



Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Leader of the Council	Council	8 September 2011	9 (a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To bring Members up to date on several issues.

2. Current and Future Issues

2.1 I wish to draw the following items to your attention:

- Engaging with our communities
- Lancashire District Leaders' Forum
- Business Plan

3. Engaging with our communities

3.1 At the previous meeting I reported on the restructure of the Wyre Local Strategic Partnership and the fact that we would be ceasing with Area Forums. The restructure has implications for staff that support the LSP but they have been fully consulted on the proposed restructure and I will report the outcomes at the next meeting. At the last full Council meeting I stated that we would seek better and more efficient and effective methods and channels to engage with local groups including Town and Parish Councils and Residents Groups. I can report that my officers have drafted a paper entitled *Working Together In Neighbourhoods*. The paper takes a look at the Open Public Services White Paper, Localism and the current approaches to neighbourhood working in Wyre. It examines Area Forums and discusses why the Council wants to engage with residents. It lays out principles of improving community engagement in Wyre that are Member led and proposes a neighbourhood working approach to community engagement. I anticipate the paper will be considered by Cabinet at either the 14th September or latest 26th October meeting.

4. Lancashire District Leaders' Forum

- 4.1** At the meeting on the 8th August we discussed various matters including the proposed closure of LCC waste recycling centres a hot topic for not just this Council. I have spoken with County Councillor Albert Atkinson (Deputy Leader and Lead Member for this matter) and advised him of the work being undertaken by our Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Group and he will consider all comments including options that the Parishes operate the recycling facility and or the precept is utilised to fund a facility.

5. Business Plan

- 5.1** At this meeting we will be considering the Business Plan and Members will note in the Plan a need to make significant financial savings year on year and I am delighted to report that following a series of staffing restructures my officers have to date delivered salary savings of £1,105,000 with a further £230,000 to be delivered once restructures have been completed by the end of the year. It should be noted that this does not include salary savings from the first Senior Management Team restructure (£326,000) or recent restructure (£17,000). We will thus be well placed financially to protect front line services and deliver priority projects as identified in the Business Plan.

arm/ex/cou/cr/11/0809pg (a) leader