

Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

The Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken during the forthcoming municipal year.

The Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility to review and scrutinise the work of the county council and external organisations on matters relating to community safety and cohesion, and county council support services. Accordingly, the work of the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee will focus on the following areas:

1. Cultural Services
2. Community Services
3. Crime and Disorder (Community Safety Partnership – statutory function)
4. Corporate Services including Communications, Digital Services, Customer Access Services, Facilities Management, Asset Management, Procurement, and Democratic Services.

The programme is determined following a planning session at the start of the municipal year. This includes provision for the rights of county councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the committee. Coordination of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee programmes is undertaken by the Scrutiny Management Board. This is in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Terms of Reference, as set out in the county council's [Constitution](#) (Section 6).

Cabinet Members

The Cabinet portfolios aligned to the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee's responsibilities are:

[County Councillor Philippa Williamson](#), Leader of the Council

[County Councillor Alan Vincent](#), Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader)

[County Councillor Peter Buckley](#), Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services

The areas of responsibility for each Cabinet Member are set out at [Appendix A – Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members](#) to the county council's constitution.

Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Programme 2024-2025

Committee Meeting Schedule						
Scrutiny Activity	26 Sept 2024	31 Oct 2024	09 Dec 2024	12 Feb 2025	24 February 2025 Informal – Inquiry Day	27 Mar 2025
Service Area Report to Committee	Procurement / Purchasing set against context of value for money – our approach and plans following Procurement Act 2023 and the subordinate legislation of the Procurement Regulation 2024	Asset Profile	Strategy for change management Note: moved back from October	Property Services Update	Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment Laser focus on Anti-social behaviour and Domestic Abuse or violence against women and girls	All scheduled items moved forward to 12 February 2025 as a result of election notice period.
		Outline and introduction – main item 12.02.25		"How digital capabilities are enabling better decision making across the Council"		
	National Portfolio Organisations	'Workforce Matters' - (HR, Absenteeism Recruitment and Performance Management) Note: brought forward from December		Strengthening our approach to partnership working		
Annual Report to Committee				Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment		
Planned Decision Scrutiny Review						
Short Scrutiny (Rapporteur) Review Update						

Other Scrutiny Review Update						
Cabinet Member Required Attendance	Cabinet Members for Resources, HR and Property, and Community and Cultural Services	Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property	Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property	Cabinet Members for Resources, HR and Property, and Community and Cultural Services	Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services	

Notice of Motion approved by Lancashire County Council on 17 October 2024: Committee agreement is needed to include this in the work programme and allocate this item to a meeting date.

This Council notes that 1,112 knives were taken off the streets of Lancashire during one week of targeted action in November 2023, and there has been an increase in knife crime across the whole country. In 2023 the Criminal Justice Bill was introduced to give police more powers to tackle knife crime. The Government has also introduced a new law preventing the use of zombie-style knives and machetes.

This Council is aware that legislation alone cannot address the complex challenges of knife crime. A multi-agency approach is needed to remove dangerous knives from our streets and keep residents safe.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (i) To ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary welcoming the new law to ban zombie-style knives and machetes which are known to be used in many gang related crimes.
- (ii) To ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for confirmation that knife crime will continue to be a priority for the Police as per the previous Commissioner, and that Operation Centurion will continue with stop/search and stop/check as targeting those who carry these deadly weapons is vital in keeping people in Lancashire safe.
- (iii) To ask the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee to consider this Council's enforcement activity on the illegal sale of knives including to underage children, and opportunities for further communicating the danger of carrying knives.

Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Recommendations Progress

Meeting Date	Report Title	Corporate Priority	Recommendation	Progress Detail
26 September 2024	National Portfolio Organisations	Delivering better services. Supporting economic growth.	<p>That:</p> <p>(ii) The Cabinet Member for Communities and Cultural Services gives consideration to writing a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner to seek support and continuation of the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund.</p>	Response from the Cabinet Member received on 11 October 2024 and presented to the committee at its meeting held on 31 October 2024.
31 October 2024	Workforce Matters	Delivering better services.	<p>Reports on the following matters be presented at a future scheduled meeting of the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A report providing information on posts that are difficult to recruit to. b. A report on proactive actions taken to retain staff. c. A report providing information on live staffing issues, including long term sickness absence, maternity, paternity, caring responsibilities and for the report to cover employee assistance factors such as phased returns/reintegration, remote working and maintaining professional competency. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information on lowest paid posts in the Growth, Environment, Transport and Health and Resources Directorates be shared with the Committee. 2. Briefing notes on the following matters be provided to the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An update on the National Graduate Management Trainee programme at the county council. 	

			<p>b. A note on the definition of lean and agile in public sector and for this to cover aspects of culture and behaviour change.</p>	
09 December 25			<p>Briefing notes on the following be circulated to the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information on what the future of local government looks like, the cultural changes needed and how this will be supported. • Further information on a narrative that explains the change agenda and the future of the organisation. • Further information on officer governance arrangements to support change. • An overview of how wider change outside of the change portfolio will be supported (including the role of the Change Influencers Network and proposed 'Change Clinics'). • How elected members will be kept engaged as individual programmes progress. <p>The Committee consider the county council's approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital change at a future meeting as part of progress against the digital strategy.</p> <p>Scrutiny Management Board be asked to support the engagement and encouragement of member involvement, and challenge through effective forward planning of scrutiny activity –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that work programme timetables were aligned to key milestones of programmes within the change portfolio. • Ensuring that members and all organisation leaders be engaged, as work progresses, as to the major change portfolio as a whole in order to maintain sight of inter-dependencies and overall delivery. 	