

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Friday, 11th May, 2012 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item	
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1.	Apologies	
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2.	Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests	
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Members are asked to consider any Personal/Prejudicial 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 April 2012	(Pages 1 - 6)
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4.	Task Group Updates	(Pages 7 - 10)
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5.	Recent and Forthcoming Decisions	(Pages 11 - 12)
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6.	Workplan 2012/13	(Pages 13 - 20)
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7.	Urgent Business - Street Lighting	(Pages 21 - 22)
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This item was circulated prior to the meeting for reasons as set out in the minutes.

(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 Scrutiny Committee will be held on Friday 8 June 2012 at 10am at the County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 3

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 13th April, 2012 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor John Shedwick (Chair)

County Councillors

S Chapman	P Malpas
Mrs F Craig-Wilson	D O'Toole
C Crompton	Mrs L Oades
M Devaney	V Taylor
K Ellard	D Westley
Mrs J Hanson	B Winlow

1. Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None were disclosed.

2. Minutes of the Meetings held on 9 and 30 March 2012

It was reported that County Councillor Westley had been omitted from the attendance record on the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2012.

Resolved: That, subject to the inclusion of County Councillor Westley's attendance on the 9 March 2012 the minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 30 March 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Safeguarding children and young people in Lancashire

The Chair welcomed Helen Denton, Executive Director for Children and Young People, and Tony Morrissey, Head of Safeguarding Inspection and Audit, to the meeting.

The Committee received a report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Lancashire. The report also included details of internal scrutiny arrangements and the findings and judgements from recent inspections carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). A performance report in relation to key safeguarding measures was also presented. The Committee also received an update on the progress made against the recommendations of the meeting held on 9 December 2011 in relation to children looked after placed across boundaries.

With regard to the recent Ofsted inspection, it was reported that the inspectors had concluded that Lancashire's safeguarding and looked after children services were "good with outstanding features" judgement. There had been a significant focus on safeguarding arrangements, with many changes being implemented and additional resources committed. The inspection had also confirmed the council's own assessment of its services provided. The Executive Director praised the work carried out by staff on delivering safeguarding arrangements.

The Committee noted that the county council did not rely on the use of agency staff on delivering its services in relation to safeguarding arrangements. The council's social workers were trained in-house and their caseloads were continuously monitored.

The Committee was informed that the Head of Safeguarding Inspection and Audit's responsibilities were to ensure that services provided were robust and of the highest quality. It was reported that the council had undertaken a range of mock inspections across Lancashire involving frontline staff, families and service managers. Similar exercises had also been undertaken in relation to fostering and adoption services. Recognition of this innovative work internally had been far-reaching in that the council had been approached to undertake similar mock inspections for other authorities such as Warrington Borough Council.

The Committee noted that the small audit team was also responsible for monitoring certain human resources functions such as ensuring that recruitment and selection procedures were robust.

In relation to the safeguarding and quality assurance framework and the continued improvement of services, officers alongside the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) had chosen to focus their attention on the issue of neglect. It was decided that rather than investigate the issue from a quantitative perspective they would instead consider it from a qualitative approach carrying out interviews with parents and children and frontline staff. Questionnaires had also been distributed to staff across the directorate including School staff. Officers were currently assessing the outcomes of their findings and to determine when the council would need to intervene in a timely way. The Committee was informed that the council was hoping to host a conference on neglect in June/July to look at how this issue can be tackled across Lancashire.

A number of peer reviews had also taken place which focused on learning from practitioners and the sharing of best practice. Officers recognised that there were a number of areas in which they could improve on service delivery and would take such matters as outlined in the inspection report forward.

The Committee noted that the council would not be inspected in the next year and that the next unannounced inspection would take place in two to three years' time. The report also highlighted that the council's overview and scrutiny committees provided robust scrutiny of children's safeguarding services. Whilst the inspection report judged the council's services as good with outstanding features the Committee was reassured that the council would continue to improve and ensure that vulnerable groups were appropriately safeguarded. However, the

council recognised that there were some significant recommendations related to health matters in the report and that the Committee should consider how it might wish to monitor progress.

Councillors were offered the opportunity to shadow staff in their safeguarding roles.

The Chair congratulated the work of staff in the Children and Young People Directorate and on receiving a positive inspection report. The Chair was also pleased to see that the work of the overview and scrutiny committees had been acknowledged in the report. The Chair suggested that the Chairs and deputies of the three Scrutiny Committees determine which matters to take forward from the report and to update their workplans accordingly.

Councillors were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

- On social workers, one councillor asked how their workloads were managed and what powers they had to remove children. The Committee was informed that a sophisticated caseload management system was in place to monitor workloads. It was also explained that experience would dictate the caseload given to an employee. Practitioners were also on hand to monitor and mentor staff and to promote best practice. With regard to social workers' powers there were a number of methods to which they could apply to intervene such as emergency protection orders. However, with any method, they would have to be able to demonstrate that there was just reason to remove a child.
- One councillor enquired as to whether any developments had been made in relation to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH). The Committee was informed that a pilot operation had begun in Preston with a view to rolling out the approach across Lancashire. The concept which had originally started in Devon and Cornwall would involve a team of police, social care and health representatives to assist in the sign-posting and co-ordination of services in situations involving vulnerable children.
- Concern was expressed regarding areas for improvement in particular those relating to health matters. Concern was also expressed about the degree of accountability of the local health service, and how they could be encouraged to address the concerns of the CQC. The Committee was informed that the Executive Director worked closely with senior colleagues in the NHS and that meetings between the Executive Director and the Chief Executive of NHS Lancashire were also held on a regular basis.
- Members asked about private care homes and the council's level of control or influence over their operation. It was recognised that there was no general concern about the quality of private care and that Lancashire's private care provision was generally of a very high quality. It was explained that private care homes were registered and subject to Ofsted inspection.
- On the "Who cares?" report, the Committee was informed that progress in relation to the areas identified for action by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 December 2011 were set out on page 19 of the agenda.

- Members drew attention to a piece of scrutiny work recently carried out on adult safeguarding, which raised concerns that those agencies involved were not communicating with each other. It was felt that the MASH concept being developed in relation to children's safeguarding could be a positive way forward.

Resolved: That;

- i. The report and the arrangements in place to ensure children and young people are safeguarded be noted;
- ii. The present internal and external arrangements in place to monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Lancashire be noted;
- iii. The judgement by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in respect to their recent inspection of Lancashire's safeguarding and looked after children services be noted;
- iv. The Chairs and deputies of the three Scrutiny Committees meet to determine which matters to take forward from the report and to update their workplans accordingly.

4. Task Group Updates

The Committee received an update on current task groups and their proposed completion dates. It was reported that the Arts Funding Task Group would be formulating its recommendations at its next meeting. It was hoped that the final report of the task group would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in June.

Resolved: That the update on existing task groups be noted.

5. Recent and Forthcoming Decisions

The committee considered recent relevant decisions made and also forthcoming decisions including those set out in the current Forward Plan.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

6. Workplan 2012/13

The workplan for the committee was presented for noting and comments. The Chair gave an outline of the work to be carried out by the Committee over the coming months including the additional work agreed earlier in the meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on 11 May 2012 at 10:00am at County Hall, Preston. On behalf of the Committee, County Councillor Ellard, Deputy Chair, thanked the Chair for his chairmanship of the Committee over the past three years.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 4

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 11 May 2012

Electoral Division affected: None

Task Group Update

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Claire Evans 07917 836 698, Office of the Chief Executive,

claire.evans@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report has two purposes:

1. To update members on progress with existing Task and Finish Groups and impact of completed Task Group reports
2. To allow the Committee to consider any new proposals for Task Groups

There are no requests for new task groups this month.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the list of existing task groups, and comment as appropriate.

Background and Advice

In order to ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is kept informed of progress on Task Groups, this item will appear on each agenda.

For information, a list of existing Task Groups is attached as Appendix 'A' to this report. It is not intended that members feed back on all existing task groups, but members are invited to comment on any issues of particular significance.

All new requests for task groups will be considered under this item. As a standing item, this should ensure that there is always a timely response to requests without the need to resort to the Urgent Business Procedure.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management implications.

Financial, Legal, Equality and Diversity, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder, Personnel, Property Asset Management, Procurement, Traffic Management, CIA (policies and strategies only):

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny – Task and Finish Groups

May 2012

Current

Committee/Task Group	Chair	Proposed Completion Date
Scrutiny Committee		
Member Development	CC John Shedwick	Standing Group
Arts Funding in Lancashire	CC K Ellard	June 2012
Health Scrutiny Committee		
Steering Group	CC Maggie Skilling	Standing Group
Standing Joint Lancashire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	CC Keith Bailey	Standing Group
Dementia Pathway	CC F Craig-Wilson	June 2012
Education Scrutiny Committee		

Completed

Committee/Task Group	Completed	Next Steps
Scrutiny Committee		
Cross Boundary Looked After Children – "Who Cares?"	September 2011	Formal/final response April 2012
Health Scrutiny Committee		
Fylde Coast Health Economy Strategy	Nov 2011	Consultation proposals due to come to April Health Scrutiny Committee
Education Scrutiny Committee		

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 11 May 2012

Electoral Division affected: None

Recent and Forthcoming Decisions

Contact for further information:

Claire Evans 07917 836 698 Office of the Chief Executive,
claire.evans@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

To advise the committee about recent and forthcoming decisions relevant to the work of the committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to review the recent or forthcoming decisions and agree whether any should be the subject of further consideration by scrutiny.

Background and Advice

It is considered useful for scrutiny to receive information about decisions in the Forward Plan and decisions recently made by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members in areas relevant to the remit of the committee, in order that this can inform possible future areas of work.

Recent decisions taken by Cabinet Member or the Cabinet can be accessed here:
<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

Forthcoming decisions are included in the Forward Plan, which can be accessed here:
<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=244&RD=0>

The Forward Plan is published each month. It briefly describes matters likely to be subject to Key Decisions over the next four-month period. A Key Decision for this purpose is an Executive decision that:

- has significant effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions of the County Council without reference to a financial threshold.
- domestic decisions (affecting the internal workings of the Council) which have a financial impact on the Council of £1.4m or more.

The Forward Plan enables the public to see what Key Decisions are due, who will be taking them and when, and what consultation will occur.

This can also be found under "F" via the alphabetical search on the front page of the county council's website via the following link:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk>

The Forward Plan is presented to all scrutiny committees on each agenda. The onus is on individual Members to look at the Forward Plan using the links provided above and obtain further information from the officer(s) shown for any decisions which may be of interest to them. The Member may then raise for consideration by the Committee any relevant, proposed decision that he/she wishes the Committee to review.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management or other implications

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Agenda Item 6

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 11 May 2012

Electoral Division affected: None

Work Plan 2012/13

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Claire Evans 07917 836 698, Office of the Chief Executive,

claire.evans@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The plan at Appendix 'A' summarises the work to be undertaken by the Committee during 2012/13. The statement will be updated and presented to each meeting of the Committee for information.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to

- (i) note the report
- (ii) suggest topics for consideration in 2012/13.

Background and Advice

A statement of the current status of work being undertaken by the Committee is presented to each meeting for information.

As this is the final meeting in the council year, members are invited to submit topics for future scrutiny in 2012/13

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are not significant risk management implications.

Financial, Legal, Equality and Diversity, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder, Personnel, Property Asset Management, Procurement, Traffic Management, CIA (policies and strategies only):

N/A

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
N/A	N/A	N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Scrutiny Committee Workplan 2012 / 2013

Date of Meeting	Agenda setting	Chair's Briefing	Topic	Witness	Purpose/Key issues
11 May		9 May	Highways Agency?		Local Coordination, communication and consultation issues
8 June			Economic Development	Martin Kelly/Michael Welsh	Committee to scrutinise progress in outcomes from the EDF and achievements from a reoriented LCDL in support of it
			Apprenticeship Programme in Lancashire	Martin Kelly	
			Report of the "Arts Development Funding" Task Group	Cllr Kevin Ellard	
			Tourism?		

6 July			Crime and Disorder	Safer Lancashire Board	
14 Sep			Flooding Lower Alt with Crossens	Environment Agency	EA to respond to recommendations in task group report, in particular effectiveness of new public consultation arrangements
			United Utilities Electricity North West (ENW)		Street-lighting (ENW); flooding issues, bathing water quality
12 Oct					
9 Nov					
7 Dec					
18 Jan 2013			Youth Employment and Employability Strategy	Bob Stott/Martin Kelly	

8 Feb					
15 March					
19 April					

Possible future issues:

Item	Suggested Action	Notes
20mph zones – Update on Cab member decision Feb 2010 when plans more developed / or implemented	Note for information	Short note, giving timings for various actions
Utilities Companies: Street Lighting and road Reinstatements Environment Directorate Commissioning		United Utilities and Electricity North West <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking advice and guidance from Env. Dir. Ref: UU and ENW at Scrutiny Committee on 4 February: http://mgintranet/mgAi.aspx?ID=2059
Supporting People Programme; Partnership working	Note for information	
VCFS – Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector	Note for information	Update on previous Communities report. Particular interest in formal commissioning arrangements & monitoring
Working with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector in Services for Young People		Discussion with Cabinet Member for Young People with chairs & deputies of Scrutiny

Positive Life Style Choices (include Lancashire Alcohol Network)	Note for Information	
Traffic Regulation Orders	Report to Committee?	Interest expressed by the Chair Issues around cost of introducing TROs and levels of enforcement. Lancs Constabulary as witness?
Budget Scrutiny	Reports to Committee	Quarterly budget monitoring report (as supplied to Cabinet) – George Graham January 2012 – scrutiny of budget proposals, same process as previous year. Focus on impact of new budget changes/cuts NB 09/03/2012 as third one.
Corporate Strategy 2010-13 REFRESH		Lynne Johnstone

LINKS TO KEY DOCUMENTS/SITES

Lancashire County Council [Corporate Strategy](#)

Lancashire Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy [Ambition Lancashire](#)

Local Area Agreement [LAA](#)

Lancashire Children's Trust [Childrens Trust](#)

Children and Young Peoples' Plan [CYPP](#)

Joint Lancashire Transport Plan 2011-2021 [JLTP](#) Final sign off by Cabinet due March 2011

Safer Lancashire and Community Safety Agreement [CSA](#)

TOPICS ALREADY CONSIDERED

July 2010 – Impact Gvt Spending Reductions on Lancashire County Council
Youth Employment and Employability **TG report**

Sept 2010 – Subsidised Bus Services and Concessionary Travel
Highways Winter Maintenance

Oct 2010 – Impact of Gvt's £6.2bn Savings requirement on the county council
Private Children's Homes – task group established
Grit Bins
Lancashire Museums Service **TG report**

Nov 2010 - After Care for children who have been looked after by the county council
Road Safety for Children and Young People **TG** – Executive Response
Highways Winter Maintenance Service **TG** – Executive Response and Draft Plan

Dec 2010 – Role of LCC in local economic development: Economic Development Framework Strategy and LCDL

Jan 2011 – Scrutiny of Budget Proposals 2011/12-2013/14
Street-lighting – role and performance of county council

Feb 2011 – United Utilites – Roadworks and TMA; water management infrastructure;
Electricity North West - streetlighting

Mar 2011 - Crime and Disorder Scrutiny – evidence base for setting priorities; domestic violence/anti-social behaviour

April 2011 – Lancashire County Council Cultural Offer

- Cultural and Sport Strategy
- Cultural Services Restructure
- Museums Service **TG** – Executive Response
- Lancashire Records Office – Review and Action Plan

May 2011 – Corporate Communications Service

June 2011 – Arts Council Funding
Flood Risk Management

September 2011 – Winter Maintenance
"Who Cares?" – Cross Boundary Children task group report

October 2011 – Lancashire County Council's Cultural Offer
CYP Early Intervention and Prevention

November 2011 – Leaving Care Services

December 2011 – Budget monitor

"Who Cares?" task group report – Interim Executive Response

Local Economic Development – role and performance of county council

January 2012 – Budget Scrutiny

Youth Employment and Employability Strategy

Flooding of Lower Alt task group report

February 2012 – United Utilities – Streetworks and reinstatements

March 2012 – Supporting People Programme

Railway Improvement Schemes – final report

April 2012 – Safeguarding and Looked After Children Update

TASK GROUPS

Road Safety for Children and Young People – Completed

Youth Employment and Employability – Completed

Extending Use and Access to the Lancashire Museums Service

Cross Boundary Looked After Children, "Who Cares?" – (full Exec Response due March 2011)

Agenda Item 7

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 11 May 2012

Electoral Division affected: None

Urgent Business - Street Lighting

Contact for further information:

Claire Evans 07917 836 698, Office of the Chief Executive,

claire.evans@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

An update on arrangements for electricity connection and supply to street lighting in Lancashire.

The Committee was due to receive an update report from Electricity North West on Street Lighting. However, in light of changes to the provision of street lighting in Lancashire, the Chair has agreed that this item be presented under urgent business.

Recommendation

That the committee note the report.

Background and Advice

In February 2011, the committee received a presentation from United Utilities and Electricity North West. Amongst the issues discussed was street lighting, and the role of external organisations in supporting the work of the County council in this area.

Members will be provided with an update on the current arrangements for those issues relating to electricity connection and supply.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management implications.

Financial, Legal, Equality and Diversity, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder, Personnel, Property Asset Management, Procurement, Traffic Management, CIA (policies and strategies only):

N/A

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A