



# Lead Members' Annual Reports

2023-24



# Lancashire County Council

## Lead Member Annual Reports

### 2023 – 2024

#### 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 decision making; and
- To represent or deputise for the Cabinet Member, as necessary.

Cabinet has appointed five Lead Members to support their work:

- Cultural Services and Skills – County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe
- Economic Development and Environment – County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite
- Finance and Resources – County Councillor Mike Goulthorp
- Health – County Councillor Sue Whittam
- Highways and Active Travel – County Councillor Scott Smith

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 2023-24 along with their priorities for 2024-25.



## Lead Member for Cultural Services and Skills

### County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe



#### My Priorities for 2023-24

- To complete visits to libraries to meet staff and members of the public to inform further development of the library service.
- 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 explore ways to break barriers for those digitally excluded.
- Continue to support the Schools Library and Music Services through event attendance.
- To support the Prison Library Service by visiting two prisons.

#### Key Activities

**Delivering better services**  
**Caring for the vulnerable**  
**Supporting economic growth**

It has been a pleasure to attend a myriad of events run by Cultural Services, highlights include the Choir of the Year Awards and the Storytelling Festival.

Insights into the activities of the school library service and the prison library service by attending the 2 services in action, have proven invaluable in helping shape the direction of the service by supporting the Cabinet Member.

Digital and Cyber events have dominated the world of skills but a visit to Fraser House in Lancaster to see the way Inspira are engaging young people demonstrated excellent practice that could be enhanced. The Lancashire Apprenticeship Awards rightly recognised achievement but also demonstrated our commitment to achieving parity of esteem for apprenticeships.

Scouring the list of entries for the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund has proven the breadth of activity across Lancashire that can be so hugely enhanced with support from the crowdfunding platform, and we have reviewed the policy of allocation.

Regular meetings with officers working on our Libraries' Friends Groups highlighted a need for email, website and social media guidance which is all underway with new training and procedures being implemented to ease the valuable work done by Friends.



## **My Priorities for 2024-25**

- To support delivery partners in their work with promoting, implementing and enhancing apprenticeship opportunities.
- To further develop relationships with educational institutions as well as businesses to promote collaborative working on parity of esteem for apprentices.
- To support the delivery of a Friends of Libraries Conference.
- To promote the world of work, enhancing ambition and understanding of the employment sphere for young people
- Continue to support the establishment of new Library Friends Groups and volunteering opportunities.



## Lead Member for Economic Development and Environment

### County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite



#### My Priorities for 2023-24

- To support the work of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Growth and the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required.
- To gather information and understand key policy and service delivery areas.
- To assist with developing options for policy and delivery in conjunction with Cabinet Members and Officers.
- To support and promote economic growth and environmental policy and service delivery in communities.
- To actively participate in Cabinet/Lead Member meetings, to discuss emerging issues and support development of measures for discussion in Cabinet and Full Council.

#### Key Activities

#### Supporting economic growth Protecting our environment

In conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Growth, I have gained knowledge of the strategic sites in Lancashire and the support available to business. It is also my pleasure to substitute for the Cabinet Member in meeting delivery partners on site.

The role includes acting for the Cabinet Member in working with partners in a levelling up project in Woodnook, Accrington and a Town Centre project in Rawtenstall.

Through in-house and on-site meetings and awareness sessions I have developed my understanding of the County's role in protecting the environment through its own estate, as a policy maker and as a community leader. Key activities include working with the Cabinet Member, Officers and potential delivery partners to prepare for installation of Electric Vehicle charging points through delivery of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. I have gained an understanding of some of the challenges and opportunities that need to be considered when providing EV infrastructure.

I have supported delivery of the Council's treescape project, attending planting events, including the planting of 500 whips to replace felled trees at a site on the A59



near Clitheroe, where Ash Dieback was first confirmed to be present in the NW of England.

## **My Priorities for 2024-25**

- To continue to attend regular meetings with the Cabinet Members for Economic Development & Growth, and for Environment & Climate Change and relevant Officers, to become fully conversant with and agree policies and plans for delivery.
- To continue to assist with researching, promoting and facilitating delivery of EV charging points, supporting key initiatives to be delivered in 24/25. This includes the trial of pavement cable channels, trialling of lamppost integrated charge points and the Council's application to the Local Electric Vehicle (LEVI) Fund to secure £10.1ml to scale up delivery of EV infrastructure.
- To assist with promoting and facilitating nature-based solutions to help tackle climate change. This includes continued support and promotion of tree planting initiatives, attending community events delivered through the Treescapes project, and work to support preparation and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). I expect to take part in a site visit with the Council's Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) ecology team to gain an overview of the survey process and how this is supporting development of the LNRS.
- To continue work with community projects such as Woodnook and Rawtenstall Centre to assist groups to clarify and meet project objectives.
- To continue to work with Cabinet/Lead Members and whole Cabinet to ensure effective measures are introduced for Cabinet and Full Council discussion and decision.



## Lead Member for Finance and Resources County Councillor Mike Goulthorp



### My Priorities for 2023-24

- Support the work of the Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader), including deputising at Committee, Cabinet and Full Council.
- To support the Cabinet Member in respect of financial management and Budget development.
- To support the Cabinet Member in maximising financial and commercial opportunities.
- To work with and contribute to the work of the whole Cabinet to ensure effective introduction of measures for decision of Cabinet and Full Council.

### Key Activities

### Delivering better services Supporting economic growth

- Working with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resource. I attend regular briefings with the Executive Director of Resources, to oversee delivery of projects and help shape future services in identifying opportunities for efficiency improvements and cost savings.
- I continue to explore and identify further efficiencies within our operational SEND commitments.
- I continue to identify and develop with services across the council opportunities to improve commercial awareness to improve service delivery.
- I also serve as a Director of Growth Lancashire.

### My Priorities for 2024-25

- To support the work of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resource, including deputising at Cabinet and Full Council as required
- To continue to attend regular briefings with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resource and Officers to keep up to date with projects and service developments.
- To be involved in the Budget planning process and where directed by the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resource lead on any project.



- Continue to explore and identify further cost savings and efficiencies within our operational SEND commitments.
- To work alongside the Cabinet and Lead Member team to support the Council's corporate priorities and contribute to the work of the whole Cabinet to ensure the introduction of measures for decision at Cabinet and Full Council.





## Lead Member for Health County Councillor Sue Whittam



- 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 and the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board and deputise when required on the 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.

### My 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 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 work closely 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.



## Key Activities

## Caring for the vulnerable Delivering better services

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 have deputised for the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing on the Lancashire Place Based Partnership Board to ensure its close relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board and its aims to deliver positive outcomes for people and their communities.

I attended the LGA Annual Public Health Conference to increase my knowledge on the recently published National Suicide Prevention Strategy to help inform decisions being made at place level, and to support initiatives being put in place locally to recognise and reduce suicide rates or trends.

I have worked closely with the new Independent Chair for Safeguarding Adults to ensure that vulnerable adults are supported and influenced decisions at Board level to ensure delivery of core duties under the Care Act 2014. I represented the County Council on the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust, developing a close relationship and influencing how we can work better together to provide the best mental health support in Lancashire.

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

## My Priorities for 2024-25

- 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 continue working closely with the 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.



## Lead Member for Highways and Active Travel

### County Councillor Scott Smith



#### My 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 Transport Asset Management Plan – 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.

#### Key Activities

#### Supporting economic growth

This year, I have continued to work closely with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to ensure that the Directorate delivers its objectives, with a particular focus on active travel and public transport.

The County Council's active travel agenda continues to progress. This year saw the opening of Lancashire's first Cycle Optimised Protected Signals (CYCLOPS) junction, continued progress towards completion of the East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway, and extensive consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders on projects related to the County Council's successful £50m Levelling Up Fund bid, which has a focus on promoting active travel.

Perhaps the most significant piece of work this year with regards to active travel has been the consultation on and development of the County Council's Local Cycling and Walking or Infrastructure Plans. These outline a county-wide network of walking, cycling and wheeling routes to inform the use of future funding for active travel schemes, and are due for consideration by Cabinet at the time of writing.

My work on public transport has centred around our Bus Service Improvement Plan, which has received Government funding of £42m to date. It aims to provide more reliable and frequent services, improved infrastructure and lower fares in order to boost passenger numbers which suffered during the pandemic. The County Council's successful Levelling Up Fund bid for the East of the County also contained



significant upgrades to infrastructure. This year also saw Lancashire County Council chosen as one of four pilot areas for Public Transport Safety Officers, aiming to reduce and deter antisocial behaviour and enhance safety for users of our bus network.

I have continued to work closely with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to ensure the Highways service has kept up with unprecedented demand and has continued to improve its communications both with members and the public. I have also worked with him to ensure that Network North funding has been committed to schemes according to residents' priorities, and will continue to do so to ensure that the County Council is ready to use any such future funding which may be committed.

## **My Priorities for 2024-25**

- 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 support the Cabinet and Lead Members for Economic Development and Growth, on continuing progress on the County Council's successful Levelling Up bid.
- To continue to support the Cabinet Member in his work to ensure the Highways and Transport Directorate meets its objectives.
- To work alongside the Cabinet and Lead Member team to support the Council's corporate priorities.

