

**Lancashire County Council**

**Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 10.30 am in  
Committee Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston**

**Present:**

County Councillor Rob Bailey (Chair)

**County Councillors**

S Rigby	J Oakes
A Cheetham	J Purcell
A Cullens BEM	J R Singleton JP
J Gibson	K Snape
M Iqbal MBE	

County Councillor Alan Cullens replaced County Councillor Alan Schofield for this meeting only.

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were disclosed.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12 September 2024**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

**4. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure**

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, and Debbie King, Head of Environment and Climate to the meeting.

A presentation was provided on Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure in Lancashire. It covered provision, likely future demand, and the emerging programme of delivery through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund to scale up



local provision, particularly supporting those residents who did not have access to off-street parking. A copy of the presentation is set out in the minutes.

In response to questions from the committee, the following information was clarified:

- The method of connecting EV chargers to existing lampposts had been successfully trailed elsewhere in the country and it was confirmed officers were engaging with other councils to explore options. It was acknowledged that using pre-existing infrastructure would be beneficial.
- On commercial opportunities, it was highlighted that as all transport authorities would have access to the LEVI fund, an attractive proposition for commercial buyers would be needed to secure investment in Lancashire. A full procurement process would have to be undertaken given the value of the work.
- Officers confirmed that the point of providing the funding was so that rural areas would not be left behind from the private sector's roll out of commercially viable charge points.
- Regarding the ongoing cable tray pilot scheme, it was noted that the ability to park outside one's own property to meet their charging needs formed part of the eligibility criteria for applicants. Dedicated parking spaces were not provided. Feedback from residents in the trail on access to their charging points and any tensions with neighbours would be valuable in the scheme's progression.
- Members queried options available for residents of terraced housing rows with limited access to parking. Officers explained that there were different options and technologies such as implementing charging hubs on disused land to serve multiple houses on terrace rows were being explored.
- On availability of public EV chargers, the committee was informed that some companies had introduced overstay charges on machines in attempts to manage misuse by customers. In addition, customers were able to check availability and book charging slots on the relevant mobile app.
- The county council's charge points would be subject to parking enforcement through Traffic Regulation Orders. However, private companies would be responsible for regulating use of their own charge points.
- Potential charging sites were being identified via mapping methodology and included locations such as village hall car parks and council owned land.
- It was confirmed that flood risk zones were a consideration for the mapping process, and that safeguards were built into charge points – should they come into contact with water, they would automatically shut down to ensure customer safety.
- Accessibility issues would be considered when deciding on EV charge point locations.
- Consultation with local communities and councillors would form an important part of the short-listing stage to ensure chargers were in user friendly locations and would benefit residents.
- Officers confirmed that work was focused on identifying a long list of sites and that current estimations for sharing potential locations and working on land permissions would take place in the new year.



- It was noted that EV charging technology was rapidly evolving and going forward, updates to and replacement of chargers would be incorporated into new contracts with providers.
- Concerns were raised on the 2030 deadline for 36% electric car ownership within Lancashire. Officers highlighted that with new vehicles coming onto the market, it was important to put the infrastructure in ahead of the demand to allow EV ownership to catch up.
- It was confirmed that income revenue streams from the charge points the county council installed would form a part of the procurement specification.
- Members queried the current distribution of EV chargers across the county. Officers confirmed that district specific data would be circulated to the committee at a later date.
- It was confirmed that mapping work was being shared with district councils to avoid any duplications with local projects.

**Resolved:** That;

- (i) A breakdown of charge points by district be circulated to all members of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee.
- (ii) The proposals for potential locations be shared with all members of the Committee.
- (iii) The Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change gives consideration to utilising all commercial opportunities available to the council in finalising the technical specification to procure an operator.

## **5. Skills, Interventions and Initiatives led by the Skills and Employment Hub**

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe, Lead Member for Cultural Services and Skills, Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director, Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, and Joanna O'Donnell, Project Manager to the meeting.

A presentation was provided to the committee on Skills Bootcamps funded by the Department for Education under the National Skills Fund. A total of £1.2m was allocated to Lancashire under Wave 3 for financial year 2022/23, £3m under Wave 4 in 2023/24 and £6.4m under Wave 5 (2024/25). It outlined the policy intent and features of the Skills Bootcamp programme, and progress against Waves 4 and 5 in Lancashire. A copy of the presentation is set out in the minutes.

Comments, suggestions and queries raised from the committee were as follows:

- It was suggested that consideration be given to expanding the out of hours provision and where possible, utilising local community centre venues to help people access training who might otherwise be unable to attend during the daytime or were apprehensive about accessing training at large education establishments.



- It was also suggested that consideration be given to linking training with local labour market intelligence to ensure that the need for it was there to ensure value for money.
- It was explained that the programme was pan-Lancashire and had worked with district projects like Rossendale Works, recognizing the need for employment provision.
- Officers highlighted the need to assess what skills local areas required the most in their job markets, as well as considering where employers were based. It was confirmed that district activity data on where interventions had taken place would be circulated to the committee at a later date.
- Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub worked alongside The Prince's Trust through referrals of learners to ensure individuals were entering the right programme for getting them back into work.
- Benchmarking exercises with areas across the country had shown similar trends in completion rates and job outcomes.
- It was noted that learners who had completed the skills bootcamp, but subsequently had been employed in an alternative sector could not have been included in the data for employment outcomes.
- It was recognised that the national targets for job outcomes were aspirational, and significant success had already been had in closing gaps in Lancashire's skills shortages and embedding social values.
- Skills bootcamps had helped to redress stereotypes in certain industries and promote inclusivity amongst new workforces.
- In formulating recommendations, it was suggested that members could assist with promoting the positive messaging on this work and requested that relevant information and social media links be provided to county councillors.

**Resolved:** That;

- (i) Relevant information and social media links to help county councillors promote Skills Bootcamps be provided.
- (ii) Data on where interventions had taken place by district be circulated to all members of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee.
- (iii) The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills gives consideration to:
  - a. Expanding the out of hours provision.
  - b. Where possible, utilising local community centre venues to deliver training.
  - c. Linking training with local labour market intelligence.

## **6. Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee Work Programme, Actions and Assurances Update**

The committee considered the work programme for the 2024/25 municipal year, and an update on actions and assurances.



It was reported that an initial meeting of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership inquiry day panel would take place in December to help provide further context on the development of the new partnership arrangements. The date for this meeting was yet to be confirmed.

**Resolved:** That;

- (i) The Work Programme for 2024/25 at Appendix 'A' be noted.
- (ii) Information provided as part of the actions and assurances to the Committee with regard to future work programme items at Appendix 'B' be noted.

## **7. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Environment, Economic Growth, and Transport Scrutiny Committee will be held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 10:30am in Committee Room B – The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston.

H MacAndrew  
Director of Law and Governance

County Hall  
Preston

