

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Friday, 22nd January, 2021 at 10.00 am to be held as a Virtual Skype Meeting

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 13 November 2020	(Pages 1 - 6)
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4.	Update on Lancashire's Response to Covid-19	(Pages 7 - 22)
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5.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21	(Pages 23 - 28)
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6.	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.

7.	Date of Next Meeting
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The next meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee will be held on Friday 5 March 2021 at 10:00am

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 13th November, 2020 at 10.00 am in Skype Virtual Meeting - Skype

Present:

County Councillor David O'Toole (Chair)

County Councillors

M Salter	H Khan
T Ashton	P Rigby
P Britcliffe	P Steen
B Dawson MBE	D Whipp
J Fillis	G Wilkins
S Holgate	

County Councillors Peter Britcliffe, Bernard Dawson and Hasina Khan replaced County Councillors David Foxcroft, Carl Crompton and Erica Lewis respectively.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

County Councillor David Whipp declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4 as he was Chair of Pendle Community Safety Partnership.

County Councillor Peter Britcliffe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5 as he was Chair of Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2020

Resolved: The minutes from the meeting held on 11 September 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Speeding Traffic and the Lack of Enforcement

The Chair welcomed to the meeting County Councillor Keith Iddon, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport; Phil Durnell, Director of Highways and Transport; John Davies, Head of Service Highways; Michael White, Highway Regulation Manager; and Jackie Brindle, Safe and Healthy Travel Manager. Also welcomed to the meeting were Lara Jones, Central Process Unit Manager, Lancashire Constabulary and Hassan Khan, Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary.

It was noted that at the last meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee members requested that the issue of speeding traffic and the lack of enforcement be considered as soon as possible.

A presentation from Highways and Transport officers was provided to the committee. The committee was informed that there was a growing perception that speeding levels had increased this year and this was reflected in the volume of complaints now being received by the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. It was noted that excessive speed was a major concern and was a factor in some of the accidents in Lancashire's road network, however it was highlighted the number one factor for accidents in Lancashire was careless driver behaviour. There was not a one size fit all approach to road safety and different types of enforcement and education were required.

Speed was a key issue of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership's Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy. The partnership began in 2001 and was a result of the Government's National Safety Camera Programme and had evolved over the years. The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership was a multi-agency approach and included all the relevant partners in Lancashire. A review of the partnership was about to be undertaken and would be led by the Police with input from all the other partner agencies. The Lancashire Road Safety Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy was explained to members and it was highlighted that tackling speed was a key element of the strategy.

The Road Safety Team was responsible for a number of key areas of work such as safety engineering schemes, speed management and speed limit setting and review. The team also deployed temporary signage and speed indicator devices around Lancashire.

Members were informed that the maintenance and replacement of the fixed camera casings were the responsibility of Lancashire County Council but the actual cameras were under the management of the police.

Through the Safer Roads Fund Programme the county council was looking to install 88 more average speed cameras across 5 different routes in Lancashire which had been considered to be amongst the most dangerous in the country. In addition to this there were other projects within the Safer Roads Fund Programme that were also ongoing across 5 different locations in the county.

In regards to speed management specifically, there was a number of ways the county council managed this and included speed assessments and data analysis, temporary signage and Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs). There were a variety of different types of SPIDs and some collected speed data and others did not. The Road Safety Team was looking to review SPIDs and only use them when they were effective.

The team was also responsible for education and engaging with communities and schools around speeding and provided a range of resources to schools and parents about road safety. A community toolkit had been recently developed and

was available to all communities across Lancashire. Specific toolkits for primary schools and secondary schools were also available to support the whole school community and there was also a wealth of information available online.

To allow a single point of contact for reporting speed concerns there was a Speed Concern Submission page on the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership website which allowed members of the public to report concerns online. This was monitored by both the county council and the police and helped to avoid duplication and allowed residents to check whether the road in question was already been considered as an area of concern.

The following points and questions were raised by the committee:

- Regarding the cameras and the casings there was concern that local authority members were not given the opportunity to suggest where the cameras could be situated. It was also felt the cameras and the casings should be under the control of one authority rather than one authority owning the casings and another authority being responsible for the cameras. Members were informed that the county council along with the police had to look at where it was safe to put cameras and were governed by highway regulations and needed to adhere to the Department for Transport (DfT) rules. At the moment cameras and casings were a shared cost as this was the way it was initially set up. In the future, if areas were being considered for new housings and it was possible to consult Members about where they were being placed, feedback could be considered in line with the regulations.
- Members enquired if the use of average speed cameras had reduced the number of casualties on the routes where they were in use. Analysis had shown that these cameras had a significant and positive impact. In line with this it was commented that one of the most effective ways of reducing speed was through average speed cameras, it was requested whether more average speed cameras could be used to help reduce speed incidents. It was noted that the additional 88 cameras being provided through the Safer Roads Fund would be average speed cameras and they had been targeted for the most dangerous roads in Lancashire.
- There was a query about the effectiveness of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and a request to have statistics on the partnership since it had been established to see how effective it had been. It was highlighted in the initial years there had been a sharp drop in casualties and in more recent years this had plateaued off, reasons included improved vehicle safety. Officers were able to provide a profile of reduction in casualties since the partnership had formed. It was suggested that a fresh approach to the partnership could help to maintain a steady reduction in casualties and the upcoming review of the partnership was also likely to review and refresh the aims and targets of the partnership.

- It was noted that Members would often have to deal with frustrated residents in regards to reporting concerns about speeding through a website rather than being able to speak to someone directly. Members stated there had to be a more holistic approach with regards to dealing with complaints. The Road Safety team was looking to do more pro-active community focused work around all issues of road safety and was looking at more community work around all areas of road safety and this would include involvement from county councillors.
- The subject of 20mph zones was raised in regards to how effective they had been and whether there had been a reduction in casualties since they had been introduced. An analysis of this had taken place a couple of years ago, however this was still quite early on to analyse the data and provide a before and after comparison due to the limited amount of data. The analysis did show a slight reduction in all casualties. By next year it is hoped that there will be much more data to do a fuller analysis and comparison.
- Regarding speed limit reduction requests by elected members on behalf of their communities, members enquired if there could be an explanation as to why some of these requests had been turned down so this information could be shared with residents. Officers would feed this back to relevant officers to ensure enough feedback was provided.
- A concern was raised about accident records being inaccurate, as accidents were only recorded when there had been injuries and it was felt this was not a true reflection of the actual number of accidents. Concerns were also raised that information on near misses could not be factored into the statistics. The Road Safety Team was looking at the data that came from Lancashire Constabulary that recorded injury collisions. Through this data the team would look at the perception of risk in some areas which would pick up near misses and take some action with the concerns of the communities involved.

Colleagues from Lancashire Constabulary provided committee members with a verbal update on the issue of speeding traffic and the lack of enforcement. It was noted there was significant enforcement that was taking place, however it was acknowledged perhaps this needed to be communicated better.

The committee was informed about Operation Mantaray which was a daily speed enforcement operation carried twice daily by the police around six locations in Lancashire. Altogether there are 166 locations that have been identified and agreed by a number of different partners who work with the police. It was important to note that if a significant police incident occurred within Lancashire then police resources from Operation Mantaray could be redirected to support the incident.

It was noted that the police had a Safer Roads Team which was made up of special constables who supported road safety activity including speed enforcement and Operation Mantaray. All the constables were volunteers and the police relied on them.

The National Speed Enforcement operation took place earlier in the year from May to June 2020, during that period 1,235 tickets were processed for speeding. There was also project Edward (Every Day without a Road Death) that took place in September 2020 for a three week period, during this time 170 traffic notices were issued of which 50 were for speed offences. Further data was provided to committee members on driving offences.

It was noted that the constabulary had to suspend its mobile speed enforcement action between March and May 2020 when the first lockdown was introduced, as officers were redeployed to Covid related duties on the Lancashire Resilience Forum but this had now been fully reinstated.

The pandemic had a longer-term effect on the operation of the county's speed awareness courses due to the need for social distancing. An online course was now being offered nationally as an alternative.

Comments and questions raised by the committee were as follows:

- As councillors received the most complaints from residents about speeding it was felt that there were not many discussions with them from the police or the county council. Members enquired if there were any processes in place where the police could consult with councillors.
- There was an enquiry as to whether the county council had approached the police to get powers of enforcement delegated down to PCSOs or other officers who were relevantly qualified. Lancashire Constabulary were in the process of getting the special constables speed laser trained so they could stop vehicles and issue speeding offences without support from regular police officers.
- There was a request from the committee to Lancashire Constabulary for an update on the analysis of the data on Average Speed Cameras.

Resolved: The Internal Scrutiny Committee noted the presentations

5. Task and Finish Group Request - Health Scrutiny Committee

The report presented set out the request from the Health Scrutiny Committee for a task and finish group to be established to review the forthcoming proposals from the local NHS on the future of Chorley and South Ribble A&E.

Resolved: The Internal Scrutiny Committee approved the task and finish group request.

6. Work Planning 2020/21

This report presented provided information on the single combined work programme for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees.

There was a request for an analysis update on road safety to be presented at a future meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee.

Members were informed of two upcoming Bite Size Briefings. One on Winter Maintenance Services in Lancashire on 18 November and one on Visiting Arrangements in Care Settings during Covid-19 on 19 November.

Resolved: The Internal Scrutiny Committee noted the single combined work plan presented.

7. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next virtual meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee would take place on Friday 22 January 2020 at 10.00am.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 22 January 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Update on Lancashire's Response to Covid-19

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

Misbah Mahmood, 01772 530818, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), Misbah.mahmood@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

At the September 2020 meeting of Internal Scrutiny Committee the committee received a presentation on Lancashire's response to Covid-19. It was agreed at the time that a further update would be presented at the January 2021 meeting.

A presentation (Appendix A) will be provided to update Members on Lancashire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update.

Background and Advice

Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive and Director of Resources will attend the virtual meeting of Internal Scrutiny Committee to give committee members an update on Lancashire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The update follows a presentation to the committee in September 2020. The update will cover the same topics discussed during the last update.

The following Cabinet Members will also be in attendance:

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
- Cabinet Member for Adult Services
- Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update.

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		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

Lancashire's response to Covid-19 Update

Background

- Internal scrutiny committee last looked at the council's response to the coronavirus pandemic in September 2020.
- It was agreed that an update would be provided in January.

Issues previously examined included:

1. Maintaining democratic leadership during a crisis
2. An update on service provision
3. Financial impact of COVID
4. Supporting the social care sector including domiciliary care workers
5. Protecting vulnerable children
6. Building pan-Lancashire working
7. Democratic involvement in resilience forums
8. Next steps

Points 3, 4 and 5 were picked up separately and in depth by the Budget Scrutiny Panel, the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – this will continue.

Democratic leadership/Meetings

- The approach outlined in September remains in place
- Virtual Meetings still taking place
- Scrutiny work-plan operational
- Equipment and training provided and protocols developed
- Political briefings including opposition briefings continue
- Updates continue to be provided
- Bite size briefings taking place

Service delivery

- The impact on service delivery has varied depending on the level of tier/lockdown
- Key focus remains on care related services
- Resources remain concentrated on supporting most vulnerable
- Most services that were paused during the 1st wave were restored
- As explained previously, decisions on long term cessation of activity/changed approaches will be reviewed as part of improvement journey

Service delivery Continued

- Wherever possible staff are enabled to work from home ongoing improvements to equipment and systems are being introduced – e.g. move to Microsoft 365/Teams
- We have completed a programme to make buildings Covid secure and to address other H&S requirements - risk assessments under ongoing refresh/renew process
- We continue to learn from the innovative ways of working that we introduced in our response to the pandemic and to capturing learning from elsewhere.

Additional support to Lancashire/business and communities

- Continue to work with partners to support vulnerable residents
- Covid winter grant – administering distribution of £3.92m covid winter grant aimed at tackling hunger and warmth problems - action to date – free school meals support, developing approaches to help tackle fuel poverty
- Supporting free school meals recipients/schools during current lockdown.
- Working with LRF to assist roll out of vaccination – including supporting volunteer programme

Finance wider support

- National schemes -
 - Furlough at 80% up to 2,500 per month.
 - Self-employed grants 80% of average trading profits up to £7,500.
 - Govt backed loan schemes (until the end of January 2021)
 - Business Support Grants
 - Business Rates holiday
 - Reduced VAT rate for hospitality and tourism

Financial position

- Expenditure Pressures Grant – LCC has received c£76m. Used to support additional costs of Covid -19 such as Adult Social Care, Childrens Social Care, PPE, emergency provider payments.
- Infection Control Grant – c£31m
- Hospital Discharges Funding – claimed monthly from NHS. Forecast to be c£11m
- Test and Trace Grant - £6.3m

Financial position

- Winter Grant (£3.9m) - direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic
- Contain Outbreak Management Fund - £4 per head/£8 per head dependent upon the "Tier" that an area is in
- Transport Funding – regular returns and new funding announcements made
- Sales Fees and Charges – quarterly claims submitted
- Food Payments – paid directly to District Councils for distribution

Financial position

- Additional funding announced as part of the spending review (SR20) and provisional settlement for 2021/22:
- £1.55bn additional expenditure pressures – LCC provisional allocation c£26m
- £670m council tax support (hardship fund) – LCC provisional allocation c£11.4m

Financial position

- £762m fund 75% of the irrecoverable loss of council tax and business rates in 2020/21 – LCC current forecast £20.7m
- Sales, fees and charges (SFC) compensation scheme to be extended into the first quarter of 2021/22. This is based on claims submitted on a quarterly basis.
- The short term position (in year) for the council is positive with COVID pressures expected to hit in the medium to long term.

Pan-Lancashire Working

- Still Co-ordinating activity through the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF)
- Multi agency working – includes district councils, emergency services, health, category 1 partners, military etc. plus government and LGA input
- The LRF is designed to play the lead co-ordinating role in emergency situations
- The activity has evolved to adapt to changing circumstances, we continue to model emerging trends and shaping potential responses – learning is shared and captured with other LRFs
- We continue to engage with with multiple national bodies to capture and share learning.

Next steps

- We remain in the response phase of this emergency - the position continues to evolve
- Recovery activity largely paused as we deal with the current wave.
- Services/staff continue to face significant pressures and the ongoing impact should not be underestimated

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 22 January 2021

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Misbah Mahmood, 01772 530818, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), Misbah.mahmood@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 the work programme is set out at Appendix A.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Review the work programme items due to come to future meetings of the committee (as detailed in Appendix A).
- ii. Discuss and identify any potential key discussion areas/questions for upcoming items.
- iii. Consider and agree sources of information including key cabinet members/officers/partners to invite for upcoming items.

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 other scrutiny committees to form a single combined work programme given that the primary focus of the scrutiny work programme as a whole is dedicated to the response of the Covid-19 pandemic. A copy of the work programme is set out at Appendix A.

It is important to note that the work programme needs to be flexible in order to accommodate any urgent items that may arise. The work programme will form a standing item on the agenda for the committee 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 senior officers have a clear focus in order to provide the relevant information.

In addition 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.

Members are asked to:

- i. Review and agree the work programme items for the committee (as at Appendix A).
- ii. Discuss and identify any potential key questions for upcoming items.
- iii. Consider and agree sources of information including key cabinet members/officers/partners to invite for upcoming items.

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		1. RIPA annual report 2. 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

Page 26	Month	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 		
		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

		EY Strategy and School Improvement Model) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools causing concern task group - update on recommendations 		Lancashire and Sefton areas (tbc) <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	**Family Safeguarding Model – update on implementation of model in Oct/Nov 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAMHS Redesign in Lancashire and South Cumbria – progress report (tbc) 		<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 	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)
	April	**SEND: Lancashire Breaktime update SEND Accelerated Progress Plan update Progress update on Pupils in special schools with medical conditions task group recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Credit – Welfare Rights Service update (tbc) Review of Community Safety Partnerships Governance arrangements 	-	Scrutiny of the Council's response to the Government's call for local councils to invest in street safety

Appendix A

Other Topics	Topics from work programmes 2019/20 not scheduled	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)	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) LEP – response to the pandemic – economic recovery plan incorporating 'green' principles Impact of pandemic on road safety and lessons learnt	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	Local Government Funding and Income Generation Task Group Update on Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire
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