

Minutes

At a meeting of the Full Council held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston,
on Thursday, 25th February, 2021

Present:

County Councillor Susie Charles (Chairman)

County Councillors

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| T Aldridge | J Fillis | J Parr |
| A Ali OBE | A Gardiner | M Pattison |
| T Ashton | J Gibson | M Perks |
| A Atkinson | G Gooch | E Pope |
| L Beavers | M Green | J Potter |
| J Berry | P V Greenall | J Purcell |
| P Britcliffe | P Hayhurst | J Rear |
| I Brown | N Hennessy | P Rigby |
| P Buckley | S Holgate | A Riggott |
| T Burns MBE | A Hosker | M Salter |
| J Burrows | D Howarth | A Schofield |
| A Cheetham | K Iddon | J Shedwick |
| S Clarke | M Iqbal MBE | D T Smith |
| A Clempson | A Kay | K Snape |
| L Collinge | H Khan | A Snowden |
| J Cooney | E Lewis | D Stansfield |
| L Cox | S Malik | P Steen |
| C Crompton | J Marsh | J Sumner |
| M Dad | T Martin | M Tomlinson |
| B Dawson MBE | J Mein | C Towneley |
| F De Molfetta | J Molineux | S Turner |
| G Dowding | S C Morris | A Vincent |
| G Driver | Y Motala | C Wakeford |
| J Eaton BEM | E Nash | D Whipp |
| C Edwards | D O'Toole | G Wilkins |
| K Ellard | G Oliver | P Williamson |
| D Foxcroft | M Parkinson OBE | B Yates |

1. Apologies and Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Liz Oades.

Announcements

County Council Elections 2021

The Chairman acknowledged that this was likely to be the last meeting of the Full Council in this municipal year and the last meeting before the county council elections on 6 May. There were a number of Members who would not be standing for re-election and the Chairman took this opportunity to record the county council's appreciation for the many years of service provided by those Members and conveyed the council's best wishes to them for the future.

County Councillor Azhar Ali and County Councillor Geoff Driver also paid tribute to the service of those Members not standing again.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

3. Question Time

County Councillors Charles Edwards; Gillian Oliver; Gina Dowding, Tim Ashton and Paul Greenall asked their respective Questions as follows:

| No. | Question From | Subject | For Answer By |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | County Councillor Charles Edwards | Support for Small Businesses during the COVID-19 Pandemic | Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Environment and Planning |
| 2. | County Councillor Gillian Oliver | Laptops for Schools during Lockdown | Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools |
| 3. | County Councillor Gina Dowding | ME and COVID-19 | Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing |
| 4. | County Councillor Tim Ashton | Quiet Streets | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport |
| 5. | County Councillor Paul Greenall | Public Realm in West Lancashire East | Leader of the County Council |

County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Environment and Planning; County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools; County Councillor Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing; County Councillor Keith

Iddon, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport; and County Councillor Geoff Driver, Leader of the County Council, replied respectively

4. Confirmation of the Minutes from the Meetings held on 17 December 2020 and 11 February 2021, and from the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11 February 2021

Resolved: - That the minutes of the meetings held on 17 December 2020 and 11 February 2021, and of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11 February 2021, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee (Part A)

County Councillor Alan Schofield moved a report setting out the recommendations of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members.

Resolved: - That:

- (i) The changes proposed to the Code of Conduct as detailed in Appendices 'A' and 'B' to the report to Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, now presented, be approved.
- (ii) The Local Government Association model Code of Conduct be considered further by the Political Governance Working Group, with recommendations from that group being considered by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee to agree recommendations to Full Council.

6. Members' Allowance Scheme 2021/22

County Councillor Keith Iddon moved a report setting out the proposed Members' Allowance Scheme for 2021/22.

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor David Whipp, seconded by County Councillor David Howarth:

That Special Responsibility Allowances be reduced by 10%.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Paul Greenall, seconded by County Councillor Mark Perks:

1. Section 8.6 of the members allowance scheme (p.85) be deleted as members should not be able to claim travel expenses for attending meetings at County Hall, as that should be regarded as being included in their basic allowance.

2. As per schedule B on p.90, special responsibility allowances for all group Whips and Secretaries should cease with immediate effect.
3. As per schedule B on p.90, special responsibility allowances for all Lead Members and Champions should cease with immediate effect.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That the 2021/22 Members' Allowance Scheme, as presented at Appendix 'A' to the report, now presented, be approved.

7. Independent Remuneration Panel Membership

County Councillor Keith Iddon moved a report setting out a proposal for the appointment of a new member of the Independent Remuneration Panel, following an open recruitment process and interviews.

Resolved: - That the appointment of Ms Lisa Strapps to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel for a four-year term with effect from 25 February 2021, as set out in the report, now presented, be approved.

8. The Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

County Councillor Geoff Driver moved a report setting out the council's proposed 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement as required by the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved: - That the recommendations of the Employment Committee be noted and that the 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement, as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report, now presented, be approved.

9. Financial Threshold for Key Decisions

County Councillor Geoff Driver moved a report setting out the proposed financial threshold above which decisions should be treated as Key Decisions as defined in Standing Order C19 (1) (a).

Resolved: - That the financial threshold for Key Decisions, for the purposes of Standing Order C19 (1) (a), remaining at £1.7m for 2021/22, as set out in the report, now presented, be confirmed.

10. Delegation of Pension Administration Functions: London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to Lancashire County Council

County Councillor Eddie Pope moved a report setting out a proposal that Lancashire County Council agrees to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham delegating its pension fund administration function to Lancashire County Council pursuant to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved: - That:

- (i) Agreement be given to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham delegating its pension fund administration function to Lancashire County Council pursuant to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 subject to the council entering into appropriate legal agreements with the parties, as set out in the report, now presented.
- (ii) The Director of Corporate Services be authorised to agree the final legal agreement on behalf of the Council, as set out in the report, now presented.

11. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to be considered.

12. Report of the Cabinet (Part B)

County Councillor Geoff Driver moved the report of the Cabinet from its meetings on 14 January 2021 and 4 February 2021, together with details of urgent Key Decisions taken since the last meeting of Full Council.

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

13(a) The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee

County Councillor Alan Schofield moved the report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting on 25 January 2021. In moving the report, County Councillor Schofield drew Full Council's attention to an error on page 154 where the dates in the section relating to the 'External Audit - Audit Progress Report and Sector Update' should read '2020/21'.

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

13(b) The Employment Committee

County Councillor Geoff Driver moved the report of the Employment Committee from its meeting on 8 February 2021.

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

13(c) The Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - 16 December 2020, 13 January 2021 and 2 February 2021

External Scrutiny Committee - 12 January 2021

Health Scrutiny Committee - 15 December 2020 and 2 February 2021

Internal Scrutiny Committee - 22 January 2021

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

13(d) The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

County Councillor Shaun Turner moved the report of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board from its meeting on 19 January 2021.

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

14. Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

County Councillor Frank De Molfetta moved the report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority from its meeting on 14 December 2020.

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

15. To consider Notices of Motion Submitted under Standing Order B36

1. It was moved by County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and seconded by County Councillor Michael Green that:

This Council extends its sympathies and condolences to all our residents and families who have lost loved ones in the COVID-19 pandemic. Council commends everyone across the County, including many of our own staff, who have stepped forward during the last twelve months to provide help, assistance and support to all in our community in such difficult times. In doing so, this Council supports the efforts of South Ribble resident Rachael Lidgett's campaign to mark March 23rd as a day of national remembrance of all those who have died as a result of COVID-19. This Council further commits to provide publicity to the ongoing campaign and petition via its normal communications outlets.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

This Council extends its sympathies and condolences to all our residents and families who have lost loved ones in the COVID-19 pandemic. Council commends everyone across the County, including many of our own staff, who have stepped forward during the last twelve months to provide help, assistance and support to all in our community in such difficult times. In doing so, this Council supports the efforts of South Ribble resident Rachael Lidgett's campaign to mark March 23rd as a day of national remembrance of all those who have died as a result of COVID-19. This Council further commits to provide publicity to the ongoing campaign and petition via its normal communications outlets.

2. It was moved by County Councillor Julie Gibson and seconded by County Councillor Shaun Turner that:

This Council notes that between January and August 2020, there was a 74.05% increase in households in Lancashire applying for Universal Credit (figures from the meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee, 12 January 2021).

This Council notes the percentage of unemployment claimants in Lancashire at November 2020 stood at 5.9% (43,430 people) an increase from 5.7% (42,440 people) in October (figures from NOMIS ONS website) and that most of these claimants will have applied for Universal Credit for the first time.

This Council recognises the introduction of the £20.00 uplift by the Chancellor which was introduced to help with the worst effects of the pandemic.

This Council questions why this vital uplift is to be removed in April when Lancashire, along with many other areas, is still in the middle of one of the worst pandemics.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, The Right Honourable Therese Coffey MP to:

- (i) Highlight the rising cases of Universal Credit applications across Lancashire.
- (ii) Ask her to retain the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit permanently.

The following friendly amendment was proposed by County Councillor Shaun Turner in accordance with Standing Order B42:

This Council notes that between January and August 2020, there was a 74.05% increase in households in Lancashire applying for Universal Credit (figures from the meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee, 12 January 2021).

This Council notes the percentage of unemployment claimants in Lancashire at November 2020 stood at 5.9% (43,430 people) an increase from 5.7% (42,440 people) in October (figures from NOMIS ONS website) and that most of these claimants will have applied for Universal Credit for the first time.

This Council commends the £20.00 uplift in Universal Credit by the Chancellor which was introduced to help with the worst effects of the pandemic.

This Council recognises the positive impact this vital uplift has had and will continue to have as we move toward a post pandemic recovery.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, The Right Honourable Therese Coffey MP to:

- (i) Highlight the rising cases of Universal Credit applications across Lancashire.
- (ii) Ask her to retain the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit permanently.

The friendly amendment was accepted by County Councillor Gibson and became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion, as amended by County Councillor Turner's friendly amendment, was then put to the vote and was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

This Council notes that between January and August 2020, there was a 74.05% increase in households in Lancashire applying for Universal Credit (figures from the meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee, 12 January 2021).

This Council notes the percentage of unemployment claimants in Lancashire at November 2020 stood at 5.9% (43,430 people) an increase from 5.7% (42,440 people) in October (figures from NOMIS ONS website) and that most of these claimants will have applied for Universal Credit for the first time.

This Council commends the £20.00 uplift in Universal Credit by the Chancellor which was introduced to help with the worst effects of the pandemic.

This Council recognises the positive impact this vital uplift has had and will continue to have as we move toward a post pandemic recovery.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, The Right Honourable Therese Coffey MP to:

- (i) Highlight the rising cases of Universal Credit applications across Lancashire.
- (ii) Ask her to retain the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit permanently.

3. It was moved by County Councillor Jayne Rear and seconded by County Councillor Andrew Snowden that:

Council is concerned that notwithstanding the countywide 20mph speed limit in residential areas, there is mounting concern amongst residents of increased incidents of speeding traffic.

In addition to the 20mph areas, the county council has introduced other safety features at speeding 'hotspots' such as our Community Concern signs, etc. Through the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) we will soon be deploying four Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) Trailers that have been purchased by the county council. These four mobile units along with the two already deployed by the police will give clear messages urging motorists to slow down. This will also give us much better coverage of the road network, with the partnership being able to cover more sites and giving us the capability to show different messages.

However, ultimately, the responsibility for controlling speeding traffic rests with the Police and the county council is concerned that more could be done to control this problem. The county council wants to continue to work in partnership, especially given the additional investment we are making, to do everything we can to keep our roads safe.

Council therefore resolves to request the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to seek assurances from the Chief Constable that Lancashire Constabulary is treating the problem of speeding traffic as a priority and to inform the county council what measures he proposes to minimise the risk to the people of Lancashire, including how we can work in partnership to continue to further raise awareness.

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Lorraine Beavers and seconded by County Councillor Jean Parr:

Council is concerned that notwithstanding the countywide 20mph speed limit in residential areas, there is mounting concern amongst residents of increased incidents of speeding traffic.

In addition to the 20mph areas, the county council has introduced other safety features at speeding 'hotspots' such as our Community Concern signs, etc. Through the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) we will soon be deploying four Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) Trailers that have been purchased by the county council. These four mobile units along with the two already deployed by the police will give clear messages urging motorists to slow down. This will also give us much better coverage of the road network, with the partnership being able to cover more sites and giving us the capability to show different messages.

However, ultimately, the responsibility for controlling speeding traffic rests with the Police and the county council is concerned that more could be done to control this problem. The county council wants to continue to work in partnership, especially given the additional investment we are making, to do everything we can to keep our roads safe.

Council therefore resolves:

- (i) To request the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to seek assurances from the Chief Constable that Lancashire Constabulary is treating the problem of speeding traffic as a priority and to inform the county council what measures he proposes to minimise the risk to the people of Lancashire, including how we can work in partnership to continue to further raise awareness.
- (ii) That we agree that road safety is a concern and more could be done. But the answer has to be having sufficient resources to deal with this issue and many others and, with that in mind, we request that the Chief Executive and Director of Resources writes to the Home Secretary and demands Lancashire's fair share of the increase in funding for Policing.

Following a brief adjournment, County Councillor Rear accepted the amendment subject to the final section of (ii) being as follows:

"..... we request that the Chief Executive and Director of Resources writes to the Home Secretary to request continued investment in Lancashire Policing be made available".

County Councillor Beavers indicated her support for the revised wording above which then became the substantive motion.

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Gina Dowding and seconded by County Councillor Paul Hayhurst:

After the second paragraph, insert:

Lancashire County Council recognises that a consistent speed limit of 20 mph throughout urban areas, and not just on residential streets, could have many benefits in tackling speeding as it encourages a driver culture of adopting slower and calmer speeds.

It agrees therefore to respond positively for the call from Lancaster City Council to pilot an area wide 20mph speed limit in Lancaster which includes the A roads through the centre of the city.

The remainder of the motion to remain as drafted.

On being put to the vote, the motion was LOST.

The substantive motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

Council is concerned that notwithstanding the countywide 20mph speed limit in residential areas, there is mounting concern amongst residents of increased incidents of speeding traffic.

In addition to the 20mph areas, the county council has introduced other safety features at speeding 'hotspots' such as our Community Concern signs, etc. Through the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) we will soon be deploying four Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) Trailers that have been purchased by the county council. These four mobile units along with the two already deployed by the police will give clear messages urging motorists to slow down. This will also give us much better coverage of the road network, with the partnership being able to cover more sites and giving us the capability to show different messages.

However, ultimately, the responsibility for controlling speeding traffic rests with the Police and the county council is concerned that more could be done to control this problem. The county council wants to continue to work in partnership, especially given the additional investment we are making, to do everything we can to keep our roads safe.

Council therefore resolves:

- i. To request the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to seek assurances from the Chief Constable that Lancashire Constabulary is treating the problem of speeding traffic as a priority and to inform the county council what measures he proposes to minimise the risk to the people of Lancashire, including how we can work in partnership to continue to further raise awareness.
- ii. That we agree that road safety is a concern and more could be done. But the answer has to be having sufficient resources to deal with this issue and many others and, with that in mind, we request that the Chief Executive and Director of Resources writes to the Home Secretary to request continued investment in Lancashire Policing be made available.

4. It was moved by County Councillor David Foxcroft and seconded by County Councillor Ian Brown that:

Special Guardianship Orders now make up 13% of the permanency arrangements for children leaving care - greater than adoption at 12%. Special Guardianship Orders, and other less formal arrangements for looking after children who may otherwise be received into care, offer the children concerned opportunities to remain within their extended families or with close family friends. If you adopt you are entitled to statutory adoption leave which is equivalent to maternity leave. If you become a special guardian then, despite the benefits it has for the children involved, you are entitled to no statutory paid leave. Council believes the council could do more to encourage and support the uptake of Special Guardianship Orders and resolves to:

- (i) Request that the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services advocates nationally for better national standards on leave for parents undertaking Special Guardianship Orders.
- (ii) Request that the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, in conjunction with the Director of Corporate Services, explores how the council, as employer, might support staff who are considering becoming Special Guardians and to report proposals to the Corporate Parenting Board and thereafter the Employment Committee.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

Special Guardianship Orders now make up 13% of the permanency arrangements for children leaving care - greater than adoption at 12%. Special Guardianship Orders, and other less formal arrangements for looking after children who may otherwise be received into care, offer the children concerned opportunities to remain within their extended families or with close family friends. If you adopt you are entitled to statutory adoption leave which is equivalent to maternity leave. If you become a special guardian then, despite the benefits it has for the children involved, you are entitled to no statutory paid leave. Council believes the council could do more to encourage and support the uptake of Special Guardianship Orders and resolves to:

- (i) Request that the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services advocates nationally for better national standards on leave for parents undertaking Special Guardianship Orders.
- (ii) Request that the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, in conjunction with the Director of Corporate Services, explores how the council, as employer, might support staff who are considering becoming Special Guardians and to report proposals to the Corporate Parenting Board and thereafter the Employment Committee.

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive and Director
of Resources

County Hall
Preston