

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	5 June 2014	9(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. Lancashire Leaders Group and Lancashire West Sub-County Group

(a) Lancashire Leaders Group meeting 28th April 2014.

- 2.1 In my last report I informed Members that Lancashire County Council (LCC) has proposed that the waste cost sharing agreement ceases in 2018 and the consequence for Wyre is a reduction in revenue of over £980,000 equivalent to a further 15% reduction in our funding. At the 28th April Leaders meeting a short paper outlining a potential review of District Waste Collection Services was tabled by County Officers and LCC have offered to fund the review. Discussions are ongoing between County Officers and District Chief Executives on the scoping and content of the review and I will keep Members up to date as matters progress.

(b) Lancashire West Sub-County Group meeting 20th May 2014.

- 2.2 At the meeting we discussed various matters including Wyre/Fylde Together Funding Implications; Big Lottery for Ageing Better Partnership Development Funding; LCC Central Gateway Grant process; Lancashire approach to co-design and collaboration to reconnect wellbeing and resilience improvement activities across the public, private and third sectors. I will provide members with a more detailed verbal update on the matters raised.

3. Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership

(a) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and Growth Deal

- 3.1 The LEP's approved SEP and Growth Deal was submitted to the Government by the deadline of 31 March 2014. The Government is still to confirm how it intends to respond to the 39 SEPs and Growth Deal submissions from England's LEPs. However, we have received informal feedback from Cabinet Office officials managing the Growth Deal

process. Key messages include the following:

- the 39 LEP Growth Deal submissions identify local investment asks nearly four times greater than the national funding allocation set aside to support Growth Deals;
- although LEPs have been asked to submit a 10-year SEP with a 6-year Growth Deal investment framework, the immediate focus of the lead Minister, Greg Clark, is on the strategic relevance, impact and deliverability of capital projects looking to start in 2015/16;
- Growth Deal 'policy asks' still have to be considered, though Government officials acknowledge their immediate focus has been on Growth Deal investment priorities; and
- the Government is still committed to making Growth Deal agreement announcements in July.

3.2 Given that the national Growth Deal fund is severely oversubscribed, all 39 LEPs, including Lancashire, are being asked, informally, to revisit their Growth Deal project proposals and I will keep Members updated on progress.

(b) Rural Growth Plan

3.3 One of my tasks as the LEP Rural Growth Lead is the development of a Rural Growth Strategy. I am being supported by our Chief Executive, Senior Economic Development Officer and Officers from LCC. Significant progress has been made and we are now at a second draft stage and I hope to present the final version to the LEP Board this summer but I will keep Members up to date with progress.

(c) Assisted Area Status

3.4 Assisted Areas are those areas where regional aid can be offered to undertakings, typically businesses, under Commission state aid rules. Assisted Areas status can also offer certain tax allowances but the main purpose of Assisted Area Status is to stimulate business growth. The Map which includes Wards in Fleetwood, Thornton and Carleton was submitted to the Commission for approval on 31 March 2014. The Commission's decision on the UK's Assisted Areas Map is expected to be announced by the end of May 2014. Following approval, the Government will make a new Assisted Areas Order and we anticipate having the Map operational by July 2014. Once Commission approval is received organisations that use the provisions of the Assisted Areas Map will need to submit summary information on or notify any relevant schemes to the Commission under the terms of the General Block Exemption Regulation due to come into force on 1 July (which has yet to be finalised). The Regional Aid Guidelines (RAG) provide scope for a mid-term review and the Commission will establish in June 2016 whether there will be any changes to 'a' areas, and if so a Member State's 'c' coverage will be adjusted accordingly. Member States may then amend up to 50% of their adjusted 'c' coverage and notify amendments to their Map by 1 September 2016 at latest.

4. Health and Wellbeing

(a) Blackpool, Lancashire North and Preston CCG's

4.1 Members will be well aware that our communities are served by four Clinical Commission Groups (Fylde & Wyre, Blackpool, Lancashire North and Preston). The greatest proportion of our communities is served by the Fylde & Wyre CCG and I, Cllr David Walmsley and the Chief Executive form part of the Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership. In order to develop the relationship between the Council and Blackpool, Lancashire North and Preston CCG's the Chief Executive has met the various Clinical Leads and I can inform Members that Lancashire North CCG are developing a Core Team Model that will be piloted in Garstang. The objective of the Model is to reduce admissions to hospitals and deliver care directly to patients in the community and we will be working with Lancashire North CCG with a view to adding value to the Model.

(b) Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership

4.2 The partnership met on the 29th May and presentations were made by Adrian Leather, Chief Executive of Lancashire Sport and John Cronin, Chief Executive Officer of Fylde Coast YMCA, on the health benefits (both physical and mental) associated with active participation in sport and the benefits of increased physical activity. The YMCA deliver a range of health initiatives funded by the CCG and our investment in Leisure Centres will facilitate the delivery of further health and wellbeing initiatives.

(c) Ageing Better Bid

4.3 In January 2014 I reported that we were one of only 32 Authorities to make it through stage one of a bidding process to the Big Lottery for Ageing Better Partnership Development Funding. Since that date we have, with our main delivery Partner Community Foundations for Lancashire & Merseyside, developed our £4.527 million bid which was submitted at the end of April and I anticipate a decision in the next 3 to 6 months.

5. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

5.1 The Wyre (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 No. 1187 has been published: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/1187> and thus Members will be aware that for the next Borough Election in 2015 there will be a reduction in seats to be contested from Fifty-Five to Fifty with Wards adjusted accordingly.

6. Comments and Questions

6.1 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.