

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Special Council	22 November 2016

GROWTH LANCASHIRE APPOINTMENT TO DIRECTOR ROLE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise Councillors of the proposed membership of Growth Lancashire and to appoint the Leader of the Council to the role of Director of that Company as a Council representative.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the Council resolve to participate in the Growth Lancashire Limited Company.
3. That the Leader of the Council be nominated to become a director of the Growth Lancashire Limited Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

4. Growth Lancashire Limited, previously Regenerate Pennine Lancashire, was formed to promote the delivery of economic, heritage and regenerations strategies in the East of Lancashire. The scope of the area to be covered has recently been extended to the whole of Lancashire.
5. The Company Board of Directors is led by private sector business leaders and participating Councils appoint a Councillor to act as their representative of the Board.
6. The extension of the footprint of Growth Lancashire's area provides opportunities for the Council to work with other councils and the private sector in a different way and further promote council priorities.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	X
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

8. Regenerate Pennine Lancashire was established approximately 10 years ago initially by local authorities in that area to promote the regeneration of that sub-region. Since then it has entered into a joint venture company, now Growth Lancashire Limited with private sector partners who sit on the Board of Directors. The mission of the company is to serve

new and existing businesses to grow job opportunities and skills across the Council. It does this by providing business support and economic development opportunities.

9. This support is provided in 2 ways through the Lancashire Business Growth Fund and Boost Business Lancashire.
10. The Lancashire Business Growth Fund is delivered by the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, Growth Lancashire and the North and Western Chamber of Commerce. They have recently secured £8 million from the Regional Growth Fund to stimulate enterprise across the County as a whole by the provision of grants to manufacturing businesses.
11. Boost Business Lancashire is the Lancashire Business Growth Hub led by the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership. The purpose is specifically to provide growth advice and support to businesses in Lancashire. From the period July 2013 to November 2015 over 2800 local businesses benefited from the support provided. This included tailored consultancy services, grant assistance or mentoring to support growth.
12. Whilst these services are already available to qualifying businesses in Chorley or locating to the borough, participation in the Growth Lancashire and membership of the Board will provide a more detailed and better understanding of the Companies priorities and will enable Chorley to participate in the setting of strategy.
13. The proposal is that Chorley Council participate in Growth Lancashire for initially the remainder of this municipal year and next year (17/18). The cost for the remainder of this year would be £15,800 (pro rata against other Local Authority contributions). For the year 2017/18 Growth Lancashire are introducing a new funding model which would mean a flat contribution of £15,000 for the whole year.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

14. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	x	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

15. The costs of participation can be met within existing resources.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

16. None.

CHRIS SINNOTT
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
CHRIS MOISTER	5160	11 NOVEMBER 2016	