

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	22 January 2015	20(a)

<b>Executive Report January 2015: Leader of the Council</b>
---

**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**

- 2.1** At the Lancashire Leaders Group meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> December there were three topics of discussion, Combined Authorities, LCC Budget and format of future meetings.

- 2.2** Combined Authorities:  
Lancashire Leaders have expressed a desire to continue discussions on the subject of a Combined Authority for Lancashire. Following the meeting all Leaders agreed to a press release that the Chief Executive circulated by email to all Members. I reiterate what the Chief Executive said in his email, that the agreement reached was simply to continue discussions. Part of those discussions included a facilitated workshop by the LGA and I will give Members a verbal update at the meeting.

- 2.3** LCC Budget:  
At the meeting I made various comments on the proposed Budget that LCC will be setting including comments on planned savings on waste, archaeological and ecology services and disabled facilities grants. I appreciate and understand the financial position that the County find themselves in but look forward to the opportunities of working with the County to ensure savings at County Hall have limited impact upon our residents.

- 2.4** Format of Future Lancashire Leaders Group meetings:  
It was agreed at the meeting:

- To combine the current district and full meetings in a single Lancashire Leaders Group meeting at 2.00 pm following an opportunity for informal discussions over lunch.
- To include the two unitary authorities, Chair and Chief Officer from the Combined Fire Authority, Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable and that all authorities meet as equals to promote

co-operative working and the Chair be rotated between the authorities.

- That the Group should continue to exchange information on current issues and afford the opportunity for discussion on matters of strategic importance across the county.
- The regional subgroup meetings be discontinued
- Chief Executives continue to be included in the meetings and be able to play an active role in discussions.
- That the County Council continues to undertake the Secretary/Administration role at no cost.
- Meetings continue to be held at County Hall.

### **3. Health and wellbeing**

**3.1** In my report of the 27 November I updated Members on the potential relocation of Lockwood Surgery, Poulton and formation of an Extensivist Service (by the Fylde & Wyre CCG) here at the Civic Centre. I am pleased to report that a planning application to change the use of part of the Civic Centre to a doctor's surgery and Extensivist Service has been made and draft heads of terms agreed, subject to final Cabinet approval. Co-locating health services with services that we deliver provides a great opportunity for our Officers to work in partnership with health providers and together deliver health related objectives in our Business Plan.

### **4. Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan**

**4.1** Blackpool Council and LCC as Transport Authorities are responsible for the Local Transport Plan and as part of that Plan Officers from Wyre have been working with Officers from Blackpool and LCC on the development of a draft Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan. The document is in A3 format and is 56 pages long and I have arranged for a paper copy to be placed in the Members Library or alternatively you can access the document electronically via the following link:

[http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads,-parking-and-travel/highways-and-transport-masterplans/fylde-coast-highways-and-transport-masterplan-\(draft\).aspx](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads,-parking-and-travel/highways-and-transport-masterplans/fylde-coast-highways-and-transport-masterplan-(draft).aspx)

#### **4.2**

A six week public consultation on the draft plan started on Monday 12 January and will run until Friday 20 February 2015. A number of events will be held where planning officers from both Blackpool and LCC councils will be available to discuss the strategy and record comments.

- Garstang Library, Windsor Road, Garstang on Tuesday 27 January from 2pm to 7pm.
- St John the Evangelist Church, Church Street, Blackpool on Wednesday 28 January from 2pm to 7pm.
- Poulton Library, Blackpool Old Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Tuesday 29 January from 2pm to 7pm.
- Fleetwood Library, North Albert Street, Fleetwood, Tuesday 3 February from 2pm to 6.45pm.

- Kirkham Community Centre, Mill Street, Kirkham, Wednesday 4 February from 12pm to 6.30pm.
- St Annes United Reform Church, St Georges Road, Lytham.

**4.3** A portfolio holder report will be prepared covering the Council's response to the draft Masterplan.

**4.4** Improving our transportation network is key to the delivery of economic growth and whilst the recent announcement by the Minister Grant Shapps that we are to be allocated £50 million to relieve congestion on the A585 is welcomed the adoption of a Fylde Coast Highways & Transport Masterplan will be key in our aspirations to bring about significant transport improvements not only to Wyre but for the Fylde Coast.

## **5. Comments and questions**

**5.1** 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.

arm/ex/cou/cr/15/20(a) Leader