

Question to Cabinet
Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on
4 November 2021

Questions asked at the meeting

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Mathew Salter	Respondent: County Councillor Shaun Turner
	<p>Item 14 – Joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2027</p> <p>With regards to the item on the proposed Flood Risk Strategy, it's essential that where housing development takes place every effort should be made to ensure it does not increase the risk of flooding. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, what is Lancashire County Council doing to ensure this is the case?</p>	<p>The Lead Local Flood Authority is doing everything it can to ensure development doesn't increase the risk of flooding in line with its powers and duties. Whilst the Lead Local Flood Authority is not a statutory consultee in the Local Plan making process it proactively engages in the plan making process whenever the opportunity arises and encourages Local Planning Authorities to involve us in their plan development from an early stage. The Lead Local Flood Authority is a statutory consultee for major developments with surface water drainage, under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. This duty commenced on 6 April 2015. It comments on around 800 major planning applications per year, responding within a statutory 21 day timescale.</p> <p>The Lead Local Flood Authority's role is to review major planning applications to technically assess the surface water flood risk and sustainable drainage proposals and provide advice to the Local Planning Authority on whether the development proposal meets the relevant requirements for sustainable drainage systems. Lancashire is working hard to place itself at the forefront of national, regional and local matters relating to development and surface water management.</p>

2.	Questioner: County Councillor Mark Clifford	Respondent: County Councillor Alan Vincent
	<p>Item 7 - Household Support Fund (06 October 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p> <p>The report proposes to allocate £3m to be shared between the Districts. What consultation has taken place with district councils to arrive at this figure and how is the remaining £6.7 million to be used?</p>	<p>The nature of the funding and the timing of its announcement meant that we were not able to undertake extensive consultations with District Councils, however Cllr Vincent explained that the Chief Executive has discussed this with Chief Executives from the District councils and suggested jointly working with them to develop options. An officer meeting, including district representatives took place on the 18th October – at that meeting district colleagues were clear that they had local needs information and existing distribution networks that could be of real benefit and that they wanted to receive a proportion of the funding for distribution through existing channels. That request was incorporated into the recommendation that is contained in the cabinet report. Officers have written to all chief executives to explain the proposal. A further meeting on the 28th October outlined the current proposals.</p> <p>As referred to in the report we have already committed to support eligible families/children to fund £15 vouchers for eligible free school meal recipients for the October half term and the cabinet report also proposes similar support for the Christmas/New year holiday and February half term. That is a total of 4 weeks support with an anticipated cost of £590k per week – so £2.36m in total. Options for the distribution of the remaining funding are still being developed, and we continue to talk to district colleagues about options. Proposals will wherever possible go through normal decision-making processes to ensure as much transparency as possible.</p>