

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 11th April, 2024 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 Peter Buckley
County Councillor Graham Gooch
County Councillor Michael Green
County Councillor Jayne Rear
County Councillor Aidy Riggott
County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick
County Councillor Cosima Towneley
County Councillor Shaun Turner

County Councillor Lorraine Beavers was also in attendance under the provisions of Standing Order No. C13(2).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Councillors Alan Vincent and Jennifer Mein.

County Councillor Mike Goulthorp attended on behalf of County Councillor Alan Vincent under Standing Order C13(1).

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2024

It was noted that in relation to Item 9 – Proposed 2024/25 Highways New Start Capital Programmes that road 356 Goosnargh Lane was not in the Ribble Valley South West electoral division as listed in the report, and was in the Preston Rural electoral division.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Cabinet noted and welcomed the visit of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal to Helmshore Mills Textile Museum in Rossendale, yesterday Wednesday 10 April 2024.

4. Questions for Cabinet

There were two questions received.

A copy of the questions and the responses are attached to the minutes.

5. Procurement Report

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to commence the following procurement exercises in accordance with the county council's procurement rules:

- (i) Electrical and mechanical consultancy;
- (ii) Reactive and planned improvement works;
- (iii) Real Time Passenger Information Bus Services and Traffic Light Priority System; and
- (iv) Lancashire Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation and Outreach Services.

Resolved: That the commencement of procurement exercises for the following be approved:

- (i) Electrical and mechanical consultancy;
- (ii) Reactive and planned improvement works;
- (iii) Real Time Passenger Information Bus Services and Traffic Light Priority System; and
- (iv) Lancashire Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation and Outreach Services.

6. Household Support Fund

Cabinet considered a report on the Household Support Fund. It was noted that an extension to the Household Support Fund had recently been announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the associated grant funding from the Department for Work and Pensions was being provided for a further six months from 1 April 2024.

Resolved: That

- (i) The proposed approach to the allocation of the Household Support Fund, as detailed in the report, be approved;
- (ii) The Director of Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader), to approve the final detail of the scheme, and any subsequent Household Support Fund schemes in line with the principles set out and relevant government guidance; and
- (iii) The decision be implemented immediately for the purposes of Standing Order C27(3) as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the county



council's responsibilities. The reason for this was to expedite implementation of the decision as there was an expectation that the scheme is implemented from 1 April 2024, providing support to some of the most vulnerable households in Lancashire.

7. Residential Children's Homes

Cabinet considered a report that set out proposals to establish up to 15 new residential children's homes, comprising four 4 bed homes, eleven 2 bed homes and two solo crisis beds in an existing home, which would deliver up to 40 additional in-house residential children's home beds.

It was noted that Appendix 'A' of the report was in Part II and was set out at Item No. 21 on the agenda.

In presenting the report, Cabinet thanked County Councillors Mike Goulthorp, Jeff Couperthwaite, and Alan Vincent, together with Jacqui Old CBE, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, Louise Anderson, Director of Children's Social Care, Dave Carr, Director of Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, and all the officers who helped produce the report, for all the work they had undertaken in bringing the report to Cabinet.

Resolved: That, the following be approved:

- (i) The establishment of up to 15 new homes, comprising four 4 bed homes, eleven 2 bed homes and two solo crisis beds in an existing home, which would deliver up to 40 additional in-house residential children's home beds;
- (ii) The capital funding as set out in Appendix 'A' of the report for acquisition and works for the 15 new homes and two solo crisis beds; and
- (iii) The programme be subject to review by the Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader) and the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, in conjunction with the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and the S151 officer, after the delivery of the first 9 homes and two crisis beds (first 3 waves) to ensure that the approval is delivering benefits as expected.

8. Childcare Expansion Capital Grant

Cabinet considered a report on the Childcare Expansion Capital Grant scheme. It was noted that the Childcare Expansion Capital Grant had been allocated to local authorities to:

- Support the expansion of early years provision for 2-year-olds and under 2s.
- Increase the availability of wraparound provision for primary school aged children so that parents can access childcare before and after the standard school day whilst they are at work.

The county council had been allocated £2,519,795 of capital funding for these expansion programmes, and the split was based on 80% towards the expansion of



early years provision for 2-year-olds and under 2s, and 20% towards the expansion of wraparound provision.

Resolved: That:

- (i) The approach to how the capital funding will be allocated and spent, be approved;
- (ii) The capital grant be agreed, and added to the capital programme and budget;
- (iii) The revenue grant be agreed, and the method of allocation be approved; and
- (iv) The Director of Education, Culture and Skills be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, to agree the criteria for the award of the grant to providers.

9. Blackpool Road, Kirkham - Shared Use Cycletrack

Cabinet considered a report that recommended a shared use cycle track be constructed within existing highway extent and on land already owned or to be acquired by the county council north of Blackpool Road, Kirkham, to be constructed from the East side of the A585, to the West side of the A585, making use of some sections of the existing pathway which already runs through the St George's Park housing estate. It was noted that objections had been received from a number of residents.

Resolved: That, following a variation to the old Section 278 agreement and land acquisition from Kirkham Town Council, the construction of a shared use cycletrack within existing highway widths on Blackpool Road and the A585, Kirkham and on land already owned by the county council and further land acquired from the Kirkham Town Council along the route option 1 as shown in the report, from the A583, crossing under the A585 and exiting onto Ribby Road and the A583, be approved.

10. Lancaster Road, Preston - Quality Bus Stop and Clearway

Cabinet considered a report on the installation of a quality bus stop and clearway on Lancaster Road, Preston, following consideration of various highway safety improvements. It was noted that an objection had been received.

It was also noted that the markings would enhance cyclist awareness of potential conflicts with stationary buses, reducing the potential for conflicts and improving overall safety, especially for vulnerable users.

Resolved: That the installation of a quality bus stop and clearway on Lancaster Road, Preston as shown on the plan at Appendix 'A' of the report, be approved.

11. Proposal to Construct Bus Stop Clearways on the Stagecoach 125 Bus Route in the Area of the A6 and A673 Chorley to Horwich

Cabinet considered a report that proposed to introduce bus stop clearways and associated traffic regulation orders as part of a works package to improve bus stop access along the Stagecoach 125 bus route between Chorley and Horwich, making



stops Equality Act compliant and providing improvements for those with mobility impairments. It was noted that objections to the proposals had been received.

In presenting the report, it was noted that an additional objection had been received after the agenda publication raising the number of objections received from two to three. The objection had been circulated to the Cabinet prior to the meeting.

Resolved: That, the following be approved:

- (i) The revocation of 4 bus stop clearways on Bolton Road and Chorley Road; and
- (ii) The introduction of 13 bus stop clearways and associated works on Bolton Road and Chorley Road.

12. SEND Sufficiency Strategy Implementation - Provision of Special Educational Needs Units in Mainstream Schools and Special School Places

Cabinet considered a report proposing an increase in the number of specialist school places available either through establishing Special Educational Needs Units attached to mainstream schools and/or to increase capacity in Lancashire special schools.

The report also included the results of a formal consultation to create a Special Educational Needs Unit at Flakefleet Primary School for 16 children in Fleetwood and sought approval for the following:

- To confirm the budget spend for alterations/adaptations in two mainstream schools' Special Educational Needs Units at Fleetwood Chaucer Primary School and Morecambe Bay Primary School.
- The increased spend required to create additional places at The Loyne Specialist School, Lancaster, and Mayfield Specialist School, Chorley.
- The budget spend to complete phase 3 of the expansion of Thornton Cleveleys Red Marsh School.
- The increased spend required to create additional places at West Lancashire Community High School Phase 2 of the works.

It was noted that Appendix 'C' of the report was in Part II and was set out at Item No. 22 on the agenda.

In presenting the report, it was noted that following further information received following the agenda publication, the costings in relation to Mayfield Special School, Chorley had increased, and therefore an amendment was proposed to recommendation (v) as follows:

"Approve the additional funding for the completion of the works required to create additional capacity at The Loyne Specialist School, Lancaster and the revised additional funding for Mayfield Specialist School, Chorley, as tabled at the meeting."



Resolved: That:

- (i) Following consideration of the results of the formal consultation following the publication of the statutory proposal, approval be given for the creation of a Special Educational Needs Unit within Flakefleet Primary School, Fleetwood;
- (ii) The funding for building alterations/adaptations and/or acquisition of resources or necessary expenditure for Flakefleet Primary School, Fleetwood, be approved;
- (iii) The funding for building alterations/adaptations in the Special Educational Needs Unit at Chaucer Primary School, Fleetwood, be approved;
- (iv) The funding for building alterations/adaptations in the Special Educational Needs Unit at Morecambe Bay Primary School, be approved;
- (v) The additional funding for the completion of the works required to create additional capacity at The Loyne Specialist School, Lancaster and the revised additional funding for Mayfield Specialist School, Chorley, as tabled at the meeting, be approved;
- (vi) The budget for the completion of the third phase of the expansion of Thornton Cleveleys Red Marsh School, be approved; and
- (vii) The additional funding for the completion of Phase 2 of the works required to create additional capacity at West Lancashire Community High School, Skelmersdale, be approved.

13. School Place Planning Basic Need Update

Cabinet considered a report that provided details on the outcome of the statutory consultation regarding a proposal to permanently expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston, from September 2025, by increasing the school's Published Admission Number from 155 to 210.

It was noted that Appendix 'A' of the report was in Part II and was set out at Item No. 23 on the agenda.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the findings of the Archbishop Temple Church of England High School statutory consultation, the following be approved:

- (i) The proposal to permanently expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston by 55 places, to increase the Published Admission Number from 155 to 210 from September 2025; and
- (ii) The capital allocation for the permanent expansion of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report.

14. The Future of Pinfold Primary School, Scarisbrick

Cabinet considered a report on the future of Pinfold Primary School, Scarisbrick. It was noted that on 14 February 2024, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills took an urgent decision on behalf of Cabinet agreeing to a statutory notice being published to begin a representation period on the proposed closure of Pinfold Primary School, Scarisbrick and repurposing the building as a satellite site to Kingsbury Primary School, Skelmersdale. As part of the statutory process, a decision should now be taken about the proposal, which will be



undertaken by Lancashire County Council as the decision maker. It was further noted that if the authority did not make a decision within two months from the end of the consultation period, the proposal and any representations about the proposal must be passed to the schools' adjudicator for a decision.

Resolved: That:

- (i) The proposal, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, to close Pinfold Primary School, Scarisbrick, with implementation commencing from 19 April 2024, be approved;
- (ii) The proposal, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, to expand Kingsbury Primary School, Skelmersdale, onto a satellite on the site of Pinfold Primary School, creating up to 20 special school places commencing from 22 April 2024, be approved; and
- (iii) That an appropriate statutory decision letter be sent out, as specified under legal requirements, to give reason for the decisions to those who are to be informed of them.

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

Resolved: That the three urgent decisions 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, 9 May 2024 at County Hall, Preston.

18. Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private

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

19. Exclusion of Press and Public

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



20. Waiver of Procurement Rules - Tier 4 Residential Rehabilitation and Detoxification

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The report contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Cabinet considered a report that requested a waiver of Procurement Rules in relation to the Tier 4 Residential Rehabilitation and Detoxification recovery and treatment system.

Resolved: That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.

21. Appendix 'A' of Item 7 - Residential Children's Homes

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The appendix contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Resolved: That Appendix 'A' of Item 7 - Residential Children's Homes, be noted.

22. Appendix 'C' of Item 12 - SEND Sufficiency Strategy Implementation - Provision of Special Educational Needs Units in Mainstream Schools and Special School Places

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The appendix contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

It was noted that an updated version of Appendix 'C' of Item 12 - SEND Sufficiency Strategy Implementation - Provision of Special Educational Needs Units in Mainstream Schools and Special School Places had been circulated as part of a supplementary agenda.

Resolved: That the revised Appendix 'C' of Item 12 - SEND Sufficiency Strategy Implementation - Provision of Special Educational Needs Units in Mainstream Schools and Special School Places, be noted.



23. Appendix 'A' of Item 13 - School Place Planning Basic Need Update

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The appendix contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Resolved: That Appendix 'A' of Item 13 - School Place Planning Basic Need Update, be noted.

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston



Questions to Cabinet

Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on **11 April 2024**

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Scott Smith	Respondent: County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick
	<p>Item 5 - Procurement Report</p> <p>To ask the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to elaborate on the Procurement Report's proposal relating to Real Time Passenger Information, with particular reference to its expected impact on bus users in East Lancashire.</p>	<p>Under this procurement, the most immediate visible benefit to the bus user will be new electronic displays at bus stops to let people know when buses are due to arrive.</p> <p>Part of Lancashire's Levelling Up Fund proposal for East Lancashire includes the provision Real Time Passenger Information across 80 bus stops to improve the experience of catching the bus and entice new bus users.</p> <p>To make an obvious comparison, people who use trains always expect to see information of when the next train is due to arrive. The aim of this system is to work towards that same level of service for bus users.</p> <p>Officers have developed the specification of the system after learning from the market and best practice in other areas of the country.</p> <p>This technology dovetails with two other enhancements we're delivering to improve the experience of the bus user.</p>



		<p>Real time information on the whereabouts of buses on the network allows the technology to improve journey time reliability by moving buses through travel signal junctions more efficiently. Engineers call it Intelligent Bus Priority.</p> <p>Alongside these improvements that fall under this procurement, we're also improving the same bus stops, and others, to make sure the accessibility for those with mobility impairment and those say using prams are better catered for. This may include raising kerbs for instance, possibly at up to 200 bus stops in our current funded plans.</p>
2.	Questioner: County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite	Respondent: County Councillor Michael Green
	<p>Item 6 - Household Support Fund</p> <p>How is this Council using the Household Support Fund to support people in Hyndburn through the cost of living situation?</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council has previously received Household Support Funding from the Department for Work and Pensions, allocated to target groups according to varying criteria.</p> <p>Household Support Fund 5 (April – September 2024)</p> <p>Allocation to Lancashire County Council: £9,678,235</p> <p>The guidance continues to give authorities the flexibility to identify which vulnerable households are in most need of support and apply their own discretion when identifying eligibility.</p>



		<p>Authorities should ensure that they consider the needs of various households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.</p> <p>The Cabinet report sets out the overall amount and principles of allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need, taking into account a wide range of information. • Use the funding to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials. Authorities can also use the funding to support households which are struggling to afford wider essentials including housing costs where existing housing support does not meet this need. • Work together with district councils and third parties including, where necessary and appropriate, other local services. This may include social workers, housing and family support services and local charities. <p>The guidance has identified the following appropriate types of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and water, as well as essentials linked to energy and water • Food
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider essentials such as clothing, broadband, period and hygiene products • Advice services including debt, benefit and/or employment advice • Housing costs • Reasonable administrative costs <p>We are proposing to continue working with partners to raise awareness of the availability of support with carers, and those that are known, as well as those not currently known to services.</p> <p>The Cabinet report requests approval for the overall approach; and delegates approval of the detail to the Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader), in consultation with the Director of Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities.</p> <p>In summary spend will be allocated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those eligible for free school meals in early years, school and college settings • To city / district councils to meet the needs of most vulnerable locally • To some county wide household goods and energy support
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