

Report of:	To:	Date of Publication	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	29 th November 2012	9(a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of the current position on a number of current issues as set out in paragraph 2 below.

2. Current and Future Issues

(a) Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

2.1 The election for the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire was held on the 15th and 16th November and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cllr Clive Grunshaw on his appointment. As Leader and representative on the Police and Crime Panel I am looking forward to working with Clive and to holding him to account for how the Police perform and deliver services for not only the residents of Lancashire but for Wyre.

2.2 I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in administering the PCC elections in Wyre. We performed admirably having the highest turnout in Lancashire (18.48%) and achieved a zero variance.

(b) Lancashire Leaders - Lancashire West Sub-County Group

2.3 On the 19th November Lancashire Leaders - Lancashire West Sub-County Group met to discuss various matters including Localised Council Tax Scheme, Sea Defences, Flooding and Rural Regeneration.

2.4 Localised Council Tax Scheme: Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader will present the detailed report on Council Tax Discounts/Exemptions and Delegation of the Determination of NNDR1 but the County are, in principle, supportive of what we are suggesting.

- 2.5** Sea Defences: In May 2011, the Secretary of State for DEFRA introduced a new policy, Flood and Coastal Erosion Resilience Partnership Funding, (Partnership Funding). This policy describes a new approach to funding projects, requiring the cost of reducing flood and coastal erosion risk to be shared between national and local funding sources. As part of our Wyre Urban Core Flood & Coastal Defence Strategy we will, in due course, be considering the adoption of a Flood and Coastal Erosion Resilience Partnership Funding Policy. However, we have already received commitments to the Partnership Fund including £110,000 from Fleetwood Town Council and £25,000 from Regenda. I am awaiting confirmation from LCC on the level of funding they are prepared to commit to the Partnership.
- 2.6** Flooding: Lancashire County Council are now the lead agency for flooding and we will play a full and active role in a Partnership that will bring together all agencies involved in this matter to address both practical and strategic matters.
- 2.7** Rural Regeneration: Along with the Economy Portfolio Holder I will continue to champion rural regeneration and along with the Chief Executive have met recently with the LCC Director of Regeneration to ensure this potential area of growth remains high on the County agenda.

(c) Electoral Review of Wyre Council

- 2.8** On the 23rd October the Local Government Boundary Commission confirmed that the evidence submitted supported the Council's case that the number of councillors could be sustainably reduced to 50 members and that the first stage of the review and consultation started on the 23rd October and will close on the 3rd December 2012. The conclusions will be published in January 2013 and public consultation on Ward Boundaries will commence on the 29th January to 8th April 2013. The Commission will formulate draft recommendations in June 2013 and a further 12 week period of public consultation will be undertaken, with final recommendations expected late 2013.

3. Comments and Questions

- 3.1** 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.