



AGENDA ITEM: 10

COUNCIL: 15 April 2015

Report of: Managing Directors

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor D Westley

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SUBJECT: TOWARDS A COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR LANCASHIRE

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the report, deferred at Council on 25 February 2015, attached at Appendix A to this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

2.1 That the Options Paper at Appendix 1 to the report attached at Appendix A and the draft timetable as set out at Appendix 2 to the report attached at Appendix A and paragraph 3.2 of this report be noted.

2.2 That authority be delegated to the Leader and Managing Directors (as appropriate) to represent the Council in discussions and negotiations in relation to the possible establishment of a Combined Authority for Lancashire and to participate in a review of Governance Arrangements.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Lancashire Authorities are in discussion about the possibility of establishing a Combined Authority in Lancashire. The report at Appendix A refers.

- 3.2 The timetable set out at Appendix 2 to the report at Appendix A has recently been updated. It is now intended to circulate Leaders with a draft Governance Review document in April, for formal consideration in June 2015. Other aspects of the timetable remain the same.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COUNCIL STRATEGY

- 4.1 It is anticipated the development of a Combined Authority for Lancashire would assist in delivering greater democratic oversight, and co-ordination, of economic development, regeneration and transport issues, with potential positive impacts for West Lancashire and Lancashire going forward.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Some officer and Member time will be required, but there are no direct financial implications involved at this stage in taking part in the discussions towards a Combined Authority.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There is a risk that if Lancashire does not develop a Combined Authority, that it could lose out in comparison to other areas. Being involved in the discussions gives West Lancashire the opportunity to influence the outcome.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to the report attached at Appendix A, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

- A. Report of Managing Directors - "Towards a Combined Authority for Lancashire" to Council of 25.2.15