



Lead Member Annual Reports 2022-23



Lancashire County Council

Lead Member Annual Reports

2022 – 2023

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.

Cabinet has 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 Scott Smith
- 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 2022-23 along with their priorities for 2023-24.



Lead Member for Community and Cultural Services

County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM



Priorities for 2022-23

- To develop a plan to further promote libraries as both cultural and community hubs 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 Sectors 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.
- 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

Working with the Cabinet Member, I attend regular briefings with the Head of Cultural Services, The Archive Manager and the Community Safety team, to oversee delivery of plans and help shape future services and budgets. This has included developing a health check system in a number of Libraries as well as 'advice drop in' sessions to assist the public access services.

During the last year we successfully launched a Friends of Libraries Conference and established a Friends Network on the Wyre. Within the Library Service I completed visits to all 64 Libraries and met with staff, volunteers and Friends Groups to discuss plans and ascertain how the service could be enhanced to further develop community hubs. I supported the roll out of the Warm and Welcome scheme including the planning phase. Whilst also attending a significant number of Friends of Libraries and The Archives meetings Assisting several groups with issues such as building usage etc.

Within the wider Cultural Services, I attended and supported Schools Music events including school lessons. Supported in the planning of the Choir of the year competition. I visited the Schools Library Service and attended book launches and storytelling events.



Priorities for 2023-24

- To support the Prison Library Service by visiting two prisons.
- Take a lead role in the establishment of new Library and Museum Friends Groups.
- Review the Constitution of Library Friends Groups and visit each group to ensure delivery.
- Support the establishment of a network of Friends Group clusters.
- Working with Lancashire Volunteer Partnership help to increase volunteer levels, such as additional Culture Hacks to support library activity.
- Assist in the development and roll out of the Blue Badge Assisted Service scheme.
- Support the roll out of the next phase of A Warm Welcome scheme.
- Continue to support the Schools Library and Music Services through event attendance.
- To continue 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.



Lead Member for Education and Skills / Children and Families County Councillor Mike Goulthorp



Priorities for 2022-23

- To support the work of the Cabinet Members for Children's and Families and Education and Skills, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required.
- To lead, in conjunction with Cabinet Members, on the budget planning and financial management of Children's Social Care & Schools Services.
- To support the Cabinet Members maximise opportunities for effective provision for children, young people and families.
- To maximise opportunities for care leavers to enter the workforce & receive further education/skills
- To develop, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, a review to identify commercial opportunities for the County Council Education Support Services.
- 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 attend regular briefings with the Director of Children's Services to oversee delivery of plans and help shape future services. This work includes identifying any future threats to sustainability and developing plans to address these include increasing our in-house capacity of specialist care and improving the marketing of our foster care provision.</p> <p>Working with the Cabinet member for Education & Skills I attend regular briefings with the executive Director of education And Children's Services and the Schools Forum to oversee delivery of plans and with a specific focus on school trading support to review and identify areas of commercial development and to plan for the continued expansion of Multi Academy Trusts across the county. This work also includes increasing our in-house capacity of specialist SEND provision to meet the continuing growth in demand in this area.</p> <p>I also serve as a Director of Marketing Lancashire, helping to oversee the Council's business operations.</p>	



Priorities for 2023-24

- To continue to attend regular briefings with the Cabinet Members for Children and Families and Education and Skills and Officers to keep up to date with current issues and service developments.
- To lead, in conjunction with Cabinet Members, on the budget planning and financial management of Children's Social Care, School Services and the SEND programme
- To lead on the wider commercialisation opportunities for the council within school trading services.
- To continue 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.



Lead Member for Highways and Active Travel

County Councillor Scott Smith



Priorities for 2022-23

- 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 the Council's active travel agenda and on public transport.
- To support the Cabinet Member's engagement with members, district councillors and residents on highways issues across Lancashire.
- 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	Supporting economic growth
<p>Since taking on this role alongside the Cabinet Member in December 2022, I have worked closely with him to ensure that the Highways and Transport Directorate delivers on its objectives.</p> <p>I have been particularly involved in the active travel agenda and, since I took on the role, we have seen more than £6m of funding for walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure arrive in Lancashire.</p> <p>Alongside the Cabinet member, I have also worked to improve communications with members, district councillors and members of the public, through initiatives like the LoveCleanStreets app and the Highways Dashboard for Councillors.</p> <p>I have worked alongside the Cabinet Member on the implementation of our Bus Service Improvement plan and deputised for him at Transport for the North Board, representing Lancashire amongst Northern transport leaders.</p> <p>I also serve as a Director of Lancashire Renewables Limited and Active Lancashire, helping to oversee two of the Council's business operations.</p>	



Priorities for 2023-24

- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member, and to work with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth, on moving the Council's successful Active Travel funding bids from concept to delivery.
- To ensure the Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are ready to shape future funding bids and are reflective of residents' needs.
- To work with the Cabinet Member to continue to improve communication between Highways teams, members, district colleagues and the public.
- To communicate to members and the public the benefits of the Council's TAMP – and to improve understanding of how they can engage with Highways teams to improve their local area.
- To continue 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.



Lead Member for Health County Councillor Sue Whittam



Priorities for 2022-23

- To support the work of both the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing, including deputising at Cabinet, Scrutiny 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 Lancashire Placed Based Partnership Board.
- 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.
- 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 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 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.

Key Activities**Delivering better services
Caring for the vulnerable**

I represented the County Council on the Health and Wellbeing Board working with key partners from the NHS; Public Health; Health Watch and other local authorities and voluntary sector organisations. I am working with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing as part of the Interim Lancashire Place Based Partnership Board to establish the Governance of the Board, it's relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board and to design a place that delivers positive outcomes for people and their communities.

I participated in a workshop together with colleagues from Public Health, the NHS and District Councils to agree a programme of work to shape and influence the new Tobacco Free Lancashire & South Cumbria Strategy which is due for publication later this year. I represented the County Council on the Learning Disability Partnership Board which is being refocussed to ensure that the Board has a strong voice. I have worked closely with the Interim Independent Chair for Safeguarding Adults to ensure that vulnerable adults are supported, and I have influenced the changes needed at Board level to ensure they deliver their core duties under the Care Act 2014.

I attend regular briefings with Officers to keep up to date with current issues and service developments.

Priorities for 2023-24

- 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 involve working with the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust to influence the priorities of the Trust and the availability of appropriate mental health facilities.
- To work with the new Independent Chair for Safeguarding Adults to improve the governance and to ensure the protection of individuals who have care and support needs and are at risk of neglect and abuse and are unable to protect themselves, and to promote their wellbeing, by identifying and responding to local risk.
- To lead on the Healthy Places Project with partners to demonstrate good practice in adopting a systems approach to promote healthy weight and overall good health and wellbeing in communities.
- To support the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to influence the location and suitability of appropriate residential homes to ensure the right type of homes are provided in the right areas.
- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care on the Lancashire Learning Disability Partnership Board to raise awareness of the board and ensure their aims and outcomes are supported.



- To continue 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.



Lead Member for Resources, HR, and Property

County Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite



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 to deliver a balanced budget for the year and to oversee efficiency initiatives and expediting our property disposal processes.
- 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 Supporting economic growth

I attend regular briefings with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Officers to keep up to date with current issues and service developments.

In partnership with the Lead Member for Children's Services and Education and Skills and as directed by the Cabinet Member for Resources, I investigate and advise officers and portfolio holders on the extent of any financial challenges, and to identify possible options that might be available to address those challenges, with the least impact on service delivery.

Work with Cabinet Members and officers alongside the Department for Education to guide the possible creation of the council's own Academy of special schools.

Work with the Lead member for Education & Schools to investigate how the council manage the potential move of our 600+ schools to Academy status over the coming years and the impact on the council's commercial support to them.

As Alternative Director of Growth Lancashire Limited, oversee the Authority's start up business support arm, 'Boost Lancashire'.



Priorities for 2023-24

- To support the Cabinet Member in ensuring delivery of a balanced budget for the year and to oversee efficiency initiatives.
- To continue 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 and Skills, to help identify service delivery improvements and efficiencies in Children's Services and schools traded services.
- To lead on behalf of the Cabinet Member on emergency preparedness, health and safety, and resilience as and when required.
- To continue 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.

