



Report of:	To:	Date of Publication	Item No.
Cllr. Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council	Council	18 October 2012	9(a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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) Lancashire Economic Partnership

- 2.1 The LEP continues to grow in strength and Members may well be aware that on the 25 September the success of the LEP was reported in the Business Insight Supplement of The Times newspaper (front page to page 9). The LEP performs a number of functions, including administration of various grants including the Growing Places Fund (£19 million), of which £12 million has been allocated to assist with the delivery of various projects. The fund is cyclical and paid back over an agreed period and interest rate and thus eventually being available again to support other future schemes in Lancashire.
- 2.2 The Secretary of State, Dr Vince Cable, visited BAE Systems as part of a two day visit to the North West in August. Master-planning of both the Samlesbury and Warton sites is well underway. Commissioned by BAE Systems, it is anticipated that the master-plan for Samlesbury will be completed by early October and Warton by late 2012. Significant early interest has been generated from a number of international companies considering the European Zone as a location for their business. These companies are not only new to the North West but in most cases, the UK. Members may be aware of the planned merger of BAE with EADS (German company) and I will report any implications in forthcoming updates.

(b) Lancashire Police and Crime Panel

2.3 On the 1 October the Panel met for the second time and we had two interesting presentations by Miranda Carruthers-Watt, Chief Executive of the Lancashire Police Authority, on the transfer of policing governance to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Mr C Long, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor and Chair of the Lancashire Local Criminal Justice Board regarding the role and responsibilities of the Lancashire Local Criminal Justice Board and how it can work with the Panel in the future.

2.4 All Agendas, minutes and presentations can be accessed via the Lancashire County Council (LCC) website at the following address:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=726>

(c) DWP and Norcross Site

2.5 On the 4 October, along with Cllr Ormrod, I met with our MP's and various DWP senior representatives at the Norcross site. The meeting provided me with the opportunity to express Members concerns over the potential impact the closure of the site would have upon local people and the supply chain. The scaling down at Norcross and relocation of services to Peel Park is as a result of DWP efficiency savings but again senior representatives reiterated there would be no direct DWP job losses. Telereal Trillium own the Norcross site and they are currently assessing what alternative uses and development could be accommodated on the site. Members can be assured that any draft proposals will be shared with Members and the local community before formal submission.

(d) District and Lancashire Leaders Meeting

2.6 The District and Lancashire Leaders meetings were held on 1 October and various topics were debated including the Localisation of Council Tax Support. There is a wide degree of consensus in relation to feasible options, with the bulk of districts indicating a preference for reducing support by a fixed percentage at the end of the calculation. We are two-thirds of the way through the consultation period and, up to the end of September, 198 responses had been received and we are currently preparing new claim forms for use from April 2013.

(e) Waste Sharing

2.7 On the 19 September we have received a letter from LCC about the Property Based Payment Mechanism agreements (Cost Sharing) which commenced in 2004 and is due to cease in 2014. LCC are proposing revised cost sharing arrangements through to March 2018 and Officers are currently evaluating the proposal. The Cabinet will consider this matter on the 24th October.

(f) Business Plan

2.8 On the 2 October the Senior Leadership Team (Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and Heads of Service) met to discuss the refresh of the Business Plan. A draft refreshed Plan will be presented to Management Board in November and then to Overview & Scrutiny where all Members will be able to comment on the Plan before a final document is presented to full Council in January/February.

(g) Flooding

2.9 Unfortunately during the last week in September the inclement weather resulted in flooding of a number of properties within the borough. I and my Cabinet colleagues would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment shown by all staff for their response to the flooding issues. Also, we are aware that a number of staff worked well into the night to ensure that everything possible was done for our residents. I have expressed our sincere thanks to all involved for their contribution, hard work and commitment during this challenging time.

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.