

Meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board

23 July 2024

Chair: County Councillor David Westley
Scrutiny Officer: Gary Halsall

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Budgeted Savings Tracker

The committee were presented with a report on the tracking and delivery of savings agreed by Full Council in the current and previous financial years.

Resolved: That the report be considered.

The County Council's Financial Position – 23/24 Outturn

The committee were presented with a report on The County Council's Financial Position – 2023/24 Outturn. The report highlighted the county councils overspend of £5.22m.

Resolved: That the report be considered.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 23/24

The committee were presented with the draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2023/24 which would be presented to Full Council on 17 October 2024 and published on the council's website.

Resolved: That the Draft Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2023/24 be approved.

Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes 2024/25

The committee was presented an overview of the work programmes for the Scrutiny Management Board and the four scrutiny committees for 2024/25.

Resolved: That the:

- i) Scrutiny Management Board's own work programme and those of the four scrutiny committees for 2024/25 be approved.
- ii) Request to establish an evidence day or task group to further investigate the partnership working topic in principle, be agreed.
- iii) Update on the activity of the Political Governance Working Group be noted.



Councillor Support Steering Group - Constitution, Membership, Terms of Reference, and Recent Activity

The Scrutiny Management Board was presented with a report of the Councillor Support Steering Group, including its Constitution and Terms of Reference and an outline of activity from its recent meeting. It was noted that there was a request to increase the size of membership of the steering group from 9 members to 11 members.

Resolved: That:

- i) The Membership, and Terms of Reference for the Councillor Support Steering Group be noted.
- ii) The report of the Councillor Support Steering Group be received.



Meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee 15 May 2024

Chair: County Councillor Sue Hind
Scrutiny Officer: Hannah Lysons

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Strengthening the Youth Offer across Lancashire

The committee was presented an overview on the key developments which have strengthened the youth offer in Lancashire. The report also included a review of the development of youth activities and services within the council and in partnership with the wider youth sector in Lancashire. Further to this, the report provided information on the specific youth provision available within the council's Targeted Youth Support provision.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families:

- i) Consideration be given to how the county council can further assist VCFS organisations across Lancashire in making successful grant bids.
- ii) Consideration be given to a method of communication such as a form to be sent out to county councillors, borough councils and parish councils regarding youth provision in local areas, in order to update the Youth Provision Audit on a regular basis.

Youth Justice Board Annual Report

The committee was presented with a report on the Child and Youth Justice Annual Plan, with information on the priorities for this year, progress made and the priorities for 2024/25.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families:

- i) Consideration be given to a benchmarking exercise to consider what Swansea have done to obtain a significant decrease in youth reoffending figures.
- ii) A breakdown of KPI figures and the data behind them for each area of Lancashire to help inform a more focused and targeted approach for the future.
- iii) For future reports, the actual figures to be provided along with percentage figures.



Annual Quality Assurance Checks

The committee received a report containing the Quality Assurance annual report and provided information on the progress made over the last 12 months regarding Quality Assurance activity across Children's Social Care (CSC).

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families:

- i) That the committee support the recommendations detailed in the report to strengthen the focus and drive in 2024 – 25:
 - a. Developing additional training for practitioners to understand the role and importance of Quality Assurance.
 - b. Further develop our children and families involvement in quality assurance and ensure their voice and views are heard and shared.
 - c. To work closely with the Principle Social Worker, Practice Development managers and Children's Safeguarding Partnership to ensure learning from findings are shared and that impact of learning is measured.

Lancashire Education Strategy 2025 - 2028

The committee received a report on the current position and priorities of the Education Strategy and the proposed move to a combined strategy of Education and Inclusion in 2025.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i) That the committee support the recommendations and priorities as detailed in the report to:
 - a. Ensure that the new Education Strategy for 2025 is focused on the whole journey of the child, not just academic progress.
 - b. Start consultation with families, children and schools around our next set of priorities.

Deep Dive Session in Inclusion April 2024

The committee received a report that provided information on a Deep Dive Session (informal meeting of the committee) that took place on 23 April 2024 which focused on Inclusion, what it meant to councillors and why it matters.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:



- i) That the committee support the suggestions and recommendations as detailed in the report to:
- a. Parent/Carers of SEND children to be invited to regular SEND Forums based at LCC Family Hubs allowing for face-to-face interaction regarding any concerns. (Important to be listened to in person rather than emailing and phone calls and a useful platform for parents/carers to meet socially over a coffee).
 - b. A unique record or book relating to each child – (as described by Brendan Lee in another meeting about safeguarding – so that parent/carers don't feel they have to start at the beginning each time with new people).
 - c. Consider best practice across the country which could inform our SEND provision, for example other local authorities who had digitised the EHCP. Best practice within Lancashire to be shared by those schools that had been identified as 'shining in their SEND provision' in the form of 'Twilight Inset' sessions for local clusters.
 - d. Key Performance Indicators to be used where possible to inform the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee about progress for SEND provision on a regular basis.
 - e. IEPs and SEN Support monitoring and exclusion monitoring could be used to reassure members and parents that children without an EHCP were being well supported.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Report

The committee was provided with the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman further to a complaint that was raised regarding the delays in issuing an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for a Lancashire resident.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i) That the committee review the issue in greater depth at a future meeting of the committee where a detailed report from the service be provided.



Meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee 9 September 2024

Chair: County Councillor Sue Hind
Scrutiny Officer: Hannah Lysons

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Report from the Service on the Ombudsman Report

On 21 April 2024 the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman upheld a complaint regarding the delayed issuing of a child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which impacted on their mental health. One of the actions of the Ombudsman was to share the outcome with the relevant Scrutiny Committee and the full decision from the Ombudsman was brought to the Committee on 15 May 2024.

Members were presented with a more detailed report on findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman report and the actions the service is taken as a result of the report.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i) A breakdown of data regarding how many complaints from 2023-24 remain outstanding, including how many go to tribunal and associated costs to the council.
- ii) Information on KPIs and data relating to the SEND helpline to be included on future reports.

SEND Update Report

Members were presented with a SEND update report on the progress made in improving communications for families in the SEND process.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i) Further detail to be provided to the Committee on service satisfaction levels.
- ii) Review be undertaken on the information currently available to parents and carers on the issuing on EHC Plans to ensure accessibility.
- iii) Review be undertaken of support from the faith and community sector in disseminating information relating to EHC Plans.



Meeting of the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

21 May 2024

Chair: County Councillor Ged Mirfin
Scrutiny Officer: Bryan Magan

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Draft LCC Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024/28

The committee received a report which set out the draft Cohesion and Integration Strategy for 2024 – 2028. The Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024/28 set out how the county council could develop stronger and more cohesive communities where communities could flourish, feel they belonged and to build a fairer and more inclusive County.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cultural Services:

- i) That consideration be given to the following suggestions made by the committee, prior to the LCC Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024 – 28 being presented to Cabinet for approval:
 - a. Amend wording under Section 8 of the Strategy - Cohesion and Integration Strategic Outcomes to say we are working towards the Vision of making Lancashire the best place to live, work, visit and prosper.
 - b. A benchmarking activity to take place to consider several other authorities and think tanks (as detailed in the minutes) to consider how other authorities are delivering in this area of work.
 - c. Include a section to the strategy which describes the Lancashire approach e.g. the work done in libraries, everyone matters and support for refugees.
 - d. Consideration be given to the district council's core strategies to consider what they say about Cohesion.
 - e. Consider the concept of super diversity within the strategy.
- ii) The Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024 – 28 be referred to the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee so consideration is given to Cohesion Education in Lancashire schools.



- iii) The Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024 – 28 be referred to the Adult and Health Scrutiny Committee so consideration is given to the health aspect of the strategy.
- iv) Work with the Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy on Partnership Working to identify those organisations where we can promote the issues of cohesion, diversity and inclusion across Lancashire.
- v) Consideration be given to the work of Cante, Casey and Khan when considering which KPIs will be used to measure progress of the strategy. Further to this, an update report to come back to the committee in 12 months' time with information on the detailed KPIs which will be used to measure success and progress on the strategy.

Draft Equality Objectives and Equality Strategy 2024/28

The committee received the Draft Equality Strategy 2024 - 2028. The strategy had been developed to support the further progress of the county council as an inclusive and respectful employer and a provider of inclusive services which met the needs of diverse communities.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cultural Services:

- i) That consideration be given to the following suggestions made by the committee, prior to the Draft Equality Objectives and Equality Strategy 2024 - 28 being presented to Cabinet for approval:
 - a. To amend wording in the Equality and Accessibility Strategy under Ensure Services are Inclusive and Accessible from Bus Improvement Plan to LCC Highways and Transport Strategy.
 - b. Amend wording in the strategy from Citizen to Resident.
- ii) The Equality Objectives and Equality Strategy 2024 - 28 to the Environment, Economic Growth, and Transport Scrutiny Committee for them to consider relevant elements such as ensuring services are inclusive and accessible, for example through the LCC Highways and Transport Strategy.
- iii) Consideration be given to using Webber Origins software by Richard Webber to do some profiling for Lancashire to help gain a better understanding of our workforce involving the Director of People.
- iv) If available, statistics about the number of people who have left the organisation due to abuse.



Meeting of the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

26 September 2024

Chair: County Councillor Ged Mirfin
Scrutiny Officer: Bryan Magan

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

National Portfolio Organisations

The committee received a report on how work to support Arts Council designated and funded National Portfolio Organisations (NPO's) were being supported within Lancashire and expectations on the next round of NPO funding in Lancashire.

Resolved: That:

- i. A briefing note be provided to the committee providing more information on:
 - a. Creative Lancashire and Arts Lancashire, including what the county council's involvement with these organisations were.
 - b. The Creative Step Programme, outlining its work and operations.
- ii. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Cultural Services gives consideration to writing a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner to seek support and continuation of the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund.

Review of Procurement Service

The report presented provided a review of the Procurement Service in the county council.

Resolved: That a future report be made to the committee, to include the following information:

- i. An update on the legislative framework in which procurement operates, the role of procurement and services in the associated activities including any relevant legislative changes and associated implications for the county council's approach.
- ii. Extended data concerning the County Council's spend data, including –
 - performance based on supplier locality and the approach taken to the delivery of social value. This information to detail key information by category (including by the following spend bands £1m - £5m; £500k - £1m; £250k - £500K; £100k - £500k; and below £50k); and identify how



many are Lancashire based with a significant presence in the county such as distribution sites and offices.

- identifying the multiple contracts that the organisations would possess in the future.
 - Financial stability /competence of the suppliers.
- iii. Consideration of the potential for development of an internal enhanced data base application.
 - iv. Benchmarking and learning opportunities and identify how the lessons learned have added value at the county council including the Contract Management and learnings that can be gleaned from Preston City Council's Community Wealth Building Model.
 - v. The potential future role of the Lancashire Business Board to promote and support the tendering process, and to offer guidance and support for organisations to help bid for contracts, as previously done by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.
 - vi. An update on the strategic approach to the contract management function. This information to detail the numbers of contractors working on site at County Hall and the working relationships with those staffs.
 - vii. An update on how well the Cabinet Office Centralised Single Platform system is working and the benefits it brings to the county council's processes.
 - viii. Assurances regarding governance, scrutiny and performance concerning procurement activity and the potential opportunities to enhance the same.



Meeting of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee

12 September 2024

Chair: County Councillor Rob Bailey
Scrutiny Officer: Gary Halsall

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Preparation of the Local Transport Plan 4

A presentation was provided on the preparation of the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP), a document that is a statutory requirement of authorities and a key enabler for economic development and housing growth. The report detailed the proposed objectives of the LTP 4, as well as challenges that were anticipated.

Resolved: That the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth be asked to consider:

- i) Reviewing and clarifying the definition of key centres.
- ii) The inclusion of connectivity issues beyond the administrative boundaries of the three upper tier authorities of Lancashire within the Local Transport Plan 4.

Bus Service Improvement Plan

A presentation was provided to the committee giving an overview of the Bus Service Improvement Plan. The report and presentation outlined the improvements that had been delivered to date and ambitions post 2025.

Resolved: That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be asked to consider:

- i) Giving more priority and funding to improving bus service provision in rural areas and provision in the Rossendale district.
- ii) Strengthening consultation with County Councillors on the bus service consultation process.
- iii) Reviewing and expanding the distribution list for the Enhanced Partnership Forum and to include County Councillors.

Public Realm Agreements – Progress Report

A progress report was presented to the committee on the implementation of agreed actions following the recommendations of the Public Realm Agreements Task Group



report as adopted by the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved: That:

- i) The progress report be noted.
- ii) A further progress report be scheduled at an appropriate time in 2025.
- iii) Budget allocations for 2024/25 and projected budget allocations for 2025/26 along with an updated list of Parish and Town Council allocations be circulated to all members of the Committee.



Meeting of the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee 8 May 2024

Chair: County Councillor David Westley
Scrutiny Officer: Samantha Parker

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Living Better Lives in Lancashire

The Committee received a presentation on the Adult Social Care vision for the Living Better Lives in Lancashire operating model.

Resolved: That the:

- i) Introduction of the Living Better Lives in Lancashire Practice Model through adoption of a strengths-based approach and the Wellbeing and Early Support operating system be supported.

That the following recommendations be considered by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care in the implementation of the Living Better Lives in Lancashire Practice Model:

- ii) Concerns raised as part of discussions, and as outlined in the body of the minutes, be incorporated.
- iii) All county councillors be provided with opportunity to feed into existing work being undertaken to identify services available from VCFSE sector across Lancashire.
- iv) A system of notification for councillors be identified and implemented to further support information sharing on VCFSE services to adult social care services.
- v) Discussions be held with UCLAN on work currently being undertaken to create directory of VCFSE services.
- vi) A review of implementation of the Living Better Lives in Lancashire Practice Model be undertaken at a future meeting of the committee.

Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Transforming Hospital Care and New Hospitals Programme Update

The Committee received an overview of the continued development of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), transforming care and the New Hospitals Programme.



Resolved: That:

- i) A more detailed update be provided in the Autumn to include site details.
- ii) Further detailed work be undertaken in consultation with the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer on aligning NHS forward plan of clinical reconfigurations with committee work programme for 2024/5.



Meeting of the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee 18 September 2024

Chair: County Councillor David Westley
Scrutiny Officer: Samantha Parker

NHS Shaping Care Together Update

The report and presentation circulated in the agenda pack provided information on the key points in the Shaping Care Together Programme, including the urgent and emergency care phase and the Case for Change's core elements. The presentation also provided committee members with further detail and a request to consider if these could constitute a substantial variation to services.

Resolved: That in considering the information presented, the Shaping Care Together Programme be agreed a substantial variation in principle, with a view to more detail on proposed options to be presented at a future meeting.

Speech and Language Assessment in Early Years Settings

The report circulated in the agenda pack provided information on work undertaken in Lancashire to support reduction in waiting times for speech and language therapy in Early Years settings, which is one of the 3 priorities to the Best Start in Life and the multi-disciplinary approach.

Resolved: That in considering the information:

- i) An update be provided at a later date to include the timescales for rollout.
- ii) Further evidence on 'all children' assessments be included as part of the update.

