



Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Leader of the Council	Council	14 July 2011	10 (a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To bring Members up to date on several issues.

2. Current and Future Issues

2.1 I wish to draw the following items to your attention:

- Engaging with our communities
- Lancashire District Leaders' Forum
- Policing in Wyre
- Business Plan

3. Engaging with our communities

3.1 At the Cabinet meeting 22 June Members agreed that the Wyre Strategic Partnership and Area Forums should be restructured. Attendance at Local Area Forums has reduced by over a third during the past 12 months and in some cases the average attendance has been less than 15 people per meeting. Often agenda items at the area forums are duplicated especially where there is already an active parish or town council or residents association. This is not the best use of resources.

3.2 Attendance at area forums has however increased massively when residents are concerned about a single major issue that excites them, such as the Travellers at Preesall or plans for a Poulton health centre and residents can be assured that we will continue to support one-off meetings to ensure views are aired fully, openly and transparently. We will, however, continue to engage with our communities making better use of and developing stronger partnerships with other local groups including Town and Parish Councils and Residents Groups.

4. Lancashire District Leaders' Forum

4.1 At the meeting on the 20 June I was elected as Vice Chairman of the Lancashire District Leaders' Forum and appointed to the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board as one of the two District Leaders' representatives. I will continue to champion Wyre at the Leaders' Forum and will represent all the Lancashire districts at the LEP ensuring that all opportunities for growth are fully explored, evaluated and debated in an open and transparent manner.

5. Policing in Wyre

5.1 The Police have recently announced their plans to restructure their organisation which includes the closure of both Poulton and Cleveleys Police Stations. I and a number of my fellow Conservative Members have met with representatives of the Police and attended public meetings. As a result of public pressure the Police have agreed to hold a 12 week public consultation on their proposals which commenced on the 1 July and it is incumbent upon us to ensure the views of our residents are clearly articulated. The Police restructure plan and closure of stations within this borough will be a topic for one of the Overview & Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups and I look forward to receiving their report.

6. Business Plan

6.1 At the Management Board meeting 22 June it was agreed that a draft Business Plan be circulated to Members and Staff for comment and I thank all those who have responded. The business plan will lay out the direction for the future of the Council, establish standards for success and it will be the foundation upon which we will develop and shape our services to ensure that we meet our objectives and deliver our vision. Cabinet will consider this matter at their meeting on the 3 August and if approved the Business Plan will be considered by Full Council on the 8 September.