

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Friday, 5th March, 2021 at 10.00 am to be held as a Virtual Teams Meeting

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No. Item

1. Apologies

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2021 (Pages 1 - 6)

4. Staff Welfare and Wellbeing (Pages 7 - 8)

5. Overview and Scrutiny Work Planning 2020/21 (Pages 9 - 14)

6. Urgent Business

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee will be held on 16 April 2021 at 10:00am.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 22nd January, 2021 at 10.00 am in Skype Virtual Meeting - Skype

Present:

County Councillor David O'Toole (Chair)

County Councillors

M Salter	E Lewis
T Ashton	P Rigby
C Crompton	P Steen
D Foxcroft	D Whipp
S Holgate	G Wilkins

1. Apologies

None were received.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

County Councillor Erica Lewis declared a non-pecuniary interest for Item 4 – Update on Lancashire's response to Covid-19, as she was the Leader of Lancaster City Council and its Covid response.

County Councillor David Whipp declared a non-pecuniary interest for Item 4 – Update on Lancashire's response to Covid-19, as he was Deputy Leader of Pendle Borough Council and leader of its Covid response.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2020

Resolved: The minutes from the meeting held on 13 November 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Update on Lancashire's Response to Covid-19

The Chair welcomed to the meeting County Councillor Keith Iddon, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport; County Councillor Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing; County Councillor Graham Gooch, Cabinet Member for Adult Services; County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools; Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive & Director of Resources; Stephen Young, Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport & Community Services; and Josh Mynott, Democratic and Member Services Manager.

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

Each Cabinet Member delivered an update to the Internal Scrutiny Committee on what had been happening in their own portfolio area during the pandemic and thanked all Lancashire County Council staff for their hard work and dedication during the pandemic.

Regarding the Highways Team, all services were now being delivered, some working methods had changed and changes had been made to keep services going. Lateral Flow Testing had been introduced at the depots and workshops to identify staff with Covid symptoms. The Fleet Workshop had worked hard to keep all the vehicles out and the Grit Teams had been working around the clock since Christmas to keep the roads clear. Due to the heavy rain extra gully cleaning vehicles had been brought in.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- There was concern about secondary routes not being gritted. It was pointed out that it had been a difficult year with the weather but secondary routes were important. The Highways Team served the public as best it could and when the team was able to it would clear and grit secondary routes.
- A question around excessive exclusion zones outside some Covid test centres was raised The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport informed the committee he would look at this and report back to members.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing explained that cases of Covid infections in young people was at its highest point since the start of the pandemic. The main areas of exposure were in health care, shops and workplaces. The police were being firmer with fines for people not obeying the rules. The NHS were being supported by local authorities in the distribution of vaccines and mass vaccination had begun. Vaccinations in all care homes in Lancashire would hopefully be completed by Sunday 24 January 2021 and all over 50's would hopefully be vaccinated by the middle of March 2021. 24,000 people a week were currently being tested in Lancashire. Lancashire County council had applied for military support to help with the testing.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- Members stated how pleased they were with the performance in delivering the vaccine in Lancashire. This was down to good collaborative working across the local authorities and different organisations including NHS partners and voluntary partners.
- There was concern about vaccine supplies for Lancashire and there was uncertainty around when the next set of vaccine supplies would arrive.

This would have an impact on Primary Care Services as they were a vital part in delivering vaccinations.

- The issue of vaccinations for vulnerable and homeless people was raised. The committee was informed that the Public Health Team was compiling a list of these people and work was in progress regarding vaccinations.
- There was a lot of work being done around hospital discharges. Discussions were taking place between the county council's Adult Social Care Team and hospitals. Patients being discharged from hospitals to care homes were now being tested.
- A question was raised in regards to sheltered accommodation and housing associations and how they were operating in relation to Covid and whether residents were being vaccinated as a number of them were over 65. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing would come back to the committee on this.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services pointed out a number of creative measures were being put in place in care settings in Lancashire to maintain family contact. A task and finish group had been set up to report to the Lancashire Resilience Forum on visiting guidance for care homes. Designated visiting rooms which would be sanitised were also considered. There would be a schedule of time limited appointments and clinically approved PPE for visitors and supervisors and there would be risk assessments undertaken for care homes. Funding had been received from Government for the installation of visiting rooms and PPE. All county council care homes had their installations completed before Christmas 2020.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- It was stated that it was refreshing to see Lancashire County Council and the Health Service breaking down barriers and restrictions in terms of working together during the pandemic.
- Members enquired if the people running Extra Care Units were given different advice than the advice given to county council care homes and independently run care homes. People in Extra Care Units were in domiciliary care provided by outside care organisations, they would have to follow the advice of people living independently.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools stated that a detailed update had been presented to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that Covid had brought challenges in terms of safeguarding. There was an upcoming Ofsted review in terms of the approach to dealing with the pandemic.

Regarding education, it had been very challenging but the teams were working well. As much support as was possible was being given to Lancashire schools and the teachers, staff and governing bodies were working hard to keep the schools open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

The Chief Executive, Angie Ridgwell, updated the committee with a presentation on Lancashire's response to Covid-19.

The county council had now reopened most of its services, some services such as day services, libraries, museums and registrars had been pulled back significantly in line with national lockdown requirements.

Members were informed that since Christmas 2020, county council staff sickness levels had started to rise again, this was in line with the national picture as infection rates increased. The committee were informed that currently 7.75% of staff were on sick leave or unable to work.

Lancashire County Council had played a significant role in the testing strategy. It had worked closely with the district council's to provide targeted SMART testing. Due to the success of the testing model it was being taken up nationally.

In terms of vaccinations Lancashire County Council had been supporting its health colleagues. Vaccines were managed by the NHS and the county council was able to make suggestions and seek influences.

There had been a number of Covid Bite Size Briefings for county councillors and all Lancashire Leaders and Lancashire MPs were briefed regularly through the Lancashire Resilience Forum.

An update was presented to members in regards to the county council's financial position. Whilst there was concern on the authority's Medium Term Financial Position, it was noted that the county council had good reserves and was in a strong position compared to other local authorities.

Lancashire County Council continued to work hard and respond positively. A lot of progress was being made and recognised nationally.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- Praise and thanks was given to all Lancashire County Council staff for the work they were doing during the pandemic.
- There was concern over the increase in staff absence numbers. There had been more impact on frontline services. The authority was recording absences for those staff that were self-isolating and not working, those that were self-isolating and working, those were absent due to Covid, and employees who could not work due to looking after dependents.
- It was commented that it was felt that the position had improved regarding democratic involvement, decision making had to be as open and transparent as possible.
- One area where there were still challenges was around Development Control meetings and it was reported that district and parish councillors were not allowed to speak at them. It was noted that wherever possible direct speaking should be allowed. With the roll out of Microsoft Teams

district councillors, parish councillors and members of the public would be able to speak at Development Control meetings.

- It was pointed out that at the moment there was a lot of economic evaluation taking place. A Ministerial Task Force had been set up to explore the impact of the pandemic on the Lancashire economy. The impact on the economy in Lancashire was unprecedented and it had seen a huge downturn. The county council had submitted a recovery plan to Central Government. It was suggested that a Bite Size Briefing on Lancashire's economy would be useful.
- Members enquired why they were not allowed access to attend the meetings of the Lancashire Outbreak Engagement Board if they were not a member of it. The intent of the board was to encourage engagement of the public to follow the Covid rules. It was clarified that any member should be able to attend but only members of the board could speak.
- There was concern over the upcoming elections in terms of safety and the plausibility of them taking place. There had to be a safe environment to vote and the safety of staff was vital. The restraints on campaigning would make it difficult for politicians.
- Regarding Lateral Flow Testing, it was pointed out that the accuracy issue still remained. The testing model rolled out enabled larger businesses to take tests on a regular basis. Working with smaller businesses was more problematic.
- Small businesses were struggling in the pandemic and the authority was doing its best to support them. It was stated that district councils had been given money to support businesses.
- Regarding Lancashire County Council's financial outlook, it was felt that authority was in a strong and sustainable position. The question of how the authority compared with other county councils financially was raised. The Chief Executive would ask for information on how the authority compared with other county councils and this information would be shared with members when available.

Resolved: The Internal Scrutiny Committee noted the update on Lancashire's response to Covid-19.

5. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

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

Requests for future items to be considered for the work programme included the following:

- How Lancashire County Council was planning for recovery in terms of the economy and social aspects.
- The welfare and wellbeing of Lancashire County Council staff and how they were being supported.
- An update on how Lancashire was meeting its low carbon targets.

- How Lancashire County Council was dealing with drainage issues.

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

6. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next virtual meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee would take place on Friday 5 March 2021 at 10.00am.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 5 March 2021

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Staff Welfare and Wellbeing

(Presentation to follow)

Contact for further information:

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

Executive Summary

At the January 2021 meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee a request was made for an item to be considered on the welfare and wellbeing of staff, in light of the ongoing pandemic.

A presentation (to follow) will be provided to Members to highlight the various aspects of work that has been ongoing during the pandemic to help and support staff of the county council with their welfare and wellbeing.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update.

Background and Advice

The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has had an impact on everyone's lives over the past 12 months. At the last meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee a request was made for an item to be considered on the welfare and wellbeing of staff, in light of the ongoing pandemic.

Deborah Barrow, Head of Service Human Resources, Andrea Smith, Public Health Specialist and Karen Smith, Employee Support Team Leader will attend the virtual meeting of Internal Scrutiny Committee to give committee members an update on what has been happening over the past 12 months to help and support employees of the county council with their welfare and wellbeing.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, County Councillor Shaun Turner will also be in attendance.

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 5 March 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the single combined work programme for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees. A copy of the work programme is set out at Appendix A.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

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

Background and Advice

The Covid-19 pandemic has required members and officers to work differently and the wider context has also meant that priorities have changed or shifted in emphasis.

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

It is important to note that the work programme needs to be flexible in order to accommodate any urgent items that may arise. The work programme will form a standing item on the agenda for the committee for regular review and to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

To further enhance the work programme, members are asked to reflect on key discussion areas or questions they would like to consider for each of the topic areas. This will ensure that senior officers have a clear focus in order to provide the relevant information.

In addition to this, members are asked to consider who they would like to invite to future meetings to help provide a more holistic picture for scrutiny to understand the challenges and produce meaningful but achievable recommendations.

Members are asked to:

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

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020-2021

Scrutiny Committee					
Month		Education and Children's Services	External	Health	Internal
	June			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from the ICS on NHS Cells for Lancashire and digital and engagement with local people. Temporary changes to clinical services across the ICS during the COVID-19 pandemic 	
	July	Response to the COVID 19 pandemic in Lancashire - perceptions of the experiences of children and young people, and headlines from the operation of service during the COVID-19 emergency period.	Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RIPA annual report The impact of Covid 19 on county council services Highways – challenges faced following pandemic and resuming 'normal' work programmes
	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What powers do we have as a county council/what can we do to support schools and parents. - Position update on the wider reopening of schools Schools Causing Concern Task Group report – response to recommendations SEND Ofsted inspection report Review of work programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult social care – winter preparations (Supporting the social care sector including domiciliary care workers) NHS 111 First 	Covid 19 – what comes next? Including building pan-Lancashire working and Democratic involvement in resilience forums and maintaining democratic leadership during a crisis

Appendix 'A'

	October	Children's Social Care - protecting vulnerable/valuable children – plans in place to manage spikes in referrals. Child poverty increase and the impact on the demand on social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal credit – Citizens Advice • Decarbonisation pathway – Lancashire, Electricity North West and Cadent Gas 		
Month	November	Education – digital poverty and lesson learned. Digital aspirational views – turning challenge into opportunity.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide prevention in Lancashire • LCC Adult Social Care Winter Plan 	Speeding Traffic and the lack of enforcement
	December	Impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental health – plans in place to support and an update on CAMHS including managing increase in contacts, anxiety of YP on return to school and availability of more online support		NHS Test & Trace and Community Testing	
	January	Early Help – Update on the Lancashire offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness – update on implementing recommendations. 		Covid 19 – Further update following the update provided at the September 2020 meeting
	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families (including update on the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services for adults in West Lancashire and Sefton areas 	

		<p>EY Strategy and School Improvement Model)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services in West Lancashire and Sefton areas (Special Meeting 2 Feb 2021 pm) 			
	March	<p>**Family Safeguarding Model – update on implementation of model in Oct/Nov 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Risk Management Strategy - tbc Rapporteur report – Universal Credit - tbc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Hospitals Programme: Lancashire and South Cumbria (previously known as Health Infrastructure Plan – Phase 2) 	Staff Wellbeing and Welfare
	April	<p>**SEND: Lancashire Breaktime update SEND Accelerated Progress Plan update Progress update on Pupils in special schools with medical conditions task group recommendations</p> <p>Schools causing concern task group - update on recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Credit – Welfare Rights Service update (tbc) Review of Community Safety Partnerships Governance arrangements 	-	<p>Scrutiny of the Council's response to the Government's call for local councils to invest in street safety</p> <p>RIPA Annual Report</p>

Appendix 'A'

Other Topics

<p>Topics from work programmes 2019/20 not scheduled</p>	<p>Participation strategy update Road safety Independent children's homes Getting to Good plan update NEET SEN equipment in schools School transport Maintained nurseries update Parking at schools Childhood immunisation programme 0-19 Healthy Child programme Lancashire schools attainment report (standing item) CAMHS Redesign in Lancashire and South Cumbria – progress report (tbc)</p>	<p>Lancashire energy strategy Review of Community Safety Partnerships and governance arrangements (2021 tbc) Greater Lancashire plan LCC Carbon Plan/Internal Energy and Water Management Policy Canal & Rivers Trust (tbc)</p> <p>LEP – response to the pandemic – economic recovery plan incorporating 'green' principles Impact of pandemic on road safety and lessons learnt</p>	<p>Urgent Mental Health Pathway Transforming Care (Calderstones) Social Prescribing Tackling period poverty Delayed transfers of care Stroke Programme Vascular, head and neck Review of Primary Care Networks and Neighbourhoods Disabled Facilities Grants Housing with Care and Support Strategy 2018-2025 – tbc 2021 Healthcare Infrastructure Programme (HiP2) – tbc 2021 Update on The Future of Hospital Services in Central Lancashire Task and Finish Group activity NHS 111 First – update Health System Reforms</p>	<p>Youth Employment and Skills – impact on youth as one of the hardest hit groups during the pandemic (consideration to be given to which scrutiny committee will be most relevant to consider this topic)</p> <p>Economic and Social Recovery</p> <p>How county councillors can work better with officers</p> <p>Drainage issues in general</p> <p>Local Government Funding and Income Generation Task Group</p> <p>Update on Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire</p>
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