

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd February, 2022 at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson Leader of the Council
(in the Chair)

Cabinet Members

County Councillor Alan Vincent
County Councillor Peter Buckley
County Councillor Charles Edwards
County Councillor Graham Gooch
County Councillor Michael Green
County Councillor Jayne Rear
County Councillor Aidy Riggott
County Councillor Cosima Towneley
County Councillor Shaun Turner

County Councillors Azhar Ali OBE and Lorraine Beavers were also in attendance under the provisions of Standing Order No. C14(2).

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 January 2022

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Questions for Cabinet

One question was asked by a county councillor at the meeting and one question asked by a county councillor, who was not present at the meeting, would receive a written response. The questions and the responses are attached to the minutes.

14. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2021-22

With the agreement of the Chair, consideration of this item was brought forward.

Cabinet considered the annual report of the Director of Public Health for 2021-22. It was noted the Directors of Public Health in England had a statutory duty to produce an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health, was invited to present the report to Cabinet, and it was noted that the report highlighted the state of health and wellbeing in Lancashire and how the pandemic had impacted on lives and livelihoods. The report also made six high level recommendations to improve health and reduce inequalities across Lancashire.

Resolved: That;

- i. The high-level recommendations set out in the report be supported; and
- ii. Full Council be asked to consider and note the report.

5. Money Matters 2021/22 Position - Quarter 3

Cabinet considered a report providing an update on the county council's 2021/22 revenue and capital financial position, as at the end of November 2021 and an updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy covering the period 2022/23 to 2024/25.

It was noted that whilst the quarter 3 forecast presented an underspend of £23.45m for the current financial year, there remained a level of uncertainty about the longer-term impacts of the ongoing pandemic. The extent and profiling of any latent impact on price or demand for the county council services also remained unclear.

Resolved: That;

- i. The current forecast underspend of £23.46m on the revenue budget in 2021/22 be noted;
- ii. The revised funding gap of £21.690m in 2022/23 be noted and Full Council on 17 February 2022 be asked to approve that this be met from the uncommitted transitional reserve;
- iii. The revised forecast funding gap of £42.830m by 2024/25 as set out in the revised financial outlook forecast for the council be noted;
- iv. Approval be given for the budget adjustments for 2021/22, and following years' changes, included in the revised Medium-Term Financial Strategy;
- v. The contents of the county council's reserves position be noted;
- vi. The revised 2021/22 capital delivery programme of £165.567m and the forecast outturn of £164.050m be noted;
- vii. Full Council on 17 February 2022 be asked to approve an indicative capital delivery programme of £206.263m in 2022/23; and
- viii. Full Council on 17 February 2022 be asked to approve a Band D Council Tax for 2022/23 reflecting a 3.99% increase including 2% to be used for adult social care as per the new flexibilities.

6. Procurement Report

Cabinet considered a report for a new school build in relation to Ribblesdale High Primary Provision and to authorise the Chief Digital Officer and Head of Procurement to make the decision whether or not to remain with the current supplier for Microsoft Enterprise licensing arrangements or to join the Crown Commercial Services aggregation procurement if that was an ultimately better commercial deal, in line with the county council's procurement rules.

Resolved: That;

- i. The commencement of the procurement exercise for Ribblesdale High Primary Provision as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report be approved; and
- ii. The Chief Digital Officer and Head of Procurement be authorised in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader) to make the decision in relation to the Microsoft Enterprise licensing arrangements as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report.

7. Installation of Red Light and Speed on Green Cameras

Cabinet considered a report to procure an infra-red speed camera system at the locations specified in the report. It was noted that the infra-red speed camera system was more effective in picking up speeding offences and required less intrusive installation than camera systems that required cabling to be installed underground at the locations. In addition, the infra-red camera systems could be mounted on standard and passively safe columns or on existing street furniture and were more reliable and easier to maintain.

It was also noted that Appendix A of this report was in Part II and appeared at Item 20 on the agenda.

Resolved: That, approval be given for a waiver of the county council's procurement rules as set out at paragraph 14.2 of Appendix R to the county council's Constitution, to allow a direct award of a contract to be made to Jenoptik Limited in respect of the installation and maintenance of red light and speed on green cameras as set out in the report.

8. Adult Social Care - Provider Fees Uplift Report 2022/2023

Cabinet considered a report setting out the county council's proposed fee uplifts for adult social care services for 2022/23, the financial impact of which had been reflected in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Resolved: That, the following uplifts be approved, with effect from 4 April 2022:

- Residential and nursing care
Weekly older people's approved residential care rates
 - Nursing Standard (5.56%)
 - Nursing Dementia (5.63%)
 - Residential Standard (5.48%)
 - Residential Higher (5.67%)
 - Residential Dementia (5.72%)

- Mental Health and Learning Disability Residential/Nursing (5.72%)
- Homecare (all client groups)
 - Off framework providers (4.10%)
 - Framework providers (£1.33 per hour)
- Supported Living
 - Waking hour rate (6.07%)
 - Sleep in rate (per shift) (6.06%)
- Extracare
 - Sheltered schemes with 24 hour domiciliary care (6.07%)
 - Other schemes inc purpose built Extracare (6.07%)
- Direct Payments (4.10%)
- Carers (6.62%)
- Shared Lives (6.62%)
- Day Care(5.77%)
- Respite and Individual Service Funds
Uplift in line with relevant service (e.g. homecare/residential care)

9. Co-ordinated School Admissions Scheme 2023/2024 - Determination of the Qualifying Scheme

Cabinet considered a report on the determination of the statutory scheme and the mandatory timetable for co-ordinating admissions for Lancashire's primary and secondary schools and academies for 2023/2024.

Resolved: That;

- i. The scheme listed at Appendix 'A' of the report, and its accompanying timetable in Appendix 'B' of the report, be approved and adopted as the qualifying scheme for admissions to Lancashire primary and secondary schools and academies for 2023/2024; and
- ii. The Executive Director of Education and Children's Services be authorised to secure the adoption of the scheme by the governing body of each Lancashire voluntary aided and foundation school and academy, in order to inform the Secretary of State for Education that a scheme has been introduced in Lancashire.

10. Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools and Sixth Forms for the School Year 2023/2024

Cabinet considered a report on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and sixth forms schools for the school year 2023/2024.

Resolved: That;

- i. The admission numbers and admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools, secondary schools and sixth forms for 2023/2024 as listed at Appendices 'A' 'B' 'C' and 'D' of the report, be approved;

- ii. The issues raised by Community and Voluntary Controlled Governing Bodies, and the Community be noted and approval be given for the recommendations set out in response, as set out in Appendix 'E' of the report; and
- iii. The admission numbers and criteria for admission set out at Appendices 'A' 'B' 'C' and 'D' of the report to constitute the Authority's admission arrangements for 2023/2024, be approved.

11. Determination of Home to School Transport Policy - Academic Year 2023/2024

Cabinet considered a report on the annual review of the Home to School Transport policy.

It was noted that there were no changes to the determined policy for the academic year 2023/2024.

Resolved: That, the Home to School Transport Policy for the academic year 2023/2024 as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report, be approved.

12. Cultural Services Fees and Charges Review 2021/22

Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals relating to fees and charges in Cultural Services following an annual review to ensure that they supported service objectives, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Resolved: That, the following changes to Cultural Services fees and charges be approved with effect from the 1 April 2022:

- i. Include people with a physical impairment and those who are deaf or hard of hearing in the list of groups who are exempt from charges for borrowing audio visual materials from libraries;
- ii. Include care leavers under the age of 25 in the list of groups who do not have to pay for the late return of library books;
- iii. Remove the reservation charge for CDs in libraries;
- iv. Remove the charges for craft activities for children and families in libraries;
- v. Offer half price entry for two months in May and June 2022 for National Trust members at Helmshore and Queen Street Mills; and
- vi. Reintroduce the family Xplorer ticket in Museums.

13. Lancashire Library and Museum Strategies 2022-25

Cabinet considered a report on existing strategy documents following a review of Cultural Services and had developed two distinct strategies covering each of the Library and Museum services.

Resolved: That, the Lancashire Library and Museum strategies, as set out at Appendices 'A' and 'B' of the report be approved.

15. Urgent Decisions taken by the Leader of the County Council and the relevant Cabinet Member(s)

It was noted that no urgent decisions had been taken by the Leader of the County Council and the relevant Cabinet Members, since the last meeting of Cabinet.

16. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

17. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of Cabinet would be held at 2pm on Thursday 3 March 2022 at County Hall, Preston.

18. Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private

Cabinet noted the Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private and that no representations had been received.

19. Exclusion of Press and Public

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

20. Appendix A to Item 7 - Installation of Red Light and Speed on Green Cameras

Exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A in the Local Government Act 1972. Appendix 'A' contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information). It is considered that in the circumstances of the case the public interest of maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Resolved: That, Appendix A of Item 7 - Installation of Red Light and Speed on Green Cameras, be noted.

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive and
Director of Resources

County Hall
Preston

Question to Cabinet
Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on
3 February 2022

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Kim Snape	Respondent: County Councillor Peter Buckley
	<p>Item 13 - Lancashire Library and Museum Strategy 2022-2025</p> <p>Where do friends groups fit into your libraries strategy? It strikes me that they are able to apply for grants that LCC may not be able to apply for which if successful would then substantially enhance the library offer. For example the incredible work that Friends of Adlington Library have done in applying for grants for film equipment for the library amongst many other things.</p>	<p>Our library service is very committed to having Friends groups, supporting those groups and developing groups for libraries that don't yet have them. We realise how valuable Friends groups are and that the people that form Friends groups are members of our local communities. Working with, supporting and developing Friends groups for our libraries is regarded as part of our business as usual.</p> <p>Our commitment to Friends groups is reflected in the service having a post – Communities Engagement Manager. In the job description for that post working with Friends groups is stated strongly and clearly as a key part of the role of the post.</p> <p>Strategic Priority 2 of the Libraries Strategy 2022-25 focuses on Libraries first and ensuring that libraries are at the heart of our communities actively collaborating with partners for mutual benefit. We see Friends Groups a being one of these key community partners, as well as members of a Friends group being members of our communities</p> <p>Furthermore, we refer to Friends groups in the wider Cultural Services strategy which was approved at Full Council in October 2019. Objective 13 of this document is headed Encouraging the growth of constituted Friends groups across Libraries, Museums and Archives. We will be proactive in</p>

		engaging more individuals to establish and join Friends groups across the county.
2.	Questioner: County Councillor Erica Lewis	Respondent: County Councillor Graham Gooch
	<p>Item 8 - Adult Social Care - Provider Fees Uplift Report 2022/2023</p> <p>Given the challenges facing the social care sector in recruiting and retaining staff and the financial vulnerability of many providers, in addition to what is already in the report, could further information be given as to how these factors were considered and addressed in trying to address the loss of both providers and staff from the sector.</p>	<p>We have utilised their own cost data and the discussions we have had with them face to face on costs and pressures to determine what the uplifts to fees should be taking into consideration affordability for the Council.</p> <p>We have held engagement sessions with providers throughout the last 12 months and we have been monitoring and sharing our data with them in terms of where the biggest challenges lie within the care market from our own perspective. They have in turn shared with us details of where there are barriers to recruitment and retention of staff and of course fees we pay to them and how much they are paying their staff is only one element that affects their recruitment and retention. There are some issues around how we currently commission home care and contract for it that will be fed into our forthcoming re tendering of these services which may help in the near future but for contractual and legal reasons cannot be addressed immediately.</p> <p>We have used the information to direct higher proportions of government grant funding to the home care sector as an example. We have ensured that providers have the flexibility to use the grant funding to assist recruitment and retention as they see appropriate to their own circumstances too. We will continue to engage with the sector as we aim to meet the ambitions of the new government 'Fair cost of Care' funding due in 2022/23.</p>

		<p>LCC have proactively formed an ICS level group with commissioners from the two unitary authorities and Cumbria and the NHS so that a wider plan can be formed with regard to the care market including sharing fees information and looking at where we can collaborate on work to stabilise and strengthen the market including recruitment and retention. We are also actively working with north West ADASS to share their guidance and materials for their "Step into Care" campaign on care sector recruitment.</p>
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