

Lancashire County Council

External Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 12th January, 2021 at 10.00 am in Skype Virtual Meeting - Skype

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item	
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1.	Apologies	
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2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests	
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Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

3.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 November 2020	(Pages 1 - 6)
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4.	Chair's update	
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Verbal report.

5.	Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness - progress report	(Pages 7 - 24)
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6.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21	(Pages 25 - 30)
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7.	Urgent Business	
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An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

8.	Date of Next Meeting	
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The next meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee is currently scheduled to be held on Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 10am at County Hall, Preston.

County Hall
Preston

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

Lancashire County Council

External Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th November, 2020 at 10.00 am in Skype Virtual Meeting - Skype

Present:

County Councillor Edward Nash PSC (Chair)

County Councillors

D Stansfield	C Crompton
A Ali	H Khan
I Brown	L Oades
J Burrows	J Shedwick
S Clarke	P Steen

County Councillor Hasina Khan replaced County Councillor Gillian Oliver for this meeting only.

County Councillor Andrea Kay attended the meeting under Standing Order D13 (1).

D Stephen, Member of Youth Parliament for the North and Garstang's Youth Mayor attended the meeting regarding item5 – Decarbonisation pathway for Lancashire.

1. Apologies

None were received.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 July 2020

Resolved: That the minutes from the meeting held on 31 July 2020, be confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Chair's update

The Chair, County Councillor Ed Nash, pointed out that Covid had a major influence on everything the External Scrutiny Committee did as it was reliant on external bodies to form its agenda.

Flood Risk Management was an ongoing subject. It was noted that the Flood Risk Management Team and appointed another Flood Risk Manager who the committee would look forward to meeting at a future meeting. Members had been

sent copies of the letters sent to Government following the Cabinet Member's comments on the recommendations of the Strengthening Flood Risk Management and Preparedness Task and Finish Group. Members had also been sent some of the responses received from Government.

The committee was informed that the pandemic had affected Universal Credit significantly. The committee was waiting for a response from the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing on the committee's recommendations on Universal Credit.

Resolved: That the Chair's update be noted.

5. Decarbonisation pathway for Lancashire

The Chair welcomed to the meeting from Electricity North West, Cara Blockley, Central Services Manager, Steve Cox, Engineering and Technical Director and Helen Norris, Stakeholder Engagement and Responsibility Framework Manager. From Cadent Gas the Chair welcomed Helen Boyle, Regional Development Manager.

The committee was provided with a presentation on the decarbonisation pathway for Lancashire. Lancashire was currently set to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The pathway provided a view on how its energy system could be decarbonised through a balanced use of renewable electricity and low carbon gas. The presentation aimed to show which technologies would emerge as commercially viable first and were therefore likely to be adopted by customers.

The following points were highlighted:

- By 2050 Lancashire would rely on electricity imports from the National Grid and would be a net-importer of hydrogen. The majority of energy consumed in 2050 would be from electricity and hydrogen. Due to Lancashire's onshore and offshore wind potential, more than half of the electricity demand could be met with local distribution level generation. Abundant wind resources could also be used to generate significant amounts of green hydrogen by 2050.
- On the installation of charging points for electric vehicles and the difficulties for people who lived in terraced houses or apartment blocks it was noted that from national trials people charged their vehicles in different places not just at home. Electricity North West had provided charging points (13 amp plugs) at its offices for staff to charge their vehicles at no additional cost to help incentivise the take up of electric vehicles. Whilst it would cost approx. 4 pence per mile to charge each vehicle, it was highlighted that it would cost more to meter such provision. Vehicles could be charged at around ten miles per hour on a 13 Amp plug. Electricity North West was encouraging employers in Lancashire to provide slow low trickle charging facilities for employees in their car parks. All major supermarkets were installing fast charging facilities. Large fuel stations were also providing ultra-fast chargers which would fully charge an average vehicle in around 15 minutes. It was explained that people

were anxious about electric vehicle charging and running out of power however it was highlighted that most people used their vehicles for short distances and the way to solve this problem would be to install as many chargers at places of work, supermarkets, fuel stations and surface/multi-storey car parks as possible. Home charging was not an essential part of owning an electric vehicle.

- Further detail was sought on the storage of hydrogen in salt caverns. It was explained that there were lots of trials happening around the country regarding this to answer a number of questions on hydrogen and the safety of storage. One such trial was being undertaken at Keele University¹ where they were now looking to implement 100% hydrogen supply for commercial and residential settings. Cadent Gas and other companies were looking at networked hydrogen and the supply chain. It was highlighted that Cadent Gas was not advocating hydrogen as the only solution, but a mixture of sources of energy generation.
- On the development of tidal and river based generation it was pointed out that the roll out of such technology might depend on the price point versus the next generation of wind turbines or solar cells. Whilst there had been mixed success around the world for tidal and river based generation in particular large single point developments, the issue was the price per unit produced over the long term and this was the challenge for nuclear power and large scale civil engineering projects such as tidal. Organisations would be committing energy customers to a higher price in order to recover capital costs. However the technology would not be excluded from contributing to energy generation for the area.
- It was highlighted that the price point for electric vehicles was dropping. For instance the whole lifetime operating costs for mini excavators was less than a diesel or petrol powered digger as well as having no noise and no carbon dioxide emissions. The problem was that very few people knew of these vehicles and the amount of information and leadership to businesses in the North West region on decarbonisation and low carbon technology was felt to be insufficient. This was one area Electricity North West wished to work with the committee and local authorities across the region on. Around 60-65% of all energy used in the region was by businesses and commerce and they were the primary target for switching their fleets to electric vehicles and moving their heat demand on to hydrogen. Public education campaigns and outreach programmes for businesses were crucial to help enable people to understand the opportunities available to them.
- It was reported that a number of organisations in the Ellesmere Port area had come together and established the HyNet North West Consortium² in order to develop a supply chain for hydrogen. Lancashire's solution for hydrogen would likely come from HyNet.
- It was suggested that Lancashire County Council should provide leadership on decarbonisation and to consider ways to incentivise take up of low carbon technology. Decarbonising its own operations and publishing

¹ HyDeploy green energy trial at Keele University: <https://hydeploy.co.uk/>

² HyNet North West Consortium website: <https://hynet.co.uk/>

what works was all part of what would be considered as a central leadership role for the county council.

- Electricity North West was hoping to move its fleet to electric vehicles with the exception of 4WD and heavy goods vehicles within the next 7 years. The latter would increasingly convert to hydrogen, but they were not commercially available to buy yet.

It was felt that the process of decarbonisation as presented by Electricity North West and Cadent Gas, was progressive, comprehensive and stimulating, giving a true path towards a carbon free future for Lancashire. It was also felt there were a number of opportunities to progress this project both for the public and private sectors, particularly as Lancashire had significant resources and might even be able to supply the rest of the UK.

The chair reminded the committee from his rapporteur activities that there was no coordination of effort at a time when strong leadership was required. Some District Councils were quoted as looking to Lancashire County Council to prompt, advise and take a lead on decarbonisation. It was therefore;

Resolved: That relevant officers be requested to attend a future scheduled meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee to present on the Greater Lancashire Plan and progress made towards a green summit for Lancashire as previously agreed with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Environment and Planning to bring together all councils, public sector, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and the private sector into a cohesive, planned effort.

6. Universal Credit: Citizens Advice in Lancashire - the impact of Covid 19

The Chair welcomed to the meeting from Citizens Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn, Rachel Whippy, Chief Officer and Jenny Duthie, Universal Credit Help and Claim Best Practice Lead.

The committee was presented with an update on the impact of Covid 19 on the people of Lancashire and the issues they faced.

The following points were clarified:

- On whether there had been an increase in domestic abuse issues during the pandemic, it was reported that there had been 179 reported issues in 2019 and this had increased to 239 in 2020. Anecdotally Citizens Advice advisors were reporting an increase in the number of referrals for relationship issues and this was echoed nationally.
- Concerns were raised about loan shark activity. Members were informed that there was a government funded organisation for stopping loan sharks. Members were provided with a link to the 'Stop Loan Sharks' website: www.stoploansharks.co.uk . Stop Loan Sharks worked closely with Trading Standards. Credit Unions were also proactive in helping people get out of the grip of loan sharks. Solutions were available for people with debts under £20k were they could obtain a Debt Relief Order. It was stated

that people should contact Citizens Advice for help in dealing with their debts and setting up debt management plans.

- On how the county council might help support residents, it was felt the community hubs established during the pandemic were a good example of local authorities, health and the voluntary sector working together in partnership and it was hoped this would continue. In terms of service delivery for Citizens Advice it was noted that whilst capacity was reserved for the most vulnerable in society and those with complex issues, their approach was to help enable people to support themselves by providing a wealth of information and resources through its website and training on how to use it.
- It was noted that the Citizens Advice did not work with trade unions but this could be an option.
- It was suggested that Lancashire County council could advertise for volunteers for the Citizens Advice.
- The Chair reminded the committee that a formal written response to its recommendations made in February 2020 was awaited from the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing. It was felt that the committee should wait for the Cabinet Member's response before making recommendations.

Resolved: That;

1. The report be noted.
2. The External Scrutiny Committee awaits receipt of the formal written responses by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing before formulating any further recommendations.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

The External Scrutiny Committee was presented with a single combined work programme for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees.

It was suggested that the committee continue to review the three themes of:

- Universal Credit.
- Strengthening Flood Risk Management and Preparedness.
- Decarbonisation.

Resolved: That the External Scrutiny Committee continue to review Universal Credit, strengthening flood risk management and preparedness and decarbonisation at forthcoming meetings.

8. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 10.00am by means of a virtual meeting.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 12 January 2021

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness - progress report (Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Gary Halsall, Tel: (01772) 536989, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

A progress report on the implementation of agreed actions following the recommendations of the Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness task and finish group report as adopted by the External Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Note and comment on the progress report.
2. Determine when the next progress report be presented to the scrutiny function.

Background and Advice

On 31 July 2020, the External Scrutiny Committee considered and received the Cabinet member responses to the recommendations of the Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness scrutiny task and finish group. At that meeting it was agreed that an update on the measures to be completed by December 2020 be presented to the External Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled on 12 January 2021. A progress report is set out at appendix A for the consideration of the committee.

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the progress report and to determine when the next progress report be presented to the scrutiny function.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	Short term				
S1	Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities, local Flood Action Groups and other beneficiaries to define the role and responsibilities of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and all Risk Management Authorities in Lancashire and to publicise this accordingly.	The Head of Highways will ensure that clarity on this will be included in the refreshed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	Head of Highways	Current target late 2020 (collaborative project with other LLFAs)	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities will be clearly defined in the New Local FRM Strategy for Lancashire, including Blackpool and Blackburn.</p> <p>New Local FRM Strategy is underway and will be taken to Cabinet in Spring 2021 to seek formal approval.</p>
S2	Increasing staffing levels within the county council's Flood Risk Management Team to support the need for a resource on service delivery for the people of Lancashire and to explore joint working opportunities with all Risk Management Authorities, including possible agency arrangements with district councils.	The need for and opportunities to increase staffing levels in the team will be reviewed by the Head of Highways following introduction of the new Highways Service Management Team (April 2020).	Head of Highways	Review to be complete by March 2021	<p>In Progress</p> <p>2 x Principal Flood Risk Officers commenced in September 2020.</p> <p>New Grade 7 advertised December 2020 for earliest appointment.</p> <p>The Lancashire Strategic Partnership is currently reviewing working arrangements. It is currently focussing on operational activity which includes considering the scope to share roles and activities most effectively between partner organisations.</p>

RAG Key		Halted/problems		In Progress/going to plan		Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
S3	Providing sufficient resource within the Flood Risk Management Team to enable timely and detailed reviews of all Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to support Local Plan reviews, and also of the developers' site-specific Flood Risk Assessments, on which the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is consulted by the local planning authorities.	The need for and opportunities to increase staffing levels in the team will be reviewed by the Head of Highways following introduction of the new Highways Service Management Team (April 2020).	Head of Highways	Review to be complete by March 2021	<p style="text-align: center;">In Progress</p> <p>Following on from S2 above, work has started to reshape the team to prioritise key work streams. This work includes identifying how best to meet recommendation S3 by adjusting roles and responsibilities within the team.</p>
S4	Increasing the highways drainage budget.	Head of Highways to review with Cabinet.	Head of Highways	Review to be complete by March 2021	<p style="text-align: center;">In Progress</p> <p>Subject to 21/22 budget setting processes</p>
S5	Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities and Newground Community Interest Company to develop the county council's Flooding in Lancashire webpages and the Flood Hub Lancashire webpages and provide simplified advice, information and signposting in relation to the role and purpose of the county council as LLFA; how to form a local flood action group; riparian ownership and responsibilities; rules, regulations and exemptions for obtaining licences to carry out work; funding and dedicated webpages for specific flood	This is a complex project to be developed with partner organisations. As part of any restructure, the Head of Highways will identify a project and resources to take this forward including traditional communications & media strategies – see response to recommendation M3 below.	Head of Highways	Project plan to be in place by March 2021	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Complete (Ongoing commitment)</p> <p>All target topics now on Flood Hub.</p> <p>Partnership Officer attends quarterly meetings to maintain and develop The Flood Hub, including Lancashire's 'Local Area' webpage for The Lancashire Partnership.</p> <p>New post identified in S2 above will actively contribute to improved digital data processing and communications.</p>

RAG Key		Halted/problems		In Progress/going to plan		Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	events whilst being mindful of the Flood Hub's website content.				
S6	Formalising and maintaining a central register of local Flood Action Groups across Lancashire and to make accessible through The Flood Hub website via all Risk Management Authorities in Lancashire. In addition to publicise the register with the local Met Office and other pertinent organisations.	Underway. In regards to accessing Met Office weather warnings, groups and individuals may self-register for warnings and other updates by following the instructions available via this link	Head of Highways	To be completed by Dec 2020	<p>In Progress</p> <p>List of all Flood Action Groups in Lancashire is collated.</p> <p>A communications exercise with the FLAGS to seek permission for some of their information to be published on the Flood Hub will be delivered by the new Grade 7 officer when in post (see action S2 above)</p>
S7	Creating a culvert policy with a view to it being adopted by all district councils in Lancashire as a supplementary planning document.	Draft policy already prepared. To be reviewed and used as the basis of internal and external consultation. Timescales to adopt a culvert policy will depend on consultation responses, so not necessarily a short-term measure.	Head of Highways	Consultation was requested to be completed by March 2021; timescale recommended to be adjusted to medium-term measure	<p>In progress</p> <p>A culvert policy cannot be a supplementary planning document as it is not required through or by planning law.</p> <p>Lancashire County Council, as LLFA and the consenting authority for ordinary watercourses, can develop, approve and adopt a culvert policy as LLFA. Ordinary watercourse consent applications can then be processed in this context, alongside other land drainage considerations, and we can also refer to this policy in an informative which we can apply to relevant planning responses and, eventually, through standing</p>

RAG Key		Halted/problems		In Progress/going to plan		Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
					advice for minor or lower risk planning applications.
S8	Writing to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request that Network Rail, Highways England, Canal & River Trust, Limited Companies appointed by Ofwat (New Appointments and Variations) and property management companies become Risk Management Authorities and to collaborate with the Local Government Association on this matter. In addition to give consideration to request district councils in Lancashire to develop relationships with those organisations and to invite them to future Making Space for Water meetings and any other flood risk management related events and meetings.	Work with the district councils will be progressed through the existing partnership meetings. Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with LCC procedures.	Head of Highways	To be completed by Dec 2020	Complete Advice received from the SoS is to continue using local contacts and place-based discussions to engage with all potential partners over problem identification and resolutions.
S9	Collaborating with the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the Local Government Association in writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request that	The council's Lead Member for Flooding (Cllr Stephen Clarke) has investigated this situation with United Utilities plc, and has submitted a brief report and recommendations to the Chair of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Lead Member for Flooding	Ongoing	Action Complete (Ongoing commitment) NW RFCC is using Cllr Clarke's research & advice as the basis of its approach to this matter as a key regional stakeholder in the national discussion on options for

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	right of connection, mandatory adoption and water companies as statutory consultees on planning applications be reviewed.	(NW RFCC). He will progress further activity for LCC subject to the decisions of the NW RFCC.			improvement. Cllr Clarke and LCC officers remain fully engaged with the initiative.
S10	Writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing concern that approved surface water drainage provisions including sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) are not being implemented within developments as approved through the planning process, and that additional resources or legal provisions are required so that implementation of surface water drainage systems within new developments including SuDS can be properly monitored and enforced and to collaborate with the Local Government Association on this matter.	Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with LCC procedures.	Head of Highways	To be completed by Dec 2020	<p>Action Complete (Ongoing commitment)</p> <p>Advice received is for LLFAs to engage fully with the national process for updating and potentially adopting Non-statutory Technical Standards for SuDS.</p> <p>LCC has contributed to both consultation processes and continues to engage fully with the local planning authorities regarding improved delivery of SuDS and all surface water management conditions relating to new developments.</p>
S11	Writing to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to consider publishing consistent guidance on when flood resilience grants would be made available to flooded homes and businesses for the installation of property	Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with LCC procedures.	Head of Highways	To be completed by Dec 2020	<p>Complete</p> <p>Advice received is that the procedures for making flood resilience grants available are considered appropriate and aren't expected to change.</p>

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	resilience measures and to collaborate with the Local Government Association on this matter.				
S12	Writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking that he collaborates with the Local Government Association over potential amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework so that Lead Local Flood Authorities be paid to carry out developers' Flood Risk Assessments so that development proposals will accommodate consistent practice and sustainable management of local drainage conditions and flood risk within and outside of all development sites.	Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with LCC procedures.	Head of Highways	To be completed by Dec 2020	<p>Action Complete (Ongoing commitment)</p> <p>Advice received is for LLFAs to engage with the Planning White Paper review processes. Also to engage fully with the national process for updating and potentially adopting Non-statutory technical standards for SuDS.</p> <p>LCC has contributed to both consultation processes and continues to engage fully with the local planning authorities regarding improved delivery of SuDS and all surface water management conditions relating to new developments.</p>
S13	Engaging with United Utilities to agree a mechanism for receiving advice on SuDS that are planned in a particular application that might be at a level to be adopted.	United Utilities plc has launched its SuDS adoption procedures (April 2020). The NW RFCC has engaged with all LPAs in the region to promote take-up, and to establish a pro-forma to enable standardised assessment of developers SuDS proposals. LCC will continue to engage with these	Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure to monitor	Ongoing	<p>Action Complete (Ongoing commitment)</p> <p>NW SuDS Pro-forma rollout across Lancashire LPAs has now commenced.</p> <p>SuDS adoption processes are incorporated within this rollout and will be discussed with UU as part</p>

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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


Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
		processes as 'business as normal'.			<p>of this process as to what extent engagement is needed and how this will be best achieved during the planning application process.</p> <p>Design and Construction Guide (DCG) for Sewers became regulated guidance on 1 April 2020; LCC is now encouraging developers to design to these standards in order for their SuDS to be eligible for adoption by UUplc (note that this is voluntary).</p> <p>The pro-forma requires developers to design to DCG standards and therefore, once adopted by all Lancashire LPAs, all SuDS in Lancashire from this date should be eligible for adoption.</p>
S14	Promoting the educational programme established by United Utilities via the Lancashire County Council Schools' Portal.	The Head of Highways will facilitate the necessary discussions between United Utilities and LCC Education Service to enable decisions on this to be made by the appropriate decision-makers.	Head of Highways	Introductions to be made by October 2020 – recommended this be set back to October 2021 in recognition of schools' coronavirus management demands.	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Early discussion has been held with UU plc regarding linking their education offer to LCC's schools' curriculum. However LCC Education services has had a significant burden during 2020 arising from managing the coronavirus in schools. Delivering activity S14 has been postponed in recognition of the schools' situation, and will be restarted during 2021.</p>

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	Medium term				
M1	Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities to formalise the walk-around offer currently offered in a limited manner within the Environment Agency and to notify all local Flood Action Groups (FIAGs) of its launch.	Already triggered by local business need through Making Space for Water partnerships. FIAGs to be contacted and assured this will continue.	Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure	In place by September 2020	Action Complete (Ongoing commitment) This commitment was in place through Making Space for Water partnerships by September 2020. Communication to FIAGs will be completed when new officer is in post (see action S2 above).
M2	Promoting the flood risk management pre-application service.	The Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure has commissioned a review of the pre-app service and charges, seeking to promote it more positively alongside pre-application services provided for highways advice. Improvements will be established once the review concludes.	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	In place by December 2020	Action Complete (Ongoing commitment) New working procedures in place with Highways DC leading on marketing/opportunities
M3	Producing a guide on how to setup a local Flood Action Group to enable those people who wish to do so and for existing groups to flourish. It's suggested that the guide should include a template constitution; advice on creating emergency plans and who to share these with; key contacts and advice on who to build working relationships with and examples of what funding could be used for and for the	The additional resource required to achieve this will be taken into account in the reviews identified in response to recommendation S5 above.	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	To be completed during 2021/22	In Progress Review of existing Flood Hub advice planned for new officer once in post early 2021, to be followed by engagement with our FIAGs for suggestions on additional/different advice that they would have appreciated (or would still like).

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	guide to be publicised and shared with all tiers of councils and councillors, Risk Management Authorities and libraries throughout Lancashire.				
M4	The flood risk management team assessing every project for the scope to include upstream storage and increasing natural flood risk management activities.	This is a significant piece of work, beyond a simple design check, requiring cross-service collaboration. The Head of Highways will identify key stakeholders to take forward as a corporate initiative.	Head of Highways	To be completed during 2021/22	To start 2021
M5	Providing maximum surface water attenuation for new highways sponsored by Lancashire County Council through the implementation of tree pits and other attenuation features.	The relevant Head of Service to hold an internal review to identify current best practice	Head of Highways	To be completed during 2021/22	To start 2021
M6	Reviewing how powers can be delegated to enable local Flood Action Groups to place road closure and other related signage on the highways in the event of a flood.	This proposal raises significant health & safety and legislative risks for all parties. The Head of Highways will review options including identifying any current practices elsewhere in the country.	Head of Highways	March 2021	In Progress Experience from elsewhere in UK is being collected for review.
M7	Exploring opportunities with the Fire and Rescue Service to embed a flood preparedness	The Head of Highways will facilitate a discussion with the appropriate officers of the Fire & Rescue Service to enable the	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	March 2021	In Progress Telephone conference planned January 2021

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	element to their existing fire safety checks in homes.	feasibility of this recommendations to be explored and taken forward if possible.			Options to pursue through Lancashire Resilience Forum are under review.
M8	Write to all district councils in Lancashire to request that all future agendas for Making Space for Water meetings include an opportunity for local FIAGs to address those meetings and raise any issues of concern; and to publicise dates of all future meetings on their websites.	The Making Space for Water meetings in Lancashire are the established forum for technical partners to discuss matters of common concern within a district area. They are not generally open to members of the public, community groups or their elected representatives, to ensure technical progress is shared and made on matters of joint concern which of necessity includes sharing of confidential data. FIAGs are always welcome to raise queries direct with the drainage authorities for a joint response outside of Making Space for Water meetings.	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	March 2021	In Progress Terms of reference and governance of all the partnership meetings are under review, including the Making Space for Water meetings, to ensure they are fit for purpose and resourced & managed appropriately.
M9	Write to all Risk Management Authorities to take steps to: a) Enable local Flood Action Groups to contribute a local touch to funding applications for large scale projects submitted by them. b) Consult with local FIAGs as an essential step in the decision making process	This recommendation will be discussed with all impacted flood risk partner organisations and progressed through the Tactical partnership meetings.	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	March 2021	In Progress Agenda item for next Tactical Partnership meeting (Feb/March 2021)

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	on flood risk management project planning.				
M10	Hold an annual forum/conference/workshop/scrutiny inquiry or symposium to invite and bring together all the Risk Management Authorities and local FIAGs across Lancashire to discuss flood risk management and preparedness matters. This could be facilitated by the External Scrutiny Committee in its obligation to scrutinise flood risk management on an annual basis.	The benefits of this are recognised, Unfortunately this is an action that can't easily be delivered remotely. The Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure will research options with other LLFAs and develop proposals to hold a future event when safe to do so.	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	To be completed during 2021/22	In Progress Experience from elsewhere in UK is being collected for review.
M11	Exploring opportunities to utilise social media platforms, 'In the Know' alerts or other real-time communication sources to provide preparedness and action messages around flood and weather warnings, successes and post-event advice supplementary to any Met Office forecast, warnings and advice issued.	The council's FRM team currently circulates Met Office weather warnings and other general communications messages relating to flood risk on an informal basis with Flood Action Groups and other community groups who have asked to be included. It is acknowledged that more work should be done to make the communications with the team as meaningful as possible and to work with new and forthcoming technological advances. A lead officer will be	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	Ongoing	In Progress A communications plan will be established and delivered by the new officer when in post (see action S2 above)

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
		nominated within the team to develop & deliver initiatives.			
M12	Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities' communications teams and Newground Community Interest Company to explore opportunities to display flood resilience information where there is high foot fall in public spaces and buildings; via social media platforms.	Whilst the country manages the coronavirus crisis, physical communication measures are considered to be unreliable and have a low priority. It is acknowledged that more work should be done with physical measures to complement the emerging digital communication channels identified in M11 above. A lead officer will be nominated within the team to develop & deliver initiatives.	Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure	Ongoing	In Progress A communications plan will be established and delivered by the new officer when in post (see action S2 above)
M13	Reviewing accessibility of emergency respite centres and other activities taking account of children and pets.	The Head of Highways will raise this issue through the Lancashire Resilience Forum to enable the Rest Centre procedures to be reviewed and adapted where appropriate.	Head of Highways	To be completed during 2021/22	To start 2021
	Long term				
L1	Taking steps to integrate culvert locations including those identified under rights of way within the county council's Highways Asset Management System (HAMS). Should no solution be found, to then consider the implementation of an alternative web application/software suitable for the task and capable of integrating with HAMS.	Initial investigations have identified that a Geographical Information System (GIS) product is required as HAMS does not offer a sustainable solution to this need. The operational requirements a suitable GIS product are to be considered & a corporate solution developed.	Head of Highways	Ongoing. To be completed during 2021/22	In Progress New ways of working with GIS are under review between officers and the corporate GIS team, and new systems are expected in 2021. The new officer will lead on this task when in post (see action S2 above)

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	Funding a temporary post to support the recording of culvert location data into HAMS.				
L2	Collaborating with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and the National Farmers' Union (NFU) to encourage their members from Lancashire to report locations of any known (historic) culverts to assist the county council in developing its flood risk asset register. This could be carried out on a district by district basis.	The Head of Highways will facilitate the necessary discussions with these organisations, to establish a procedure for simple reporting mechanisms to capture new information on culverted watercourses. The same mechanism can then be used to capture and record information received from any source.	Head of Highways	To be completed during 2021/22	In Progress Officers are developing the GIS specification to store and use this data.
L3	Collaborating with United Utilities and district councils to find suitable and reliable mechanisms for enforcing current regulations on impermeable paving of front gardens.	The Head of Highways will facilitate the necessary discussions with the local planning authorities.	Head of Highways	To be completed during 2021/22	To start 2021
L4	Exploring the possibility of establishing shared or pooled budgets for contribution by Risk Management Authorities on complex flood risk management projects as and when needed.	There is a mature understanding locally, regionally and nationally that many benefits can be unlocked by sustainable flood risk management schemes including economic/job security, continuity of public services including education and transport, health and wellbeing,	Head of Highways	Ongoing	To start 2021

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
		and habitat/conservation. All potential beneficiaries from a flood risk management scheme are engaged and bespoke funding structures are designed to share/pool the available funds and to maximise the achievable benefits. We commit to maintaining and developing this approach.			
L5	Exploring the possibility of a shared casework system to which all Risk Management Authorities could access and contribute to.	Each drainage authority has its own legal obligations and corporate commitments, with casework systems developed to deliver these and to provide performance data for the individual organisations. We share data relating to shared interests between the relevant RMAs under a formal data-sharing protocol, which also protects personal data from being shared inappropriately. Shared caseworks requiring more attention are also considered in the operational partnership meetings. These arrangements are continuously reviewed, and adapted where all parties affected can agree the changes.	Head of Highways	To be completed during 2021/22	In Progress Terms of reference and governance of all the partnership meetings are under review, including the Making Space for Water meetings, to ensure they are fit for purpose and resourced & managed appropriately.
L6	Where appropriate encouraging relevant district councils to establish Internal Drainage Boards should the	When new legislation is in force, the Head of Highways will work with all affected partners to progress Internal Drainage	Head of Highways	Open-ended as Royal Assent not achieved yet	In progress Awaiting progress with the relevant Bills through Parliament.

RAG Key	 Halted/problems	 In Progress/going to plan	 Complete
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Reference	Recommendation	Proposed Response	Action by	Timescales	Progress RAG
	relevant Bills in Parliament receive Royal Assent (Environment Bill and Rivers Authorities and Land Drainage Bill)	Boards or Surface Water Management Boards where these will work to reduce flood risk for homes, properties and agricultural land.			

RAG Key		Halted/problems		In Progress/going to plan		Complete
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External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 12 January 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Gary Halsall, 01772 536989, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the single combined work programme for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees. A copy of this work programme is set out at Appendix A.

The topics included were identified at a work planning workshop for members of the Internal Scrutiny Committee held on 29 May 2020.

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to review and agree the work programme items for the committee.

Background and Advice

The Covid 19 pandemic has required members and officers to work differently and the wider context has also meant that priorities have changed or shifted in emphasis.

The work programme for this year has been combined with the other scrutiny committees given that the primary focus of the scrutiny work programme as a whole is dedicated to the response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

It is important to note that the work programme needs to be flexible in order to accommodate any urgent items that may arise. In addition, the work programme will form a standing item on the committee meeting agenda for regular review and to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

To further enhance the work programme, members are asked to reflect on key discussion areas or questions they would like to consider for each of the topic areas. This will ensure that the senior officers have a clear focus in order to provide the relevant information.

Further to this, members are asked to consider who they would like to invite to future meetings to help provide a more holistic picture for scrutiny to understand the challenges and produce meaningful but achievable recommendations.

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to review and agree the work programme items for the committee.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020-2021

Scrutiny Committee					
Month		Education and Children's Services	External	Health	Internal
	June			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from the ICS on NHS Cells for Lancashire and digital and engagement with local people. Temporary changes to clinical services across the ICS during the COVID-19 pandemic 	
	July	Response to the COVID 19 pandemic in Lancashire - perceptions of the experiences of children and young people, and headlines from the operation of service during the COVID-19 emergency period.	Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RIPA annual report The impact of Covid 19 on county council services Highways – challenges faced following pandemic and resuming 'normal' work programmes
	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What powers do we have as a county council/what can we do to support schools and parents. - Position update on the wider reopening of schools Schools Causing Concern Task Group report – response to recommendations SEND Ofsted inspection report Review of work programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult social care – winter preparations (Supporting the social care sector including domiciliary care workers) NHS 111 First 	Covid 19 – what comes next? Including building pan-Lancashire working and Democratic involvement in resilience forums and maintaining democratic leadership during a crisis

Appendix 'A'

	October	Children's Social Care - protecting vulnerable/valuable children – plans in place to manage spikes in referrals. Child poverty increase and the impact on the demand on social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal credit – Citizens Advice • Decarbonisation pathway – Lancashire, Electricity North West and Cadent Gas 		
Month	November	Education – digital poverty and lesson learned. Digital aspirational views – turning challenge into opportunity.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide prevention in Lancashire • LCC Adult Social Care Winter Plan 	Speeding Traffic and the lack of enforcement
	December	Impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental health – plans in place to support and an update on CAMHS including managing increase in contacts, anxiety of YP on return to school and availability of more online support		NHS Test & Trace and Community Testing	
	January	Early Help – Update on the Lancashire offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness – update on implementing recommendations. 		Covid 19 – Further update following the update provided at the September 2020 meeting
	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families (including update on the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWAS Hub and Spoke model (Fylde and Wyre) • Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services for adults in West 	

Appendix 'A'

		<p>EY Strategy and School Improvement Model)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools causing concern task group - update on recommendations 		<p>Lancashire and Sefton areas (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS 111 First – update (tbc) Commissioning Reform (tbc) Update on The Future of Hospital Services in Central Lancashire Task and Finish Group activity 	
	March	<p>**Family Safeguarding Model – update on implementation of model in Oct/Nov 2020</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWAS Hub and Spoke model (Fylde and Wyre) Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services for adults in West Lancashire and Sefton areas (tbc) NHS 111 First – update (tbc) Commissioning Reform (tbc) Update on The Future of Hospital Services in Central Lancashire Task and Finish Group activity 	<p>Youth Employment and Skills – impact on youth as one of the hardest hit groups during the pandemic (consideration to be given to which scrutiny committee will be most relevant to consider this topic)</p>
	April	<p>**SEND: Lancashire Breaktime update SEND Accelerated Progress Plan update Progress update on Pupils in special schools with medical conditions task group recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Credit – Welfare Rights Service update (tbc) Review of Community Safety Partnerships Governance arrangements 	-	<p>Scrutiny of the Council's response to the Government's call for local councils to invest in street safety</p>

Appendix 'A'

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Other Topics</p>	<p>Topics from work programmes 2019/20 not scheduled</p>	<p>Participation strategy update Road safety Independent children's homes Getting to Good plan update NEET SEN equipment in schools School transport Maintained nurseries update Parking at schools Childhood immunisation programme 0-19 Healthy Child programme Lancashire schools attainment report (standing item)</p>	<p>Lancashire energy strategy Review of Community Safety Partnerships and governance arrangements (2021 tbc) Greater Lancashire plan LCC Carbon Plan/Internal Energy and Water Management Policy Canal & Rivers Trust (tbc)</p> <p>LEP – response to the pandemic – economic recovery plan incorporating 'green' principles Impact of pandemic on road safety and lessons learnt</p>	<p>Urgent Mental Health Pathway Transforming Care (Calderstones) Social Prescribing Tackling period poverty Delayed transfers of care Stroke Programme Vascular, head and neck Review of Primary Care Networks and Neighbourhoods Transforming hospital services and care for people in Southport, Formby & West Lancs Disabled Facilities Grants Housing with Care and Support Strategy 2018-2025 – tbc 2021</p>	<p>Local Government Funding and Income Generation Task Group Update on Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire</p>
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