



## **Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited**

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 June 2018

## **Lancashire Leaders - Lancashire Combined Authority Developments Update**

**Report Author: Lancashire Leaders**

### **Executive Summary**

This report provides the LEP Board with an update on progress of a Lancashire Combined Authority.

### **Recommendation**

The LEP Board are asked to:

- (i) Note the report.
- (ii) Continue to support Lancashire Leaders efforts to engage with the Government and negotiate devolution for Lancashire.

### **Background and Advice**

Board Directors will be aware that, Lancashire submitted a request to form a Combined Authority in June 2016 with 14 of the 15 local authorities in Lancashire committed to join. A shadow Combined Authority was established in July 2016. The request to Government coincided with the referendum about the European Union and the outcome of the referendum virtually halted the government's progress on its devolution process. Lancashire, along with a number of other regions waited for a government response. In the meantime local elections led to changes of leadership and some councils started to review their position with regard to combined authorities.

### **Current Position**

Throughout 2017 and early 2018 Leaders have carried out discussions to find common ground for future collaboration and have agreed 'operating principles' which provide the basis for strong governance that works for Lancashire. At this stage Fylde have withdrawn from discussions, however the remaining 14 of the 15 Lancashire local authorities are committed to collaborating and developing a model that could sit within the Government's current Combined Authority framework and emerging devolution framework in order to start a dialogue with the Government and attract a devolution agreement of freedoms, flexibilities and investment.



Lancashire Leaders wrote to the Secretary of State in April 2018 updating on progress and seeking clarification on a number of matters, including assurance that the Government is still committed to devolution where there is strong governance arrangements in place. A response is expected shortly and a further verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Strong collaboration across Local Government in Lancashire over the last few years has already had positive benefits, including significant investment through the Government's One Public Estate programme and also through Sport England's Local Delivery Pilot.

### **Next Steps**

Lancashire Leaders remain committed to working together on a wide range of issues and challenges that can be better tackled through collaboration. Leaders will be working with the LEP Board over the coming months to support the development of the refreshed SEP and the Industrial Strategy. In addition the Chair of the LEP has accepted the invitation from Leaders to re-join the meetings and contribute to debate

Over the next few months Leaders will re-assess priorities and focus in order to develop an updated Lancashire Plan and work programme. Leaders met on 21<sup>st</sup> June and a further verbal update will be given at the meeting.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A