

## LEADERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

### VISION 2030

The final conference of the work on the 2030 Vision will be held in February 2010, when there will be a presentation of the draft vision. Attendees will include councillors, neighbourhood board members, officers and LSP members. The 2030 Vision website has now been set up where is a forum for discussion on key issues. This can be found at: [www.blackburn.gov.uk/vision2030](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/vision2030). The project will allow residents to have their say on how the borough will look in the future.

### NORTH WEST SKILLS AWARD

In December myself and the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, signed up to the North West Skills Award, which comes from the North West Employers Organisation. The award shows the Council commitment to help staff gain skills and qualifications and improve their literacy and numeracy to meet the needs of the business. Over 300 staff have already achieved new skills and qualifications and more training and development is planned. It is part of the National Skills award framework which helps the Council take a strategic approach to workforce development and is supported by the trade unions and Blackburn College.

## PENNINE LANCASHIRE

### Pennine Lancashire Joint Committee

The Pennine Lancashire Joint Committee had now been established and the first meeting was held in November. The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2010. As a part of my commitment to transparency of decision making, the new PLACE website has been launched and papers for the meetings can be viewed at [www.penninelancsplace.org](http://www.penninelancsplace.org). Individual Pennine Lancashire authorities have recognised the Joint Committee in their constitutions and as such, power is delegated to the Joint Committee as a whole to make decisions on the agreed functions, with each authority having one vote. Key decisions from the meetings are also published on the website.

### Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Ltd

The Pennine Lancashire development company was formally established as Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Ltd on November 23, 2009.

Dennis Mendoros has recently been appointed as chair of the new Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Board. Mr Mendoros is the founder, owner and MD of Euravia Engineering and Supply Ltd, based in Pennine Lancashire, which is involved in the design, refurbishment and testing of high-speed turbine aero-engines.

The Regenerate Board will also include directors appointed by North West Development Agency and local authority representatives. The Homes and Communities Agency will also be represented. There is also a Governing Body, comprising local authority elected members who will sign off the company business plan receive reports on progress and

agree any significant changes in the Plan and/or new initiatives. It is a private company limited by guarantee with the member local authorities owning the company.

The company will deliver, as agreed by the Joint Committee, HMR, LEGI and other economic development, marketing and branding initiatives. Regenerate will allow major developments to occur much quicker through its increased capacity, project management skills and overall visibility as a development company. Regenerate will regularly report to the Joint Committee, on progress in delivering the agreed programme. They will have power to vire funding between programmes and projects to ensure maximum spend and input.

### **Future jobs fund**

The future jobs fund is now progressing well. So far, 102 jobs (50 in Blackburn with Darwen) within the programme have been placed with Jobcentre Plus. A re-profile of the Pennine Lancashire programme (following a delayed start) is due to be submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which will move some job starts into 2010/11. Workshops are planned for the end of January to announce the first tranche of young people starting work from the programme. The workshops will also allow partners to share their views on their experiences so far, to share best practice and discuss any further issues.

### **PLACE economic development programme**

On December 8, 2009, representatives from Pennine Lancashire met with Directors from the NWDA to present the draft business plan for the programme. Future actions were agreed and the NWDA have produced a 15 week work plan which includes key meetings which will include lead officers for each theme from both NWDA and Pennine Lancashire. Regular officer meetings will also be held to ensure that progress is communicated across Pennine Lancashire. The programme continues to spend on a small number of projects that were approved in the original programme and expenditure will be closely monitored during quarter 4 to ensure spend is maximised.