



Lead Member Annual Reports 2021-22

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Lancashire County Council

Lead Member Annual Reports

2021 - 2022

Introduction

The role of the Lead Members at Lancashire County Council is to work with and support the Cabinet in delivery of their vision for the council and corporate priorities.

Each Lead Member is assigned to work with specific Cabinet members and the County Council's constitution provides a summary of their responsibilities as follows:

- To lead on specific areas to be determined by the cabinet member
- To focus on information gathering and understanding key policy/service delivery areas
- To assist with the development of options and policies for consideration by the cabinet member
- To brief and make recommendations to cabinet members and others on the relevant issues that affect the decision making; and
- To represent or deputise for the cabinet member as necessary.

In May 2021, Cabinet appointed five Lead Members to support their work:

- Community and Cultural Services – Councillor Alan Cullens BEM
- Education and Skills / Children and Families – Councillor Mike Goulthorp
- Highways and Active Travel – Councillor Rob Bailey
- Health – Councillor Sue Whittam
- Resources, HR, and Property – Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite

In order to increase awareness of the Lead Member role and ensure that there is effective transparency and accountability, Cabinet determined in May 2022 that Lead Members should provide an annual report to Cabinet and Full Council on their activities.

The Annual Reports for each of the five Lead Members are included in this report. These reports provide an overview of their priorities and key activities during 2021-22 along with their priorities for 2022-23.

Lead Member for Children and Education

Mike Goulthorp



Priorities for 2021-22

- To support the work of the Cabinet Members for Children & Families and Education and Skills, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required.
- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Members priorities on Children's Services and Education and Skills budget planning and management.
- To work with Cabinet Members to ensure a smooth transition from the Covid pandemic to endemic takes place across both portfolios.
- Play an active role as a Director and Vice-Chair of Marketing Lancashire to help develop Lancashire as a great place to visit, work, study, and invest in, with a focus on increasing engagement and commitment of the education sector.
- To work with and contribute to the work of the whole cabinet to ensure effective introduction of measures for decision at Cabinet and Full Council.

Key activities	Delivering Better Services Caring for the Vulnerable
<p>Working with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families I attended regular briefings with the Executive Director for Education and Children on Children's Services developments and plans to ensure progress is maintained and issues addressed. In addition, I was responsible for working with the Youth Justice Management Board and the Young Offenders' Team.</p> <p>Working with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I attended regular briefings on Education and Skills matters with the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services, to monitor progress against plans and ensure that any issues are addressed in a timely way. I also attended the SEND Partnership Board and Schools Forum (including working Groups such as the Schools Block, the High Needs Block and Early Years) to ensure appropriate oversight of the work of these bodies.</p>	

Priorities for 2022-23

- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Members priorities on Children's Services and Education and Skills budget planning and management.
- To lead a review on the School Place Planning processes and the delivery of the new supporting IT system.
- To maximise opportunities for effective provision for Young People and Families.
- To maximise opportunities for care leavers to enter the workplace and receive further education and skills.
- To ensure that promotion of education and skills opportunities remain at the centre of Marketing Lancashire's business plans
- To lead, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, a review to identify commercial opportunities for the County Council from our education support services.

Lead Member for Community and Cultural Services

Alan Cullens BEM

Priorities for 2021-22

- To support the work the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required.
- Lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member on the promotion and development of Lancashire Libraries and Archive Friends Groups
- Play an active role in supporting the reopening of the Libraires as the country emerged from the pandemic and we move back to business as usual.
- To support The Friends of The Lancashire Archive and promote their service through Libraries and schools.
- To work with and contribute to the work of the whole cabinet to ensure effective introduction of measures for decision at Cabinet and Full Council.



Key activities	Delivering Better Services Caring for the Vulnerable
<p>Working with the Cabinet Member, I attend regular briefings with the Head of Cultural Services and Head of Archives, to oversee delivery of plans, develop a cultural services budget and help shape future services.</p> <p>Working with the Cabinet Member, I collaborated with several Parish Clerks to develop a Parish Council survey. This was used to form a renewal of the Parish / Lancashire County Council Charter.</p> <p>I supported the rebirth of Lancashire County Council / Parish Council Conferences and supported the design, delivery, and facilitation of the two conferences held in 2021-22.</p> <p>I have visited 14 libraries across the county, sometimes with the local County Councillor, to talk with staff and customers to ascertain how we can best move back to business as usual and widen our offer. This has included a wide variety of skills including joining in with Baby Bounce and Rhyme and learning to Knit and Natter! I have also attended 7 Friends Group events to help promote their work and share ideas and best practice from other groups.</p>	

Priorities for 2022-23

- To develop a plan to further promote libraries as both cultural and community hub and relaunch the Friends of Lancashire Libraries network conference
- To complete visits to all libraries to meet staff and members of the public to inform further development of the library service.
- To further develop relationships with the Community and Faith Sector and Volunteer Partnerships in line with our corporate priorities especially Public Health.
- To play an active role as member of the Youth Justice Management Board.

Lead Member for Resources, HR, and Property

Jeff Couperthwaite



Priorities for 2021-22

- To support the work of the Cabinet Member for Resources, HR, and Property, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council, and representing the Council on outside bodies such as the North West Regional Leaders body, when required.
- Lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member on specified finance projects including collaboration with other Cabinet Members.
- Play an active role as a Director of both Lancashire County Developments Ltd and Growth Lancashire Ltd.
- To work with and contribute to the work of the whole cabinet to ensure effective introduction of measures for decision at Cabinet and Full Council.

Key activities

Delivering Better Services, Protecting the Environment Supporting Economic Growth, Caring for the Vulnerable

Working with the Cabinet Member, I attend regular briefings on Finance, HR, Treasury Management, and Asset Management, reviewing performance against plans and dealing with any issues as they arise. In addition, I supported production of the Annual Budget for presentation to the Council in February 2022.

I led a project to clarify the County Councils funding to support victims of Domestic Abuse working with partners from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Public Health. This enabled the service to maximise the impact of the available funding to tackle domestic abuse across Lancashire.

Working with the Lead Member for Children and Education, I am contributing to an ongoing review of Education funding.

As a Director of the Council's property company, LCDL Limited, I am involved in delivering exciting new economic initiatives such as the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone and Lancashire Central strategic employment site as well as helping to increase the Council's income from existing assets. Working with other Directors of Growth Lancashire Ltd, I am actively involved in developing plans to support the County's small and medium sized businesses.

Priorities for 2022-23

- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member on projects to improve the Councils approach to commercialisation.
- To work with the Lead Member for Children's Services and Education, to help identify areas for financial efficiencies in our schools.
- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member on emergency preparedness, health and safety, and resilience.
- To support the Cabinet Member in ensuring delivery of a balanced budget for the year and to oversee efficiency initiatives and expediting our property disposal processes.

Lead Member for Health

Sue Whittam



Priorities for 2021-22

- To support the work of both the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required.
- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care on all aspects of Adult Safeguarding.
- Play an active role as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board; the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board and Integrated Care Partnerships.
- To work with and contribute to the work of the whole cabinet to ensure effective introduction of measures for decision at Cabinet and Full Council.

Key activities

Delivering Better Services Caring for the Vulnerable

I represented the County Council on the Health and Wellbeing Board, alongside key partners from the NHS; Public Health; Health Watch; other local authorities and voluntary sector organisations.

Working with the Cabinet Member, I attend regular briefings on Public Health issues. In addition, we lead the re-positioning and re-focussing of the Health and Wellbeing Board to improve governance and outcomes. In addition, working with the Director of Public Health we influenced and developed the priorities for the forthcoming year which focussed on a Better Start in Life, Healthy Hearts and Healthy Minds.

As lead of Adult Safeguarding, I attend weekly Officer briefings to keep up to date with current issues and service developments. I am a member of the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board where alongside partners from NHS; Public Health; Health Watch; other local authorities and voluntary and faith sector organisations we oversee and seek to improve adult safeguarding across Lancashire.

I researched, prepared, and delivered two bite-size briefings to all councillors on Living Better Lives and Adult Social Care Funding Reform 2021. This enabled all councillors to have a better understanding of key developments in adult social care and therefore enable them to support their residents more effectively with better information and advice.

Priorities for 2022-23

- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing on Mental Health issues working with the Champion for Mental Health and the Director of Public Health. This will also involve working closely with the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust to influence the priorities of the Trust and the availability of appropriate mental health facilities.
- To influence and support the work of the Lancashire Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) to help them refocus on positive outcomes and give the Board a strong voice.
- To help shape the changes in the integrated care system in particular relating to “place based” partnerships to ensure the best outcomes for residents.

- To work closely with the Independent Chair for Safeguarding Adults to protect and support vulnerable adults and ensure that lessons are learned from Safeguarding reviews.
- To support and influence the Market Shaping & Commissioning Group for Adult Social Care to ensure the development of appropriate externally purchased care and support services meet the present and anticipated needs of the people of Lancashire.

Lead Member for Highways and Active Travel

Rob Bailey

Priorities for 2021-22

- To support the work of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required.
- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member on active travel and development of a new App for reporting highways faults.
- To investigate the numerous interfaces between the Council and Public, Councillors and other stakeholders and assist in delivering training sessions by district to ensure Councillors were aware of how to access the correct Highways support.
- To challenge the current vehicle procurement plans to ensure a prudent transition to alternative fuels.
- To work with and contribute to the work of the whole cabinet to ensure effective introduction of measures for decision at Cabinet and Full Council.



Key activities	Delivering Better Services Protecting the Environment
<p>I have championed the introduction of a new App to make the process of reporting Highways issues easier for residents and to provide feedback. The App launched 4 April 2022 to include Highways, street lighting and blocked gullies in first phase and I am overseeing the implementation and expansion of the scope of the App.</p> <p>I shared a panel at a national seminar with Chris Boardman on 30 March 2022, National Commissioner of the government's new cycling and walking body, Active Travel England (ATE), promoting Lancashire's support of Active Travel and how we can develop this further.</p> <p>I brought the Active Travel team together including Active Lancashire to present an update to all councillors on our work and how we intend to develop this further.</p> <p>I championed the design of a County Council channel to allow Electric Vehicle charging for homes without off street parking. The prototype is now being piloted with a view to further roll out with support from funding from government.</p> <p>I have worked with the Cabinet Member to define the key Highways & Transport issues. The immediate issue was poor communications with councillors and the public and a reporting system that provides no feedback. This has been addressed through the additional Highways District Leads and development of the 'Love My Street App.' In addition, there is now regular reporting of performance to Highway's briefings informed by data from the National Highways Survey and internal benchmarking.</p>	

Priorities for 2022-23

- To improve the Public & Member Interface - including looking at all aspects of the call centre, VIP Mail, District Lead Officers support and the 101 service, with the intention of producing a simplified and unified service.
- To improve Efficiency within the Highways Service - including consideration of a “Catalogue of Services”; reviewing the TAMP policy; increasing carbon reduction within Highways and Transport and assisting in defining a revised Gully Cleansing regime.
- To deal with all Active Travel VIP enquiries
- To lead on Lancashire’s Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (creating the plan and ensuring member engagement)
- To actively contribute to the Board of Active Lancashire.