

## Minutes

At a meeting of the Full Council held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston, on Thursday, 17th October, 2024

### Present:

County Councillor Tim Ashton (Chairman)

### County Councillors

T Aldridge	H Hartley	J Purcell
A Ali OBE	C Haythornthwaite	J Rear
U Arif	N Hennessy	S Rigby
N Aziz	S Hind	A Riggott
R Bailey	A Hindle	M Salter
S Barnes	S Holgate	A Schofield
J Berry	D Howarth	S Serridge
P Britcliffe	T Hurn	J Shedwick
P Buckley	M Iqbal MBE	J R Singleton JP
J Burrows	S Jones	S Smith
A Cheetham	A Kay	K Snape
S Clarke	H Khan	A Sutcliffe
A Clempson	N Khan	R Swarbrick
M Clifford	E Lewis	M Tomlinson
J Couperthwaite	S Malik	C Towneley
L Cox	M Maxwell-Scott	S Turner
A Cullens BEM	J Mein	A Vincent
M Dad BEM JP	G Mirfin	D Westley
F De Molfetta	S C Morris	A Whittaker
C Edwards	D O'Toole	S Whittam
J Fillis	J Oakes	P Williamson
A Gardiner	J Parr	R Woollam
J Gibson	M Pattison	B Yates
M Goulthorp	E Pope	
M Green	J Potter	

### 1. Apologies and Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Lorraine Beavers, Lizzi Collinge, Gina Dowding, Graham Gooch, Alan Hosker and Paul Rigby.



County Councillors Scott Cunliffe, Yousuf Motala and Lian Pate joined the meeting virtually.

### Death

The Chairman reported the death of former County Councillor Mrs Joyce Roach MBE who sadly passed away on 6 October 2024.

The Council observed a one-minute silence.

### King's Birthday Honours 2024

The Chairman congratulated Jane Phythian BEM, Education Improvement Service, for being awarded the British Empire Medal 'for Services to Schools and to Education in Lancashire' in the King's Birthday Honours 2024 and invited County Councillor Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to speak about Jane's work.

Jane Phythian joined the meeting virtually.

### Recognitions

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Alan Vincent, Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader), drew Full Council's attention to the recent success by the county council which had been the recipient of the Best Trained Workforce Award at the 2024 Menopause Friendly Employer Awards.

Members of staff from across the council involved in the award joined the meeting virtually.

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Peter Buckley, Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services drew Full Council's attention to the Classic FM Visiting Music Teacher of the Year Award which had been won by Helen Minshall, Musical Director for the Lancashire Youth Brass Band.

Helen Minshall and Tim Rogers, Head of Lancashire Music Service, joined the meeting virtually.

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, drew Full Council's attention to the recent success by the county council in being awarded the Circular Economy Achievement at the Annual Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee Awards 2024.

John Birch, Waste Management Service, joined the meeting virtually.

Full Council congratulated and thanked all those involved.



## Devolution Update

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Leader of the Council updated Full Council on Devolution and the establishment of a Combined County Authority.

### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None declared.

### **3. Report of the Employment Committee - Appointment of Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service and County Council's Returning Officer**

The Chairman informed Full Council that, in accordance with Standing Order B21.2, Item 6 - Report of the Employment Committee, was being brought forward to this point in the meeting.

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved a report setting out the recommendation of the Employment Committee from its meeting held on 18 July 2024 regarding the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service together with the proposed appointment of a Returning Officer for elections of councillors to the county council.

**Resolved:** - That:

- (i) The recommendation of the Employment Committee, as set out in the report, now presented, to appoint Mark Wynn to the role of Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service be approved.
- (ii) Subject to (i) above, Section 9.5 of the council's Constitution, which provides that the Head of Paid Service cannot be the Chief Financial Officer, be waived until a permanent appointment to the role of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service is confirmed, as set out in the report, now presented.
- (iii) Subject to (i) above, the appointment of Mark Wynn as Returning Officer for the election of councillors to the county council be approved, as set out in the report, now presented.

### **4. Public Question Time**

No questions were submitted.

### **5. Question Time**

County Councillors Carole Haythornthwaite, John Shedwick, Alan Cullens, and Joan Burrows asked their questions as follows:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Question From</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>For Answer By</b>
1.	County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite	Care Homes	Cabinet Member for Children and Families



2.	County Councillor John Shedwick	Schools and LCC 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
3.	County Councillor Alan Cullens	Employment Skills	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
4.	County Councillor Joan Burrows	Family Hubs	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

County Councillor Cosima Towneley, Cabinet Member for Children and Families; County Councillor Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills; and County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, replied.

Due to a time limit of 30 minutes for Question Time, the following questions were not asked and were subject to a written response by the relevant Cabinet Member, copied to all councillors:

5.	County Councillor Lorraine Cox	Youth Offer	Cabinet Member for Children and Families
6.	County Councillor Samara Barnes	Treat Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic	Cabinet Member for Children and Families
7.	County Councillor Noordad Aziz	Disposal of LCC Buildings	Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader)

## 6. Confirmation of the Minutes from the Meeting held on 23 May 2024

**Resolved:** - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## 7. Report of the Cabinet - Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25

County Councillor Cosima Towneley moved a report setting out the recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 3 October 2024 in respect of the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25.

**Resolved:** - That the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25, as set out at Annex '2' of the report, now presented, be approved.



## **8. Report of the Cabinet - Lancashire Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2028**

County Councillor Cosima Towneley moved a report setting out the recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 3 October 2024 in respect of the Lancashire Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2028.

**Resolved:** - That the Lancashire Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2028, as set out at Annex '1' of the report, now presented, be approved.

## **9. Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee - Amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25**

County Councillor Alan Schofield moved a report setting out the recommendation of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting held on 22 July 2024, regarding an amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25.

**Resolved:** - That the amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, as set out in the report, now presented, be approved.

## **10. Updates to the County Council's Constitution**

County Councillor Peter Buckley moved a report setting out the recommendation of the Political Governance Working Group from its meeting held on 26 September 2024 to update the Procurement Rules and the Committee Terms of Reference, plus any consequential changes to other sections of the Constitution, particularly the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Full Council Terms of Reference.

**Resolved:** - That:

- (i) The recommendation of the Political Governance Working Group at its meeting on 26 September 2024 to update the Procurement Rules and Committee Terms of Reference, as set out at Appendices 'A' - 'I' of the report, now presented, be approved.
- (ii) The Local Pensions Partnership Ltd Governance Panel Terms of Reference, as set out at Appendix 'J' of the report, now presented, be approved.
- (iii) The updated Scheme of Delegation to Officers, as set out at Appendix 'K' of the report, now presented, be approved.
- (iv) The update to the Terms of Reference for Full Council, as set out in the report, now presented, be approved.
- (v) The changes to the Constitution that have been made since the Annual Meeting on 23 May 2024, as set out at Appendix 'L' of the report, now presented, be noted.

## **11. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24**

County Councillor David Westley moved a report setting out the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24.



**Resolved:** - That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24 as set out in the report, now presented, be noted.

**12. Lancashire County Pension Fund Annual Report Year Ending 31 March 2024**

County Councillor Eddie Pope moved a report setting out the Lancashire County Pension Fund's annual report for the year ending 31 March 2024.

**Resolved:** - That the performance and state of the Lancashire County Pension Fund and investment activities for the year ending 31 March 2024 as set out in the report, now presented, be noted.

**13. Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Membership Change**

The Chairman informed Full Council that Item 13 had been withdrawn.

**14. Lancashire County Council Timetable of Meetings 2025/26**

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved a report setting out a draft timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings for the period 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026 and seeking approval to bring forward the meeting of Full Council on 29 May 2025 to 22 May 2025.

**Resolved:** - That:

- (i) The timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings for the period 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026 inclusive, as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report, now presented, be approved.
- (ii) The meeting of Full Council currently scheduled for 29 May 2025 be brought forward to 22 May 2025, as set out in the report, now presented.

**15. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business to be considered.

**16. Report of the Cabinet (Part B)**

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved the report of the Cabinet from its meetings on 6 June 2024, 11 July 2024, 5 September 2024 and 3 October 2024.

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Cabinet, now presented, be noted.

**17(a) The Urgency Committee**

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved the report of the Urgency Committee setting out details of the decision taken by the Director of Law and Governance (the Monitoring Officer) under the county council's urgent business procedure on behalf of the Urgency Committee.

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Urgency Committee, now presented, be noted.



### **17(b) The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee**

County Councillor Alan Schofield moved the report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting on 22 July 2024.

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, now presented, be noted.

### **17(c) The Employment Committee**

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved the report of the Employment Committee from its meetings on 18 July 2024 and 10 September 2024.

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Employment Committee, now presented, be noted.

### **17(d) The Pension Fund Committee**

County Councillor Eddie Pope moved the report of the Pension Fund Committee from its meetings on 14 June 2024 and 13 September 2024.

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Pension Fund Committee, now presented, be noted.

### **17(e) The Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

County Councillor David Westley moved the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees from their meetings as follows:

- Scrutiny Management Board (23 July 2024)
- Children, Families and Skills (15 May and 9 September 2024)
- Community, Cultural and Corporate Services (21 May and 26 September 2024)
- Environment, Economic Growth and Transport (12 September 2024)
- Health and Adult Services (8 May and 18 September 2024)

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, now presented, be noted.

### **17(f) The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**

County Councillor Michael Green moved the report of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board from its meetings on 7 May 2024, 15 July 2024 and 3 September 2024.

**Resolved:** - That the report of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board, now presented, be noted.

## **18. Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority**

County Councillor Nikki Hennessy moved the report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority from its meetings on 24 June 2024 and 16 September 2024.



**Resolved:** - That the report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, now presented, be noted.

## **19. To consider Notices of Motion Submitted under Standing Order B37**

### **Notice of Motion 1**

In a revised Notice of Motion it was moved by County Councillor Charles Edwards and seconded by County Councillor Ged Mirfin that:

This Council understands that the removal of the charitable status of private schools and charging VAT on private school fees will be brought forward in the Labour Government's Autumn Statement.

This Council believes this policy threatens the economic viability of Lancashire's 43 Private Schools, including Faith schools and SEND specialist units, and could lead to job losses for thousands of Lancashire residents including teachers and support workers.

The likely impact of this policy is the displacement of hundreds of pupils back into the state sector as a direct consequence of families being unable to afford the massive hike in school fees that would inevitably result.

This policy would not just affect private schools which of course would impact residents but also school place planning with increased pressure on Lancashire County Council, and it would also impact the Independent providers of SEND places, and the increased fees of those providers will inevitably fall on the Council to absorb.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Education and Skills and highlight the likely consequences of such a policy in Lancashire and strongly urge that the Government does not implement this measure.

On being put to the vote the Motion was CARRIED.

It was therefore:

**Resolved:** - That:

This Council understands that the removal of the charitable status of private schools and charging VAT on private school fees will be brought forward in the Labour Government's Autumn Statement.

This Council believes this policy threatens the economic viability of Lancashire's 43 Private Schools, including Faith schools and SEND specialist units, and could lead to job losses for thousands of Lancashire residents including teachers and support workers.





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This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Education and Skills and highlight the likely consequences of such a policy in Lancashire and strongly urge that the Government does not implement this measure.

## **Notice of Motion 2**

In a revised Notice of Motion it was moved by County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott and seconded by County Councillor Ron Woollam that:

This Council recognises local bank branches provide vital services to local communities, particularly in rural areas and that the disappearance of bank branches from the high street disproportionately affects the vulnerable and older populations and that every step should be taken to maintain these services for local families, communities and businesses.

The Council notes that banking hubs developed through Cash Access UK and Link offer an important alternative to traditional high street banks. However, the council is concerned that the rollout of such services is not happening quickly enough. Currently 101 banking hubs across the UK have been announced with 4 in Lancashire but so far only 40 banking hubs have been opened with 1 in Lancashire.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

- (i) Ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to Cash Access UK and Link to support applications for banking hubs in Lancashire towns where there is an identifiable need and a suitable location has been identified.
- (ii) Ask the Scrutiny Management Board to set up a working group to consider how best to liaise with banking organisations with a view to devising a model plan to accelerate delivery of banking hubs in the worst affected areas in Lancashire.
- (iii) Ask that the report of the working group be presented at Cabinet.

On being put to the vote the Motion was CARRIED.

It was therefore:

**Resolved:** - That:



This Council recognises local bank branches provide vital services to local communities, particularly in rural areas and that the disappearance of bank branches from the high street disproportionately affects the vulnerable and older populations and that every step should be taken to maintain these services for local families, communities and businesses.

The Council notes that banking hubs developed through Cash Access UK and Link offer an important alternative to traditional high street banks. However, the council is concerned that the rollout of such services is not happening quickly enough. Currently 101 banking hubs across the UK have been announced with 4 in Lancashire but so far only 40 banking hubs have been opened with 1 in Lancashire.

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- (iii) Ask that the report of the working group be presented at Cabinet.

### **Notice of Motion 3**

In a revised Notice of Motion it was moved by County Councillor Sue Whittam and seconded by County Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite that:

This Council notes that 1,112 knives were taken off the streets of Lancashire during one week of targeted action in November 2023, and there has been an increase in knife crime across the whole country. In 2023 the Criminal Justice Bill was introduced to give police more powers to tackle knife crime. The Government has also introduced a new law preventing the use of zombie-style knives and machetes.

This Council is aware that legislation alone cannot address the complex challenges of knife crime. A multi-agency approach is needed to remove dangerous knives from our streets and keep residents safe.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (i) To ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary welcoming the new law to ban zombie-style knives and machetes which are known to be used in many gang related crimes.
- (ii) To ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for confirmation that knife crime will continue to be a priority for the Police as per the previous Commissioner, and that Operation Centurion will continue with stop/search and stop/check as targeting those who carry these deadly weapons is vital in keeping people in Lancashire safe.



- (iii) To ask the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee to consider this Council's enforcement activity on the illegal sale of knives including to underage children, and opportunities for further communicating the danger of carrying knives.

On being put to the vote the Motion was CARRIED.

It was therefore:

**Resolved:** - That:

This Council notes that 1,112 knives were taken off the streets of Lancashire during one week of targeted action in November 2023, and there has been an increase in knife crime across the whole country. In 2023 the Criminal Justice Bill was introduced to give police more powers to tackle knife crime. The Government has also introduced a new law preventing the use of zombie-style knives and machetes.

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- (iii) To ask the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee to consider this Council's enforcement activity on the illegal sale of knives including to underage children, and opportunities for further communicating the danger of carrying knives.

#### **Notice of Motion 4**

It was moved by County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe and seconded by County Councillor Alan Cullens that:

Libraries Week is an annual celebration that highlights the transformative role of libraries and aims to showcase the central role libraries play in communities, emphasising inclusion, sustainability, social mobility, and community cohesion. This year, 'Green Libraries Week' runs from October 7th to 13th, focusing on climate and sustainability.

In Lancashire over the past 7 years, library provision has increased from 47 to 64 libraries – each providing a safe warm and welcome place in all of our communities. With over 2.5m visitors, 3.2m books loaned and 26,000 events delivered last year,



they are invaluable hubs which should always be protected, and initiatives such as Libraries Week demonstrate just how vital they are in reaching across all sections of society on a range of important issues.

This council therefore resolves:

- (i) To ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport requesting that additional funding be made available so that we can expand Lancashire's award-winning library provision even further.
- (ii) To continue promoting our libraries as places of sanctuary for refugees, the lonely and the vulnerable.
- (iii) To write to all the Library Friends Groups thanking them for their continued support of our library service.

On being put to the vote the Motion was CARRIED.

It was therefore:

**Resolved: - That:**

Libraries Week is an annual celebration that highlights the transformative role of libraries and aims to showcase the central role libraries play in communities, emphasising inclusion, sustainability, social mobility, and community cohesion. This year, 'Green Libraries Week' runs from October 7th to 13th, focusing on climate and sustainability.

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- (ii) To continue promoting our libraries as places of sanctuary for refugees, the lonely and the vulnerable.
- (iii) To write to all the Library Friends Groups thanking them for their continued support of our library service.



## **20. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved:** - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

## **21. Local Pensions Partnership Governance Review - Articles of Association**

County Councillor Eddie Pope moved a report setting out details of a review of the Local Pensions Partnership Limited Articles of Association.

**Resolved:** - That the recommendations as set out in the report, now presented, be approved.

Mark Wynn  
(Interim) Chief Executive

County Hall  
Preston

