

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	16 October 2014	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. Unitary Status

- 2.1 I have read with interest the various newspaper reports on my comments about the possibility of Wyre becoming a Unitary Authority and it is true that I am still waiting for a response and steer from Government. When I receive that response I will report back to full Council. But, Members will be interested to note that if Wyre was to become a Unitary Authority we would receive directly from Government funding for additional services, including transport, and members would then be in a position to consider matters such as subsidising tram and other modes of travel.
- 2.2 Members may be aware that the full Council at Chorley have approved a report to sanction moves to become a Unitary Authority. As part of that process Chorley have undertaken an assessment of LCC spending based on a boroughs population against Council Tax yield. The evidence suggests that Lancaster, Preston, Pendle, Burnley, Hynburn and Rossendale all benefit from between £1.4 to £6.3 million but Wyre has a deficit in proportionate funding of £3.6 million and I would question the fairness of how funding is allocated.

## 3. Health and Wellbeing

- 3.1 On 25 September the Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership met and various issues were discussed, including the Home Improvement Services (HIS). Lancashire County Council are proposing that the Service be retendered to include:
1. Healthy Home Assessment
  2. Handyperson services
  3. Core Home Improvement Agency
  4. Minor Adaptations services
  5. Retailer of small items of equipment

I and all Members of the Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership expressed serious concerns that the tendering process could have a severe negative impact on the excellent Care & Repair Service that we currently provide across Wyre and Fylde. The Service has been cited as an exemplar of service delivery and a model that should be replicated across Lancashire. The Chairman of the Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership will be writing to LCC expressing concern and I trust Members will join me in offering their support.

#### **4. Shaping Your Neighbourhood**

**4.1** Shaping Your Neighbourhoods has, without doubt, been very successful with numerous projects being funded right across the borough. Each year the Lead Member for each Shaping Your Neighbourhood Area produces a revised and updated Locality Plan and I would encourage Lead Members to think about how we can start to shape the services that we deliver within their locality. I will shortly commence a tour of the Shaping Your Neighbourhood Areas and be accompanied by the Chief Executive. I am particularly looking forward to seeing for myself the positive difference the various projects are making to our communities.

#### **5. Publicity and Promotion**

**5.1** On 24 September I hosted a visit by the Parliamentary Under Secretary Minister Penny Mordaunt. The purpose of her visit was to see the benefit of Regional Growth Funding (RGF) and Coastal Communities Fund (CCF). We visited the Teanlowe Centre development in Poulton which received £2.4 million of RGF and the coastal strip from Rossall to Fleetwood which has received £1.5 million of CCF. The Minister was impressed with how such funding was enabling development and transforming areas, creating jobs and realising potential. I took the opportunity to show the Minister the potential site at Associated British Ports (ABP) land in Fleetwood for the Fish & Food Park, as we anticipate at the end of this year new guidance will be issued on the European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

#### **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.