

MINUTES OF COMBINED AUTHORITY WORKING GROUP HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2016 – 4.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr Stuart Hirst	Marshal Scott
Cllr Sue Bibby	Jane Pearson
Cllr Stephen Atkinson	John Heap
Cllr Sue Hind	
Cllr Allan Knox	

APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr Terry Hill and Cllr Rupert Swarbrick

PURPOSE OF THE WORKING GROUP

- To be an effective conduit between the Leader, Council and the Shadow Combined Authority

The Leader reminded the working group that the Council had agreed in principle to being part of a combined authority at its meeting in December 2015.

He is one of two Leaders where the Council has a committee system which has legal ramifications as he has no executive powers. Diane Rice is examining this situation.

The Leader has kept members up to date with during his Leaders speech to Council and will continue to do so.

Hopefully there will be feedback in the Autumn statement regarding the Lancashire submission. The target date is still April 2017.

Marshal had circulated the House of Commons briefing paper on Combined Authorities which gave a useful background along with information on the Lancashire Combined Authority and a copy of a letter from the Minister.

We understand that there will be a Parliamentary Order in the New Year to create a combined authority for Lancashire. The Order will set out the functions and powers of the Combined Authority.

Each authority is contributing officer time – Mair Hill is working on the legal agreements. At this time there are no extra costs.

The Lancashire Plan has 5 key policy areas – Skilled Lancashire; Better Homes for Lancashire; Connected Lancashire; Prosperous Lancashire; Public Services Working Together from Lancashire.

At the current time there is work continuing in the background with each council taking tasks. The Leader is on the Connecting Lancashire working group. The Combined Authority has a work programme for the next 6 months.

A letter from Andrew Percy MP indicated that 'the most ambitious deals agreed to date have included commitments to establish directly-elected Mayors, but that it was for places to propose new powers and find the most effective governance arrangements that best fits their locality'. There was pressure from Central Government for Lancashire to adopt an elected Mayor if it wished to receive a significant devolution deal. The Leader made it clear the issue of an elected Mayor was one that would need to be considered by full Council and all Combined Authority members would need to agree to it.

The Leader indicated that no further commitments would be made until after the New Year, and at that stage a document outlining options would be presented to Council for decision.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

These would be arranged to coincide with the timetable of Shadow Combined Authority meetings.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm