

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

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HEALTHIER LANCASHIRE/PENNINE LANCASHIRE TRANSFORMATION

A huge programme of work is currently underway to transform our local health and social care system to meet the challenges we face financially, the Government's drive for health and social care integration and making sure our residents have high quality, effective and efficient services and better health and wellbeing outcomes.

As a Council, we are leading efforts to transform health and social care locally and regionally and we are playing a full part in shaping principles of the work and future plans.

The Healthier Lancashire programme is establishing governance systems, similar to the Combined Authority, to take system wide leadership across the Lancashire footprint. A Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme, aligned to Healthier Lancashire, is looking at the system locally and will fully reflect the work being undertaken at a Lancashire level. This work is absolutely vital if we want to help our residents be healthier.

The Pennine programme is governed by political leaders and organisation chairs, so I will make sure Blackburn with Darwen continues to play a key role in this agenda and that our residents are fully involved and able to influence it. I will keep members updated as both programmes progress and I am minded to hold a members workshop late summer, in recognition of the significance of this work for Blackburn with Darwen residents.

IMAGE AND BRANDING UPDATE

I was delighted to attend the launch of a new initiative to throw a spotlight on all that is outstanding in the borough. This is a great borough and I am immensely proud of living here and representing it. I want others across the region, the country and even the globe to know what a great place it is.

This new initiative celebrates the area's greatest strengths and assets and raises the profile of the place to encourage people to live and work here and businesses to invest in the area. It is so important that everyone from the borough talks up Blackburn with Darwen. That is why the Council has worked with business leaders and other organisations over several months to create this new brand for the borough, one which showcases everything that is great about here. I hope all members support this important agenda.

YOUR CALL UPDATE

I am pleased to see that residents, businesses and councillors continue to be involved in Your Call activities that help make the borough a better place. I want to thank everyone who has taken part in Your Call activities that help to make our communities cleaner and greener, healthier and neighbourly.

A few highlights recently include the work the Friends of Sunnyhurst Woods have done to get several structures in the area recognised as special buildings by Historic England ; the great work being done by the organisers of Witton parkrun; and the creation of a new friends group for Shorey Bank. There are countless other examples of residents, businesses, community groups and organisations doing great work and members helping drive the campaign forward. It is important we highlight and continue to celebrate these successes.

YOUR CALL GOOD NEIGHBOURS AWARDS

Thank you to all members who have nominated people in their communities as good neighbours. We have had many very strong nominations this year and particularly pleasing is the number of young people who have been nominated. We have had more than 70 nominations.

A judging panel made up of myself, the Chief Executive, a representative from the Lancashire Telegraph and a representative from national social care charity Community Integrated Care will meet soon to decide on the nine main winners. A celebration event will be held in July in King George's Hall which all those who have been nominated will be invited to attend.

ELECTIONS

Detailed and comprehensive planning continues for the forthcoming Local Government, Parish, Town and Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections. Once again Blackburn with Darwen will be the Lancashire host venue for the count result for the PCC elections. Planning has also commenced for the EU Referendum on June 23.