

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 9th June, 2022 at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee 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**

No apologies were received.

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 May 2022**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Questions for Cabinet**

There was one question for Cabinet. A copy of the question and the response is attached to the minutes.

5. Champion for Disabled People Appointment

Cabinet considered a report proposing to appoint County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite as Champion for Disabled People in place of County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick.

Resolved: That, the appointment of County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite as Champion for Disabled People in place of County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick with immediate effect, be approved.

6. Report on Corporate Performance Management 2021/22 Quarter 4

Cabinet considered a report providing an overview of the key performance indicators to enable monitoring of performance against the four priorities of the corporate strategy:

- Delivering better services
- Protecting our environment
- Supporting economic growth
- Caring for the vulnerable

It was noted that previously, the quarterly monitoring reports were presented to the Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement. However, this committee was disestablished by Cabinet on 5 May 2022.

Following consideration of the report, it was requested that the next quarterly report contain data on gullies cleaning, specifically on the time it takes for gullies to be cleaned throughout Lancashire.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the report and the additional information set out in Appendices 'A' and 'B', the report be noted and that data on gullies cleaning be provided in the next quarterly report to Cabinet.

7. The County Council's Financial Position - 2021/22 Outturn

Cabinet considered a report providing details on the county council's 2021/22 revenue and capital outturn position.

It was noted that the 2021/22 revenue position at the end of the year was net expenditure of £851.490m, against an approved budget of £881.413m. This represented an in-year underspend of £29.923m or 3.39% of the revenue budget.

Resolved: That;

- i. The council's final revenue and capital outturn position for 2021/22 be noted; and
- ii. Approval be given for the transfer of the 2021/22 revenue underspend to the transitional reserve.

8. Procurement Report

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to commence the procurement exercise for the construction of Cottam Parkway Railway Station, Preston in accordance with the county council's procurement rules.

Resolved: That, the commencement of the procurement exercise for the construction of Cottam Parkway Railway Station, Preston be approved.

9. Broadgate Cycle Optimised Protected Signals Junction Upgrade

Cabinet considered a report outlining proposals to upgrade the junction of Broadgate, Fishergate Hill, Strand Road and Liverpool Road in Preston to improve walking and cycling facilities through the introduction of Cycle Optimised Protected Signals design with associated measures.

It was noted that public engagement, consultation and formal advertising of the proposals had been undertaken with a small number of objections being received.

Resolved: That, the following be approved:

- i. Junction improvements for cycling and walking at the Broadgate junction with Liverpool Road (Appendices 'A' and 'C' refer);
- ii. Construction of a cycle track for cycle use only in and around the junction, and of a footway which was for on foot only around the junction, together with construction of shared use cycletrack, the removal of existing carriageway and footway at the junction and areas of planting to introduce the Cycle Optimised Protected Signals design (Appendices 'A' and 'C' refer);
- iii. The making of associated Orders for reconfigured parking, waiting and loading arrangements on Fishergate Hill, introduction of a 20mph speed limit and a one-way restriction on Fishergate Hill filter lane -U4369 (Appendix 'A' refers);
- iv. Rumble Strips, road humps (40mm high) and parallel crossing on Fishergate Hill filter lane (Appendix 'A' refers); and
- v. Bus stop clearways on Broadgate and Fishergate Hill (Appendix 'A' refers).

10. Developing Provision for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Cabinet considered a report that provided the outcomes of the formal consultations that were carried out in relation to proposals to create Special Educational Needs (SEN) units attached to two primary schools and one secondary school.

It was noted that the results of the feasibility studies and informal consultations to expand and increase the number of school places in two special schools were also provided and Cabinet was being asked to approve the publication of statutory notices and the initiation of formal consultation needed to make changes to the two schools.

Additionally, the report included information in relation to a proposal to create a free special school for primary aged pupils presenting with social, emotional and mental health needs in a partially occupied building on the same site as Castle View Primary School in

Lancaster. Cabinet was being asked to approve the initiation of the process required to establish the new school.

Resolved: That;

- i. Following consideration of the results of the formal consultations, and the creation of a Special Educational Needs unit at Fleetwood Chaucer Primary School, St Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale and St Augustine's Roman Catholic High School, Billington, near Clitheroe be approved, and it be noted that the development of a Special Educational Needs unit at St Augustine's Roman Catholic High School was part of a larger school expansion that received Cabinet approval in April 2022;
- ii. Following consideration of the results of the informal consultation to expand and increase the number of school places at Thornton Cleveleys Red Marsh School and Lostock Hall Moor Hey School, approval be given to initiate the formal consultation process; and
- iii. The undertaking of the process to establish a new school in Lancaster for primary aged pupils presenting with social, emotional and mental health needs, in accordance with the updated Department for Education 'Establishing a New School: Free School Presumption' guidance and associated framework, be approved.

11. Multiply Funding to Improve Adult Numeracy Skills

Cabinet considered a report that outlined the opportunity from the government to develop and deliver a new skills programme, 'Multiply', aimed at boosting adult numeracy as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the successor programme to European Structural and Investment Funds.

The report also described the priorities for the Multiply programme and confirmed that £5.9m had been allocated to Lancashire County Council for a three-year period from April 2022. Additionally, the paper outlined the short-term requirement for an Investment Plan, which was needed to be submitted to the Department for Education by the end of June 2022.

Resolved: That;

- i. Authorisation be given to develop the Investment Plan and the Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services and the Executive Director of Education and Children Services be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to approve the plan; and
- ii. The Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services and the Executive Director of Education and Children Services be authorised to finalise the programme and award funding to projects, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Director of Corporate Services and Director of Finance. This would enable the commissioning and procurement of numeracy provision, including entering into legal/funding arrangements as required up to the indicative budget limit of £5.9m.

12. Approval for Submission to the Government's Levelling Up Fund

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update on the progress towards preparing for a submission to Round 2 of the Government's Levelling Up Fund by 6 July 2022, including specifying the details of the emerging submission and confirmation of the financial implications to the county council.

Resolved: That;

- i. The details of the emerging submission to the Fund, be noted;
- ii. The development funding of up to £400,000 (as previously approved by Cabinet in July 2021) be confirmed and be continued towards the design activity following the submission and in advance of the Government's formal announcement of successful applications anticipated in late 2022;
- iii. The underwriting of a capital contribution be made as local match funding to support a funding bid, estimated at up to £5 million (as previously approved by Cabinet in July 2021); and
- iv. The Executive Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, be authorised in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth, to submit the county council's funding application by 6 July 2022.

13. Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme

Cabinet considered a report on the Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme. It was noted that Full Council on 17 February 2022 approved the allocation of an annual budget of £58,000 for a small grants scheme to support local nature and biodiversity projects. This report set out the grant details and the process for Parish and Town Councils to access the funding through the Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme.

County Councillor Graham Gooch declared a Non-Pecuniary interest as he was the Chairman of Longton Parish Council.

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson also declared a non-Pecuniary Interest as she was a member of Arkholme Parish Council.

Resolved: That, support be given to the Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme and to the promotion of the scheme.

14. Capital Redevelopment of the Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library

Cabinet considered a report on the Capital Redevelopment of the Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library. It was noted that the Re-Imagining the Harris project was a partnership between Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council that was established in 2015 with the aim of transforming the Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library (the Harris). A bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the redevelopment of the Harris worth £4.5m was successful and the release of funds were previously agreed at Cabinet on the 9 August 2018.

Resolved: That, the release of the remaining £750,000 of the £1m funding previously agreed by Cabinet on the 9 August 2018 with £250,000 having been paid towards the support of the bid as agreed in November 2017, be approved.

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

Resolved: That the urgent decision taken by the Leader of the County Council and the relevant Cabinet Member, since the last meeting of Cabinet, be noted.

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, 7 July 2022 at County Hall, Preston.

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive and
Director of Resources

County Hall
Preston

Question to Cabinet
Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on
9 June 2022

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Mark Clifford	Respondent: County Councillor Shaun Turner
	<p>Item 13 - Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme</p> <p>Whilst any money given to increase biodiversity in Lancashire shouldn't be sneezed at. Does the Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Change agree with me, that a total grant pot of just £58,000 for the Parish and Town Council Biodiversity small grant scheme is in effect chicken feed at £300 per grant, and will be seen as an insulting and derisory amount by many, especially as Town and Parish Councils have been forced by Lancashire County Council to spend thousands of pounds on lamppost stress testing to hang flowers and bunting off, in this great year of the Queens Jubilee.</p>	<p>The Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme is one part of a much wider package of measures the county council is taking to protect the environment and to help nature recovery in Lancashire.</p> <p>The funding will recur every year. It also complements the Local Delivery Scheme for public rights of way that has been made available for parish councils for more than 10 years, and which was recently increased by £100,000 per year.</p> <p>The Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme aims to support micro biodiversity projects at the local level. It must be seen in the context of the broad range of other nature recovery measures taken by the county council. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The county council is in the process of recruiting three ecologists to manage the 1,200 Biological Heritage Sites in Lancashire. They will identify and protect the county's critical environmental capital: its ancient woodlands, peatlands, wetlands and species-rich grasslands. • Restoration projects have restored 755 hectares of our peatlands, and a bid is being prepared with partners to secure funding for more peatland restoration.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the last decade, over 149,000 trees have been planted by the county council. This has sequestered 37,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.• Work has commenced with partners to prepare a Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy which will address the biodiversity crisis and steer nature recovery.
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