

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN**

**21 JULY 2016**

### **LANCASHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY**

The request to form a Combined Authority for Lancashire has now been submitted to the Secretary of State by the 14 Lancashire councils. Wyre Council have confirmed that they do not want to be part of the Combined Authority. We will continue to engage with them on matters outside of the Combined Authority's remit. We are awaiting formal feedback on the request and further detail on a Parliamentary Order and timescales. This Order will set out the functions, powers and responsibilities for the Combined Authority and we expect this to be laid before Parliament later this year, subject to agreement by all Councils.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July we had our first shadow Combined Authority meeting. The Leaders have appointed Councillor Simon Blackburn from Blackpool Council as Chair and Councillor Alistair Bradley from Chorley Council as Vice Chair.

It was a very positive meeting with some key matters discussed, including the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal 3 bid, One Public Estate proposal, LEP and Combined Authority working relationship and a Forward Plan for the Combined Authority. The next step is to develop a Lancashire Plan which will build on existing strategies and plans across Lancashire to further set out our ambitions for the Combined Authority.

In partnership with the LEP, the Combined Authority will agree the Growth Deal 3 submission. The deadline for submission is 28<sup>th</sup> July. To date 24 proposals have been put forward from Lancashire totalling £155.95m, significantly above what the LEP is likely to achieve. We will have to prioritise the proposals before final submission with support from both the LEP and Combined Authority.

As we enter this new governance arrangement for Lancashire, the benefits are already beginning to be seen. We have been successful in attracting £50,000 capacity funding from the One Public Estate programme managed by the Local Government Association and Government Property Unit to develop a bid for a further £500,000 which could be used to speed projects such as rationalisation and development of publically owned land and assets, integrated service hubs and opportunities to develop flexible working across public sector organisations. If we are successful in getting onto the One Public Estate programme there is potential to unlock future sources of funding.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRANSFORMATION**

Blackburn with Darwen Council continues to play a key role in efforts to transform the health and social care system both locally and across a Lancashire footprint.

The importance of this work cannot be understated. The system needs to change to meet future health and social care challenges we face as well as making sure the resources we do have are used as effectively as possible.

A series of briefings for councillors including one at Blackburn Town Hall was organised by the Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Change Programme Team to update members on what is happening on a regional footprint. I hope those members who did attend found them useful.

More locally, the Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme, which is aligned with the regional change programme, continues to move forward at speed.

A public campaign encouraging the residents to get involved in a conversation about health and social care is starting this month as it is important to hear what the public thinks is going well at the moment as well as what could be better. The ideas gathered from this conversation will help inform any options being developed. I hope members will encourage their constituents to get involved.

The Chief Executive and I both sit on the System Leaders' Forum which oversees the programme and we will both continue to ensure our residents are fully involved in the transformation and able to influence it as it moves forward.

## **IMAGE AND MARKETING UPDATE**

Following the launch of the new place brand and marketing strategy for Blackburn and Darwen in March, work has been underway to put in place a governance structure to make sure we maintain the momentum we have generated

This includes the establishment of a Place board, made up of the steering group originally established to develop the place brand and members of the Hive Business Leaders Network steering group. It is chaired by Mo Isap, who is also Local Strategic Partnership chair, and reports up to the LSP.

The 278-member Hive Business Leaders Network is evolving into the Hive Ambassador network, which will further mobilise the business community into being a 'salesforce' for the borough and will generate income to support the initiative. A formal launch of this programme is likely in the autumn and a 12 month place marketing plan and programme of activity will be developed.

Central resources including graphic files and fonts, photography and templates have been provided and all public, private and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations are being asked to formally commit to using the place brand. The Council has added the brand to its boundary signs and the brand will feature in new

marketing materials for commercial development opportunities. A number of other organisations including Blackburn College, Capita, Youthzone and Blackburn business MGS Plastics have also started to use the brand, with others including Blackburn BID and Darwen Town Centre Partnership planning to do so in the near future. Again, I would urge all members to support this important agenda and continue to talk up the borough as much as possible.

## **YOUR CALL GOOD NEIGHBOURS AWARDS**

A special event to celebrate all those nominated as Good Neighbours will take place on July 29.

The judges, who included myself, the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive of Community Integrated Care Neil Matthewman and Jon Robinson, Deputy News Editor of the Lancashire Telegraph, met to decide the nine winners.

The stories we heard as judges were heart-warming and everyone who had been nominated had really made a difference to the lives of their neighbours. It is incredibly important that we recognise and celebrate those who do make their neighbourhoods better places. I hope their stories will help inspire others. I will update members on how the event went at the next Council Forum.