

Minutes

At a meeting of the Full Council held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston, on Thursday, 14th December, 2023

Present:

County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM (Chairman)

County Councillors

T Aldridge	A Gardiner	J Potter
A Ali OBE	J Gibson	J Purcell
U Arif	G Gooch	J Rear
T Ashton	M Goulthorp	P Rigby
N Aziz	M Green	S Rigby
R Bailey	H Hartley	A Riggott
S Barnes	C Haythornthwaite	M Salter
L Beavers	N Hennessy	A Schofield
J Berry	S Hind	S Serridge
P Britcliffe	A Hindle	J Shedwick
M Brown	S Holgate	J R Singleton JP
P Buckley	A Hosker	S Smith
J Burrows	D Howarth	K Snape
A Cheetham	T Hurn	A Sutcliffe
S Clarke	S Jones	R Swarbrick
A Clempson	H Khan	M Tomlinson
M Clifford	E Lewis	C Towneley
L Collinge	M Maxwell-Scott	S Turner
J Couperthwaite	J Mein	A Vincent
L Cox	G Mirfin	D Westley
S Cunliffe	S C Morris	A Whittaker
M Dad BEM JP	Y Motala	S Whittam
F De Molfetta	D O'Toole	P Williamson
G Dowding	J Parr	R Woollam
C Edwards	M Pattison	B Yates
J Fillis	E Pope	

1. Apologies and Announcements

Apologies were received from County Councillor Andrea Kay.

County Councillors Mohammed Iqbal, Jackie Oakes, Lian Pate and Sobia Malik joined the meeting virtually.



Announcements

Burnley Central West By-Election – Report of the Returning Officer

The Chief Executive, as the Returning Officer for the election of County Councillors, reported that on Thursday 26 October 2023 a by-election was held for the Burnley Central West Electoral Division following the resignation of the former County Councillor Andy Fewings, and that County Councillor Scott Cunliffe of the Green Party was duly elected.

Deaths

The Chairman reported the recent death of former County Councillor Len Proos, who sadly passed away on 3 November 2023.

The Council observed a one-minute silence.

Devolution

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Leader of the Council, updated Full Council on recent developments on the devolution deal for Lancashire.

Artist of the Year Calendars

The Chairman reminder councillors that the Artist of the Year Calendars, that were on sale prior to the meeting, would be continued to be sold by the Library and Archive service, in the run up to Christmas. All the proceeds from the sale of the calendars will go towards activities to support Lancashire care leavers.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

3. Question Time

County Councillors Julie Gibson, John Fillis, Noordad Aziz and Sue Hind asked their questions as follows:

No.	Question From	Subject	For Answer By
1	County Councillor Julie Gibson	Funding for Local Roads	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
2	County Councillor John Fillis	Discharge Times for Patients	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
3	County Councillor Noordad Aziz	20 mph Roads	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport



4	County Councillor Sue Hind	Legal Smoking Age	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
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County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport; County Councillor Graham Gooch, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care; and County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing replied.

It was noted that questions 5 and 6 had been withdrawn.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 October 2023 and the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 27 November 2023

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 October 2023 and the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 27 November 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Non-Attendance of County Councillor

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved a report on the non-attendance of County Councillor Andrea Kay at meetings of the council and committees.

Resolved: That the non-attendance of County Councillor Andrea Kay at meetings of the council and committees for reasons of illness, for the purposes of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, until 31 May 2024, be approved.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

County Councillor David Westley moved a report setting out the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022/23.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the report, the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022/23 be noted.

7. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel - 2023/24 Members' Allowance Scheme

County Councillor Alan Vincent moved a report that set out the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the council's Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 following the Panel's meeting on 24 November 2023.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in the report and at Appendix 'A' of the report, the revised Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 be approved, and the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to make any consequential changes to the Constitution.

8. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to be considered.



9. Report of the Cabinet (Part B)

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved the report of the Cabinet from its meetings on 5 October 2023 and 2 November 2023, along with details of an urgent key decision taken since the last meeting of Full Council, in accordance with Standing Order C22.

Resolved: That the report of the Cabinet, now presented, be noted.

10(a) The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee

County Councillor Alan Schofield moved the report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting held on 16 October 2023.

Resolved: That the report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, now presented, be noted.

10(b) The Employment Committee

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson moved the report of the Employment Committee from its meeting held on 30 November 2023.

Resolved: That the report of the Employment Committee, now presented, be noted.

10(c) The Overview and Scrutiny Committees

County Councillor David Westley moved the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees from their meetings as follows:

- Scrutiny Management Board (31 October 2023)
- Children, Families and Skills (1 November 2023)
- Environment, Economic Growth and Transport (28 September 2023 and 9 November 2023)
- Health and Adult Services (25 October 2023)

Resolved: That the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, now presented, be noted.

10(d) The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

County Councillor Michael Green moved the report of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board from its recent meetings on 14 November 2023.

Resolved: That the report of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board, now presented, be noted.

11. To consider Notices of Motion Submitted under Standing Order B36

Notice of Motion 1

It was moved by County Councillor Mark Clifford and seconded by County Councillor Nikki Hennessy that:



"County Councillors have received evidence of children missing education across Lancashire due to bullying and intimidation and a recent study has found a third of respondents are unhappy with their school's response.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Record the number of bullying complaints made to Ofsted and the county council to build a Lancashire-wide picture;
2. Confirm this Council has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and request the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills ensures bullying has more of a focus in the annual safeguarding training for all school staff, delivered by the county council; and
3. Put bullying on the agenda for the next Lancashire Headteachers' briefing to discuss best practice and how families can be supported by Children's Champions, Children and Family Wellbeing support workers, and attendance workers in these situations."

The following friendly Amendment was proposed by County Councillor Jayne Rear in accordance with Standing Order B42:

"Lancashire County Council maintains a zero tolerance of bullying in all its forms.

County Councillors receiving evidence of children missing education across Lancashire due to bullying and or intimidation should refer the complaints immediately to the school's complaints policy in the first instance and then to our Education Support Team if not satisfactorily resolved.

This Council resolves to:

1. Continue to record bullying complaints made to Ofsted, ensuring that they are fully investigated and lessons learned shared with our schools;
2. Maintain its zero tolerance of bullying and asks the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to ensure that the topic of bullying remains a key focus of the annually updated safeguarding training for all school staff and governors; and
3. Ask the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to ensure Lancashire Headteachers' briefings continue to discuss best practice on how families affected by bullying can be supported by Children's Champions, Children and Family Wellbeing support workers, and attendance workers in these situations."

The friendly Amendment was accepted by County Councillor Clifford and became the substantive Motion. Following a debate, the substantive Motion, as amended by County Councillor Rear's friendly Amendment, was then put to the vote and was CARRIED and it was therefore:



Resolved: That

Lancashire County Council maintains a zero tolerance of bullying in all its forms.

County Councillors receiving evidence of children missing education across Lancashire due to bullying and or intimidation should refer the complaints immediately to the school's complaints policy in the first instance and then to our Education Support Team if not satisfactorily resolved.

This Council resolves to:

1. Continue to record bullying complaints made to Ofsted, ensuring that they are fully investigated and lessons learned shared with our schools;
2. Maintain its zero tolerance of bullying and asks the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to ensure that the topic of bullying remains a key focus of the annually updated safeguarding training for all school staff and governors; and
3. Ask the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to ensure Lancashire Headteachers' briefings continue to discuss best practice on how families affected by bullying can be supported by Children's Champions, Children and Family Wellbeing support workers, and attendance workers in these situations.

Notice of Motion 2

It was moved by County Councillor Margaret Pattison and seconded by County Councillor Sean Serridge that:

"Lancashire County Council notes the lack of dental provision in Lancashire and the rest of England and therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, asking them to urgently intervene to ensure:

1. Dental provision is in place for all residents in Lancashire;
2. Access for people who cannot afford to pay for private dental care is provided;
3. All localities across Lancashire have dental provision in place close to people's homes; and
4. Children are automatically given an NHS dentist in their locality."

The following Amendment was proposed by County Councillor Michael Green and seconded by County Councillor Sue Whittam:

"Lancashire County Council notes the requirement for improved access to dental provision in Lancashire and the rest of England and therefore welcomes:

- The commitment by the Government to improve access to dentistry and the measures introduced to achieve this;



- The new dental access and oral health improvement programme launched by the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria, which seeks to prioritise residents with the greatest oral health inequalities; and
- The work being done by Lancashire's Public Health team and our partners to promote oral hygiene and care, particularly for our children.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and the Chief Executive of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, asking them to ensure:

1. Dental provision is in place for all residents in Lancashire;
2. All localities across Lancashire have dental provision in place close to people's homes; and
3. Children have access to an NHS dentist in their locality."

Following a period of debate and on being put to the vote, the Amendment was CARRIED. The Amendment therefore became the substantive Motion.

There being no further Amendments, the substantive Motion was then put to the vote and CARRIED, and it was therefore:

Resolved: That

Lancashire County Council notes the requirement for improved access to dental provision in Lancashire and the rest of England and therefore welcomes:

- The commitment by the Government to improve access to dentistry and the measures introduced to achieve this;
- The new dental access and oral health improvement programme launched by the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria, which seeks to prioritise residents with the greatest oral health inequalities; and
- The work being done by Lancashire's Public Health team and our partners to promote oral hygiene and care, particularly for our children.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and the Chief Executive of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, asking them to ensure:

1. Dental provision is in place for all residents in Lancashire;
2. All localities across Lancashire have dental provision in place close to people's homes; and
3. Children have access to an NHS dentist in their locality.



Notice of Motion 3

It was moved by County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe and seconded by County Councillor Steve Rigby that:

"Lancashire County Council recognises that most journeys in Lancashire are made by car.

Lancashire County Council further recognises that Lancashire's drivers currently face problems that make their journeys longer and more difficult than they should be.

Lancashire County Council therefore welcomes the government's Plan for Drivers announced by the Secretary of State for Transport and the suite of measures it proposes to support drivers across Lancashire.

Lancashire County Council commits to integrating the Plan for Drivers with existing council policies to ensure its benefits are maximised for Lancashire residents."

The following Amendment was proposed by County Councillor Kim Snape and seconded by County Councillor John Fillis:

"Lancashire County Council recognises that most journeys in Lancashire are made by car.

Lancashire County Council further recognises that Lancashire's drivers currently face problems that make their journeys longer and more difficult than they should be.

Lancashire County Council therefore notes the government's Plan for Drivers announced by the Secretary of State for Transport and the suite of measures it proposes to support drivers across Lancashire.

However, Lancashire County Council is disappointed by the lack of new initiatives and ambition in the government's Plan.

Lancashire County Council is also extremely concerned that the government considers that Lancashire's 20mph roads hinders drivers. and believes that 20 mph roads have been a success and have made these roads safer for local people especially children and the elderly.

Lancashire County Council will protect the speed limits on its current 20mph roads from this government's reckless cuts.

Lancashire County Council calls on the government to support drivers in Lancashire by devolving 5p in the pound petrol duty down to councils to repair the roads."

Following a period of debate and on being put to the vote, the Amendment was LOST.

The substantive Motion, on being put to the vote was CARRIED. It was therefore:



Resolved: That

Lancashire County Council recognises that most journeys in Lancashire are made by car.

Lancashire County Council further recognises that Lancashire's drivers currently face problems that make their journeys longer and more difficult than they should be.

Lancashire County Council therefore welcomes the government's Plan for Drivers announced by the Secretary of State for Transport and the suite of measures it proposes to support drivers across Lancashire.

Lancashire County Council commits to integrating the Plan for Drivers with existing council policies to ensure its benefits are maximised for Lancashire residents.

Notice of Motion 4

It was moved by County Councillor Lorraine Beavers and seconded by County Councillor Julie Gibson that:

"This Council notes:

- The recent proposal by water companies to ask customers to "foot the bill" for their incompetence by increasing water bills to pay for an approximate £96 billion investment.
- That earlier this year, raw sewage was discharged into the sea at Blackpool and the Fylde Coast at the height of the tourist season causing many tourist attractions to close.
- That in the six months ending September 2022, United Utilities made £426 million in profits for their shareholders, but they couldn't fix a pipe in a timely manner.
- That Lancashire taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for water companies who were too busy paying dividends to shareholders instead of doing the job that they should do of protecting Lancashire's rivers and waterways and ensuring our water systems are safe.

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP to:

1. Express our concern, that in a cost of living crisis, water companies are trying to cover up their incompetence and failures, by passing the bill onto the people of Lancashire.
2. Ask him to ensure that no taxpayer funding is given to water companies who pollute our rivers and waterways, and that action is taken to prevent excess profits and shareholder dividends for these failing companies."



The following Amendment was proposed by County Councillor Shaun Turner and seconded by County Councillor Stephen Clarke:

"This Council notes:

- The recent proposals to independent regulator OFWAT from water companies asking to raise customer bills in order to meet new and more stringent government targets around supply, leaks and pollution.
- That the impacts of climate change and replacing outdated Victorian infrastructure present a huge and unprecedented financial challenge to the water industry.
- That earlier this year, raw sewage was discharged into the sea at Fleetwood due to heavy rain and a burst outfall pipe affecting much of the Fylde Coast, causing the closure of several beaches.
- That in the six months ending September 2022, United Utilities made considerable profits which should be re-invested in the company and go towards fixing leaks.
- That Lancashire taxpayers should not shoulder the whole financial burden for these improvements.

This Council resolves to ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, to write to United Utilities CEO, Louise Beardmore, and OFWAT CEO, David Black to:

1. Express concern, that in a cost of living crisis, consumers don't shoulder all the burden, and that available support for the hardest hit customers via schemes like WaterSure is well communicated to consumers and where necessary strengthened; and
2. Condemn repeated sewerage spills across the county and ask them to strongly commit to ending this issue going forward by investing in major new infrastructure projects."

Following a period of debate and on being put to the vote, the Amendment was CARRIED. The Amendment therefore became the substantive Motion.

A further Amendment was proposed by County Councillor David Howarth and seconded by County Councillor John Potter, as follows:

"Add at the end of council notes bullet point 3:

.... , and continues to discharge raw sewage into rivers and waterways across Lancashire.



Add new bullet point 4:

According to figures for 2020 and 2021, United Utilities was the worst performing water company in terms of the levels of sewage discharges over the two years, totalling 1.267 million hours.

Add new bullet point 7:

Council believes that we have a duty to protect our natural environment; that the government has failed to hold water companies accountable for dumping raw sewage into waterways; and that water companies should direct profits into minimising sewage discharges into our rivers and lakes.

Add after recommendation 2, "and ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, to

3. Set meaningful targets and deadlines for water companies to end sewage discharges.
4. Introduce a sewage tax on water company profits to fund the clean-up of our waterways.
5. Reduce the number of licences given to water companies permitting them to discharge sewage into rivers.
6. Strengthen Ofwat's powers to hold companies accountable.
7. Cease making cuts to Environmental Agency funding and ensure that it has enough staff to significantly improve its monitoring of the threats of inadequate storm-water infrastructure and pollution from sewage and agricultural nitrates.
8. Work with local authorities to ensure water companies protect our rivers by a requirement to invest upfront in sewerage infrastructure to reflect environmental objectives in local plans and planning applications. "

Following a period of debate and on being put to the vote, the Amendment was LOST.

There being no further Amendments, the Motion was put to the vote and in accordance with Standing Order B45(4), a recorded vote was taken. The names of the county councillors who voted for or against the Motion and those who abstained are set out below:

For (44)

Ashton	Cullens	Mirfin	Schofield	Whittam
Bailey	Edwards	Morris	Shedwick	Williamson
Britcliffe	Gardiner	O'Toole	Singleton	Woollam
Buckley	Gooch	Pope	Smith	Yates
Burrows	Green	Purcell	Sutcliffe	
Cheetham	Hartley	Rear	Swarbrick	
Clarke	Haythornthwaite	Rigby, P	Towneley	
Clempson	Hind	Rigby, S	Turner	
Couperthwaite	Jones	Riggott	Vincent	



Cox	Maxwell-Scott	Salter	Westley	
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Against (28)

Aldridge	Clifford	Fillis	Khan, H	Serridge
Ali	Collinge	Gibson	Lewis	Snape
Arif	Cunliffe	Hennessy	Mein	Tomlinson
Beavers	Dad	Hindle	Parr	Whittaker
Berry	De Molfetta	Holgate	Pattison	
Brown	Dowding	Howarth	Potter	

Abstained (0)

The substantive Motion was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: That

This Council notes:

- The recent proposals to independent regulator OFWAT from water companies asking to raise customer bills in order to meet new and more stringent government targets around supply, leaks and pollution.
- That the impacts of climate change and replacing outdated Victorian infrastructure present a huge and unprecedented financial challenge to the water industry.
- That earlier this year, raw sewage was discharged into the sea at Fleetwood due to heavy rain and a burst outfall pipe affecting much of the Fylde Coast, causing the closure of several beaches.
- That in the six months ending September 2022, United Utilities made considerable profits which should be re-invested in the company and go towards fixing leaks.
- That Lancashire taxpayers should not shoulder the whole financial burden for these improvements.

This Council resolves to ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, to write to United Utilities CEO, Louise Beardmore, and OFWAT CEO, David Black to:

1. Express concern, that in a cost of living crisis, consumers don't shoulder all the burden, and that available support for the hardest hit customers via schemes like WaterSure is well communicated to consumers and where necessary strengthened; and



2. Condemn repeated sewerage spills across the county and ask them to strongly commit to ending this issue going forward by investing in major new infrastructure projects.

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston

