

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	adjourned from 27 November 2014 to be considered on 22 January 2015	5(a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT NOVEMBER 2014: 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 District Leaders Group & Lancashire Leaders Group

- 2.1 At the Lancashire District Leaders Group meeting on the 3rd November the main topic of discussion was the format of the meeting and Agenda content. It was agreed that the meetings were of value but topics should be strategic rather than service specific and that meetings should be held three weeks prior to the Lancashire Leaders Group meeting to allow sufficient time for matters raised and discussed at the District Leaders Group meeting to be developed and considered at the Lancashire Leaders Group meeting.
- 2.2 Various matters were discussed at the Lancashire Leaders Group meeting, which followed the Lancashire District Leaders Group meeting, including suggested changes to the format and agenda of the meeting. It was agreed that significant strategic matters that affect the whole of Lancashire should be discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that the Group should include the two Unitary Authorities, Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Fire Officer. It was agreed that all Authorities should meet as equals to promote co-operative working and that the chairmanship and secretarial support should rotate and that Chief Executives should play an active role in discussions.
- 2.3 Members will be aware of the recent announcement by the Chancellor George Osborne that powers are to be devolved to Greater Manchester (GM) which include transport, planning, health and social care, skills and business support, and housing, which is predicted to deliver an additional 15,000 homes over a 10-year period. Members will be aware that GM have operated the Combined Authority Model for a number of years and I am sure that was a deciding factor in the Government's decision to devolve powers and decision making. Our Chief Executive raised the issue of a Combined Authority Model/Collaborative Working for Lancashire some 12 months ago and I also raised the matter some 2

months ago at a Lancashire Leaders Group meeting. I am pleased to announce that at the Group meeting on the 3rd November this matter was discussed further and there was unanimous support for Lancashire to pursue and evaluate all options related to the Combined Authority Model/Collaborative Working. Chief Executives have been charged with producing a paper to be considered by Leaders at the end of November/early December and I will keep Members up to date with progress.

- 2.4** Some 12 months ago localised area meetings between the County and Districts on a cluster basis were established and we along with Fylde constituted the West Sub-County Group. Meetings have, however, been sporadic, as have other cluster Group meetings and at the Lancashire Leaders Group meeting on the 3rd November it was unanimously agreed that all cluster Group meetings should cease.

3. Health and Wellbeing

- 3.1** Members may be aware that some 18 months ago the Chief Executive met with representatives of Lockwood Avenue Surgery, Poulton and the Fylde & Wyre CCG. Lockwood Avenue Surgery currently operates from a building in Poulton that is not ideal and the CCG wish to operate a pilot Extensivist Service (a health model currently operated in the USA) in Poulton which is intended for the neediest patients, the Extensivist model surrounds them with a comprehensive care team that can address the full range of medical and social issues these patients face. Locating health services at the Civic Centre provides a great opportunity for residents to access health and wellbeing related services that we provide including housing and debt advice. In addition it would provide us with additional rental income. Both Lockwood Avenue Surgery and the CCG are currently developing layout plans for the existing ground floor and part of the first floor wing of the Civic Centre. Re-locating the doctors surgery and establishing an Extensivist Service is, however, subject to NHS funding and a decision is expected by early 2015 and I will keep Members up to date with progress.

4. Shaping Your Neighbourhood

- 4.1** Accompanied by the Chief Executive I have now completed my tour of the Shaping Your Neighbourhood Areas and I would like to place on record my thanks to all the Lead Members for the great work they are doing in supporting and helping their communities shape the place where they live. During the tours I have met various Town and Parish Councillors, Groups and individuals who are making a positive difference in the communities in which they live. It was a pleasure to meet volunteers like Pamela Laird at Willow Garden Project, Fleetwood and Patricia Bonnar, CHAT (Carer and Bereavement Support Group), Thornton and we are fortunate to have such volunteers within the community. We now need to look at how our services can be tailored to meet the differing needs of our communities and I will be meeting with the Lead Members to discuss this further.

5. Police and Crime Commissioner

- 5.1** Members may have read in the press the announcement by the Police and Crime Commissioner to restructure his office which includes the abolition of the post of Deputy Commissioner and all Assistant Commissioner roles. This unexpected announcement prompted the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel Cllr Hollern to write to the Commissioner expressing concerns and disappointment that the Commissioner had chosen not to inform the Panel of his intentions. In addition Cllr Hollern rightly states in her letter that the Police and Crime Panel should have been given the appropriate opportunity to scrutinise the proposal.

The Commissioner has responded to Cllr Hollern and stated :

*“In the light of your letter, I would like to invite you as Chair of the Panel, along with any other Panel member to County Hall on Monday 10th of November at 11am for an informal private meeting. At the meeting I can explain the process, rationale and next steps I need to take.....
I feel I should however, make it clear, that I will not be holding up the progression of a decision on the restructure of my office. It is really important that we make progress on the restructure of the office team as soon as possible to ensure that we can deliver what is required of the OPCC. I am however more than happy to listen to your views and answer questions that you, or any other member of the Panel, may have, but any future decision on the restructure proposals is not dependant in any way on scrutiny by the Panel.*

- 5.2** There are clear procedures in place which the Police and Crime Commissioner should follow prior to taking fundamental decisions, such as a proposed restructure. The procedure is clear in that the Police and Crime Panel should be given the appropriate opportunity to scrutinise any fundamental proposal prior to a decision and this is not the first time that the Police and Crime Commissioner has failed to follow the correct procedures. Police and Crime Panel meetings are held in public and I question the transparency of an offer by the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet Panel Members informally and in private.

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.