

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	21 January 2016	8(a)

<b>Executive Report: Leader of the Council</b>
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**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. Recent Flooding in Wyre**

- 2.1 Whilst this matter is the subject of a detailed report to be considered later on the agenda I wanted to take the opportunity to make the following comments:

- 2.2 During December the Country was subject to unprecedented levels of rainfall which brought flooding to many parts of the Country including here at Wyre. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and volunteers from numerous agencies including the Police, Fire and Rescue, Environment Agency, Armed Forces and many others who came together to protect and help those affected by flooding. I would particularly like to thank the staff here at Wyre who have worked tirelessly during this very difficult period. The communities in Garstang, Churchtown and St Michaels have shown great resilience during this difficult period. They have shown great courage and determination for which they should be congratulated!

**3. Wyre Barrage**

- 3.1 The Chief Executive and I recently met with Liao Shengsong (Vice President and Professor of the China National Electric Engineering Co Beijing), Miguel Angel Mayor Gamo (UK Managing Director FCC Citizen Services London), Michael Carrick (Chief Executive Aventa London) and Alexandra Mellor-Dai (Partner Oak Ridge Ventures LLC New York) to discuss the Wyre Barrage project. Aventa are acting as project co-ordinator and on the 4 January 2016 the Chief Executive of Aventa confirmed that they have acquired the development rights to the barrage and will progress this project which includes a new board, delivery partners and consultants and development funding commitments. A project of this scale will require substantial detailed supporting evidence including ecology reports etc. In addition, the developer will also carry out extensive public consultation before any formal application is lodged.

#### **4. A New Year and New Challenges**

**4.1** There is no doubt that during 2016 we will have many challenges to meet including budgetary ones, but 2016 will also bring opportunities! In the next few months I look forward to the opening of the new doctor's surgery here at the Civic Centre, the first step in the creation of a health hub which will provide the foundations for further joint working with colleagues from health and third sector services. In May we will have the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, in July a new Senior Management Team will be in place and the EU Referendum may well be held in 2016.

#### **5. Comments and questions**

**5.1** In accordance with procedure rule 10.3 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 10.5.

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