

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Friday 22nd April 2022 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item
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1.	Apologies
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2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests
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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 4 March 2022	(Pages 1 - 4)
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4.	Single-Use Plastics Policy - Update	(Pages 5 - 16)
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5.	Economic and Social Recovery Post Covid and the Way Forward	(Pages 17 - 30)
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6.	Work Programme 2021/22	(Pages 31 - 56)
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7.	Urgent Business
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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.

8.	Date of Next Meeting
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The next meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee will be held on Friday 8 July 2022 at 10:00am in County Hall, Preston.

L Sales

County Hall
Preston

Director of Corporate Services

Lancashire County Council

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Friday 4 March 2022 at 10.00am in Committee Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor David O'Toole (Chair)

County Councillors

J Berry	T Hurn
G Dowding	E Lewis
J Fillis	P Rigby
S Hind	S Smith
A Hindle	

County Councillor Gina Dowding replaced County Councillor Andy Fewings for this meeting only.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor John Shedwick.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 January 2022

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 21 January 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles

The Chair welcomed to the meeting County Councillor Rob Bailey, Lead Member for Highways and Transport, Andrew Burrows, Fleet Services Manager, and Phil Durnell, Director of Highways.

The committee received a report which provided an update on the county council's move to ultra-low and zero tailpipe emission vehicles. This contributed to county council objectives to reduce harmful emissions from its own fleet of vehicles, and to improve the environment and public health within Lancashire.

The report detailed measures to introduce ultra-low emission vehicles into the fleet, the challenge this presented, how this could be overcome, and what technology and options were available to the fleet in the future.

Comments and queries from the committee were as follows:

- The committee was concerned about the plan to meet the county council's target to transition the Lancashire economy away from carbon by 2030. It was clarified that the majority of the fleet vehicles were within the Highways Service, where the decarbonisation plan was to reduce the service's carbon footprint by 25% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2035. It was further queried why there was a discrepancy between the Highway Service's operational plan and the county council's target; officers would investigate the discrepancy and feedback to the committee.
- On the capacity of public charging points to charge fleet service vehicles, it was noted that the charging infrastructure was underpowered and public charging stations did not always work or work at their full capacity. The county council would need to fund its own charging stations to ensure reliability. It was suggested by the committee that the county council could make arrangements with district councils to provide an extended network of charging stations.
- The committee was informed that a tank of hydrogen fuel would reach similar distances as a tank of petrol or diesel. Whilst the hydrogen infrastructure was anticipated to follow demand, there was the possibility of the county council installing hydrogen tanks at fleet depots in the future.
- There were concerns about the combustibility of hydrogen. It was expected that the technology to deliver and store hydrogen safely would arrive in the next few years and it was considered a viable alternative to fossil fuels.
- In response to members' queries about the county council initiating partnership work in Lancashire to progress electric vehicle infrastructure, the committee were assured that officers had met partners such as Cadent and BP to discuss developing fleet and domestic infrastructure.

It was noted that the 2030 target was to transition the Lancashire economy away from carbon, but that the county council was unlikely to be completely carbon-free. To achieve net zero, some of the carbon produced could be offset.

Resolved: That the report on progress to introduce ultra-low emissions vehicles to Lancashire County Council's fleet be noted.

5. Update on the Proposal for a Task Group regarding Public Realm Agreements

The committee considered the scoping document for a Task Group on Public Realm Agreements, which had been drafted in consultation with officers in the

Highways Service following the Internal Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 January 2022.

Comments from the committee were as follows:

- The task group could be used as an opportunity to share good practice and solutions between the county council, district councils, and community groups.
- Clarification could be provided for members regarding the roles and remits set out by the Public Realm Agreements between district councils and the county council.
- Regarding the focus of the task group, it was suggested that improvement could be made to Public Realm Agreements in terms of seamless service delivery and customer experience for residents. Both the county council and district council could take more ownership when queries were received from members of the public in order to shape the service provided for residents.
- Members recognised that the task group needed to balance the needs and wants of residents, whilst taking into consideration financial limitations and supporting biodiversity.

It was noted that the Highways Service welcomed the task group, which would help to bring clarity and an opportunity to refresh the agreements with the district councils. Meetings between officers had also been put in place to aid this task.

Resolved: That a Task Group on Public Realm Agreements be established, as set out by the scoping document at Appendix 'A'.

6. Report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel

The committee received a report from the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel, which presented a brief overview of matters at its meeting held on 2 February 2022.

Resolved: That the report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel be noted.

7. Work Programme 2021/22

The committee considered the work programmes for the Internal Scrutiny Committee and other scrutiny committees.

It was noted that, at its meeting on 31 January 2022, the Audit, Risk, and Governance Committee received an Internal Audit Progress report which highlighted the importance of effective scrutiny and the county council's 'Think Scrutiny' guidance.

Members also highlighted the importance of 'Think Councillor' and expressed their hope that officers joining the county council were briefed to keep elected members informed.

The Chair agreed to raise the committee's views on scrutiny and 'Think Councillor' with the Executive.

Resolved: That the scrutiny committee work programmes 2021/22 be noted.

8. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Internal Scrutiny Committee would take place on Friday 22 April 2022 at 10:00am in Committee Room 'B' – The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 22 April 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Protecting our environment;

Single-Use Plastics Policy - Update

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Mike Kirby, Tel: 01772 533285, Director of Strategy and Performance,
mike.kirby@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report provides an update on activity to reduce the use of single-use plastics by the county council, following the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group in 2019.

The report provides an update on the short-, medium-, and long-term actions suggested including actions undertaken. It also recognises the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to progression of activity and the use of plastics in the county council's pandemic response.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the report and consider whether there are any issues arising from the report which should be considered for future scrutiny as part of the annual work planning process.

Detail

Over the last four years, problems relating to single-use plastics and their environmental impact have been well documented.

On the 22 February 2018, a Notice of Motion was submitted to Full Council asking the county council to take a lead on reducing single-use plastics in Lancashire. Following this meeting, Cabinet agreed to invite Overview and Scrutiny to establish a Task Group to review the matter. The Task Group looked at the following objectives:

- i) Developing a robust strategy to make Lancashire County Council a 'single-use plastic-free' authority and encourage the county's institutions, businesses and citizens to adopt similar measures;

- ii) Ending the sale and provision of single-use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in council buildings, events and services;
- iii) Encouraging schools and social care facilities to adopt measures with the aim of phasing out single-use plastics, for example containers and cutlery, in their premises;
- iv) Ensuring that the county council, via its procurement of goods and suppliers, has integrated the aim to end the use of single-use plastic products by suppliers wherever feasible and appropriate;
- v) Exploring measures to encourage District and Borough Councils and other statutory partners of Lancashire County Council within Lancashire to adopt a rigorous enforcement policy on disposal of single-use plastic products.

The Task Group made a number of recommendations, which included short-medium- and long-term actions, as set out below. This report is intended to provide an update on activity undertaken with regards to single-use plastics, whilst recognising the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Short Term

1. Produce posters for display across all county buildings facilitated by Facilities Management and Corporate Communications to promote, educate and encourage the council's workforce to help with the reduction of single-use plastic products.
2. Share key messages from the single-use plastic campaign with businesses and partners across Lancashire with the support of Head of Business Service Growth using social media and other methods.
3. Engage with the School Forum, Governing Bodies and the Head of Service for Learning and Skills to initiate discussions with schools about the single-use plastic campaign and the need to reduce single-use plastics across Lancashire.
4. Share a copy of the Task Group's report with District and Borough Councils to initiate and inform wider discussions about the single-use plastic campaign in Lancashire.

Medium Term

5. Develop a robust strategy to make Lancashire County Council a single-use plastic free authority, where possible and feasible.
6. Continue discussions with suppliers and services in regard to alternative products that can be used and an understanding of cost implications for the following contracts:
 - a. Fresh meats
 - b. Cooked meats

- c. Soft drinks
 - d. Stationary
7. Hold a bite size briefing for county councillors on the issues of plastic waste and what is being done to address this and what role councillors can play.
 8. Invest in moveable signs that can help deter the public from littering from their cars and reminding them to be responsible with their waste.
 9. Set up a measurable target for reducing single-use plastics, internal to the county council.
 10. Involve and consult with the Lancashire Waste Partnership and the district councils so that a joined up and coherent approach to reducing single-use plastics across Lancashire is enabled.
 11. The council takes account of The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy which has just been launched and develops an approach to meet its requirements.
 12. Investigate proposals from the Waste service, whereby costs can be kept (over a five-year timescale) neutral or would produce savings; and where diversion from landfill of plastic can be increased, including:
 - a. Accepting all plastic at Household Waste Recycling Centres
 - b. Working towards accepting more doorstep collected plastics
 - c. Investigating secondary processing alongside the Material Recovery Facilities
 - d. Reducing the amount of plastics in the reject stream at the Material Recovery Facilities
 - e. Undertaking plastic-specific education and communication campaigns during 2019
 13. Consider a ban on helium balloon releases and sky lanterns on all council owned land and leased premises. The district and borough councils to be encouraged to do the same.

Longer Term

14. Continue discussions with suppliers over the following contracts and when alternative products are available on the market, for these to be considered:
 - a. Cleaning materials
 - b. First aid and medical
 - c. Cheese packaging

Actions Undertaken

Noting that aspects of the following list have previously been reported to the Internal Scrutiny Committee, the county council has already:

- Ceased use of single-use plastic cutlery etc. in café facilities. In total 24 items have been replaced with sustainable alternatives, ranging from plastic forks through to food trays.
- Stopped selling soft drinks in plastic bottles (water is an exception that is being reviewed, but it should be noted that filtered/chilled water is available in offices and at canteens).
- Ensured the use of glasses rather than plastic cups at county council cafes and at meetings.
- Ensured takeaway coffee cups are compostable or fully recyclable.
- Undertaken a communications campaign to encourage the cessation of single-use plastic usage. This will be refreshed as post-pandemic office usage increases and posters will be updated / campaign relaunched.
- Shared messages with business partners, especially linked to procurement activity
- Engaged with the Schools' Forum.
- Shared the Task Group's report with district and borough councils. Most Lancashire councils have now produced resolutions, guidance, or policies to reduce single-use plastics.
- Undertaken discussions with suppliers and services in regard to alternative products, in order to avoid single-use plastics usage.
- For food and drink, included specific clauses within contracts that require food to be supplied in recyclable packaging, requested that products are supplied in the least amount of packaging possible and that products must be supplied in clear plastic packaging. Suppliers are asked to support the Council in its aims to reduce single-use plastics.
- For stationery, the current contract has been in place since February 2020. As part of the contract specification the supplier is obligated to meet certain environmental and sustainability requirements (where possible) including the obligation to reduce all forms of waste, use recyclable materials, and minimise packaging. Goods are also required to be delivered in suitable and preferably recycled packaging.
- Regarding cleaning materials, the current contract expires at the end of May 2022 and the new contract is currently being re-tendered. The following requirements have been included in the invitation to tender:
 - i) Tenderers are encouraged to offer products which
 - Use recyclable and minimum packaging;
 - Have minimum impact on the environment; and

- Have Ecological (ECO) labelling information.
- ii) In addition, the specification states that:
 - Goods shall be delivered in suitable and preferably recycled packaging;
 - In specific relation to Plastic Refuse Sacks, a tenderer's submitted product must meet a specifically stated minimum amount of recycled materials (varies from product to product); and
 - As part of the scored quality criteria, tenderers are also required to advise how they will assist the Council in achieving their social value objectives in relation to promoting environmental sustainability, including detail around recycling/reduced waste, types of packaging and environmentally friendly products.
- For First Aid and medical, the current contract has been in place since September 2021. As part of the contract specification the supplier is obligated to meet certain environmental and sustainability requirements (where possible) including the obligation to reduce all forms of waste, use recyclable materials and minimise packaging. Goods are also required to be delivered in suitable and preferably recycled packaging.
- Regarding waste issues:
 - i) The Task Group's report was circulated to the Lancashire Waste Partnership and a presentation given. Each district was encouraged to look what they have in place in their own buildings etc.
 - ii) The Environment Act was passed in November 2021 and is the means by which the Government will deliver its strategy through the development of new regulations. Government consulted on three major waste issues in March 2021 and the outcome is awaited. The regulatory requirements from any emerging legislation continue to be monitored.
 - iii) All plastics are accepted at Household Waste Recycling Centres
 - iv) In 2019/20, the collection of pots, tubs and trays in doorstep collections was facilitated across Lancashire
 - v) Secondary processes were introduced in the Material Recovery Facility to recover recyclable materials from reject streams in 2019. This involved the pre-sorting of glass in advance of the Material Recovery Facility process which increased its capacity and allowed the reject streams to be reprocessed. The waste company also had a savings target of £0.258m in 2019/20 in relation to this.
 - vi) Plastic-specific education and communication campaigns have been undertaken. This was built into the general communications programme in 2019 and included a video regarding the life of a plastic

bottle. The wider waste communications programme is to be revisited from April 2022 (note this is waste in general, not just in relation to single-use plastics).

vii) Movable signs have not been implemented due to issues relating to the practicality of placement / putting out / collecting and the risk of the county council being accused of cluttering / littering, as well as the potential for land ownership issues and possible advertisement consent requirements.

- Bite size briefings have been held and further can be scheduled.
- The council has also agreed to the ambition to transition the Lancashire economy away from carbon by 2030, address the biodiversity crisis, while also protecting against poverty and improving social inclusion. Actions in relation to single-use plastics will contribute to our efforts.
- The first Lancashire Climate Summit was held in March 2022. This saw leaders from Lancashire County Council, district and unitary councils, the Environment Agency and other local organisations meet to consider ideas that will help Lancashire to reach net zero carbon emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

Defra Consultations

In November 2021, the Government issued consultation relating to Single-Use Plastics. This proposed to ban:

- Plastic plates;
- Plastic cutlery;
- Plastic balloon sticks;
- Expanded and extruded polystyrene food containers; and
- Expanded and extruded polystyrene beverage containers, including cups.

The Government has also held a separate consultation on deposit schemes for drinks containers. The outcomes are being monitored.

Single-Use Plastics Policy Statement

The Single-Use Plastics Policy Statement is intended to highlight the next steps as the county council moves toward being a non-single-use plastics council. An outline of the emerging draft statement is provided at Appendix A. This will be accompanied by a more detailed action plan, which will clarify actions and timescales.

Consultations

The draft policy statement will be subject to consultation and the Cabinet will be made aware of comments received prior to its finalisation and adoption.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

It is recognised that sourcing alternatives to single-use plastics can add costs to our operations. This will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and it is hoped that, as more organisations pursue these options, cost impacts will reduce. As an example – providing alternatives to single-use plastics by the Facilities Management Service for catering has resulted in a 38% increase in cost (January 2022), however the amount in question was more modest, with a £304 increase. In this instance costs have been incorporated into the sale prices. The impact of any changes will be monitored to ensure performance of the business is not affected and the budgeted contribution to overheads is maintained.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		

Lancashire County Council

Draft Single-Use Plastics Policy

April 2022

Introduction

The environmental impact of plastics pollution has been well documented over recent years. This policy statement is intended to commit Lancashire County Council to continue to act to remove and reduce the use of Single-Use Plastic from our operations and services, as well as working with our community and businesses towards finding positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste.

'Single-use plastic' is a wide-ranging term. It includes all products made wholly or partly of plastic, which are typically intended to be used just once and / or for a short period of time before being disposed of.

Concerns relating to single-use plastics are primarily:

- The impact of plastic pollution through litter and improper disposal of waste. This is a global and local issue that affects the natural and urban environment, the oceans, beaches and links to people's health and wellbeing. The impact goes beyond aesthetic problems caused by litter and includes impacts on livestock and wildlife, including impacts such as microplastics that potentially affect the food chain.
- Plastic is a major contributor to climate change, with chemicals derived from fossil fuel production used to make almost all plastics.

National Policy Context

In November 2021 the Government issued consultation relating to Single Use Plastics. This proposed to ban:

- Plastic plates;
- Plastic cutlery;
- Plastic balloon sticks;
- Expanded and extruded polystyrene food containers; and
- Expanded and extruded polystyrene beverage containers, including cups.

The Government has also held a separate consultation on deposit schemes for drinks containers. The outcomes are being monitored.

Lancashire County Council's Corporate Strategy

Our Corporate Strategy (adopted in 2019) establishes our vision:

'Here at Lancashire County Council, we are helping you to make Lancashire the best place to live, to work, visit and prosper'

Reducing the impact of single-use plastics contributes to a number of the objectives set out in the Strategy:

- **Lancashire will be the place to live**, through:
 - Improving the quality of life and our environment
- **Lancashire being a great place to do business and invest**, through:

- Providing clarity for Lancashire business regarding best practice and establishing clear expectations for our suppliers. We will work with our suppliers to develop best practice.
- **Lancashire will be the place to visit, through:**
 - The protection of our urban and rural areas plus our coastlines from the littering impacts arising from single use plastic use.
- **Lancashire being the place where everyone acts responsibly, through:**
 - Reducing plastic pollution with the associated environmental and health gains
 - Ensuring we spend public money wisely in order to minimise the impacts of plastic waste and help minimise disposal costs
 - Ensuring that we learn from national and international best practice and work with our district colleagues to address these issues.

In 2021 the council supplemented the Corporate Strategy by setting out four key corporate priorities:

- **Delivering Better Services**
- **Protecting Our Environment**
- **Supporting Economic Growth**
- **Caring for the Vulnerable**

This policy supports these priorities by finding good environmental alternatives to plastics, minimising waste, helping to create new markets for alternative products. We also need to recognise that in protecting our most vulnerable residents, we often rely on single-use plastics for Personal Protective Equipment for both staff and residents and plastics can also be necessarily linked to care arrangements. We recognise the need to respect the needs of our vulnerable citizens in the application of this policy.

Further consideration is also required in respect of the role of plastics within the food industry. Plastic packaging helps in extending the shelf life of food, reducing unnecessary food waste, whilst also protecting food from chemical, bacterial, and physical cross contamination. We recognise the importance of adherence to food legislation in the application of this policy.

It should be noted that this approach has been shaped by the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic response, especially in relation to staff and public protection and the ongoing need for some single-use plastic products in exceptional circumstances. Even pre-pandemic, this was recognised as an issue by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.

Where products are deemed essential, we will however:

- Continue to seek alternatives;
- Ensure that, wherever possible, the product used is recyclable and that we do recycle it; and
- If not recyclable, we will ensure disposal using best environmental practice.

Our Policy

We will act to remove and reduce the use of single-use plastics from our operations and services as well as working towards finding positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste.

Our Approach

A single-use plastics action plan will be produced by September 2022, which will focus on the following objectives:

1. Leadership
 - a. Continue to work with our communities, district councils, public sector colleagues and businesses to identify and implement opportunities to reduce single-use plastics use and waste.
 - b. Work with our supply chains to identify alternatives to single-use plastics including a requirement that suppliers support/assist the council in meeting our objectives.
 - c. Use our procurement power to help develop alternative solutions to single-use plastics.
2. Commitment:
 - a. To purchase alternatives wherever viable options exist.
 - b. To continue to identify single-use plastic usage in our operations and find suitable alternatives
 - c. To ban the use of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons on county council land and premises. For those occupying premises under an existing lease, they will remain subject to the terms of that agreement, and we cannot unilaterally change them until the lease is renewed. We will however seek to get early agreement with occupiers wherever possible. Schools are also responsible for their own operational premise management, however we will also ask schools to agree to this approach.
 - d. To continue to work with the waste industry to develop recycling opportunities and develop best environmental options for disposal.
3. Recognition that some usage is currently unavoidable, however where this is the case:
 - a. We will encourage the use of recycled plastics, ideally supporting manufacturers that make products from locally sourced waste plastics.
 - b. We will ensure that, wherever possible, the product used is recycled.
 - c. We will ensure best available environmental disposal where recycling is not possible.
4. Supporting:
 - a. Event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all events held on county council land and share guidance for this more widely.
 - b. Our staff, communities, and businesses by sharing best practice, raising awareness, and promoting positive initiatives, campaigns and actions for reducing waste.

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 22 April 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Supporting economic growth;

Economic and Social Recovery Post Covid and the Way Forward

Contact for further information:

Andy Walker, Tel: 01772 535629, Head of Service, Business Growth
andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk

Summary

Since the declaration of the first UK lockdown in March 2020, the pandemic has provoked distinct waves of impact and response across Lancashire. Whilst persistent levels of COVID remain, the dropping of all formal restrictions is seeing a welcome recovery in economy, supported by local and national measures to stimulate activity and employment.

This report builds on data to illustrate:

- Those parts of the economy which were resilient to the pandemic or where COVID increased demand and innovation;
- The role played by furlough through the pandemic to protect employment;
- The sectors most impacted; and
- The longer term "scarring" issues still to be addressed in terms of employment levels, productivity, and investment.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the analysis of the economic and employment impacts of the pandemic in Lancashire; and
- ii) Support Cabinet to progress the Council's objective Supporting Economic Growth through local measures and through the attraction of additional national resource to address longer standing impacts.

Background

Whilst clearly secondary to the direct health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses, work and jobs across Lancashire have experienced their own immediate and longer-term changes through its duration. Parts of the county experienced some of the strictest and longest-lived restrictions in the UK and the county council, with

other partners, has played a key role in lobbying, responding and stimulating a recovery.

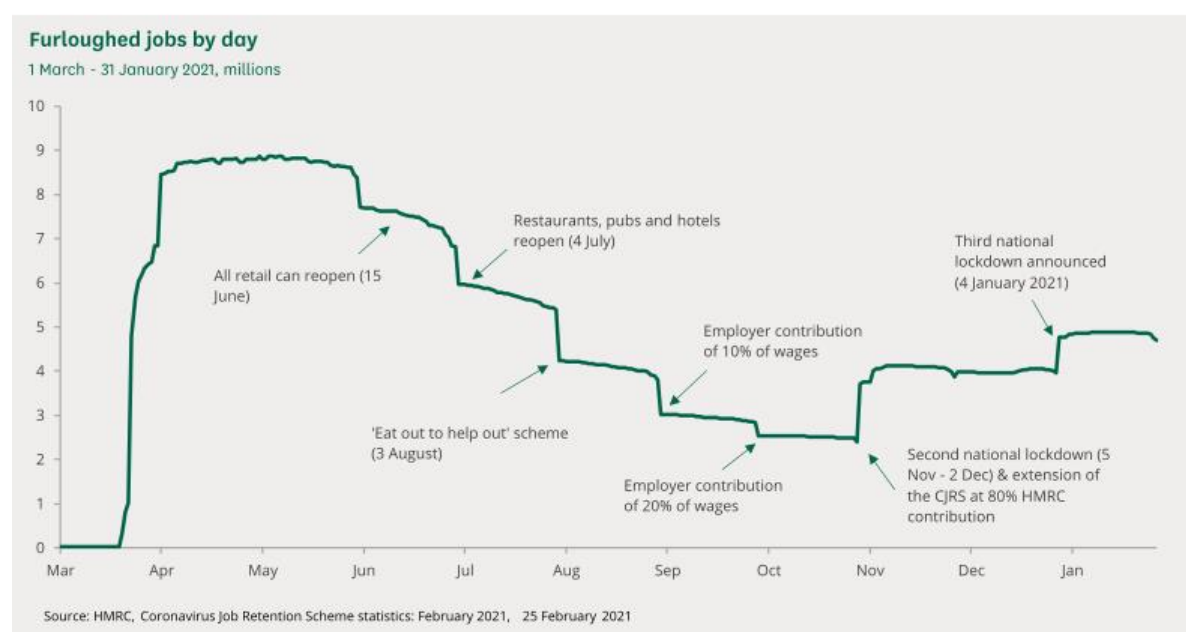
PHASE 1: Initial Impact – March 2020 to August 2020

On 23 March 2020 the Prime Minister addressed the country with the key message to "stay at home", followed by lockdown measures officially coming into law on 26 March 2020.

These announcements had been preceded by specific closures of hospitality and entertainment businesses on 20 March 2020, accompanied by the Chancellor announcing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) would cover 80% of a furloughed employee's wages, up to £2,500 per month.

Businesses were quick to take advantage of this offer, with almost nine million employees enrolled on the furlough programme by the end of the month.

Table 1- National Furlough Timeline



Other support included:

- Retail and hospitality businesses were able to register for business rates relief from 20 March 2020, followed on 22 March by nurseries.
- Launched on **23 March 2020**, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) was significantly expanded on 2 April 2020 along with changes to the scheme's features and eligibility criteria. The changes meant even more smaller businesses across the UK, impacted by COVID, could access funding.

- 4 May 2020, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy launched the Bounce Back Loans Scheme, offering loans of up to £50,000, or a maximum of 25% of annual turnover, to support businesses during the pandemic.
- To support the self-employed through the coronavirus outbreak, in March 2020 the Government announced the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). Initially the Scheme paid taxable grants worth 80% of someone's average monthly trading profit, for a three-month period. Those claiming could receive a grant up to £7,500 in total. Subsequently the SEISS was extended to the end of September 2021. The first round opened for applications on 13 May 2020 and closed on 13 July 2020. Just over 2.6 million claims were received for this first grant, costing £7.6 billion.

Local Responses

Initially local activity was focused on responding to the health impacts of the pandemic and providing advice to businesses and individuals to allow them to access the local and national support offer. Locally, businesses organised and collaborated in response to the national call to fabricate new respirators and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support the NHS. This activity came both from large organisations and small- and medium-sized enterprises, organised locally by the businesses themselves and by local Chambers of Commerce.

More formally, through this initial period, local authorities were asked to administer the following business support programmes:

- Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) – closed August 2020
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF) – August 2020
- Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF) – closed August 2020

As can be seen in the tables below, despite having to adapt quickly to these new duties, Lancashire districts and unitary councils were highly effective in distributing this grant resource to eligible businesses. Any underspends were returned to Government.

Services like *Boost – Lancashire's Business Growth Hub*, played its own role by helping businesses navigate the national and local business support offer and simply providing business owners, who were often in severe distress, a place to talk. The Boost social media campaign #AskforHelp which ran at this time, saw telephone and email enquiries double in volume.

Table 2 - Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund – Allocation / Grants Paid

Local Authority	LADGF Initial Allocation	Number of grants paid as at 30 Sept	Value of grants paid as at 30 Sept*
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	£2,235,250	328	£2,105,000
Blackpool Council	£2,422,000	248	£2,422,000
Burnley Borough Council	£1,215,000	169	£611,207
Chorley Borough Council	£1,135,250	50	£1,130,237
Fylde Council	£1,011,250	181	£1,011,250
Hyndburn Borough Council	£978,750	144	£975,000
Lancaster City Council	£1,683,750	842	£1,683,750
Pendle Borough Council	£1,248,500	150	£1,248,500
Preston City Council	£1,570,250	214	£1,570,250
Ribble Valley Borough Council	£867,750	307	£788,500
Rossendale Borough Council	£877,750	109	£540,315
South Ribble Borough Council	£992,500	132	£992,470
West Lancashire Borough Council	£1,072,000	203	£1,071,450
Wyre Council	£1,596,500	142	£1,238,500

Table 3 – Small Business Grants Fund / Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund – Allocation and Value of Payments

Local Authority	Initial Allocation	Number of hereditaments that the local authority has identified may be in scope to receive a grant as at 30 Sept	Number of grant payments made to hereditaments as at 30 Sept	Value of payments (£)
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	£46,448,000	3,986	3,706	£40,705,000
Blackpool Council	£59,124,000	3,959	3,959	£45,005,000
Burnley Borough Council	£26,510,000	2,271	2,023	£22,855,000
Chorley Borough Council	£24,784,000	2,506	1,916	£21,920,000
Fylde Council	£21,662,000	1,621	1,568	£18,275,000
Hyndburn Borough Council	£24,558,000	1,950	1,950	£21,405,000
Lancaster City Council	£37,616,000	3,053	2,673	£30,720,000
Pendle Borough Council	£26,432,000	2,050	2,022	£21,915,000
Preston City Council	£34,970,000	2,821	2,735	£32,420,000
Ribble Valley Borough Council	£18,926,000	1,543	1,543	£17,260,000
Rossendale Borough Council	£19,080,000	1,651	1,476	£15,825,000
South Ribble Borough Council	£20,888,000	3,062	1,676	£19,280,000
West Lancashire Borough Council	£22,450,000	1,899	1,754	£20,780,000
Wyre Council	£31,970,000	2,743	2,364	£27,420,000

It should be noted that despite this initial phase of lock down, many businesses remained resilient and even increased sales by pivoting or capitalising on the digital platforms they already used to respond to the unprecedented growth in e-commerce and the enhanced need to communicate through online platforms. Others were in sectors like health and care which faced enormous increases and in demand, coupled with new safe working practices which impinged on productivity.

The most severe impacts came in business sectors and their supply chains which were closed by legislation, or where markets disappeared as a result of the direct and indirect impacts on movement restrictions and/or the ability to gather.

PHASE 2: August 2020 to March 2021

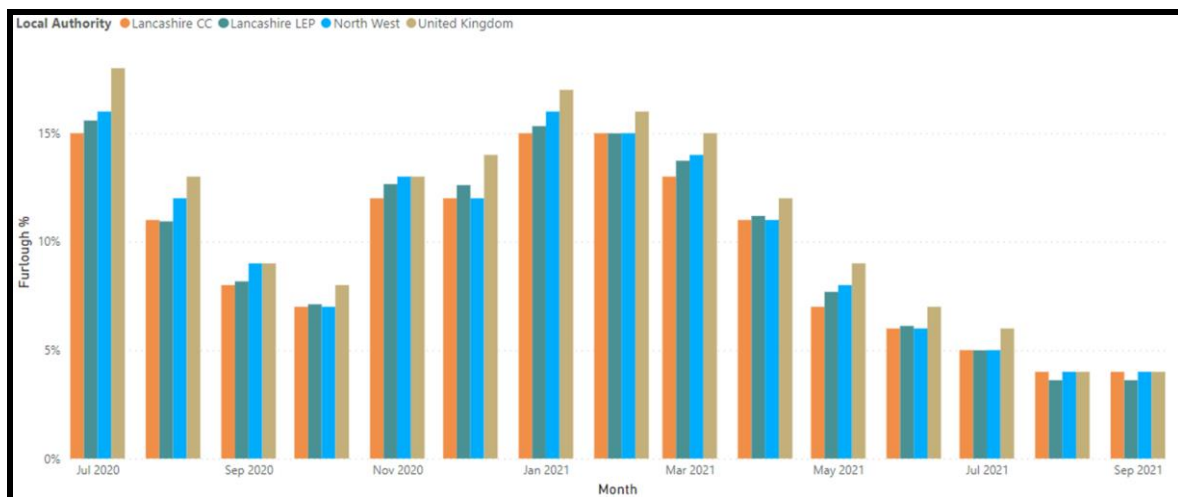
Despite some attempts to lift restrictions in August (Eat Out to Help Out, reopening of theatres, bowling alleys and soft-play areas), 22 September 2020 saw the announcement of new restrictions, a return to home-working and a 10.00 pm curfew for the hospitality sector. The new three-tier restriction system working across different geographical areas was formally introduced on 14 October 2020 with a more comprehensive lockdown applied at the end of the month. Initial attempts to lift some restrictions for Christmas were ultimately thwarted with a number of regions returning to Level 4 restrictions. By March 2021, delayed plans for young people to return to schools and college began to be realised.

This period coincided with a resurgence in "furlough" numbers, with approximately 15% of those eligible in Lancashire being charged to the programme (see Figure 1). This is estimated to equate to 101,000 employees.

Through this period, Lancashire local authorities were asked to administer further support to the business sector including,

- Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG)
- Restart Grant – closed June 2021
- Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSB) and Christmas support payments

Figure 1 - Percentage of Eligible Employments Furloughed Each Month



By mid-2020, formal measures were in place for dialogue between the Government and Lancashire's local authorities. A task-force lead by Paul Scully MP, was charged with understanding both the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic in the area and reporting these back into a Cabinet Office-led national hub.

The county council, upper tier authorities, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and stakeholders, including Marketing Lancashire, developed a campaign and submitted the "Redefining Lancashire" proposal to the Prime Minister, setting out how Lancashire as a whole, could play a key part in rebuilding the UK economy.

This report acknowledged the breadth and efficacy of the national support programme, however, the challenges were such in Lancashire that continued, targeted intervention as part of a local response to economic recovery was required alongside Government and other funding, to develop momentum to address the specific economic impacts of Covid-19 and help stimulate economic growth.

A strategy and priorities were set out within 'Redefining Lancashire' as part of an economic recovery and growth programme.

Economic Recovery and Growth Programme

As resolved by Cabinet in September 2020, £12.8million was allocated to support the formulation and delivery of a continued economic recovery and growth programme across the twelve district areas and a framework provided for targeted investment and intervention in key priority areas.

This framework set out the principles to tackle specific economic impacts of Covid-19 to stimulate economic growth in urban and rural areas, including targeted and pilot programmes, such as:

- 'Visit Soon, Safely' (including Tourism, Leisure, Hospitality & Town Centres);
- 'Made in Lancashire' (including Aerospace & Manufacturing); and
- Support to the longer-term economic potential of Lancashire's "development pipeline" and by unblocking strategic economic development and infrastructure projects, by funding a range of feasibility studies, masterplans, site investigations, and delivery and investment strategies.

Project Development

A comprehensive project development and management framework has been created to deliver the county council's programme with potential projects identified via established Economic Development mechanisms and structures, led by the county council aligned to the funding's 'Strategic Objectives'.

Expressions of Interest were received and reviewed against these Strategic Objectives, and eligible projects were invited to complete a Business Case template for review, which was based upon the main cases related to Strategic, Economic, Financial, Commercial and Management. Ineligible projects included those that were already fully funded, not able to be delivered against the programme timeframes, did not support the programme's strategic objectives, did not provide sufficient value for money, or were not sufficiently developed.

Programme Overview

A full programme of interventions has been established and funding allocations identified.

A range of projects has been identified across the whole of Lancashire straddling key strategic objective themes that support the full breadth of programme objectives. These projects are at various stages of contracting through the project governance structure. They include:

- Cross-cutting projects including manufacturing support (Aerospace Watchtower), skills support (Apprenticeship Grant Fund), and rural support (Rural Recovery Fund);
- Town Centre support projects through public realm investment (e.g. Ormskirk, Rawtenstall, Barnoldswick, Kirkham, Preston, Burnley);
- Visitor attraction projects (e.g. Morecambe Illuminations feasibility study);
- Business and Manufacturing support (e.g. Project access & infrastructure support);
- Masterplanning support (e.g. Heysham Gateway, The Island St Annes, Skelmersdale, Altham and Whitebirk masterplan);
- Business Case funding (e.g. South Fylde rail line, Chorley Town Centre);
- Regeneration schemes (e.g. Fleetwood Docks, Burnley Masterplan delivery); and
- Other projects are being considered and are at various stages of consideration/approval through the project governance process.

Governance arrangements

Robust governance arrangements have been established to appraise projects, and manage and monitor programme activity, which includes:

- Steering and Working Groups established with the focus of reviewing Business Cases;
- Recommendations for approval made by the Major Development Steering Group and Board including planning, commercial, legal and financial scrutiny; and
- Delegated Approval as per Cabinet approval.

Particular attention has been paid to new Subsidy Control measures and the responsibility that the county council has for establishing mechanisms/systems to monitor adherence to these principles.

Fund Management

Grant Funding Agreements are used for contractual arrangements with each project, with reporting and monitoring systems in place to audit spend, milestones, outputs and outcomes. A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been established to ensure funding compliance.

Communications

A Communications Plan has been established and protocols agreed with project applicants as part of Grant Funding Agreements. All funded projects have been supported by a Press Release and project summary Press Releases are made periodically.

PHASE 3: March 2021 to present

April 2021 saw the re-opening of non-essential retail, hairdressers, public buildings (e.g. libraries and museums). Outdoor venues, including pubs and restaurants, zoos and theme parks also opened, as well as indoor leisure (e.g. gyms). Self-contained holiday accommodation opened. Wider social contact rules continued to apply in all settings – no indoor mixing between different households was allowed.

Further relaxations set out within the Four Step Plan progress, though in June, Step 4 (most limits of social contact) is postponed for four weeks to July.

By September, "Plan B" for a winter upsurge in infections associated with the Omicron virus was announced. December saw a re-introduction of masks in public indoor venues, with NHS COVID passes required in nightclubs.

By 21 February 2022, the Prime Minister's statement on "Living with COVID" lifts remaining restrictions.

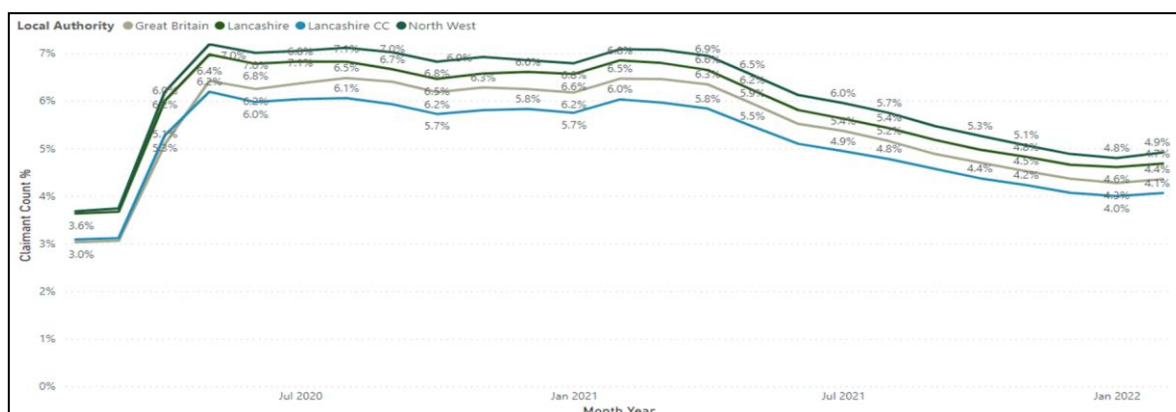
Local Responses and Issues

From mid-2022, local key performance indicators have started to register a tentative recovery in economic indicators around investment, jobs and new business start-ups.

The constituent projects with the Local Economic Recovery Programme continue to progress and are supporting the pace of recovery in businesses, places and employment.

Despite this, there remains work to do to return the local economy and labour market to pre-COVID levels.

Figure 2 - Claimant Count - Percentage of working age people claiming universal credit monthly – Lancashire CC, Lancashire LEP, North West and UK



The claimant count rate measures the percentage of people claiming unemployment benefits. The gap between the all-Lancashire rate and the UK rate has narrowed since the pandemic, with a 0.3% differential now (whereby the Local Enterprise Partnership rate is 0.3% above the national rate, compared to 0.6% pre-pandemic).

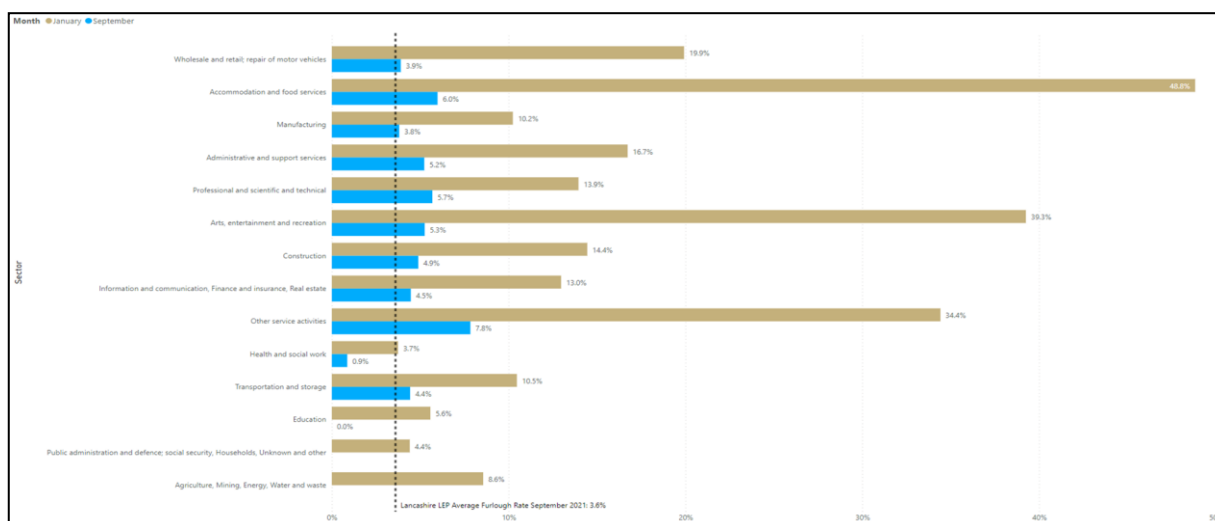
The rate spiked higher for young people during the pandemic but has fallen more quickly to recover. The Lancashire County Council rate was in line with the UK rate of 3.1% pre-pandemic, but is now below it at 4.1% as of February 2022, 0.3% below the UK rate.

Differing Sectoral Impacts

Clearly, some sectors have been more adversely affected than others, but as shown in Figure 3, even as late as January 2021 there were still large furlough rates, particularly in service sectors in Lancashire.

Invariably these were roughly in line with the national rates for these sectors, though notably Manufacturing's furlough rate in Lancashire was slightly higher than the national rate. This is an important consideration when one takes into account relative productivity differentials between sectors, particularly Lancashire's high value-added manufacturing sector.

Figure 3. Percentage furlough estimate by sector (2019 BRES vs Furlough by Sector) Lancashire



COVID Impact on Employment Levels

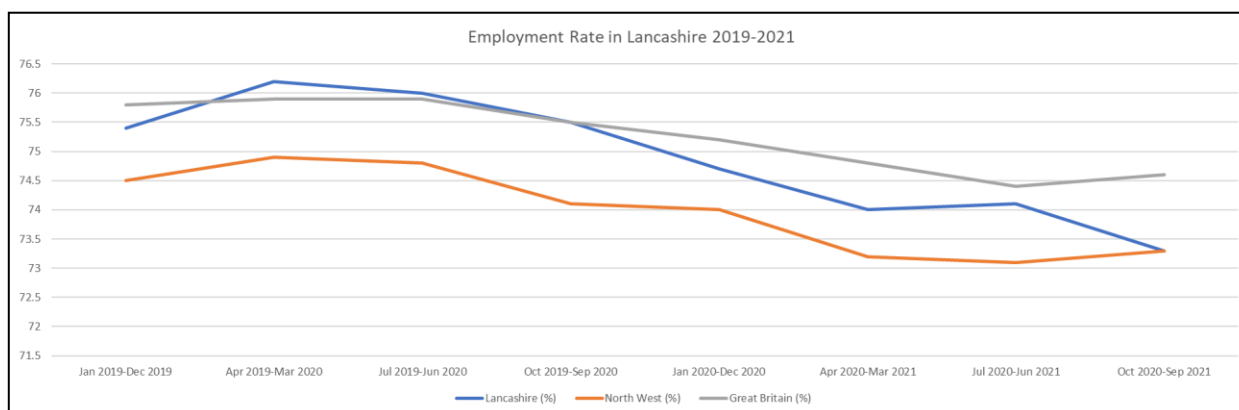
Nationally, regionally, and locally the employment rate has fallen since the start of the pandemic.

In the latest pre-pandemic quarter, Lancashire's (14 LAs) employment rate was growing, compared to reasonably static or slower growth regionally and nationally.

The pre-pandemic picture was that Lancashire had a higher employment rate than was typical nationally and regionally.

That is no longer the case. Lancashire's employment rate is now roughly in line with the North West rate, having been in excess of 1% higher pre-pandemic, and is ~1.3% below the national rate. This is summarised as a fall of 2.9% in Lancashire, and 1.6% in the NW, and 1.3% nationally – the equivalent of 25,700 fewer employed people in Lancashire compared to pre-pandemic.

Figure 4. Percentage of Working Age who are Employed – 2019 to 2021. Lancashire vs NW vs GB



Wider Business Impacts

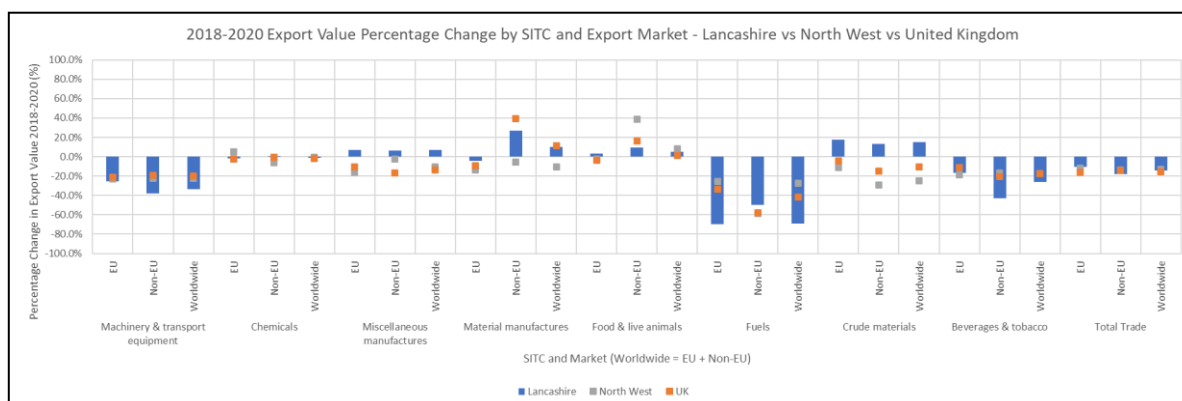
As noted previously, we are observing an uplift in the number of new start businesses whilst employment concerns have already moved from retaining staff to over-coming skills shortages. New and pre-existing pressures such as the need to decarbonise and recent increases in fuel and materials costs are replacing the impact of the pandemic as the main concern of businesses. Nevertheless, some lasting and less expected impacts from the pandemic remain.

Such was the impact of the Government's financial support to businesses (CBILS and BBLs) that we are now seeing a reluctance for further borrowing. Similarly, as illustrated in Figure 5, COVID has impacted the extent to which the business community has been engaging in export markets. Between 2018 and 2020, data on the export of goods shows a reduction in the value of exports of 14.3% (compared to a 15.3% reduction nationally) – the equivalent of a decline of £824m.

This has been broadly driven by a third reduction in the value of exports of Machinery and Transport Equipment, the equivalent of a drop of £877m. There was a very modest drop in the value of chemicals exported (second biggest export sector in Lancashire in 2020), but some positive increases in the values of goods exported as Miscellaneous Manufactures (+6.7%) and Material manufactures (+9.7%). You can see above which sectors Lancashire has fared better or worse in compared to the North West and UK.

It will be unclear for some time how much of this can be attributed to difficulties during COVID, as the value of goods exported from Lancashire reduced consecutively in 2018 and 2019, being 1.06% and 9.78% down respectively compared to 2017 exports. Clearly this has accelerated into 2020 with exports down by 14.3% compared to 2018 levels. This could be a consequence of an accelerating change in export attractiveness, but equally we know the civil aerospace market has been particularly challenging during COVID. It should also be noted that these figures reflect the export performance on goods. Whilst service exports are less well measured, they will have remained easier to export through the pandemic period.

Figure 5. Lancashire's International Trade Performance – Exports

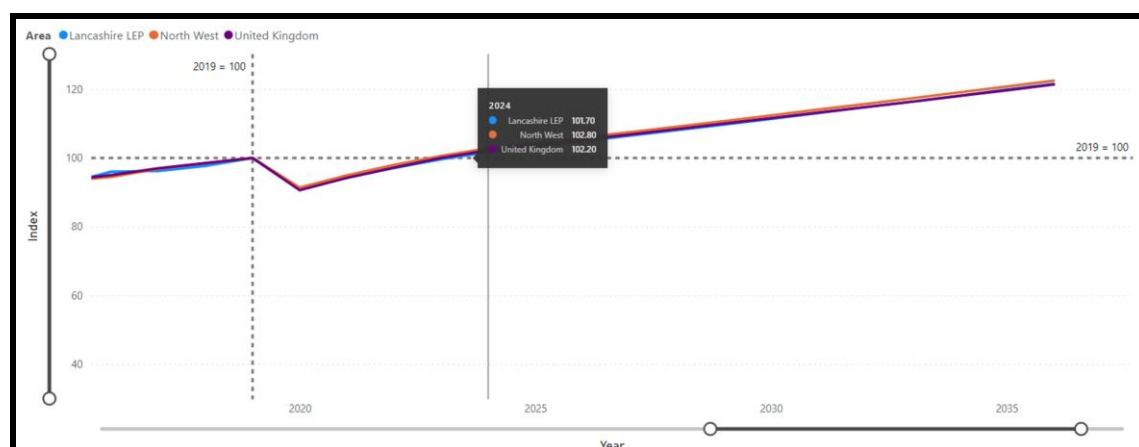


In overall terms, the setback to the local economy presented by the pandemic can be seen on its impact on Gross Value Added (GVA). This broadly equates to the sum of wages and profits within the local economy.

Looking at GVA in 2018 prices, expressed as a proportion of 2019 GVA, Lancashire is expected to see a reduction of 8.9% of GVA in 2020, compared to 8.6% in the North West, and 9.4% nationally.

The recovery is expected to take place at a similar pace to the North West and UK, but with Lancashire expected to be slightly slower in recovering GVA back to 2019 levels, first doing so in 2024, where GVA is expected to be 1.7% higher than 2019 levels, below the North West and UK expectation – this is a year later than the “Break Even Point” in the UK and North West, which is 2023 based on current projections.

Figure 6 - Lancashire’s Projected GVA Impact of COVID and Recovery from COVID



NEXT STEPS

Local partners have already set in train a range of actions to redress the impact of the pandemic on local employment and the economy. A significant pipeline of new development is in place, creating the space for new inward investors and the growth of indigenous businesses. Recent announcements include the decision to local the National Cyber Force at Samlesbury Enterprise Zone, continued efforts to realise the Eden North concept, and plans across Lancashire's local authorities to develop a shared vision for Lancashire moving forward to 2050.

Detail

This paper gathers a range of national and local data, gauging the impact of COVID on the Lancashire Economy and Labour market.

Consultations

The paper includes published materials from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the, the Department for International Trade, and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and has been consulted on with colleagues in Finance and Legal services.

Implications:

Whilst the county council has been actively promoting recovery measures, there remain some longer-term scarring issues around employment and business performance which will take further time to address and improve.

Risk management

The failure of the economy and labour market to bounce back quickly from COVID impacts will have wider impacts for both revenue and service demand within the county council.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 22 April 2022

Electoral Division affected:
N/A;

Corporate Priorities:
N/A;

Work Programme 2021/22

(Appendices 'A' – 'D' refer)

Contact for further information:

Hannah Race, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel: 01772 530655,

Hannah.Race@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief 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 the Internal and External Scrutiny Committees held on 9 July 2021.

The work programmes for the other scrutiny committees are attached at Appendices 'B' to 'D'.

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, and partners; and
- iii) Note and comment on the work programmes of other scrutiny committees as appropriate.

Detail

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 reports are presented at the most appropriate time.

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

Members are asked to discuss and agree the work programme, consider key lines of enquiry for future meeting topics, and discuss any additional representation required from key officers, Cabinet Members, and partners as appropriate.

In addition, the committee is asked to note and comment as appropriate on the work programmes for the other scrutiny committees (Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, External Scrutiny Committee, and Health Scrutiny Committee).

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risks.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

None

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	12 November 2021

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
		Ridwan Musa, Operations Manager	
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
Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles	Following improvements to range etc, LCC has now procured its first electric vehicles (small vans). 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.	LCC Oliver Starkey, Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport Phil Durnell, Director of Highways	4 March 22

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
	Capital purchase cost of vehicles is substantially greater but whole-life costs more equivalent Currently technology for large vehicles isn't in place.		
Update on the Proposal for a Task Group regarding Public Realm Agreements	Following the committee's request at its meeting on 21 January 2022, an update regarding the proposal for a scrutiny Task Group.	LCC Senior Democratic Services Officer	4 March 2022
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.	Being the second largest economy in NW, Lancashire hit hard on three fronts: <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. A recovery framework was devised in June 2020 and a new strategic vision has been developed in the Greater Lancashire Plan.	LCC Phil Green, Interim Executive Director Growth, Environment, Transport & Community Services.	22 April 2022
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	LCC Mike Kirby leading on this with support from Clare Johnson, Steve Scott, William	22 April 2022

Appendix A

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
	the development of a strategy to make LCC a SUP free authority where possible and feasible.	Maxwell, Rachel Tanner, Ginette Unsworth, Ajay Sethi.	
The Levelling Up Fund	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of the Fund and its aims - Submitting a bid - Priorities for Lancashire 	<p>LCC John Davies, Head of Service, Highways Phil Durnell, Director of Highways Service</p> <p>Bite Size Briefing was held in July 2021.</p>	8 July 2022
Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Annual Report	To provide an annual update to the committee.	<p>LCC Chris Wilkinson, Trading Standards Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services</p>	TBC (8 July or 9 September 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.	<p>LCC Oliver Starkey, Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport Phil Durnell, Director of Highways</p>	TBC
Youth Employment and Skills – impact on youth as one of the hardest hit groups during the pandemic	To be considered by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 May 2022.	LCC	N/A

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 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 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

Appendix B

- 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.

Appendix B

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
Children Looked After	Housing, EET, 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	Public Health Consultant	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
Road Safety	Update on progress from Cllrs on the 'rapporteur' exercise to review data on children seriously injured and killed on Lancashire's roads	CC's Julia Berry, Ron Woollam and Rupert Swarbrick	16 March 2022
Shaping Care Together	Update from NHS colleagues	NHS – Matt Blakemore and Jackie Moran	16 March 2022

Appendix B

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Meeting Date
School Transport/Road Safety	Final report from the 'rapporteur' exercise on children and young people's road safety	Deputy PCC Andy Pratt CC's Julia Berry, Ron Woollam and Rupert Swarbrick Road Safety Manager Highway Regulation Manager	20 April 2022
Children's Health	Update from Cllrs on 'rapporteur' exercises to review: Dental health Healthy Eating	CC's Kay and Jones CC's Hind and Sutcliffe	20 April 2022
Employment, Education or Training (EET)	Review of apprenticeships data, work based training, district data link, accessibility Review of measures in place and lessons learned - data trends, CLA, young carers, alternative provision colleges	Lancashire Enterprise Partnership District Council leads Director of Education, Culture and Skills Alternative Provision	17 May 2022

Priority areas for 2022-23:

- Child poverty
- SEND – covid recovery/catch up funding
- Children and young people's mental health – recommendations update from Dec 21 meeting – June 22 (tbc)

Additional topics identified:

- Provision in Lancashire schools for bilingual children
- PHSE and life planning in schools
- Maintained nurseries update to Cabinet
- Shaping Care Together update

Task Group recommendation updates:

- Schools Causing Concern
- Pupils in special schools with medical conditions

Available bite size briefing recordings for councillors:

Subject	Delivered by	Date of session/recording
Responsibilities of the county council and school governing bodies for schools	Sarah Callaghan	21 September 2021 View and Review (lancscc.net)
SEND sufficiency	Sally Richardson	21 September 2021 View and Review (lancscc.net)
School Place Planning	Mel Ormesher	13 October 2021 View and Review (lancscc.net)
SEND Overview and APP Update	Sally Richardson	24 November 2021 View and Review (lancscc.net)
Early Years	Andrew Cadman	6 December 2021 View and Review (lancscc.net)
Children's Permanence Service	Brendan Lee	26 January 2022 View and Review (lancscc.net)
Family Safeguarding	Mandy Williams	2 February 2022 View and Review (lancscc.net)

Available vodcasts: [Councillors Learning Quarter - Education and Childrens Services \(lancscc.net\)](#)

Early Help
 Fostering
 Adoption Services
 SCAYT (Supporting Children and Young People Together)
 Residential Children's Homes

Upcoming bite size briefings for councillors:

Alternative Provision	11 May 2022
Mental Health Services for Children and Young People	24 May 2022
Elective Home Education	TBC
Road Safety	TBC

External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

The External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled or extraordinary 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 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 External Scrutiny Committee will:

1. Review and scrutinise issues, services or activities carried out by external organisations including public bodies, the voluntary and private sectors, partnerships and traded services which affect Lancashire or its inhabitants, and to make recommendations to the Full Council, Cabinet, cabinet members, cabinet committees, or external organisations as appropriate
2. Review and scrutinise the operation of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Lancashire in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 and make reports and recommendations to the responsible bodies as appropriate
3. In connection with 2. above, to require an officer or employee of any of the responsible bodies to attend before the committee to answer questions
4. Co-opt additional members in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 if required, and to determine whether those co-opted members should be voting or non-voting
5. Review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area

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

Appendix C

The dates are indicative of when the External 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)
Community Safety Partnerships – Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022-2025	Review the key themes within the Strategic Assessment, as the main elements that will feature in the Community Safety Agreement	Debbie Thompson, LCC	29 November 2021
Supporting Lancashire Businesses during COVID-19	Review of the funding made available from Government and to identify lessons learned to help inform recommendations for future joint working with District Councils	CC Aidy Riggott, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth, Andy Walker, LCC	
Universal Credit in Lancashire	Update from LCC Welfare Rights Service on the implications on county council frontline services and budgets.	LCC and DWP representatives	11 January 2022
Electricity North West	Response to Storm Arwen	ENW representatives	
Strengthening Flood Risk Management and Preparedness	Progress report on agreed actions arising from recommendations of scrutiny task and finish group review.	Rachel Crompton and Laura Makeating, Flood Risk Managers, LCC and CC Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change	1 March 2022
Community Safety Agreement 2022-25	Review the proposed agreement for 2022-2025	Debbie Thompson, LCC	12 April 2022 Meeting cancelled

Topics to be scheduled at the request of the committee:

- Climate Change and Flood Risk Management progress update March 2023
- Environment Agency – report on Nature Based Schemes
- Review the flooding roles of the LLFA and Highways Authority
- Universal Credit in Lancashire – Welfare Rights Services
- Electricity North West – Storm Arwen review outcomes

Topics for potential inclusion on the programme:

- Transport for the North – infrastructure and routes
- Decarbonisation in Lancashire
- Road Safety Partnership (Community Safety Partnerships) - Review of strategy/policy and preparations for the new changes to the Highway Code
- Greater Lancashire Plan
- HS2

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:

- Scrutinise matters relating to health and adult social care delivered by the authority, the National Health Service and other relevant partners.
- Review 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, 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, refer the matter to the relevant secretary of state.
- 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 the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

- Request that the Internal Scrutiny Committee establish as necessary, joint working arrangements with district councils and other neighbouring authorities.
- 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.
- Recommend Full Council to co-opt on to the committee persons with appropriate expertise in relevant health matters, without voting rights.
- 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 Health Scrutiny Committee 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 2021
Workforce GP shortage	Progress made in relation to recommendations of the 2017 scrutiny inquiry report	NHS England North West and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS	14 December 2021 (cancelled)
Housing with Care and Support Strategy	Progress on the implementation of the strategy	LCC Adult Services	1 February 2022
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)	
Shaping Care Together	Update on the programme	Jackie Moran, West Lancashire CCG	22 March 2022
New Hospitals Programme	Update on options	Rebecca Malin and Jerry Hawker, New Hospitals Programme	

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/organisations	Proposed Date(s)
Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration	Update on progressing to a single pathology service	Mark Hindle, LSCFT	28 June 2022

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

- New Hospitals Programme and Shaping Care Together Programme (June 2022 tbc)
- Disabled facilities Grants - Report on the differing allocations of Disabled Facilities Grants to district councils in Lancashire with a focus on discretionary grants (LCC Adult Social Care)
- Update on the activities of the County Council's Champion for Mental Health (CC S Morris Spring 2022 tbc)
- Community Mental Health Transformation programme (tbc)
- Early intervention and social prescribing - Review of development and effectiveness – (tbc)
- Housing with Care and Support Strategy (June 2023)

Health Scrutiny Steering Group Work Programme

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes)	Lead Officers/partners	Proposed Date(s)
Lancashire and 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 and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	LSCFT	13 October 2021
Clatterbridge Cancer Centre	Blood cancer proposal	Jackie Moran, NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group	
Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration	Concerns raised by pathologists	Gary Halsall, LCC	
Outbreak management and infection control – adult social care	Report on the key issues	Lisa Slack, Head of Service Quality, Contracts and Safeguarding Adults Service, LCC	10 November 2021
NHS 111	Findings and evaluation of the new NHS 111 First programme (resolution from committee's meeting held on 15 September 2020)	Jackie Bell, Head of NHS 111 Service, NWAS	
NHS winter planning	Assurance on measures and systems in place for the forthcoming winter.	Seamus McGirr and David Bonson, Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS	

Appendix D

Continuing Healthcare Assessments	Focus on county council resources, understanding the delay to finalising policies, and the effect on wider health outcomes	Ian Crabtree and Saad Khan, LCC	1 December 2021
Workforce resilience, wellbeing, sufficiency – Adult Social Care	Report on the key issues	Louise Taylor, Tony Pounder, LCC Adult Social Care	
Healthwatch Lancashire	Identifying collaborative ways of working	David Blacklock, People First/Health Lancashire	5 January 2022
Workforce GP shortage	Progress made in relation to recommendations of the 2017 scrutiny inquiry report	NHS England North West and Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS	
New Hospitals Programme	Update on shortlisting options - first phase	Rebecca Malin and Jerry Hawker, New Hospitals programme	
UHMBT – Urology and Trauma and Orthopaedic Services	Determine how to monitor improvements	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Dr David Levy, Chair of NHSE/I System Improvement Board	9 February 2022
Fylde Coast Integrated Care Contract	Review of contract and recent CQC rating of Blackpool Hospital's Urgent and Emergency Care provision		
Quality Surveillance Group	Introduction and identifying collaborative ways of working	Jackie Hanson and Jane Scattergood, NHS England & NHS Improvement North West Region	
Shaping Care Together	Update on the programme	Matt Blakemore, South Sefton CCG and Jackie Moran, West Lancs CCG	10 March 2022
Lancashire & South Cumbria - Enhanced Acute Stroke Services programme	To consider further information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade union engagement • Travel times modelling and contingency plans for North Lancs area • Recruitment and training 	TBC	
Health inequalities – people with learning disabilities	Report on the key issues	LCC Learning disabilities, autism and mental health	

Appendix D

			6 April 2022 Meeting cancelled
Disabled facilities Grants - TBC	Report on the key issues	LCC Adult Social Care	4 May 2022
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 and South Cumbria ICS	
NHS Trust Quality Accounts (April/May/June TBC)	Review of NHS Trust Quality Accounts – formulating comments	Healthwatch Lancashire	
Work programming 2022/23			June 2022
Quality Surveillance Group	Update on the transition to the System Quality Group	Jackie Hanson and Jane Scattergood, NHS England & NHS Improvement North West Region	June/July 2022

Other topics to be scheduled:

- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – CQC Report on urgent and emergency care
- Urology and Trauma and Orthopaedic Services update
- Do Not Resuscitate Orders and People with Learning Disabilities
- Continuing Healthcare Assessments - Update on progress (Ian Crabtree, Saad Kafrika, LCC and Talib Yaseen, Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS)
- Intermediate Care Services - Report on the key issues (LCC and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS)
- Health Education England – workforce risks, recruitment and training (see 10 Nov 21 Steering Group notes)
- High Intensity User Programme
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Enhanced Acute Stroke Services – update to steering group between March and May 2022
- Liberty Protection Safeguards – review of preparations before go live (April/October 2022?)
- Health and Care Bill 2021 – implications for health scrutiny

- NHS Workforce and Shortage of GPs (December 2022 – see 1 December 2021 notes)
- 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
- Building and enduring health protection function beyond COVID – initial report on plans from LCC Public Health
- The following Public Health topics to be scheduled within the next six months from February 2022 (these supersede the combined topic originally scheduled for March 2022 on, Preventative healthcare – healthy weight and obesity; NHS Health Checks (Healthy Hearts) Emotional and Mental Health – substance misuse and alcohol services):
 - Best Start in Life – e.g. oral health, obesity, school readiness (Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee)
 - Healthy Hearts and Minds – NHS health checks and mental health
 - Public Health transformation programme

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
- Health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities