

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Friday, 12th November, 2021 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

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 10 September 2021 (Pages 1 - 6)

4. Update from Highways Service (Pages 7 - 48)

- Drainage Issues In General
- Annual Update on Winter Maintenance
- Quality of Highway Repairs

5. Work Programme 2021/22 (Pages 49 - 70)

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 Friday 21 January 2022 at 10:00am in Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston.

County Hall
Preston

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 10th September, 2021 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'A' - The Tudor Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor David O'Toole (Chair)

County Councillors

A Fewings	S Serridge
A Hindle	J Shedwick
S Holgate	R Swarbrick
T Hurn	B Yates
P Rigby	

County Councillors Sean Serridge, Rupert Swarbrick and Barrie Yates replaced County Councillors Dr Erica Lewis, Sue Hind and Scott Smith respectively.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillors John Fillis and Stuart Morris.

2. Constitution: Chair and Deputy Chair; Membership; Terms and Reference

The report presented set out the constitution, membership, chair and deputy chair and terms of reference of the Internal Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2121/22.

Resolved: That the following be noted;

1. The appointment of County Councillors David O'Toole and John Shedwick as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.
2. The membership of the committee following the County Council's Annual Meeting on 15 July 2021; and
3. The Terms of Reference of the Committee.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2021

Resolved: The minutes from the meeting held on 5 March 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

5. Appointment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the Reconfiguration of Hyper Acute Stroke Services across North Mersey and West Lancashire

The Chair welcomed County Councillor David Westley, Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, to the meeting. The report presented was a request to appoint a proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the purpose of reviewing the final proposal for the reconfiguration of hyper acute stroke services across the North Mersey and West Lancashire area proposed by Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group.

Lancashire County Council had been asked to provide the names of two county councillors to join with members from Knowsley, Sefton and Liverpool Councils. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee would be similar to the Lancashire and South Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee. As these three councils had agreed to the new joint committee there now had to be a public consultation on the reconfiguration.

The proposed joint committee was for mandatory purposes. If it was not agreed the county council would not have representation on the joint committee and therefore no recourse to provide formal comments on the public consultation nor the power of referral to secretary of state. The joint committee was to be established to consider this proposal only. The proposal by the NHS would affect residents across Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton and West Lancashire. Health Scrutiny was a function of the county council and not the district councils in a two-tier area.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- It was important that Lancashire County Council had its say and that Health Scrutiny was effective in looking at any significant change in the delivery of services in the NHS.
- Members enquired about who would be servicing the new Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. It was important that Lancashire County Council understood and got information from the Joint Scrutiny Committee in a timely manner.
- The administration and service of the new Joint Service Scrutiny Committee was crucial.

Resolved: That;

1. The Internal Scrutiny Committee agreed to the proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

2. An update report be received by the Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee after every meeting of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

6. Report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel

The Chair once again welcomed County Councillor David Westley to the meeting as Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel. The report presented requested the Internal Scrutiny Committee to consider the membership of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel in terms of numbers.

The report also presented a brief overview of matters presented and considered by the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel at their meeting held on 1 September 2021. The main item had been the report on Money Matters 2021/22 Position Quarter 1 which showed the current position of the county councils finances and an indication of how the first quarter had gone. This had recently been presented to Cabinet.

Finally, the report asked Internal Scrutiny Committee to consider whether a future topic for scrutiny, Public Realm Agreements should be considered and the most appropriate committee to do this.

It was highlighted that further meetings of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel had been proposed for November 2021 and January 2022. Suggested topics for consideration included further Money Matter updates, ongoing budget savings for the county council and the Commercialisation Strategy.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- Regarding Public Realm Agreements it was stated that these should be put forward as a future topic for scrutiny. If there were concerns about the budget for this the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel could not invite officers from the Highways team to one of its meetings.
- One of the solutions that scrutiny needed to look at was closer working relationships between the district councils and the county council in terms of Public Realm Agreements. The relationship between county council officers and district council officers needed to be considered.

Resolved: That the Internal Scrutiny Committee;

1. Agree the current membership of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel of 7 members.
2. Note the update provided from the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel at its meeting on 1 September 2021.
3. Agree that a future topic on Public Realm Agreements was necessary and consider which scrutiny committee would be most appropriate.

7. Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 - Annual Report

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Chris Wilkinson, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Manager. The report presented informed the committee that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) provided a framework for local authorities, to use covert surveillance techniques for the purposes of undertaking statutory functions in connection with the prevention or detection of crime.

Local authorities were subject to regular inspections from the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office – IPCO. The next inspection would take place in 2023.

Members were required to review the use of the RIPA and set the policy at least once a year.

The purpose of the report was to ask the committee to approve the three updated corporate policies on:

- RIPA surveillance.
- Non-RIPA surveillance.
- The use of Social Media and the Internet in investigations.

The committee was informed that there had been very few updates to the policies in the last twelve months.

In terms of the RIPA policy there was one amendment to the length of time that an authorisation could remain in place where a juvenile was used for the source of the information.

In the last twelve months there had been no applications for direct surveillance. Direct surveillance was using officers to observe the activities of individuals under investigation. There had also been no applications for the use of informants in investigations.

The only recommendation from the last RIPA report was that the authority refreshed the training for officers who might get involved in this area of work. This training was ongoing and was hoped to be completed by the end of this financial year.

Comments and questions raised were as follows:

- There was a request for the changes in future RIPA reports to be highlighted for members to see.
- Members enquired about the number of surveillance applications pre-Covid. The last RIPA report had an update on usage for 2019/ 2020.

Resolved: The Internal Scrutiny Committee approved the updated corporate policies on:

- RIPA surveillance.
- Non-RIPA surveillance.
- The use of Social Media and the Internet in investigations.

8. Work Programme 2021/22

The Committee received a report which provided information on the draft work programme for the Internal Scrutiny Committee.

The topics included in the work programme were identified at the joint work planning workshop for Internal and External Scrutiny held on 9 July 2021 and included topics that were still relevant and needed reviewing from last year's work programme

In regard to Public Realm Agreements, it was noted that the issue received a lot of attention from the public and was a concern to residents. It was an area of activity that was applied on by both the county council and the district councils as well as some parish councils. Members felt it was an important area to scrutinise to see where best practice lay.

In considering the most appropriate method of scrutiny it was felt a Task and Finish Group may be an appropriate option to look at this issue. The group could invite people from outside the authority such as district or parish colleagues to consider the issues jointly. The request for a Task and Finish Group would be discussed with relevant officers in the Highway Service and a report to request the setting up of a Task and Finish Group could come to the next Internal Scrutiny Committee agenda if this was felt to be the most appropriate method of scrutiny. Members enquired if the process of setting up the Task and Finish Group could be speeded up via the Chair and Vice-Chair outside of the committee, if necessary.

The subject of temporary traffic lights was raised and there was a request to look at the policy regarding them. There were two aspects to temporary traffic lights. One was where officers gave a permit for work to happen. The other was around Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). Members should always receive pre-notice of any TROs being implemented.

Resolved: That;

1. The report presented be noted.
2. Additional topics identified be included in the work programme.
3. Consideration be given to setting up a Task and Finish Group looking at Public Realm issues.

9. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee would take place on Friday 12 November 2021 at 10.00am at County Hall, Preston.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 12 November 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions)

Update from Highways Service

(Appendices 'A - C' refers)

Contact for further information:

Misbah Mahmood, 01772 530818, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

Misbah.mahmood@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Joint Work Planning Session for Internal and External Scrutiny earlier this year highlighted several topics in relation to the Highways Service that Members wished to be considered as part of the Work Programme.

Presentations from the Highway Service will be provided to members of the committee to consider the following three topics:

- Drainage Issues in General
- Annual Winter Maintenance
- Quality of Highway Repairs

A supporting presentation (Appendices A – C) is provided for each of the three topics being considered.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the updates provided by the Highways Service for each of the three topics being discussed and consider whether any topics need to be looked at in further detail by the Internal Scrutiny Committee in due course.

Background and Advice

Following the Joint Work Planning Session held for Internal and External Scrutiny in July 2021, Members requested several topics to be considered in relation to the Highways Service. Officers from the Highways Service will provide updates to the Internal Scrutiny Committee on the following three topics:

- Drainage Issues in General
- Annual Winter Maintenance

- Quality of Highway Repairs

The following officers will be in attendance to present these items:

Phil Durnell – Director of Highways and Transport
John Davies – Head of Service Highways
Ridwan Musa – Highways Service Manager (Operations)
Kirstie Williams – Highways Manager – Operations
Laura Makeating – Principal Flood Risk Officer

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, County Councillor Charlie Edwards will also be in attendance.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are 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

N/A

Briefing to Scrutiny Committee

Drainage

12th November 2021

Kirstie Williams – Highway Manager

Asset Management - TAMP

Drainage systems - Highway Surface Water management

This asset grouping includes a range of assets including highway ditches, grips, trash screens, culverted watercourses, gullies, manholes and slotted channels and associated highway drainage systems.

Objectives

- Ensuring that surface water is removed from carriageways, footways and cycleways as quickly as possible to prevent ponding and flooding that could cause a danger to the public.
- Preventing, by the use of an appropriate enforcement action the uncontrolled discharge of water from private land or un-adopted highways onto the highway such as might cause a danger to the public by the formation of ice, erosion of surfaces or accumulations of debris. Enforcement will be limited to powers available under the Highways Act 1980 and pursued where enforcement is expedient.

Operational activities

Maintenance

- Cyclic and Reactive cleansing of gullies
- Soakaways – Reactive cleaning
- Highway Ditches – Cyclic and Reactive clearing
- Grips and kerbed breakwaters – Cyclic and Reactive clearing and cleansing
- Trash Screens – Cyclic cleansing and reactive cleansing
- Reactive system repairs – Risk matrix
- Hot Spots
- Self Help – advice on website



Operational activities



Operational Activities

Emergency Response

- Weather warnings
- ECO and standby gully tankers
- Pumps / Sandbags
- Winter additional cover by gritters
- Flood boards
- Road Closures



Flood Guidance Statement

10:30hrs Friday 29 October 2021

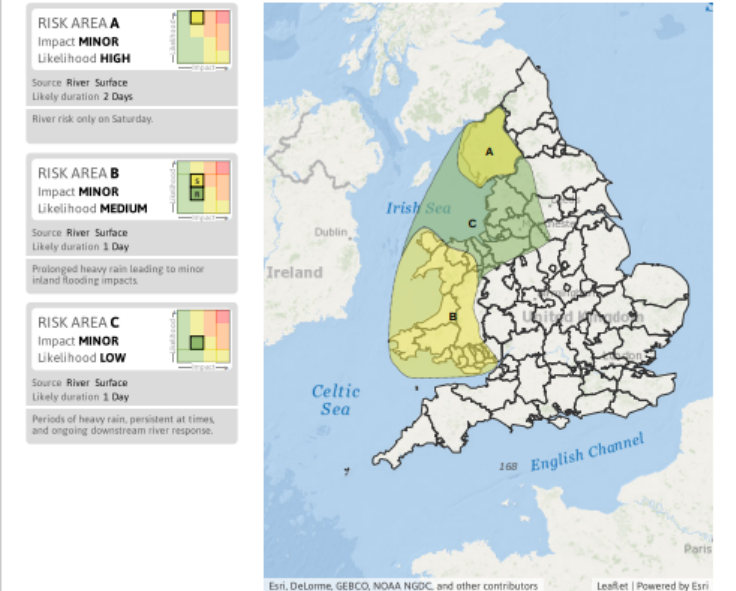
FLOODFORECASTINGCENTRE



Day	Date	Trend since last FGS
Friday	29 Oct 2021 10:30-23:59	Steady
Saturday	30 Oct 2021	Increased
Sunday	31 Oct 2021	Increased
Monday	1 Nov 2021	Increased
Tuesday	2 Nov 2021	Increased

Further minor inland flooding impacts are probable across parts of England and Wales at times today through to Monday. The overall flood risk is LOW.

Specific Areas of Concern Map 1: Friday 29 October 2021



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Capital Drainage works

- Targeted flood prevention drainage schemes
- Planned drainage improvement schemes
- Trash Screen replacement

Community Flood Resilience – Highways Pilot

- £30k EA Quick Wins funding
- Bow Wave re-flooding
- Community deployed road closures



Briefing to Scrutiny Committee

Winter

12th November 2021

Kirstie Williams – Highway Manager



Winter 2021 / 22

Legal Obligations

- Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 111 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003. The first part of Section 41 now reads: “(1) The authority who are for the time being the highway authority for a highway maintainable at the public expense are under a duty, subject to subsections (2) and (4) below, to maintain the highway. (1A) In particular, a highway authority are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.”
- Part 2 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 - Network Management by Local Traffic Authorities - places a network management duty on all local traffic authorities in England, and requires such authorities to do all that is reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving. meeting the duty, authorities should establish contingency plans for dealing promptly and effectively with unplanned events, of which unforeseen weather conditions are an example, as far as is reasonably practicable

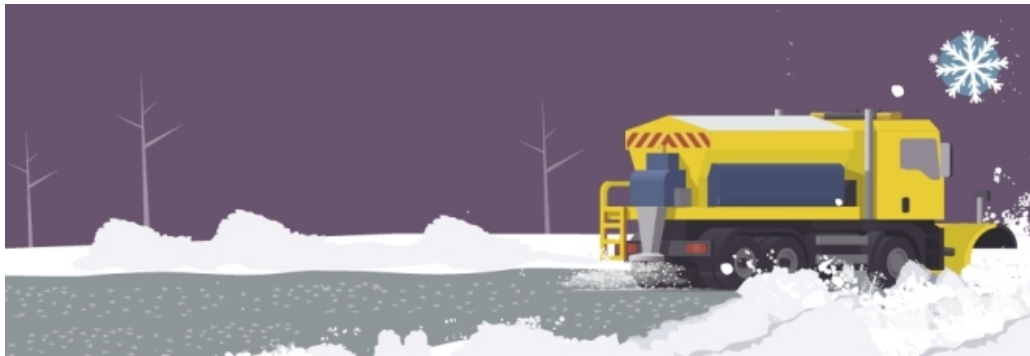
Winter Service Objectives

- Improve access into areas of economic growth and regeneration
- Provide better access to education and employment
- Improve people's quality of life and wellbeing
- Improve the safety of our streets for our most vulnerable residents
- Provide safe, reliable, convenient and affordable transport alternatives to the car
- Maintain our assets
- Reduce carbon emissions and its effects



Winter duration

Winter Period extends from Mid-October to Mid-April however, the actual end of the season is determined by forecast information and will be extended when it is indicated that winter conditions are likely to persist beyond Mid-April.



The Core Winter Period covers December, January and February, but recognising that severe winter weather can occur earlier or later, particularly in Pennine Lancashire.

Salt supply and stocks

- 7 Operational salt stores - Mix of domes, barns and a tunnel
- 4 Strategic stores - Outdoors - sheeted

Treated Salt - **SAFECOAT**

- Reduces spread rates
- Increases route efficiency
- Evidence suggests it sticks around longer
- Less corrosive than normal salt



Minimum salt stock

The county council will aim to maintain six days continuous minimum resilience based on four treatments of the Priority Road Network per day at an average spread rate of 20g/m²



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Treatment network

- In an ideal world our gritters would treat every road in Lancashire but in reality this is not possible due to cost and resources. Instead, we have identified the priority road network that helps keep Lancashire moving.
- The priority roads for gritting and snow clearing include:
 - Non-trunk Motorways and 'A' roads which are the main routes across Lancashire
 - 'B' roads which are routes in and out of towns; roads which lead to hospitals, emergency service stations, main employment centres, and important public transport routes
 - Single routes into villages.
- We have also identified the second most important roads which we will treat during periods of continuous ice and snow, but only during daylight hours and after the higher priority roads have been cleared.

Fleet

- The county council's front line fleet comprises 45 No dedicated gritters, one for each Priority Gritting Route, with capacities of six and nine cubic metres operating from seven depots across the county. 9 new gritters for this season.



- All front line gritters are fitted with GPS tracking devices to enable the plotting of a gritters position against time. Other data collected includes whether the gritter is salting and if so at what rate and width. Each gritter is paired with a dedicated snowplough for use in times of snow.

- The reserve fleet comprises 13 gritters providing back up to the front line fleet and an additional resource to treat the Secondary Road Network during incidences of severe winter weather.

When and how frequently we grit



- During the winter months – October to April – we have up to 150 drivers on standby for a 24/7 response. We can mobilise up to 58 gritters and drivers at anytime during the winter. However, it can take our gritters up to four hours to grit one route and even longer in severe weather conditions. This means sometimes we can't grit as often as we would like.



- In severe weather conditions, we rotate our drivers so we can keep the gritters on the road 24/7 if needs be.

How we decide when to grit

When low temperatures and icy conditions are forecast we grit the roads as a precaution before the frost forms, usually during the evening or early hours of the morning. Please remember weather forecasts are only a guide and our local knowledge and expertise is vital in deciding what to do.

It can take our gritters up to four hours to grit a route and therefore, it will take this length of time before some roads are treated.

Despite our efforts, winter weather can still make the roads treacherous so never assume a road has been gritted and always drive with extra care.

Policy WS 8

Decision Matrix

Road Surface Temperature	Precipitation	Predicted Road Conditions		
		Wet	Wet Patches	Dry
Expected to fall below 0.5°C	No rain No hoar frost No fog	Salt before formation of ice / hoar frost	Salt before formation of ice (see Note a)	No action likely, monitor weather and carry out inspections as necessary (see Note a)
	Expected hoar frost Expected fog	Salt before formation of ice/hoar frost (see Note b)		
	Expected rain Expected BEFORE freezing	Salt after rain stops (see Note c)		
	Expected rain DURING freezing	Salt before formation of ice, as required during rain and again after rain stops, carrying out inspections as necessary (see Note d)		
	Possible rain Possible hoar frost Possible fog	Salt before formation of ice/hoar frost	Monitor weather conditions and carry out inspections as necessary	
	Expected snow	Salt before snowfall		

General Notes

- The timing of precautionary treatments should be such that completion is prior to the forecast time of frost.
- The decision to undertake precautionary treatments should be adjusted, if appropriate, to take account of residual salt or surface moisture (see also Policy WS7 Treatment Matrix).
- All decisions should be evidence-based, recorded and require monitoring and review.

Policy WS 9:

Carriageway Treatment Matrix: Treated Salt

Weather Conditions Road Surface Conditions Road Surface Temperature (RST) when frost/ice predicted	Moderate Traffic		Light Traffic 23.00-04.00(1st treatment)		Ploughing
	Dry/Damp Road	Wet Road	Dry/Damp Road	Wet Road	
Precautionary Treatment (g/m²)					
At or above -1C	7	7	9	9	No
-1.01C to -2.0C	7	7	9	9	No
-2.01C to -3.0C	7	10	9	13	No
-3.01C to -4.0C	7	13	9	16	No
-4.01C to -5.0C	8	16	10	20	No
-5.01C to -7.0C	11	22	14	28	No
-7.01C to -10.0C	16	21	20	39	No
-10.01C to -15.0C	22	21	28	2 x 27	No
Forecast snow Up to 30mm	15	15	20	20	No
Forecast snow greater than 30mm	15-30	15-30	20-40	20-40	No
Post Treatment (g/m²)					
Hoar frost/ice (see precautionary treatment above)	8-30	8-30	10-40	10-40	No
(dependent on surface temperature and state)					
Snow where precautionary treatment has taken place	8	8	10	10	Plough first if depth >5-15mm see note A
Snow where precautionary treatment has not taken place	15-40	15-40	20-40	20-40	
Hard-packed snow/ice	salt and/or liquid de-icer				No

When we plough

Snow Clearance

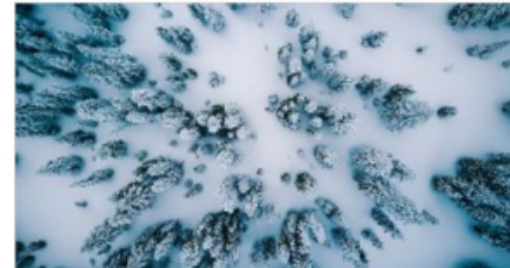
- 12.1 Section 150 of the Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty upon highway authorities to remove any obstruction of the highway resulting from the accumulation of snow.
- 'Treatment Time' has little relevance when snow accumulation is significant and ploughing is required
- Guidance considers it impractical to spread sufficient salt to melt anything other than very thin layers of snow and ice, and that ploughing is the only economical, efficient, effective and environmentally acceptable way to deal with all but very light snow.
- The snow ploughs are attached to our gritters to plough the fresh snow when it is over 30mm deep as, in these circumstances, salt doesn't work effectively.
- We also have 30,000 litres of liquid de-icer available for circumstances where temperatures fall below the threshold where salt can be effective and compacted snow proves resistant to snow ploughing.

Farmers


- **Agricultural contractors** – a number of farmers and contractors who have equipment to carry out snow clearing works on roads provide additional support at times when our resources are stretched. They can be deployed at short notice predominantly for use on the rural network.



Footways, Cycle tracks and cycleways



Clearing your path or driveway - the snow code

 Read

- As well as our 58 gritters, we also have 50 hand gritters which we use to treat footpaths in severe weather conditions.
- When we get a period of persistent ice and snow, we will treat those footpaths with the higher levels of use. These usually serve main shopping and employment areas, those adjacent to main hospitals and those that provide access to public transport interchanges.
- Once these have been treated, the remaining footpaths and cycle routes will be prioritised and treated if we have the resources available. In icy and snowy weather consider if your journey is necessary and wear appropriate footwear with good grip.

Grit Bins

- Provision of Grit Bins The county council will only provide grit bins at new locations on roads maintainable at the public expense that are not on the Priority Road Network for precautionary salting.
- The county council will assess requests for new grit bins based on the following criteria:
 - exposed position or otherwise significantly affected by winter weather;
 - combination of vertical and horizontal profile producing a hazardous condition such as a steep bend with adverse camber;
 - junction hazard such as a steep road down to a junction with a main road;
 - traffic density at peak times;
 - high pedestrian movement such as to local centres and public transport interchanges, including railway stations;
 - the number of premises for which the road is an access
- Should a location no longer warrant a grit bin, removal can only take place subject to agreement with the relevant county councillor and the appropriate senior officer, with the final decision to be made by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

Communications

Self help - Raise awareness of the public's own role during winter.

Manage expectations - let the public know what we can and can't do. We need them to be realistic.

Improve perceptions - let stakeholders and the media know we are well prepared for winter.

We're prepared, are you?

We do everything we can to keep traffic moving on priority roads and we are open about the fact we cannot grit every road in Lancashire. Even if we had the resources needed, we couldn't grit them quickly enough to make a real difference.

No council does this. It is important people understand there are limitations to the service we can provide.

That is why we ask residents to take steps to make sure that when severe winter weather strikes they are prepared and able to manage.

Briefing to Internal Scrutiny Committee

Defect Repairs

12th November 2021

Kirstie Williams – Highway Manager

Defect Repairs

Variety of factors determine type of repair

- Existing road construction
- Traffic volume and type
- Weather/ Climate season
- Road geography
- Quantity / clustering of defects
- Locations of defect within the carriageway
- How traffic can be managed to carry out the repair
- Urgency

Quality

Permanent repairs -Getting it right first time

- Clear methodology and good decision making
- Training our crews
- Managing our sub contractors
- Quality Auditing our works
- Defending claims



Challenges

- Severe weather
- Complex access
- Urgency



Types of repair

Patching with a hot material

- Excavate and Reinstatement method
- Infill method

Spray Injection patching

Cold applied instant material

Patching with a hot material

SAW CUTTING

- Provide a clean vertical face to the repair
- Cleaner surface for bond coat adhesion
- Better opportunity for compaction
- Material interlock
- Neater edges
- Better public perception of the repair



Surface removal



SWEEPING

- loose material
- thoroughly swept
- free from water



BOND COAT and TACK COAT

- Sides AND bottom
- Liberally bond coated
- Brush applied
- Obtain a seal
- Reduce any further water ingress.



Material

Hot material

- Highly durable permanent repair
- Suitable for most locations and surfaces
- Can be used all year round



Cold Material

- Emergency make safe
- Forms a permanent repair
- Is activated in water



COMPACTION

- Hand tamped using a punner – very small defects
- vibrating plate
- rollers



New - Overbanding



Jet Patching



- Most effective on rural roads with low traffic
- Can be used with care on urban roads
- Best used in warmer weather
- Find and fix approach

Thermal Repairs

- Most effective on hot rolled asphalt surfaces
- High quality permanent repairs
- Not suitable for deeper structural repairs
- Good for cracking and fretting defects



Innovation



Utility Works

- Utility works account for many of the excavations in Lancashire's highway network.
- There are approx. 26,000 excavations every year – this has been consistent for the last 15 years.
- Works undertaken by the utilities are for the repair, replacement, maintenance and installation of our essential services.
- Utility companies have their own statutory powers to dig up the highway for the reasons above.
- Utility companies are legally responsible for the works they do and reinstating the area excavated.
- After 2/3 years that responsibility passes back to Lancashire County Council.



Utility Works

- Utility reinstatements must comply with specific statutory codes of practice & guidance. These set the specification and standards they must follow.
- Lancashire County Council's role is to undertake a random, sample inspection of 20% of the reinstatements each year.
- This amounts to approx. 5,200 inspections per year. Based on 20/21 figures approx. 12% of the reinstatements inspected failed.
- Utility companies are then responsible for rectifying those defects and officers undertook a further 2,000 chargeable inspections to ensure the defects are rectified.



Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday 12 November 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Internal Scrutiny Work Programme

(Appendix 'A - C' refers)

Contact for further information:

Misbah Mahmood, 01772 530818, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

misbah.mahmood@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The work programme for the Internal Scrutiny Committee is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The topics included in the work programme were identified at the joint work planning workshop for Internal and External Scrutiny held on 9 July 2021.

The work programmes for other scrutiny committees are attached at Appendix B – C.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider key lines of enquiry for future meeting topics.
- ii. Discuss any additional representation required from key officers/cabinet members/partners.
- iii. Note and comment on the work programmes of other scrutiny committees as appropriate.

Background and Advice

A statement of the work to be undertaken by the Internal Scrutiny Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year is set out at Appendix 'A'. The committee is asked to note that for some items the timetable is still being agreed with officers to ensure items are presented at the most appropriate time.

The work programme will be presented to each meeting for consideration by the committee.

Members are requested to discuss and agree the work programme, consider key line of enquiry for future meeting topics and representation and discuss any additional

representation required from key officers/cabinet members and partners as appropriate.

In addition, the committee are requested to note and comment as appropriate on the work programmes for other scrutiny committees as set out in Appendices B – C (Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and Health Scrutiny Committee). The work programme for External Scrutiny Committee will be presented at the next meeting of Internal Scrutiny Committee.

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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NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

Internal Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

The Internal Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled Committee meetings, task group, events, training and through use of the 'rapporteur' model.

The items on the work programme are determined by the Committee following the work programming session at the start of the municipal year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees terms of reference detailed in the County Councils Constitution. This includes provision for the rights of County Councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the Committee or to call-in decisions.

Coordination of the work programme activity is undertaken by the Chair and Deputy Chair of all of the Scrutiny Committees to avoid potential duplication.

In addition to the terms of reference outlined in the [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5) for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Internal Scrutiny Committee will:

- Determine which Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers a matter where this is not clear.
- Receive for approval requests from the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees to establish task groups and/or other working groups
- Receive for approval requests from the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees to establish as necessary joint working arrangements with district councils and other neighbouring authorities
- Review and scrutinise all services provided by the authority, unless specifically covered by the terms of reference of another Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Consider matters relating to the general effectiveness and development of Overview and Scrutiny in the authority including training for County Councillors and Co-optees
- Recommend the Full Council to co-opt on to a Committee persons with appropriate expertise, without voting rights
- Establish arrangements for the scrutiny of member development, and receive reports from the Member Development Working Group

The Work Programme will be submitted to and agreed by the Scrutiny Committees at each meeting and will be published with each agenda. The dates are indicative of when the Internal Scrutiny Committee will review the item, however they may need to be rescheduled and new items added as required.

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
Appointment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee between 4 local authorities	To agree the appointment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee between the local authorities of Lancashire, Sefton, Knowsley and Liverpool to reconfigure stroke services across the North Mersey area. The proposal will affect residents of the West Lancashire area.	LCC Gary Halsall, Senior Democratic Services Officer	10 September 2021
Update from Budget Scrutiny Review Panel	To receive a general update from the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel	LCC Misbah Mahmood, Senior Democratic Services Officer	10 September 2021
Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Annual Report	To provide an annual update to the committee.	LCC Chris Wilkinson, Trading Standards Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services	10 September 2021
Drainage issues in general	Requests have been received to look at general drainage issues in Lancashire and the policies around drains.	LCC Highways Department Phil Durnell, Director of Highways Service John Davies, Head of Service, Highways Ridwan Musa, Operations Manager	12 November 2021
Winter Maintenance – Highways	Annual update on Winter Maintenance.	LCC Highways Department Phil Durnell, Director of Highways Service John Davies, Head of Service, Highways Ridwan Musa, Operations Manager	12 November 2021
Quality of Highway Repairs	To review the standard of highway repairs carried out by external organisations and contractors.	LCC Highways Department Phil Durnell, Director of Highways Service John Davies, Head of Service, Highways Ridwan Musa, Operations Manager	12 November 2021

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
Income Generation and Commercialisation Strategy	Update to committee on progress of recommendations from the Income Generation Task Group report and an update on the Commercialisation Strategy.	Ajay Sethi, Head of Commercialisation Members of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel to be invited to attend/observe this item due to an interest in this topic from panel members.	21 January 2022
Public Realm Agreements	Consideration of Public Realm Agreements, who is responsible for what and the financial elements involved. Following an update/discussion on this item Members of the committee to decide whether a Task and Finish Group is required.	LCC Highways Department Phil Durnell, Director of Highways Service John Davies, Head of Service, Highways Ridwan Musa, Operations Manager Members of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel to be invited to attend/observe this item due to an interest in this topic from panel members.	21 January 2022
Update from Budget Scrutiny Review Panel	To receive a general update from the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel following their November meeting.	LCC Senior Democratic Services Officer	21 January 2022
The Levelling Up Fund	To consider the following points of discussion in order to try and get funding to Lancashire from the Government for regeneration of high streets and transport in the next funding round: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of the Fund and its aims - Submitting a bid - Priorities for Lancashire 	LCC John Davies, Head of Service, Highways Phil Durnell, Director of Highways Service Bite Size Briefing also being arranged in due course.	4 March 22
Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles	Following improvements to range etc, LCC has now procured its first electric vehicles (small vans).	LCC Oliver Starkey, Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport	4 March 22

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
	<p>No new petrol or diesels cars will be available from 2030. Issues remain regarding suitability of current designs for county council activities, but these are diminishing as designs improve. Charging issues too.</p> <p>Capital purchase cost of vehicles is substantially greater but whole-life costs more equivalent</p> <p>Currently technology for large vehicles isn't in place.</p>	Phil Durnell, Director of Highways	
Update from Budget Scrutiny Review Panel	To receive a general update from the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel following their January meeting.	LCC Senior Democratic Services Officer	4 March 2022
Economic and Social recovery post Covid and the way forward.	<p>Being the second largest economy in NW, Lancashire hit hard on three fronts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - under some form of restriction for majority of pandemic; AND - business sectors hardest hit are Lancashire's key sectors, manufacturing, hospitality, retail; AND - Impacts of a global health crisis exacerbated in significant areas of existing inequality and deprivation. <p>A recovery framework was devised in June 2020 and a new strategic vision has been developed in the Greater Lancashire Plan.</p>	LCC Stephen Young, Executive Director Growth, Environment, Transport & Community Services.	22 April 2022

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
Update on Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire	An update report on the ongoing work to reduce single use plastics within the county council and the development of a strategy to make LCC a SUP free authority where possible and feasible.	LCC Mike Kirby leading on this with support from Clare Johnson, Steve Scott, William Maxwell, Rachel Tanner, Ginette Unsworth, Ajay Sethi.	22 April 2022
The Bus Service Improvement Plan/ Enhanced Bus Partnerships	In March 2021, government published its National Bus Strategy – 'Bus Back Better' with £3bn supporting funding during this parliament to be allocated to transport authorities.	LCC Oliver Starkey, Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport Phil Durnell, Director of Highways	TBC by Officers A joint session is being considered with other scrutiny committees due to overlap between work areas.
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 best to consider this item.	LCC	To be agreed

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2021-22

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled Committee meetings, task group, events and through use of the 'rapporteur' model.

The items on the work programme are determined by the Committee following the work programming session at the start of the municipal year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees terms of reference detailed in the County Councils Constitution. This includes provision for the rights of County Councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the Committee or to call-in decisions.

Coordination of the work programme activity is undertaken by the Chair and Deputy Chair of all of the Scrutiny Committees to avoid potential duplication.

In addition to the terms of reference outlined in the [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5) for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will:

- Scrutinise matters relating to education delivered by the authority and other relevant partners.
- Fulfil all the statutory functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to education functions of a Children's Services Authority.
- Scrutinise matters relating to services for Children and Young People delivered by the authority and other relevant partners.
- Review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area and make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies as appropriate
- Invite interested parties when reviewing any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area, to comment on the matter and take account of relevant information available, particularly that provided by the Local Healthwatch
- Review and scrutinise any local services planned or provided by other agencies which contribute towards the health improvement and the reduction of health inequalities in Lancashire and to make recommendations to those agencies, as appropriate
- Take steps to reach agreement with NHS body, in the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes

- Refer a matter to the relevant Secretary of State in the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes where agreement cannot be reached with the NHS
- Refer to the relevant Secretary of State any NHS proposal which the Committee feels has been the subject of inadequate consultation
- Scrutinise the social care services provided or commissioned by NHS bodies exercising local authority functions under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999
- Draw up a forward programme of health scrutiny in consultation with other local authorities, NHS partners, the Local Healthwatch and other key stakeholders
- Acknowledge within 20 working days to referrals on relevant matters from the Local Healthwatch or Local Healthwatch contractor, and to keep the referrer informed of any action taken in relation to the matter
- Require the Chief Executives of local NHS bodies to attend before the Committee to answer questions, and to invite the chairs and non-executive directors of local NHS bodies to appear before the Committee to give evidence
- Invite any officer of any NHS body to attend before the Committee to answer questions or give evidence

The Work Programme will be submitted to and agreed by the Scrutiny Committees at each meeting and will be published with each agenda.

The dates are indicative of when the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will review the item, however they may need to be rescheduled and new items added as required.

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Meeting Date
School Place Planning	'How to' guide on school place planning ahead of the updated School Place Provision Strategy 2021-2026 release	Director of Strategy and Performance/Head of Asset Management/Admissions Manager	1 September 2021
Maintained Nurseries	Update on the local authority's engagement with maintained nurseries	Acting Director of Education, Culture and Skills/Interim Head of Early Years	5 October 2021
School Place Provision Strategy 2022-25	Review of the draft School Place Provision Strategy 2022-25 prior to Executive decision taken	Director of Strategy and Performance/Head of Asset Management	9 November 2021
Lancashire Education Strategy 2022-25	Review of strategy prior to Executive decision taken	Head of Service Education Improvement 0-11	9 November 2021
Children and Young People's Mental Health	Post Covid impact and progress update on CAMHS redesign	Director of Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health/NHS/Youth Council reps/School reps	7 December 2021
SEND Partnership Plan	SEND partnership plan update	Head of Service Inclusion/Zoe Richards	7 December 2021
Children Looked After	Housing, NEET, services/schools' transitions	Director of Children's Services/Head of Service Looked After Children Leaving Care	18 January 2022
Children's Health	Update on children's health in Lancashire post covid	Director of Public Health	18 January 2022
Lancashire Schools Attainment Outcomes	Annual report on attainment outcomes in schools across Lancashire. To include impact of the catch up funding on attainment.	Acting Director of Education, Culture and Skills/Head of Service Education Improvement 0-11/Finance	22 February 2022

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Meeting Date
School Travel (TBC)	Review of current travel schemes and potential initiatives (walking school buses, mums for lungs, school streets, shared rides, community bus schemes, road safety, update on the SEND home to school transport policy review Air pollution, bus service redesign, new homes – joint session with other scrutiny committees TBC	TBC	16 March 2022
Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	Review of measures in place and lessons learned - data trends, CLA, young carers, alternative provision colleges	Director of Education, Culture and Skills Alternative Provision	20 April 2022
NEET (ctd)	Review of apprenticeships data, work based training, district data link, accessibility	Lancashire Enterprise Partnership District Council leads	17 May 2022

Additional topics identified:

- SEND – covid recovery, in house ed psych and assessors vs costs to external agencies, auditory and sensory disorder, costs, short breaks
- Cabinet work on low carbonisation – education/waste renewables
- Family Safeguarding Model update (bite size briefing)
- Provision in Lancashire schools for bilingual children
- PHSE and life planning in schools
- Maintained nurseries update to Cabinet
- Child poverty

Task Group recommendation updates:

- Schools Causing Concern
- Pupils in Special Schools with Medical Conditions

Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

The Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled Committee meetings, task group, events and through use of the 'rapporteur' model.

The items on the work programme are determined by the Committee following the work programming session carried out by the Steering Group at the start of the municipal year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees terms of reference detailed in the County Council's Constitution. This includes provision for the rights of County Councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the Committee or to call-in decisions.

Coordination of the work programme activity is undertaken by the Chair and Deputy Chair of all of the Scrutiny Committees to avoid potential duplication.

In addition to the terms of reference outlined in the [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5) for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Health Scrutiny Committee will:

- To scrutinise matters relating to health and adult social care delivered by the authority, the National Health Service and other relevant partners.
- In reviewing any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area, to invite interested parties to comment on the matter and take account of relevant information available, particularly that provided by the Local Healthwatch
- In the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes, to take steps to reach agreement with the NHS body
- In the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes where agreement cannot be reached with the NHS, to refer the matter to the relevant Secretary of State.
- To refer to the relevant Secretary of State any NHS proposal which the Committee feels has been the subject of inadequate consultation.
- To scrutinise the social care services provided or commissioned by NHS bodies exercising local authority functions under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- To request that the Internal Scrutiny Committee establish as necessary joint working arrangements with district councils and other neighbouring authorities.

- To draw up a forward programme of health scrutiny in consultation with other local authorities, NHS partners, the Local Healthwatch and other key stakeholders.
- To acknowledge within 20 working days to referrals on relevant matters from the Local Healthwatch or Local Healthwatch contractor, and to keep the referrer informed of any action taken in relation to the matter.
- To require the Chief Executives of local NHS bodies to attend before the Committee to answer questions, and to invite the chairs and non-executive directors of local NHS bodies to appear before the Committee to give evidence.
- To invite any officer of any NHS body to attend before the Committee to answer questions or give evidence.
- To recommend the Full Council to co-opt on to the Committee persons with appropriate expertise in relevant health matters, without voting rights.
- To establish and make arrangements for a Health Steering Group the main purpose of which to be to manage the workload of the full Committee more effectively in the light of the increasing number of changes to health services.

The Work Programme will be submitted to and agreed by the Scrutiny Committees at each meeting and will be published with each agenda.

The dates are indicative of when the Health Scrutiny Committee will review the item, however they may need to be rescheduled and new items added as required.

Health Scrutiny Committee work programme

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
Lancashire & South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration	Seek assurances from the patient's perspective, impact on workforce; service provision in west Lancashire.	LSCFT	14 September 2021
Community Mental Health Transformation programme	Early engagement on the programme - background/case for change; how this will affect methods of service delivery; changes to accessibility and pathways including urgent; which partners involved, next steps and timescales	LSCFT	
Increasing vaccination uptake and addressing inequalities	Joint report from the NHS, the council for voluntary services, and the borough councils delivering the local vaccination programme.	LCC Public Health, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS, CVS and borough councils	2 November
Lancashire & South Cumbria - Enhanced Acute Stroke Services programme	Consider the business case for the reconfiguration of stroke services in the area.	Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Stroke and Neurorehabilitation Delivery Network (ISNDN)	14 December
Workforce GP shortage	Progress made in relation to recommendations of the 2017 scrutiny inquiry report	NHS England North West and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS	
Housing with Care and Support Strategy	Progress on the implementation of the strategy	LCC Adult Services	1 February 2022
Early intervention and social prescribing	Review of development and effectiveness	LCC Public Health, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS	
Disabled facilities Grants	Report on the differing allocations of Disabled Facilities Grants to district councils in Lancashire with a focus on discretionary grants	LCC Public Health	22 March

Other topics to be moved on to the work programme at the appropriate time:

- New Hospitals programme
- Shaping Care Together programme

- Lancashire & South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration (September 2022)
- Community Mental Health Transformation programme (tbc)

Health Scrutiny Steering Group work programme

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/partners	Proposed Date(s)
Lancashire & South Cumbria Stroke services Briefing	Update on Acute stroke centres (previously referred to as Hyper Acute Stroke Services)	Jack Smith, Elaine Day, NHS England and Improvement	22 September 2021
New Hospitals Programme Briefing	Update on the programme	Jerry Hawker and Rebecca Malin, New Hospitals Programme	
Substantial variation protocol for Lancashire	Consider the implementation of a written protocol for Lancashire.	Gary Halsall, LCC	
Initial Response Service	Report on the newly established service by Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	LSCFT	13 October
Clatterbridge Cancer Centre	Blood cancer proposal	Jackie Moran, NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group	
Lancashire & South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration	Concerns raised by pathologists	Gary Halsall, LCC	
Continuing Healthcare assessments	Focus on county council resources, understanding the delay to finalising policies, and the effect on wider health outcomes	LCC Adult Social Care	10 November
Outbreak management and infection control – adult social care	Report on the key issues	Louise Taylor, Tony Pounder, LCC Adult Social Care	
Workforce resilience, wellbeing, sufficiency – adults social care	Report on the key issues	Louise Taylor, Tony Pounder, LCC Adult Social Care	

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/partners	Proposed Date(s)
NHS 111	Findings and evaluation of the new NHS 111 First programme (resolution from committee's meeting held on 15 September 2020)	NWAS and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS	1 December
NHS Winter planning - TBC	Assurance on measures and systems in place for the forthcoming winter.	Kevin McGee, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust	
Preventative healthcare – healthy weight and obesity; NHS Health Checks (Healthy Hearts) Emotional and Mental Health – substance misuse and alcohol services	Overarching report identifying the key issues.	LCC Public Health	
High intensity user programme	Report on the programme	Healthwatch, NWAS, and relevant/specific NHS Trust	
Quality Surveillance Group - TBC	Introduction and identifying collaborative ways of working	NHS England & NHS Improvement North West Region	
Building and enduring health protection function beyond covid	Initial report on plans	LCC Public Health	5 January 2022
Healthwatch Lancashire - TBC	Identifying collaborative ways of working		
Intermediate Care Services	Report on the key issues	LCC and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS	
New Hospitals Programme - TBC	Update on shortlisting options - first phase	Rebecca Malin and Jerry Hawker, New Hospitals Programme	

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/partners	Proposed Date(s)
Health inequalities – people with learning disabilities	Report on the key issues	LCC Learning disabilities, autism and mental health	9 February
Annual health checks and LeDeR programme	Written report and action plan on performance against the trajectory for discharge rates, annual health checks (AHC) and Learning Disabilities Mortality Reviews (LeDeR) targets.	Lancashire and Midlands Commissioning Support Unit/Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS	
NHS Trust Quality Accounts	Review of NHS Trust Quality Accounts – formulating comments	Healthwatch Lancashire	10 March
NHS Trust Quality Accounts	Review of NHS Trust Quality Accounts – formulating comments	Healthwatch Lancashire	6 April
			4 May

Other topics to be scheduled:

- Lancashire and South Cumbria Enhanced Acute Stroke Services – update to Steering Group between March and May 2022 (poss. matter for Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Cumbria County Council)
- Liberty Protection Safeguards – review of preparations before go live (April/October 2022?)
- Health and Care Bill 2021 – implications for health scrutiny
- Vascular Service improvement and new model of care and Head and Neck programme
- Healthwatch reports:
 - Covid recovery and restoration - primary and elective care
 - Primary care - face to face engagement
 - Dental service shortage
 - Day Care Service improvement (LCC)
 - Community Diagnostic hubs

Rapporteur activity

- CC D Westley - Ian Barber, Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub, ex-service personnel programme of engagement with GPs and health services

Briefing notes and bite size briefings to be requested

- January 2022 - CQC Assurance of Local Authority Adult Social Care (CQC report to be presented to committee) – briefing note to Steering Group and bite size briefing for all members?
- Health and Care Bill – opportunities for population health – bite size briefing