

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	28 SEPTEMBER 2022	8
THE GREATER LANCASHIRE PLAN			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The purpose of the report is to provide the committee with the latest information regarding the Greater Lancashire Plan.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Lancashire wide meetings and working groups on the development of the Greater Lancashire Plan.

LINK TO INFORMATION

[The Greater Lancashire Plan](#)

[New Deal for Greater Lancashire](#)

[Lancashire Independent Economic Review](#)

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To provide members with an update on work undertaken towards development of strengthened joint working, a long-term strategic Greater Lancashire Plan.

FURTHER INFORMATION

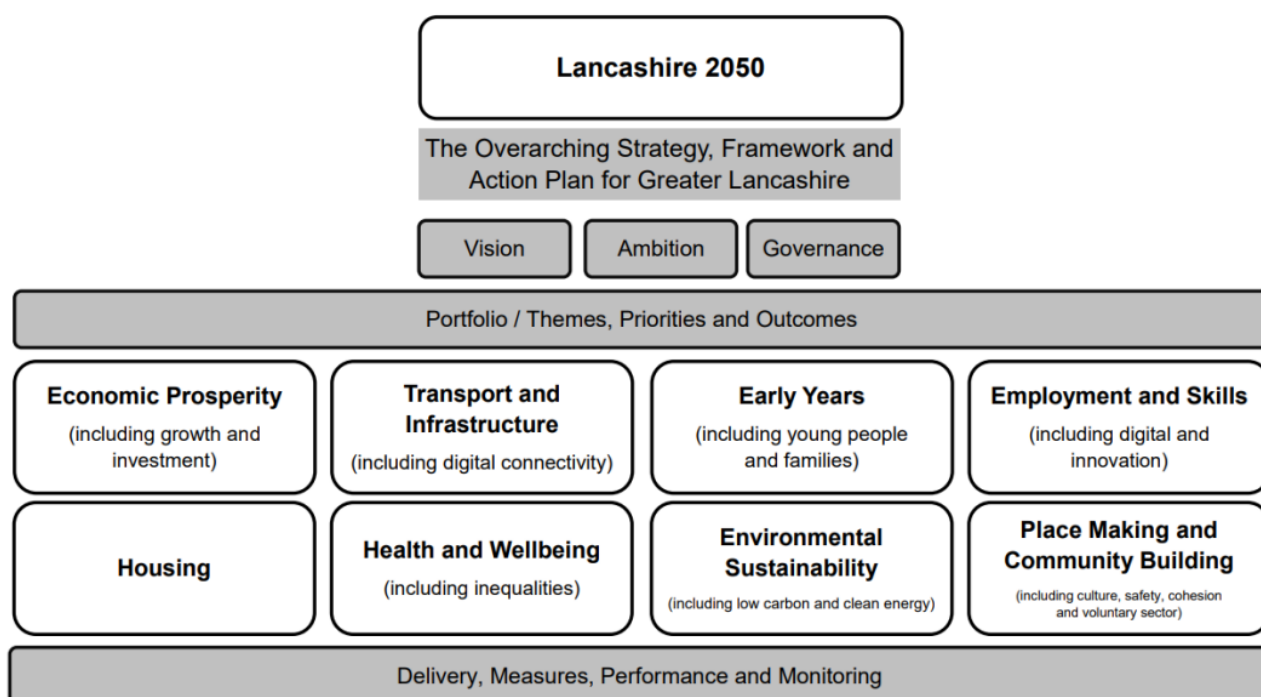
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The Greater Lancashire Plan

Pre-pandemic Council leaders across Lancashire commissioned an independent economic review to inform the Greater Lancashire Plan as a strategy document to lever in Government funding and deliver a vision for an emerging County Deal should that come to pass. The Greater Lancashire Plan is the document that will 'sit behind' and support the ambition and outcomes of a County Deal or any other arrangement for working together across Lancashire. The Greater Lancashire Plan is aimed at identifying the unique selling points and strengths of Lancashire as a region to support the rationale for the devolution of power and resources from central government along the same arrangements as those in Merseyside, Manchester, and other regions. The plan represents Lancashire's co-ordinated approach for regional development and improvement.

The Greater Lancashire Plan is an overarching strategic plan that looks to Lancashire in 2050, outlining a broader ambition beyond the immediate priorities framed by the eight themes (see diagram below). The plan will deliver economic resilience, capitalise on the County's unique set of environmental assets, and transform the delivery of public services across the County, making Lancashire a beacon for place-based service delivery and sustainable economic growth.

Diagram 1 Lancashire Plan Scope Illustration



In July 2021, as part of its levelling up plans the government announced it would introduce County Deals as part of its devolution plans, with the aim of transferring powers from Whitehall to local areas. Lancashire's political leaders are looking to set out proposals for a Lancashire plan that will be considered by all 15 councils.

Lancashire authorities have been working in close collaboration to develop a set of ambitious and forward-thinking proposals that would present a New Deal for a Greater Lancashire across a range of areas including the economy, transport, jobs, skills, and the environment.

Lancashire County Council, the 12 district councils, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council – are working together to secure a deal with government for the devolved powers, flexibilities, and funding to accelerate the delivery of the immediate priorities set out in the plan. The ask could be in the order of £5bn investment into the wider Lancashire area to address local needs and priorities as determined by and in Lancashire over the next 5-10 years across the core themes.

Lancashire has an amazing story to tell of natural beauty, of hard-working people, of legacy and of the future. As the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, Lancashire is a place that makes things; innovation is in our DNA. With a population of 1.5m people, over 60% of whom are working age, Lancashire has a significant talent pool. Across four universities, a student population of over 55,000 continuously adds to that talent every year. This workforce serves

52,000 businesses, generating £32bn per year, pre-Covid-19. Because of the impact of Covid-19, Lancashire's entire economic base has been adversely affected, manufacturing and tourism are at risk of irreparable damage. The pandemic will have significant impacts on the employment base and productivity across Lancashire for years to come.

The impact on Lancashire's economy is yet to be fully realised, but already, there is an emerging picture of differential impact, across industry sectors, occupations, and places. As more understanding is developed, of the intensity and scale of impact, it's already clear that some parts of the economy will face long term obstacles to growth, and others will never recover. Lancashire's industry base and people are fighting back to protect what has been rightfully earned and regain stability of employment and retention of key businesses, assets, and capabilities.

A combination of democratic and business leadership will determine the priorities and actions needed, to recover however, from a broad base of industry sectors, the immediate impacts of global lockdown are challenging, and most keenly felt in many communities, already disadvantaged through poverty and deprivation, in places which have been failed through decades of low levels of investment and unrealised opportunity.

Whilst anticipating the benefits of the "levelling-up" agenda, Covid-19 has dealt a hard and severe blow. Action is needed now to limit the damage imposed to the sectors and occupations most exposed, with a continued commitment to support beyond the short-term until traction on recovery becomes real. Equally, a more comprehensive response to address the challenges and opportunities our businesses face as they fight for survival, stabilise, recover, and return to growth must also be developed, which focuses on businesses and employment.