lancaster City Council and Morecambe Town Council.
6. Elected Members and Officers are tasked with overseeing the development and implementation of objectives because of this MOU and ongoing collaboration.
7. The group will focus on developing effective ways of working for local government that in turn deliver tangible outcomes.

Rationale for the Memorandum of Understanding

- The primary purpose of the MOU is to establish agreed principles of collaborative working. Regular communication between Elected Members and Officers will explore and implement outcomes to benefit the Morecambe community. A steering group will be the vehicle for regular communication.

Outcomes because of collaboration and communication:

- Make transparent the remit and responsibilities of both councils
- Navigate the future of local government amidst Local Government Reform and the opportunities to collaborate as a result for service delivery.

- The MOU will be the basis to navigate that future for the benefit of Morecambe residents and both councils.
- The MOU will also outline an opportunity to make the most of strategic and longer-term place-based planning relevant to arts/culture, visitor economy, funding and the environment.

Ways of Working

1. It is the belief of members that mutual benefit can be achieved by working together to improve communication and transparency of challenges and opportunities.
2. Objectives and outcomes will evolve over time through meetings and communication to reflect the priorities within Morecambe and the surrounding areas at any given time.
3. Objectives and outcomes will centre around the opportunities and challenges within Morecambe and the surrounding district.
4. A steering group will provide strategic oversight, and the steering of the groups focus. It is intended that this will lead to operational action for agreed outcomes. Information on key responsibilities, as well as short term initiatives and longer-term strategy is set out in the Annexes to this MOU.

Generally

1. Nothing in this MOU will create, constitute or evidence any partnership, joint venture, agency, trust or employer/employee relationship. Nor will it constitute any obligation to be a member of any future structure, formal or otherwise, that might be established.
2. This MOU will become effective when it is signed by all parties.
3. Any representative from Morecambe Town Council and Lancaster City Council could attend steering group meetings and contribute to objectives. Officer and Councillor attendance at meetings will need to be agreed by both councils.
4. The MOU and steering group will remain dynamic and flexible to changes in local government structure.
5. Collaboration with other organisations or partnerships is encouraged. There may be mutual benefit from doing so, particularly on initiatives where there is cross-district interest or where there may be benefits from being able to acknowledge an association.

Each party hereby confirms its agreement to the principles contained in this MOU on the date set out below.

<p>Duly authorised for and on behalf of LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Duly authorised for and on behalf of LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Duly authorised for and on behalf of MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Duly authorised for and on behalf of MORECAMBE TOWN COUNCIL</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Date:</p>

Annex 1

- 1) Scope of projects and strategic priorities for development and delivery, aligned to the principles set out in this MOU

Strategic Priority/Opportunity	Initiative
The Environment and Public Realm	Bloom Together – Cultivating Community and Connection
Arts and Culture	(To be explored further)
Visitor Economy	(To be explored further)
Strategic Funding	(To be explored further)
Localism and devolution	(To be explored further)