

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	28 November 2013	8(a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on a number of issues, as set out below.

2. District Leaders Forum and Lancashire Leaders Group Meetings

- 2.1 The District Leaders Forum and Lancashire Leaders Group Meetings took place on the 21 October 2013.

2.2 At the District Leaders Forum meeting various matters were raised, including the approach Authorities were taking to address their financial position. Of all the District Authorities, I was the only Leader who announced we were following an Invest To Save model. I gave the example of how we were maximising opportunities through investment, such as the £5 million investment into Poulton and Thornton Leisure Centres and potential relocation of a doctor's surgery to our Civic Centre. Our approach to financial management and willingness of Members and Officers to make brave but well informed decisions is, again, putting us ahead of many other Authorities and in a strong position so we can continue delivering improved services for our residents, businesses and visitors.

2.3 Matters considered at the Lancashire Leaders Group Meeting included a presentation by Ruth Connor, Chief Executive, Marketing Lancashire who emphasised collaboration amongst all partners was a key factor in ensuring that Lancashire is promoted and marketed to the widest possible audience. Members may be interested in the fact that one of Marketing Lancashire's top enquiries related to weddings and venues and we will work with Marketing Lancashire to promote further our three wedding venues (Civic Centre, Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre). We received an update on the work of the LEP and a report on Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for Alcohol was discussed. Leaders agreed that tackling alcohol related problems was much wider than simply MUP. A further report on this matter will be considered in due course.

3. Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Rural Growth Strategy

- 3.1 In England, Local Action Groups (LAGs) use local knowledge to promote an integrated "bottom up", community-led delivery of the Rural

Development Programme for England (RDPE) funding. LAGs are made up of interested volunteers from the public, private and voluntary sector. Each LAG develops a Local Development Strategy and funds projects in its locality to deliver this. Members will be aware that part of my role at the LEP is to Champion Rural Growth and to lead the development of a Rural Growth Strategy. In Lancashire there are 3 LAG's Chaired by the following:

Greg Mitten, Chief Officer West Lancashire CVS and Lancashire West LAG Chair.

Bernard Whittle, North Lancashire LAG Chair.

John Welbank, Rural Futures and Pennine Lancashire LAG Chair.

- 3.2** Prior to the publication of my report, but before full Council meet on the 28 November, the Chief Executive and I will have met with the three LAG Chairmen and two Senior Officers from the County Council to discuss the continued development of a Rural Growth Strategy for Lancashire. I will verbally report the outcomes of my meeting of the 27th November at full Council.

4. Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

- 4.1** On the 22 October 2013 I, along with the Chief Executive and the Head of Housing Services, attended a Fylde and Wyre CCG Health and Care Strategy workshop. The purpose of the event was to develop a health and care strategy that responds to the health and care challenges facing Fylde and Wyre. There were a number of interesting and thought provoking presentations, including one on resources. Funding for the CCG in 2013/14 is £201million and by 2021 that funding will be reduced by £6 million which amounts to a 3% reduction over 8 years. By 2015/16 our funding will have been reduced by 50% over a 5 year period and yet, by thinking differently and by taking a business approach to service delivery, we have managed to deliver improved services. Members and Officers are to be congratulated on this achievement.

- 4.2** The CCG aim to have a draft Health and Care Strategy 2014 to 2030 ready for consultation by December and I will keep Members updated with the progress.

5. Fylde and Wyre Health and Wellbeing Partnership

- 5.1** On the 24 October 2013 I, along with Chief Executive and Head of Housing Services, attended the Fylde and Wyre Health and Wellbeing Partnership meeting. It was unanimously agreed at that meeting that our Health and Wellbeing Champion, Cllr David Walmsley, should form part of the Partnership and I am sure that he will be a valuable addition to the Partnership.

6. 6.1 Comments and Questions

In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.