

Minutes of	Cabinet
Meeting date	Thursday, 30 June 2022
Members present::	Councillors Paul Foster (Chair), Aniela Bylinski Gelder, James Flannery and Matthew Tomlinson
Officers:	Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Mark Lester (Director of Commercial), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities) and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Other attendees (in person):	Councillor Jacky Alty, Councillor Mary Green, Councillor Michael Green, Councillor Clare Hunter, Councillor Lou Jackson, Councillor Chris Lomax (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Colin Sharples and Councillor Kath Unsworth
Attending virtually:	Councillor Jane Bell, Councillor Colin Coulton, Councillor Derek Forrest, Councillor Susan Jones, Councillor Jacqui Mort, Councillor David Shaw, Councillor David Suthers.
Public:	0

18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mick Titherington, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing).

19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

20 Levelling Up Funding Bid

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform), Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report of the Chief Executive outlining a proposal to submit a Levelling Up Fund Bid for up to £20m.

Councillor Foster referred to the two projects identified in the report as recommended for the Bid, which were the Penwortham Public Realm and the Vernon Carus redevelopment. He stressed that these projects best fitted the Bid criteria and due to the timescales for the scheme, the Council needed to select projects which were already in the pipeline.

Arising from discussion on this item a query was raised in relation to the feasibility of other projects such as Midge Hall Railway Station.

Councillor Foster explained that Lancashire County Council, the Highways and Transport Authority felt that the Midge Hall Railway Station project was not

developed enough at this stage. He also stated that the matter had been raised by Katherine Fletcher MP as referenced in the report.

Decision made (unanimously):-

1. To approve the outline of the Levelling up bid and to delegate to the Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) the sign off for the business case.
2. To bring back to Cabinet further details for consideration should the bid be successful.

Reasons for decision

The criteria for the submissions of any schemes was that significant preparation and planning of work had already been completed to meet the delivery deadline of March 2025. In this respect the bid was made up of schemes where the council already has plans either emerging or in place.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The Member of Parliament for South Ribble requested that the council consider a bid to bring forward the reopening of Midge Hall railway station but given the time constraints and other priorities this was not considered. Also suggested was that the LUF funding could provide some form of gap funding for the Town Deal. However to ensure a fair distribution of resources this has been discounted and the investment focussed on the outside of Leyland.

There were a number of schemes considered in other areas of the borough, Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge etc. However individually these schemes would not meet the levelling up criteria. The Cabinet however are continuing to look into the merits of each of these individual schemes and alternative funding arrangements.

Chair

Date