

The Future trends, challenges and opportunities facing the North West

Stephen Young

Executive Director for Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services

Lancashire

- At the heart of the UK aerospace industry.
- A powerhouse in the energy industry.
- 80,000 people employed in manufacturing.
- We form a transport hub as the geographical centre of Great Britain.
- Positive lifestyle

Challenges and Opportunities

- Service and Budget Pressures
- Brexit
- Employment and Skills
- Isolated communities
- Digitisation

Service Pressures

- Lancashire's population expected to grow 2.4%, compared to 6.4% for North West and 12.1% for England in the next 25 years.
- Population is ageing.
- Unprecedented funding pressure and demand for Social Care.
- Expecting further cuts to central government funding of £1.3bn by 2019/20 (UK wide).
- The need for greater Commercialisation

Brexit

- What deal?
- Loss of £5.3 billion in EU funds for UK councils.
- 52% of the North West's manufactured goods exports currently go to the European Union.
- Maintaining Supply Chains for strategic sectors.
- 26% of Lancashire businesses would be impacted if migrant labour was restricted post-withdrawal.

Employment and Skills

- By 2024 there will be a surplus of 6 million low skilled workers and a deficit of 4 million high skilled workers in the UK.
- 'Brain Drain' to metro areas. By 2039, 83% of population growth will have gone to cities and only 17% to rural areas.
- How to ensure local labourforce has the required skills

Isolated communities

- Rural Poverty; Lancashire has a large number of small areas in the 10% most deprived localities in England.
- Need to build Transport Infrastructure and improve Broadband coverage
- Build more and better Housing
- Rural Energy Schemes
- Connecting the coast to the interior

Digital Strategy

- Increasingly digital world
- Technology offers possibility to reduce costs and improve service
- Staff and public training
- Digital infrastructure for business and the public

So what do we need to do ?

- Further Develop the Northern Powerhouse
- Embrace technology to cut costs and improve efficiency
- Develop regional trade strategies ?
- Develop local skills that matches demand both now and in the future.
- Northern transport solutions developed and delivered in the north
- Innovate and change.

