



Cumberland Council Report to Council

Meeting Date: 6 March 2024

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Leader's Portfolio Holder Report**

Report of: Councillor Mark Fryer

Report Number: Six

We've been very much caught up with unfortunate deadlines this Full Council – as I write this with a looming report deadline, we are still a week away from our first Economic Summit – which as I move this report at Full Council happened last week.

Assuming you're still with me following that confusing introduction, I do want to focus on the Summit in this report - without pre-empting the event itself.

We took great care to set out an offer on the day that we hoped would attract a really broad range of organisations from across Cumberland – public, private and third sector. I have seen the early lists of those who have registered and it is looking great – colleagues from health, from education and our colleges and universities, from our business sectors, voluntary organisations. It is my sincere hope that the day pulls everyone together to look at how we deliver a different type of growth, one that serves everyone in every community – leaving no-one behind.

Today is budget council and I have no doubt that there will be lots of discussion about funding – I am pretty sure I'll have plenty to say about the national funding models that are stacked against a place like Cumberland. They simply do not work for us, for any sector. Ask anyone on any street in Cumberland if they can access an NHS dentist, or easily get a GP appointment. What about their bus service?

I wanted to bring the organisations of Cumberland together to start to think about how we can deliver for the people of Cumberland, in a different way to counteract those odds against us. It is going to take genuine collaboration to get there. We have made a start with our Council Plan, our actions setting up our Community Panels, our first Economic Summit is a gesture that says this Council is ready to do what we can to support everyone to help deliver for Cumberland.