

Full Council

Thursday, 15th October, 2026 at 1.00 pm in Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston

The meeting shall commence with the playing of the National Anthem.

Agenda

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- 1. Apologies and Announcements**
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
- 3. Question Time** (Pages 1 - 4)
Questions submitted under Standing Order B30.
- A. Matters for Decision**
- 4. Confirmation of the Minutes from the Meeting held on 16 July 2026 and of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 16 July 2026** (Pages 5 - 22)
- 5. Approval of Amended Library Byelaws** (Pages 23 - 30)
- 6. Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee - Treasury Management Strategy Update** (Pages 31 - 60)
- 7. Updates to the County Council's Constitution** (Pages 61 - 68)
- 8. Review of Political Balance and Committee Appointments** (Pages 69 - 74)
- 9. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26** (Pages 75 - 94)
- 10. Lancashire County Pension Fund - Annual Report 2025/26** (Pages 95 - 98)
- 11. Lancashire County Council Timetable of Meetings 2027/28** (Pages 99 - 104)



12. Urgent Business

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

B. Matters for Information

13. Report of the Cabinet (Part B) (Pages 105 - 114)

14. Report of County Council Committees

To receive reports from:

(a) **The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee** (Pages 115 - 120)

(b) **The Employment Committee** (Pages 121 - 124)

(c) **The Pension Fund Committee** (Pages 125 - 132)

(d) **The Overview and Scrutiny Committees** (Pages 133 - 148)

15. Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority (Pages 149 - 152)

16. Report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority (Pages 153 - 158)

C. Notices of Motion

17. To consider Notices of Motion Submitted under Standing Order B37 (Pages 159 - 162)

Mark Wynn
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston

07 October 2026



Agenda Item 3

Questions submitted under Standing Order B30

No.	To be asked by:	Question:	For answer by (Cabinet Member):
1.	CC Mark Jewell	The Met Office has reported that the current El Niño is forecast to be the "largest in living memory" and could increase the likelihood of wetter and stormier conditions in the UK during autumn and early winter. The Met Office also notes that a strong El Niño can contribute to higher global temperatures, increasing the risk of extreme heat in the following year. Given these forecasts, what measures is Lancashire County Council implementing to mitigate these effects on farming, our rural economy and protecting residents from surface water flooding and the potential impacts of extreme weather?	CC Joshua Roberts
2.	CC Adrian Owens	Dial-a-Ride West Lancashire ceased operation on 30 June 2026. It provided a highly-valued door-to-door, wheelchair accessible minibus service for people who were unable to use, or did not have, any regular bus services for access to healthcare, shopping and social visits. It was a friendly and caring bus service and its loss has been keenly felt. In early September, Little Green Bus as the lead operator in the Lancashire Community Transport Consortium stepped in to provide a replacement service, but it is currently running only one day a week – a significantly reduced service from previously. What steps are the county council taking to expand the number of days each week that the service operates so that West Lancashire's elderly and disabled residents are not the poor relations compared to other Lancashire districts?	CC Warren Goldsworthy

No.	To be asked by:	Question:	For answer by (Cabinet Member):
3.	CC Kim Snape	Rivington is a Lancashire landmark with over 1.5 million visitors a year from across the country. In July a cross-party Notice of Motion was agreed at Chorley Council to send a letter to the leader of Lancashire County Council (LCC) and the Chief Executive demanding that LCC joins with the police, United Utilities and Chorley Council to invest additional budget in the Rivington area to tackle vehicle ASB, support proper control of on road parking, traffic calming and vehicle movement controls. It's disappointing to hear that LCC has not responded to this despite the motion being supported by Chorley Reform Group including County Cllrs Close and Topp. Could the Leader please outline LCC's plans to invest in this area, explain how the authority intends to work with partner organisations to address these issues, and provide a timeline for the delivery of these proposals?	CC Stephen Atkinson/ Warren Goldsworthy
4.	CC Michael Lavalette	The RNLI are a volunteer based, humanitarian organisation committed to saving the lives of anyone in trouble at sea regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, or country of origin. Does the Leader agree with me that the brave men and women of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute do not deserve the verbal, physical and on-line abuse, threats and vitriol that they have experienced in recent months and will he agree to invite RNLI representatives from Lancashire to the county council so they can outline the work they do to councillors?	CC Ella Worthington

No.	To be asked by:	Question:	For answer by (Cabinet Member):
5.	CC Aidy Riggott	Earlier this year, I had the misfortune to burst a tyre after hitting a 9cm-deep pothole on a Lancashire country road. Fortunately, I managed to stay on the road and pulled into a nearby passing place as darkness approached. According to the Council's own data, this pothole had been reported to the Council at least 4 months prior and had yet to be repaired permanently, let alone temporarily. Following my complaint a temporary repair was carried out and then left in place for a further 3 months until recent press coverage finally prompted a permanent repair some 7 months on from the initial report. Will the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport please confirm, according to the Council's own released data, between October 2025 and March 2026 how many and what % of potholes across Lancashire were not repaired on time as measured against the Councils own KPIs?	CC Warren Goldsworthy
6.	CC Joel Tetlow	The government is keen for Mayoral Devolution in Lancashire. If it went ahead, please could the Leader explain how the cost of a Mayor will be met?	CC Stephen Atkinson

Minutes

At a meeting of the Full Council held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston, on Thursday, 16th July, 2026

Present:

County Councillor Lee Hutchinson (Chairman)

County Councillors

N Alderson	W Goldsworthy	T Pickup
A Ali OBE	L Graham	J Potter
U Arif	S Gummer	M Poulton
S Asghar	G Hargreaves	A Razakazi
J Ash	H Hartley	S Rigby
S Atkinson	D Howarth	A Riggott
G Austin	G Johnson	M Ritson
C Balchin	A Jones	J Roberts
S Barnes	M Jones	M Salter
A Blake	A Joynes	J Schofield
P Buckley	M Kamran	D Shaw
A Clempson	G Kniveton	J R Singleton JP
M Clifford	E Kutavicius	K Snape
E Close	Prof. M Lavalette	C Snow
J Crawford	D Matchett	P Stubbins
S Crimmins	N McCollum	M Sutton
G Dalton	H Mills	L Thomson
T de Freitas	G Mirfin	J Tomlinson
G Dowding	B Moore	M Topp
I Duxbury	L More	M Wade
D Dwyer	Y Motala	R Walsh
R Edwards	A Owens	H Whalley
S Evans	L Parker	D Whipp
J Fox	L Parkinson	E Worthington

1. Apologies and Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Tim Ashton, Marion Atkinson, John Clemson, Fred Cottam, Fiona Duke, Mohammed Iqbal MBE, Mark Jewell, Tom Lord, Nigel Swales, and Joel Tetlow.

County Councillor Matthew Brown joined the meeting virtually.



Announcements

Death

The Chairman reported the recent death of former County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott, who sadly passed away on 5 July 2026.

The Council observed a one-minute silence.

Recognition

The Chairman announced that that the county council had been ranked 38th in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer 2026 awards - the highest-ranking council in the country.

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Matthew Salter, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, drew Full Council's attention to the recent success and how this recognition reinforced the council's commitment to investing in apprenticeships and workforce development, ensuring Lancashire continues to attract, develop and retain the talent needed to deliver excellent services for local communities.

Vanessa Carthy, Louise Price, Adam Lewis, Chelsea Mullan, George Thompson, Nicola Hardy and Alex Carr, from the Talent and Performance Team, joined the meeting virtually.

Full Council congratulated and thanked all those involved.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

County Councillor Thomas de Freitas declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 - Appointment to the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire for 2026/27, as he was a member of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire, appointed by West Lancashire Borough Council.

3. Question Time

Five questions were received on behalf of political groups as follows:

No.	Question From	Subject	Answered By
1.	County Councillor David Whipp	Highway Asset Management System	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
2.	County Councillor Russell Walsh	Local Government Reorganisation	Leader of the County Council
3.	County Councillor Gordon Johnson	Joint Health Scrutiny Committee - Shaping Care Together Programme	Chair of the Health and Adults Scrutiny Committee



4.	County Councillor Chris Snow	Pothole repairs – Multevo contract	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
5.	County Councillor Aidy Riggott	Highways maintenance funding	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

All questions were answered at the meeting. A copy of the questions and responses will be published alongside the minutes.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes from the Meeting held 21 May 2026

Resolved: - That, the minutes from the meeting held on 21 May 2026, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Report of the Cabinet (Part A) - Child and Youth Justice Service Plan 2026/27

County Councillor Simon Evans moved a report setting out the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2026-27, which was approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 2 July 2026.

Resolved: - That the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2026-27, as set out at Annex '1' in the report, now presented, be approved.

6. Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board Membership

County Councillor Daniel Matchett moved a report proposing a revised membership of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board.

Resolved: - That, the revised membership of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board, now presented, be approved.

7. Appointment to the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire for 2026/27

County Councillor Stephen Atkinson moved a report proposing the appointment of an additional county council representative and two substitute representatives from the Reform UK group to serve on the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire for 2026/27, subject to notification and approval of the Home Office.

Resolved: - That, subject to notification and approval of the Home Office,

- (i) The appointment of County Councillor Simon Evans to serve on the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire for 2026/27, be approved.
- (ii) The appointment of County Councillors Daniel Matchett and Mackenzie Ritson to serve as substitute representatives on the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire for 2026/27, when required, be approved.



8. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to be considered.

9. Report of the Cabinet (Part B)

County Councillor Stephen Atkinson moved the report of the Cabinet from its meetings on 19 May 2026, 4 June 2026 and 2 July 2026.

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

10(a) The Employment Committee

County Councillor Stephen Atkinson moved the report of the Employment Committee from its meeting on 19 May 2026.

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

10(b) The Pension Fund Committee

County Councillor Stephen Atkinson moved the report of the Pension Fund Committee from its meeting on 19 June 2026.

Resolved: - That the report of the Pension Fund Committee, now presented, be noted.

10(c) Report of the Political Governance Working Group

County Councillor Ged Mirfin moved the report of the Political Governance Working Group from its meeting on 10 June 2026.

Resolved: - That the report of the Political Governance Working Group, now presented, be noted.

11. Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

County Councillor Ged Mirfin moved the report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority from its meeting on 15 June 2026.

Resolved: - That the report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, now presented, be noted.

12. Report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority

County Councillor Stephen Atkinson moved the report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority from its meetings on 14 April 2026 and 23 June 2026.

Resolved: - That the report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority, now presented, be noted.



13. To consider Notices of Motion Submitted under Standing Order B37

Notice of Motion 1

It was moved by County Councillor Azhar Ali OBE and seconded by County Councillor Gina Dowding that:

"This council notes with serious concern that "corridor care" – where patients are treated in inappropriate spaces such as corridors or waiting areas – represents a serious and worsening failure of the health care system. No resident should be treated this way.

Hospitals serving Lancashire residents, including Royal Preston, Chorley and South Ribble, Blackpool Victoria, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, and Royal Blackburn, report - on too many occasions - severe overcrowding, long A&E waits, and unsafe conditions.

Corridor care is undignified, unsafe, and unacceptable, placing vulnerable patients at risk and forcing NHS staff to work under intolerable pressure.

This Council believes corridor care affecting Lancashire hospitals is part of a wider national scandal, driven by insufficient capacity, workforce shortages, and sustained pressure on NHS services.

This council resolves to:

1. Condemn corridor care and ask for its urgent elimination.
2. Through the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board and by November 2026, work immediately with NHS partners to lead the development of an action plan to eliminate corridor care as a matter of urgency, with three-monthly progress reports to the Board.
3. Arrange a cross-party meeting with Lancashire MPs to press for action to end corridor care.
4. Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care:
 - To demand emergency funding, a long-term workforce plan, and a meeting with Lancashire County Council's political group leaders to end corridor care, and
 - Reaffirm that the NHS must remain a publicly provided service, publicly funded through taxation, and free at the point of use."



The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Adrian Owens:

To add after Royal Lancaster Infirmary, the words "Southport Hospital and Ormskirk Hospital".

The amendment was accepted by County Councillor Ali as a friendly amendment in accordance with Standing Order B43.

A further amendment was then proposed by County Councillor Daniel Matchett:

From, "This council resolves to:" to read:

"

1. Condemn corridor care and ask for its urgent elimination.
2. Through the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board ensure corridor care is an urgent priority, ask all Lancashire NHS trusts to submit trust-level data to all Board meeting to monitor reductions in corridor care, and agree a cross-system action plan covering acute capacity and social care discharge by November 2026.
3. Invite Lancashire MPs to contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's work on corridor care.
4. Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to call for a long-term NHS workforce plan, greater flexibility to fund adult social care and discharge services, and a meeting with Lancashire County Council group leaders and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5. Ask the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and county council representatives on the Board to visit Lancashire's emergency departments to inform the Board's evidence base and report back."

The amendment was accepted by County Councillor Ali as a friendly amendment in accordance with Standing Order B43 and became the substantive Motion as follows:

"This council notes with serious concern that "corridor care" – where patients are treated in inappropriate spaces such as corridors or waiting areas – represents a serious and worsening failure of the health care system. No resident should be treated this way.

Hospitals serving Lancashire residents, including Royal Preston, Chorley and South Ribble, Blackpool Victoria, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Southport Hospital and Ormskirk Hospital, and Royal Blackburn, report - on too many occasions - severe overcrowding, long A&E waits, and unsafe conditions.

Corridor care is undignified, unsafe, and unacceptable, placing vulnerable patients at risk and forcing NHS staff to work under intolerable pressure.

This Council believes corridor care affecting Lancashire hospitals is part of a wider national scandal, driven by insufficient capacity, workforce shortages, and sustained pressure on NHS services.

This council resolves to:

1. Condemn corridor care and ask for its urgent elimination.
2. Through the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board ensure corridor care is an urgent priority, ask all Lancashire NHS trusts to submit trust-level data to all Board meeting to monitor reductions in corridor care, and agree a cross-system action plan covering acute capacity and social care discharge by November 2026.
3. Invite Lancashire MPs to contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's work on corridor care.
4. Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to call for a long-term NHS workforce plan, greater flexibility to fund adult social care and discharge services, and a meeting with Lancashire County Council group leaders and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5. Ask the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and county council representatives on the Board to visit Lancashire's emergency departments to inform the Board's evidence base and report back."

There being no further amendments, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

This council notes with serious concern that "corridor care" – where patients are treated in inappropriate spaces such as corridors or waiting areas – represents a serious and worsening failure of the health care system. No resident should be treated this way.

Hospitals serving Lancashire residents, including Royal Preston, Chorley and South Ribble, Blackpool Victoria, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Southport Hospital and Ormskirk Hospital, and Royal Blackburn, report - on too many occasions - severe overcrowding, long A&E waits, and unsafe conditions.

Corridor care is undignified, unsafe, and unacceptable, placing vulnerable patients at risk and forcing NHS staff to work under intolerable pressure.

This Council believes corridor care affecting Lancashire hospitals is part of a wider national scandal, driven by insufficient capacity, workforce shortages, and sustained pressure on NHS services.



This council resolves to:

1. Condemn corridor care and ask for its urgent elimination.
2. Through the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board ensure corridor care is an urgent priority, ask all Lancashire NHS trusts to submit trust-level data to all Board meeting to monitor reductions in corridor care, and agree a cross-system action plan covering acute capacity and social care discharge by November 2026.
3. Invite Lancashire MPs to contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's work on corridor care.
4. Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to call for a long-term NHS workforce plan, greater flexibility to fund adult social care and discharge services, and a meeting with Lancashire County Council group leaders and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5. Ask the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and county council representatives on the Board to visit Lancashire's emergency departments to inform the Board's evidence base and report back.

Notice of Motion 2

It was moved by County Councillor Mark Clifford and seconded by County Councillor Kim Snape that:

"This Council notes that:

The Government has made clear its commitment to devolving powers and funding from Whitehall to local areas through Strategic Authorities led by directly elected Mayors. Across England, areas benefiting from devolution have secured greater local control over transport, skills, housing, economic development and investment, enabling decisions to be taken closer to the communities they affect.

Lancashire is one of England's largest and most significant economies, with strengths in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, higher education, logistics and energy. Despite this, Lancashire continues to lack the powers, funding flexibility and strategic influence available to many comparable areas that have already secured mayoral devolution deals.

This Council believes that:

A comprehensive devolution settlement would provide Lancashire with a stronger voice, improved access to investment, greater local accountability and the tools needed to drive economic growth, improve public services and tackle local challenges. The election of a directly elected Mayor would provide clear leadership and ensure Lancashire can fully benefit from future devolved powers and funding opportunities.



This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to the new Prime Minister urging the Government to accelerate the devolution process for Lancashire.
2. Call on the Government to take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to enable a Lancashire Mayoral Election in May 2027.
3. Write to the new Secretary of State responsible for Devolution seeking a meeting with a cross-party delegation to pursue greater powers and funding for Lancashire."

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Stephen Atkinson:

From "This Council believes that:" to read:

"A comprehensive devolution settlement would provide Lancashire with a stronger voice, improved access to investment, greater local accountability and the tools needed to drive economic growth, improve public services and tackle local challenges. Lancashire residents demand value for money and the election of a directly elected Mayor should only be considered when the Government confirms what significant additional funding will be allocated to Lancashire.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to the new Prime Minister urging the Government to accelerate the devolution process for Lancashire.
2. Write to the new Secretary of State responsible for Devolution seeking a meeting with a cross-party delegation to pursue greater powers and funding for Lancashire."

The amendment was accepted by County Councillor Clifford as a friendly amendment in accordance with Standing Order B43 and became the substantive Motion as follows:

"This Council notes that:

The Government has made clear its commitment to devolving powers and funding from Whitehall to local areas through Strategic Authorities led by directly elected Mayors. Across England, areas benefiting from devolution have secured greater local control over transport, skills, housing, economic development and investment, enabling decisions to be taken closer to the communities they affect.

Lancashire is one of England's largest and most significant economies, with strengths in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, higher education, logistics and energy. Despite this, Lancashire continues to lack the powers, funding flexibility and strategic influence available to many comparable areas that have already secured mayoral devolution deals.

This Council believes that:

A comprehensive devolution settlement would provide Lancashire with a stronger voice, improved access to investment, greater local accountability and the tools needed to drive economic growth, improve public services and tackle local challenges. Lancashire residents demand value for money and the election of a directly elected Mayor should only be considered when the Government confirms what significant additional funding will be allocated to Lancashire.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to the new Prime Minister urging the Government to accelerate the devolution process for Lancashire.
2. Write to the new Secretary of State responsible for Devolution seeking a meeting with a cross-party delegation to pursue greater powers and funding for Lancashire."

There being no further amendments, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was CARRIED. It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

This Council notes that:

The Government has made clear its commitment to devolving powers and funding from Whitehall to local areas through Strategic Authorities led by directly elected Mayors. Across England, areas benefiting from devolution have secured greater local control over transport, skills, housing, economic development and investment, enabling decisions to be taken closer to the communities they affect.

Lancashire is one of England's largest and most significant economies, with strengths in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, higher education, logistics and energy. Despite this, Lancashire continues to lack the powers, funding flexibility and strategic influence available to many comparable areas that have already secured mayoral devolution deals.

This Council believes that:

A comprehensive devolution settlement would provide Lancashire with a stronger voice, improved access to investment, greater local accountability and the tools needed to drive economic growth, improve public services and tackle local challenges. Lancashire residents demand value for money and the election of a directly elected Mayor should only be considered when the Government confirms what significant additional funding will be allocated to Lancashire.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to the new Prime Minister urging the Government to accelerate the devolution process for Lancashire.



2. Write to the new Secretary of State responsible for Devolution seeking a meeting with a cross-party delegation to pursue greater powers and funding for Lancashire.

Notice of Motion 3

It was moved by County Councillor Ellie Close and seconded by County Councillor Liam Thomson that:

"This Council notes:

(a) Following Baroness Casey's National Audit, a statutory Public Inquiry has been established to address systemic failures in institutional responses to child sexual exploitation and abuse committed by grooming gangs, chaired by Baroness Anne Longfield CBE.

(b) The Government accepted all 12 of Baroness Casey's recommendations, including the mandatory recording of ethnicity and nationality data in all child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation cases. The report found that ethnicity data is not recorded for two-thirds of perpetrators.

(c) Nationally, Operation Beaconport will review cases involving alleged or likely group-based child sexual exploitation, identify whether lines of investigation have been missed, and whether cases should be re-opened.

(d) The first investigations will focus on Oldham, London, Bradford and Keighley. Further areas will be considered using a criteria-based approach.

(e) The Council has received a request for information from the Inquiry and taken appropriate steps to retain all relevant records and documentation.

This Council believes Lancashire's children and survivors deserve the full truth and commits to responding with full candour.

This Council resolves to:

1. Welcome the work of the Inquiry, pledge the Council's full cooperation, and provide all information that the Inquiry requests.
2. Ask the Chief Executive to ensure appropriate allocation of resources and support current or former employees to give evidence.
3. Collaborate with strategic partners, including Lancashire Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioner, health partners, and other local authorities to cooperate and share relevant data."



The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Samara Barnes:

To add:

"Reaffirm the Council's commitment to safeguarding children and young people, supporting victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and abuse, and working with partner organisations to ensure that lessons identified through the Inquiry are fully considered and, where appropriate, implemented."

At the end of the motion.

The amendment was accepted by County Councillor Close as a friendly amendment in accordance with Standing Order B43.

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Michael Lavalette:

To add:

"(f) Child sexual abuse takes place at all levels of society, in all communities and all victims need full support."

The amendment was not accepted by County Councillor Close. The amendment was then put to the vote and in accordance with Standing Order B46(6), a recorded vote was taken. The names of the county councillors who voted for or against the amendment and those who abstained are set out below:

For (26)

Ali	Clifford	Howarth	Owens	Singleton
Arif	de Freitas	Johnson	Potter	Snape
Asghar	Dowding	Kamran	Razakazi	Snow
Barnes	Graham	Lavalette	Rigby	Stubbins
Buckley	Hartley	Mills	Riggott	Whipp
Clempson				

Against (45)

Alderson	Dalton	Hutchinson	Moore	Schofield
Ash	Duxbury	Jones, A	More	Shaw
Atkinson, S	Dwyer	Jones, M	Parker	Sutton
Austin	Edwards	Joynes	Parkinson	Thomson
Balchin	Evans	Kniveton	Pickup	Topp
Blake	Fox	Kutavicius	Poulton	Wade
Close	Goldsworthy	Matchett	Ritson	Walsh
Crawford	Gummer	McCollum	Roberts	Whalley
Crimmins	Hargreaves	Mirfin	Salter	Worthington



Abstain (0)

The amendment was LOST.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and in accordance with Standing Order B46(6), a recorded vote was taken. The names of the county councillors who voted for or against the substantive motion and those who abstained are set out below:

For (67)

Alderson	Crawford	Howarth	Moore	Shaw
Ali	Crimmins	Hutchinson	More	Singleton
Arif	Dalton	Johnson	Owens	Snape
Asghar	de Freitas	Jones, A	Parker	Snow
Ash	Dowding	Jones, M	Pickup	Stubbins
Atkinson, S	Duxbury	Joynes	Potter	Sutton
Austin	Dwyer	Kamran	Poulton	Thomson
Balchin	Edwards	Kniveton	Razakazi	Topp
Barnes	Evans	Kutavicius	Rigby	Wade
Blake	Goldsworthy	Lavalette	Riggott	Walsh
Buckley	Graham	Matchett	Roberts	Whalley
Clempson	Gummer	Mills	Salter	Whipp
Clifford	Hargreaves	Mirfin	Schofield	Worthington
Close	Hartley			

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

It was therefore:

Resolved: - That:

This Council notes:

(a) Following Baroness Casey's National Audit, a statutory Public Inquiry has been established to address systemic failures in institutional responses to child sexual exploitation and abuse committed by grooming gangs, chaired by Baroness Anne Longfield CBE.

(b) The Government accepted all 12 of Baroness Casey's recommendations, including the mandatory recording of ethnicity and nationality data in all child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation cases. The report found that ethnicity data is not recorded for two-thirds of perpetrators.



(c) Nationally, Operation Beaconport will review cases involving alleged or likely group-based child sexual exploitation, identify whether lines of investigation have been missed, and whether cases should be re-opened.

(d) The first investigations will focus on Oldham, London, Bradford and Keighley. Further areas will be considered using a criteria-based approach.

(e) The Council has received a request for information from the Inquiry and taken appropriate steps to retain all relevant records and documentation.

This Council believes Lancashire's children and survivors deserve the full truth and commits to responding with full candour.

This Council resolves to:

1. Welcome the work of the Inquiry, pledge the Council's full cooperation, and provide all information that the Inquiry requests.
2. Ask the Chief Executive to ensure appropriate allocation of resources and support current or former employees to give evidence.
3. Collaborate with strategic partners, including Lancashire Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioner, health partners, and other local authorities to cooperate and share relevant data.
4. Reaffirm the Council's commitment to safeguarding children and young people, supporting victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and abuse, and working with partner organisations to ensure that lessons identified through the Inquiry are fully considered and, where appropriate, implemented.

Notice of Motion 4

It was moved by County Councillor Russell Walsh and seconded by County Councillor Tom Pickup that:

"This Council notes:

- The importance of the green belt in preserving openness and protecting Lancashire's beautiful countryside; the unique character of its rural areas, villages and towns; important wildlife, including red-listed species; and the county's ecological network identified within the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- That planning authorities in Lancashire have recently refused large-scale development proposals on green belt land due to harm to openness, landscape, identity, and ecology.



- That Government encouragement to reclassify some green belt land as “grey belt” increases pressure for development in protected areas.
- That large housing schemes on green belt land typically represent major urban extensions that would permanently destroy countryside.

This Council believes:

- That Lancashire's countryside and green belt is a major asset, valued by communities.
- That inappropriate development on green belt land causes irreversible harm to landscape character, local ecology, and rural identity.
- That democratic planning decisions must be respected, and national reinterpretation of policy should not override well-founded refusals.

This Council resolves:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to our rural communities, villages and towns and to the protection of Lancashire's green belt and countryside.
2. To ask the Chief Executive to write to Lancashire's district councils to support their efforts to protect green belt land in line with their local development plan policies.
3. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Planning Inspectorate to affirm our commitment to the green belt and our support for the decisions of planning authorities and residents' views."

The following amendment was proposed by County Councillor Peter Buckley:

To read as follows:

" This Council notes:

- The importance of the green belt in preserving openness and protecting Lancashire's beautiful countryside; the unique character of its rural areas, villages and towns; important wildlife, including red-listed species; and the county's ecological network identified within the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Planning authorities in Lancashire have recently refused large-scale development proposals on green belt land due to harm to openness, landscape, identity, and ecology.
- Government encouragement to reclassify some green belt land as “grey belt” increases pressure for development in protected areas.



- Large housing schemes on green belt land typically represent major urban extensions that would permanently destroy countryside.

This Council believes:

- Lancashire's countryside and green belt is a major asset, valued by communities.
- Inappropriate development on green belt land causes irreversible harm to landscape character, local ecology, and rural identity.
- Democratic planning decisions must be respected, and national reinterpretation of policy should not override well-founded refusals.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm its commitment to our rural communities, villages and towns and to the protection of Lancashire's green belt and countryside, restating opposition to the proposed windfarm cabling corridor across Fylde.
2. Ask the Chief Executive to write to Lancashire's district councils to support their efforts to protect green belt land in line with their local development plan policies.
3. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Planning Inspectorate to affirm our commitment to the green belt and our support for the decisions of planning authorities and residents' views."

The amendment was accepted by County Councillor Walsh as a friendly amendment in accordance with Standing Order B43 and became the substantive motion.

Subsequently, it was moved by County Councillor Russell Walsh and seconded by County Councillor Simon Evans that this motion be withdrawn and submitted for consideration at the next scheduled meeting of Full Council (15 October 2026). On being put to the vote, the proposal to withdraw the motion was CARRIED.

Resolved: - That the Notice of Motion on Green Belt Protections in Lancashire, be withdrawn.

Notice of Motion 5

County Councillor Ged Mirfin gave notice to withdraw the Notice of Motion on Supporting Veterans and Long-Term Lancashire Residents in Housing Policy in accordance with Standing Order B35.1.

Mark Wynn
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston



Minutes

At a Special Meeting of the Full Council held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston, on Thursday, 16th July, 2026

Present:

County Councillor Lee Hutchinson (Chairman)

County Councillors

N Alderson	W Goldsworthy	S Rigby
A Ali OBE	L Graham	A Riggott
S Asghar	G Hargreaves	J Roberts
J Ash	H Hartley	M Salter
T Ashton	G Johnson	J Schofield
S Atkinson	A Jones	D Shaw
G Austin	M Jones	J R Singleton JP
C Balchin	A Joynes	K Snape
S Barnes	M Kamran	C Snow
P Buckley	G Kniveton	P Stubbins
A Clempson	E Kutavicius	M Sutton
M Clifford	D Matchett	L Thomson
J Crawford	H Mills	J Tomlinson
S Crimmins	G Mirfin	M Topp
G Dalton	B Moore	M Wade
G Dowding	A Owens	R Walsh
I Duxbury	L Parker	H Whalley
D Dwyer	L Parkinson	E Worthington
R Edwards	T Pickup	
J Fox	M Poulton	

1. Apologies and Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Usman Arif, Marion Atkinson, Matthew Brown, John Clemson, Fred Cottam, Thomas de Freitas, Fiona Duke, Simon Evans, Simon Gummer, David Howarth, Mark Jewell, Tom Lord, Nathan McCollum, Dr Lorenzo More, and Nigel Swales.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

3. Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

It was moved by County Councillor Stephen Atkinson and seconded by County Councillor Azhar Ali:

That, having regard to the eminent services rendered to Lancashire County Council over a long period of time by former County Councillors Terry Aldridge, Peter Britcliffe, Frank De Molfetta, John Fillis, Steve Holgate, Andrea Kay, Jennifer Mein, John Shedwick and Matthew Tomlinson, the County Council confers on them the title of Honorary Alderman of the County Council.

The Motion was then further supported by:

- County Councillor Mark Clifford in support of Mr Terence Aldridge.
- County Councillor Tim Ashton in support of Mr Peter Britcliffe.
- County Councillor Mark Clifford in support of Mr Francesco De Molfetta.
- County Councillor Kim Snape in support of Mr John Fillis.
- County Councillor Mark Clifford in support of Mr Steve Holgate.
- County Councillor Alf Clempson in support of Ms Andrea Dawn Kay.
- County Councillor Samara Barnes in support of Mrs Jennifer Mein.
- County Councillor Alf Clempson in support of Mr John Shedwick.
- County Councillor Kim Snape in support of Mr Matthew Tomlinson.

It was therefore:

Resolved: - That having regard to the eminent services rendered to Lancashire County Council over a long period of time by former County Councillors Terry Aldridge, Peter Britcliffe, Frank De Molfetta, John Fillis, Steve Holgate, Andrea Kay, Jennifer Mein, John Shedwick and Matthew Tomlinson, the County Council confers on them the title of Honorary Alderman of the County Council.

The Chairman of the County Council then presented certificates to Honorary Aldermen Terry Aldridge, Peter Britcliffe, Frank De Molfetta, John Fillis, Steve Holgate, Andrea Kay, Jennifer Mein, John Shedwick, and Matthew Tomlinson, who each addressed the Council and thanked the Council for the honour bestowed upon them.

4. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to be considered.

Mark Wynn
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston



Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Communities & Engagement

Approval of Amended Library Byelaws

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: Stronger communities;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Georgina Roby, Head of Cultural Services Tel: 01772 536018, georgina.robby@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The existing Lancashire County Council library byelaws were last updated in October 2017. The byelaws are reviewed annually to ensure they remain up to date and amendments are proposed as needed to reflect current service delivery and to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all library users.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to:

- (i) Approve the draft Library Byelaws set out at Appendix 'A' for the purposes of commencing the statutory procedure for confirmation under section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and section 236 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Communities and Engagement, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to take all necessary steps to comply with the statutory procedure for obtaining confirmation of the byelaws, including publication of notices, making documents available for inspection and submission of the application for confirmation to the Secretary of State.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Law and Governance to approve any minor or consequential amendments required by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport or arising from the confirmation process, provided that such amendments do not materially alter the effect of the byelaws.
- (iv) Upon confirmation of the byelaws by the Secretary of State, authorise the Director of Law and Governance to affix the Common Seal of the County

Council and bring the byelaws into operation in accordance with the confirmation.

Background

1. Under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 local authorities are given the power to make byelaws regulating the use of statutory library facilities.
2. The byelaws follow a standard formula recommended by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and require approval from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.
3. In agreement with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, a revised set of byelaws has been drafted and is included at Appendix 'A' for approval. These have been updated to reflect national and local changes.
4. Full Council approved the last adoption of the revised byelaws on 26 October 2017, which are available to view on the county council's website here:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-and-plans/libraries-archives-museums-and-culture/lancashire-libraries-policies/library-byelaws/

5. Subject to Full Council approval, publicity informing the public that Lancashire proposes to revise its byelaws will be produced. A printed copy of the revised byelaws will be on public display, to view for one month, at Lancashire County Archives.
6. The following clauses in the outdated byelaws have been amended to meet the needs of local communities:
 - 1(k) Removed reference to volunteers as 'staff members' as Lancashire libraries volunteers do not carry out staff duties.
 - 19. Included a link to library fees and charges on the web page.
 - 23. Reference to acceptable use of the library's electronic facilities.
 - 25. Updated to say that customers can contact the service directly to ask that a ban is reviewed.
7. In essence the revised byelaws act to:
 - Ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all users,
 - Safeguard library property,
 - Support staff in their daily role, and
 - Address disruptive behaviour and local concerns.
8. Following the taking of all necessary steps to comply with the statutory procedure for obtaining confirmation of the byelaws, and subject to such confirmation being granted, the byelaws are then to be formally adopted and sealed by the county council in accordance with the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Options and Proposals

9. The existing byelaws have been amended to reflect national and local changes. The recommendations proposed above and at Appendix A will ensure the byelaws remain up to date, reflect current service delivery, and ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all library users.

Consultations

10. There has been detailed discussion with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the proposed amends. Libraries Connected, the national independent charity supporting libraries, also advises on best practice.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

11. Under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 local authorities are given the power to make byelaws regulating the use of statutory library facilities.
12. Whilst the Act does not require local authorities to have byelaws in place, if the county council chooses to do so, the procedure to secure approval as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 section 236 (1) - (10) must be followed.
13. The implementation of new library byelaws will support the delivery of library services in a safe, inclusive and accessible environment, assist staff in managing library facilities effectively and help protect library property. Clear and up-to-date byelaws also provide a more robust framework for managing user behaviour and reducing legal and operational risks to the county council.

Financial

14. There are no financial implications of updating the library byelaws.

Local Government Reorganisation

15. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is currently paused pending Ministerial review. Government has made clear it remains committed to devolution and LGR. However, it is not yet clear what the impact of the review will be for Lancashire in terms of the make-up of any future unitary authorities or the timetable for implementation. The LGR implications of decisions will be kept under review and updated as required.
16. All local authorities are given the power to make byelaws regulating the use of statutory library facilities. Further to Local Government Reorganisation there may need to be harmonisation of byelaws in any potential new unitary authority areas.

Equality and Diversity

17. The implementation of new library byelaws will facilitate the use of library services and facilities on a fair and equal basis by all sectors of the community.

Risk Management

18. Whilst there is not a statutory requirement for the county council to maintain library byelaws, failure to implement the updated byelaws will restrict the county council's ability to regulate use of the library services and facilities (dealing with issues such as disruptive behaviour and misuse of public network computers).

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Proposed Library Byelaws 2026

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

(Proposed) Library byelaws (2026)

Lancashire County Council Public Library Byelaws

Made under Section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964

1. In these byelaws:

- a. **"the Act"** means the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964;
- b. **"the Regulations"** means the Library Charges (England and Wales) Regulations 1991 (S.I.1991/2712);
- c. **"the library authority"** means Lancashire County Council;
- d. **"charge"** means any charge imposed in accordance with the Regulations;
- e. **"emergency situation"** includes situations where a library or part of a library is required to be evacuated for security reasons or because of threat from fire or other hazard and practices and false alarms in relation thereto;
- f. **"library"** means any premises (including any vehicle), or any part of premises, where library facilities are made available to the public, and which are solely or mainly used for the purpose of providing such facilities;
- g. **"library facilities"** means any of the library facilities provided by the library authority under the Act (including electronic facilities, for example, computer equipment, wi-fi access, virtual library, online catalogue, e-books, emagazines, e-audio, e-newspapers or online reference works);
- h. **"library officer"** means any officer of the library authority employed by it solely or mainly for the purposes of any functions exercisable by it in relation to the library service;
- i. **"library property"** means property used wholly or partly for the purpose of providing the library service, whether or not it is made available for use by the public;
- j. **"library service"** means the library service provided by the library authority under the Act;
- k. **"library staff member"** means a library officer or any other person employed or appointed to assist with the provision of the library service;
- l. expressions used, unless the contrary intention appears, have the meaning which they bear in the Act and Regulations.

2. An act necessary for the proper execution by a library staff member of their functions does not contravene these byelaws.

3. A person must not supply an age, name, address or other means of identification which is false or misleading for the purpose of entering any library or part of a library or for the purpose of using any library facility.

4. A person must not remain in the library if they have been asked or instructed to leave by a library officer on the basis that the library officer reasonably considers that the person has breached or was in the process of breaching any of these byelaws.
5. Except with the consent of a library staff member, obtained in advance:
 - a. no person may bring any animal into the library, other than an assistance dog.
 - b. no person may bring a motorised or electronic mobility scooter/bike into the library.
 - c. no person other than a library staff member may enter an area of the library which is signposted as for library staff members only.
 - d. no person may access or remain in the library outside of the times advertised for its opening.
6. No person may remain in the library in the event of an emergency situation that has been made known to them.
7. No person may, unless specifically permitted by a library staff member, take or attempt to take any library property from the library or past a check out or security point without having first issued it via a library staff member or self-service unit.
8. No person may, without lawful excuse:
 - a. destroy or damage any library property, or
 - b. engage in conduct which is likely to result in the destruction of, or damage to, library property.
9. No person may, while in the library or in the course of using any library facilities, behave in a disruptive, violent, aggressive, threatening, discriminatory or indecent manner, use violent, abusive, offensive, insulting, or obscene language, or intentionally or recklessly cause or do anything likely to cause injury to any other person.
10. No person may remain in a library without making proper use of the library facilities, having been advised or requested to do so by a library staff member.
11. No person may intentionally or recklessly obstruct any library staff member in the execution of their functions or intentionally or recklessly disturb, obstruct, interrupt, abuse or annoy any other people using the library.
12. No person may, without the consent of a library staff member, intentionally display or distribute promotional or other written material (e.g. posters or leaflets) on library premises. Materials displayed or distributed without such consent will be removed.
13. No person may, without the consent of a library staff member, offer anything for sale or seek donations on library premises or canvass or seek signatures for petitions.

14. No person may leave a child aged less than 8 years in the library without adult supervision.
15. No person may light a flame on, or bring a flame into, library premises.
16. No person may smoke (as defined in the Health Act 2006) or vape (that is, use a nicotine vapour product or "e-cigarette") on library premises.
17. No person in any part of the library may supply, take or be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance for the purpose of causing intoxication; or supply, take or be under the influence of any controlled drug as defined by Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, except that a person may take or be under the influence of a controlled drug dispensed for and pursuant to prescription issued for that person by a doctor under and in accordance with the aforesaid Act.
18. Any person who has been served with a notice by a library staff member demanding the return of library property held by them must return the library property or pay the appropriate replacement cost and charges to a library provided by the library authority within 14 days from the date the notice was served.
19. Any person who incurs library fees and/or charges and fails to pay them within the time period specified in "Library Charges" or accumulates fines and/or charges exceeding the maximum amount specified in "Library Charges" may be refused further access to library facilities until the fees and/or charges have been paid or the appropriately authorised library staff member has agreed to waive them. The "Library Charges" policy <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/library-services/library-charges/> is available on the Council's website.
20. Any library user whose personal details (i.e. name, address or other contact details) change, must notify a library staff member as soon as reasonably possible or take responsibility for updating their own customer account.
21. No person may take photographs, or create video recordings, in the library without permission from a library staff member in advance.
22. Library users must comply with all relevant copyright law, including when photocopying.
23. Library users must abide by any applicable conditions of use or acceptable use policy in relation to electronic facilities made available as part of the library service. Breach of any such policy may, without prejudice to any other legal sanction or remedy available to the library authority, lead to suspension of access to such facilities for a period up to twelve months.
24. Any person who contravenes any of these byelaws shall, without prejudice to any other legal sanction or remedy, be liable to prosecution by the library authority for contravention of the byelaws and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale in respect of each offence.

25. A library officer may exclude any person who contravenes any of the foregoing byelaws from any library. A person who is so excluded has a right to request a review of that decision by contacting the library service directly by emailing:

library@lancashire.gov.uk or by writing to Lancashire County Council – Cultural Services, County Hall, Fishergate, PO Box 100, Preston, PR1 0LD, Lancashire.

26. Before taking action pursuant to byelaw 24 or 25 against a person for contravention of any of these byelaws, the library authority must undertake a local review, which must include:

- a. consideration of whether, taking into account all of the circumstances, the most appropriate form of action would be to issue a warning to the person;
- b. if the library authority proposes to exclude the person pursuant to byelaw 25, consideration of the appropriate length of such exclusion;
- c. if the library authority proposes to undertake a prosecution pursuant to byelaw 24, whether the contravention is sufficiently serious to warrant that action.

27. On the coming into operation of these byelaws, the byelaws relating to libraries which were made by Lancashire County Council on the 25th day of October 2018 and were confirmed by the Minister of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the 23rd day of November 2018 are revoked.

Note:

Users of the library service are reminded that the provisions of the general law apply at all times. In particular as regards the activities referred to in byelaws 8 and 17 the library authority draws attention to the existence of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

(In accordance with guidance the following will be displayed on or in the vicinity of the photocopy machines:

People who intend to make copies of works are advised that they may only do so in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and are liable to prosecution under that Act if they fail to observe its provisions.)

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee - Treasury Management Strategy Update

(Appendix 'A' and Annexes 1 - 4 refer)

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: Thinking differently;	Electoral Division(s): N/A;
Contact: Lauren Lewthwaite, Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01772) 539722, lauren.lewthwaite2@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

This report presents the recommendation of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting held on 27 July 2026, regarding the 2026/27 prudential indicator relating to the council's profile of borrowing. The committee report is included as Appendix 'A' and Annexes 1 - 4.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to approve that the 2026/27 prudential indicator to be achieved relating to the profile of borrowing is amended as set out in Appendix 'A' and Annexes 1 - 4.

Background

1. Attached at Appendix 'A' is the report, **Treasury Management - Strategy Update and 2025/26 Outturn**, considered by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee at its meeting held on 27 July 2026. The committee noted the 2025/26 outturn position and resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of an amendment to the 2026/27 prudential indicator relating to the profile of borrowing.
2. The report provided a review of the council's treasury management activities for the year 2025/26, and the progress against the Treasury Management strategy in the current financial year to date. It aims to support the committee in carrying out its role. The legal and regulatory framework for local authority treasury management is often referred to as the Prudential Framework. It combines primary legislation, regulations, statutory guidance, and professional codes issued by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy).

3. At that meeting, the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee resolved that Full Council be recommended to approve that the 2026/27 prudential indicator to be achieved relating to the profile of borrowing be amended.
4. Full Council is therefore asked to consider the report and recommendation of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

Options and Proposals

5. Officers have considered various options to deliver cost effectiveness whilst considering the forecast interest rate environment for the remainder of the financial year.
6. Full Council is asked to approve the amendment to the 2026/27 prudential indicator in relation to the profile of borrowing, as recommended by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

Consultations

7. Arlingclose Ltd, the council's external treasury management advisers, are consulted as part of the council's treasury management work.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

8. Treasury management activity is undertaken in accordance with the relevant provisions of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003. The Regulations require the council to have regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code; along with the relevant Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance. Reporting on the council's treasury management activity maintains transparency on borrowing and investment decisions and is a key part of the council's compliance with its statutory duties.
9. Full Council is the appropriate decision-maker for approval of the proposed amendment to the prudential indicator, following consideration and recommendation by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, in accordance with the Council's constitutional and treasury management arrangements.

Financial

10. Appendix 'A' and the Annexes provide information on borrowing and investment activity and the impact on the council's budget and availability of cash to meet financial commitments as they become due.

Equality and Diversity

11. The council must have due regard to meeting its obligations in respect of people who share a protected characteristic in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Treasury management activity, in accordance with the Treasury Management strategy supports the council to deliver effective, accessible council services.

Risk Management

12. The council's Treasury Management strategy sets out a policy in respect of managing the risks associated with the council's borrowing and investment activity. Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4 show how the council performed in relation to this strategy.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Report to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee - Treasury Management - Strategy Update and 2025/26 Outturn
Annex 1	Treasury Management 2025/26 outturn
Annex 2	Borrowing 31 March 2026
Annex 3	Investments 31 March 2026
Annex 4	Progress on 2026/27 Strategy

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Report to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee
Meeting to be held on Monday, 27 July 2026

Report of the Corporate Director of Finance

Treasury Management - Strategy update and 2025/26 outturn
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Part I	Corporate Priorities: Economic ambition;
Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);	
Contact: Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Finance, Tel: (01772) 535510, gary.fielding@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

This report provides a review of the council's treasury management activities for the year 2025/26, and the progress against the Treasury Management strategy in the current financial year to date.

It aims to support the committee in carrying out its role in overseeing treasury management, which includes borrowing, investment and cash management.

Recommendation

The Audit, Risk and Governance committee is asked to:

- i. Review the 2025/26 treasury management activity;
- ii. Note the progress against the Treasury Management strategy in the current financial year to date; and
- iii. Approve a recommendation to Full Council that the 2026/27 prudential indicator to be achieved relating to the profile of borrowing is amended as set out in this report.

Background

1. The legal and regulatory framework for local authority treasury management is often referred to as the Prudential Framework. It combines primary legislation, regulations, statutory guidance, and professional codes issued by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy).

2. The Audit, Risk and Governance committee is charged with overseeing the Council's treasury management work.
3. This report provides a review of the council's treasury management activities for the year 2025/26, and the progress against the Treasury Management strategy in the current financial year to date. It aims to support the committee in carrying out its role.
4. The committee should satisfy itself that the council has robust and effective arrangements in place to support the proper management of treasury activities. This includes gaining assurance that appropriate treasury risk management processes are operating effectively, that strong internal controls are in place, and that arrangements for managing counterparties and investment exposures are sound.
5. The committee does this through monitoring compliance with the council's approved Treasury Management strategy. Also, through seeking assurance that treasury activities are being conducted in accordance with the requirements and principles of the CIPFA Treasury Management and Prudential Code, thereby supporting effective governance, accountability and prudent stewardship of public funds.

2025/26 Treasury Management review

Outturn

6. Appendix 'A' provides information on the council's treasury management activity in the financial year 2025/26.
7. The council's financial monitoring report to Cabinet in July 2026 showed a nil variance compared to budget, as the in-year overspend of £2.7m was financed by the reserve set aside for this purpose. The overspend was largely due to the budgeted return on investment not being met and increased borrowing for working capital to finance overspending against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
8. These factors have been accommodated in the council's current year budgets.

Borrowing

9. Through the year, the council's total borrowing reduced by £98.8m from £1,047.6m to £948.8m. This reduction was due to maturing debt being partly replaced by internal borrowing. This means that the council, rather than investing available cash, used it to reduce borrowing need instead. A list of all borrowing held at the year-end is shown at Appendix 'A' (i).
10. Overall, the average rate of interest paid in 2025/26 on borrowing was 4.00% which compared well to the average SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) of 4.01%. SONIA is the UK's principal risk-free interest rate benchmark and reflects the average rate that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other

financial institutions and institutional investors in the wholesale money markets. The index is administered and published by the Bank of England.

Investments

11. The total value of investments (excluding deposit accounts) reduced by £16.2m to £531.7m at 31 March 2026. A list of all the investments held at the year-end is shown at Appendix 'A' (ii). This reduction in investments was due to the council purchasing and then cancelling part of the lending bond held with the UKMBA. This bond was held as an investment during the cancellation process.
12. The average rate of return achieved on the investment portfolio was 2.35%, including 3.91% achieved on the balances held short term in overnight deposits.
13. The value of the council's Very Long-Term Investment Portfolio (VeLTIP) at the financial year-end continued to be significantly below the purchase amount, as detailed in Appendix 'A' (ii). There was also no material change to the value that would give rise to a business case for sale.

Prudential Indicators

14. The council was within target for all prudential indicators at the year-end, aside from that relating to the maturity profile of debt.
15. Under the Prudential Code the maturity is measured in financial year terms. This means that at 31 March, no loan is seen as being within 12 months duration. By referring to the maturity period back to 1 April, a significant number of loans which were taken out for less than one year are classified as maturing in more than 12 months. Consequently, the council will adopt an approach which shows maturity from the date of calculation (usually quarterly and in this instance 31 March). In this case some 60% of loans are due to mature within 12 months.
16. The aim set out in the prudential indicator for 2025/26 was for the council to only borrow one third of its borrowing having up to 12-month duration. The target is set to manage re-financing risk. i.e. the risk that interest rates may rise when it is time to renew the borrowing.
17. The council has a high proportion of its borrowing with a short-term duration. This has arisen as shorter term borrowing was undertaken during the year whilst interest rates were elevated with rates widely forecast to reduce for longer term borrowing. The council did start to take longer duration borrowing as rates started to reduce, however, that was short lived due to the war in Iran resulting in rates rapidly increasing.
18. With the current economic circumstances, the target profile is now being reconsidered given interest rates are not expected to reduce for longer duration debt for the remainder of the 2026/27. See following section.

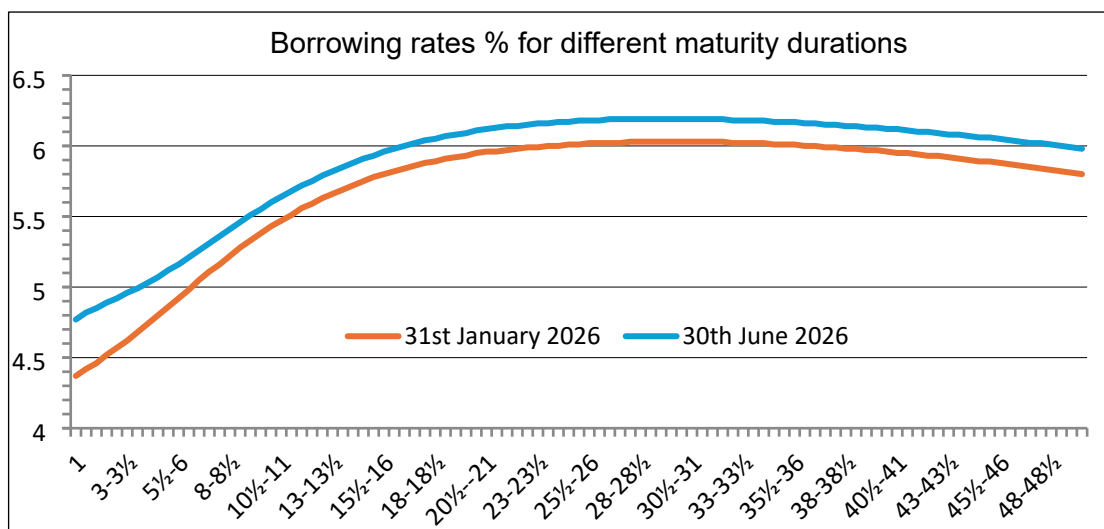
Proposed change to the Prudential Indicator

19. The council's prudential indicator to help manage refinancing risk identifies the profile of debt maturity to be achieved. In January 2026, this committee recommended these targets to the Full Council for approval:

	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %
Under 12 months	50	25
12 months to 5 years	40	20
5 years to 10 years	40	5
10 years and above	40	20

20. Since that time, the war in Iran has significantly changed interest rate expectations with longer duration debt becoming increasingly more expensive than shorter term debt.

21. The following chart shows the borrowings costs dependent on the duration, that were available from PWLB in January 2026 compared to June 2026.



22. This means that the council would expect to pay at least c0.5% more to increase the duration of its borrowing. This is equivalent to at least an additional c£1.2m cost if all remaining borrowing to be undertaken this year is taken for a longer than one year duration, to meet the existing prudential indicator. Whilst this would reduce re-financing risk, it is not considered to be a cost-effective time to take such borrowing when combined with the volatility in rates resulting from the recent geopolitical instability.

23. As such, it is proposed that the committee agree to recommend to Full Council a change to the target profile, reducing the amount expected to be borrowed longer term for 2026/27. This will be reviewed again as part of next year's

Treasury Management strategy. The proposed revised indicator being as follows:

	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %
Under 12 months	75	0
12 months to 5 years	40	0
5 years to 10 years	40	0
10 years and above	40	0

24. Additionally, in its Treasury Management Code of Practice, CIPFA recommends that maturity periods are measured from the start of the financial year. This approach prevents loans from moving between periods during a financial year, which can be helpful for monitoring when the portfolio is mainly long-term loans. However, since the council's portfolio includes a larger amount of short- and medium-term loans, the council will, in a departure from the Code, measure the maturity period from the reporting date instead. This is an allowable departure from the Code and aims to assist in presenting a clearer picture of the re-financing risks.

25. The committee is asked to recommend to Full Council that this allowed departure from the Code is applied.

Progress against the current year strategy 2026/27

26. The Full Council approved a Treasury Management strategy in February 2026. This set out the council's approach to its borrowing and investment activity for the current financial year 2026/27.

27. As part of the wider budget recommendations, the Full Council also approved a strategic approach to managing the Very Long-Term Investment Portfolio (VeLTIP). This strategy aims to address the implications resulting from the value of the council's existing investments being significantly below the amount initially invested, and that being likely to continue for at least the medium term.

28. Appendix 'B' reviews the current position with particular reference to the strategy for managing VeLTIP and provides assurance as to compliance against key internal governance recommendations.

Consultations

29. Arlingclose Ltd, the council's external treasury management advisers, are consulted as part of the council's treasury management work.

30. Due to the complexities of the treasury management subject area, background training for members on treasury management has been scheduled for 29 July. Committee members are asked to provide feedback as to whether there are any aspects of the information presented that they may benefit from as part of the substantive committee agenda in future.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

31. Treasury management activity is undertaken in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 2003, along with the CIPFA Prudential Code and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance. Reporting on the council's treasury management activity maintains transparency on borrowing and investment decisions and is a key part of the council's compliance with its statutory duties.

Financial

32. The report provides information on borrowing and investment activity and the impact on the council's budget and availability of cash to meet financial commitments as they become due.

Equality and Diversity

33. The council must have due regard to meeting its obligations in respect of people who share a protected characteristic in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Treasury management activity, in accordance with the Treasury Management strategy supports the council to deliver effective, accessible council services.

Risk Management

34. The council's Treasury Management strategy sets out a policy in respect of managing the risks associated with the council's borrowing and investment activity. Appendix 'A' and 'B' show how the council performed in relation to this strategy.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Treasury Management 2025/26 outturn
Appendix 'A' (i)	Borrowing 31 March 2026
Appendix 'A' (ii)	Investments 31 March 2026
Appendix 'B'	Progress on 2026/27 Strategy

List of Background Papers

N/A

Part II Reason

N/A



2025/26 Treasury Management Activity

This report provides a summary of the treasury management activity undertaken in 2025/26. Treasury management in any given year is influenced by the economic background, the existing portfolio and the approved Treasury Management Strategy. The report also provides information on the performance against the Prudential Indicators and gives an explanation of any departures from the agreed limits. Therefore, the report includes an overview of the following for the year:

- Economic commentary
- Borrowing activity
- Investment activity
- Prudential Indicators

Economic Commentary

The financial year was largely dominated by two periods of significant uncertainty and volatility. The first being the US 'Liberation Day' trade tariffs announced in April 2025 and the second was the US/Israel war with Iran at the end of February 2026.

After the initial fallout from US trade tariffs, the following months saw some improvements as equity markets made gains and bond yields eased modestly. However, in the UK this trend in bond yields reversed somewhat as an uncertain economic outlook together with concerns around the government's fiscal position and autumn Budget saw 'term premia' rise as investors demanded a higher return for holding Gilts.

The Budget itself was more muted than had been expected. Despite a weak economic outlook, this helped UK markets perform better with Gilt yields trending downwards, inflation easing, and expectations for cuts in Bank of England (BoE) Bank Rate increasing.

The end of February 2026 saw the start of the war between US/Israel and Iran. The conflict caused oil and other commodity prices to rise sharply as the shipping lanes in the region became effectively closed, restricting global oil supply. At the end of the period, the economic outlook remained highly uncertain in terms of its impact on inflation as well as countries' fiscal and monetary policy conditions around the globe.

Prior to the start of the war, headline UK consumer price inflation (CPI) had generally been trending downwards. Inflation was expected to fall further over the coming months to the BoE's 2% target, but the war changed this. Inflation was then expected to rise again, but how quickly and by how much depends on the duration of the war and how long commodity prices are elevated.

After cutting Bank Rate to 3.75% in December 2025, the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 5-4 to hold rates in February 2026 and then unanimously to do so again in March. Until the war started, financial markets were expecting Bank Rate to be cut to 3.5% at the March meeting. However, the conflict in the Middle East quickly changed this. The MPC noted the risks to both inflation and growth and

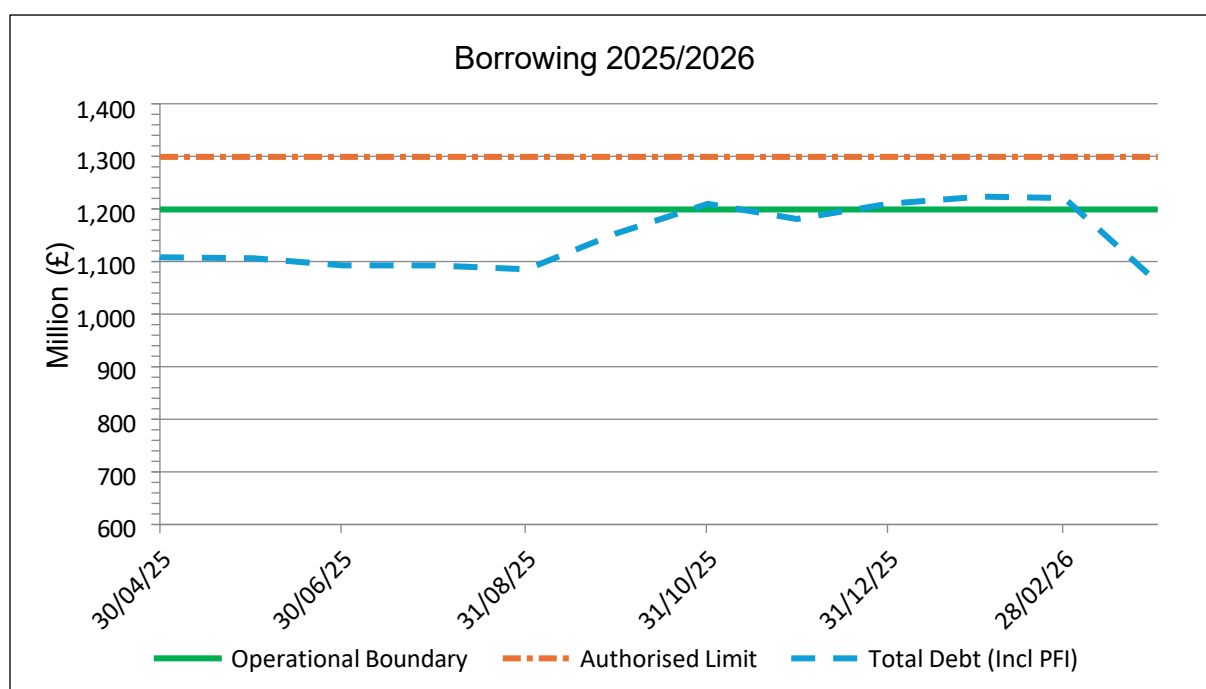
indicated they could move rates either up or down depending on the conditions. Financial markets quickly responded to this by pricing in rate hikes.

Following the March MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the authority's treasury advisers, revised their central interest rate view and now predicting the Bank Rate will be held at 3.75%.

The average of SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) was 4.01%. SONIA is the UK's principal risk-free interest rate benchmark and reflects the average rate that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions and institutional investors in the wholesale money markets. The index is administered and published by the Bank of England.

Borrowing Activity

The total borrowing undertaken by the council is for capital purposes as measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR), debt managed on behalf of other local authorities and temporary borrowing for cashflow purposes. The council has not incurred any borrowing primarily to invest for financial return. Borrowing was undertaken within the parameters of the 'Authorised' and 'Operational' limits set by the committee. The graph below shows the level of debt for the 2025/26 financial year compared with the operational and authorised boundaries.



The following table shows a summary of the borrowing activity undertaken in the year with total borrowing at 31 March 2026 of £948.8m.

Debt 31/03/2025		Borrowing	Repayments	Debt 31/03/2026	
£m	%	£m	£m	£m	%

Fixed Rate Funding

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	359.6	34	275.0	-140.0	494.6	52
UKMBA Bond	250.0	24	0	-38.1	211.9	22
Market Borrowing	420.8	40	499.1	-694.3	225.6	24
Total Fixed Rate Funding	1,030.4		774.1	-872.4	932.1	

Variable Rate Funding

Other public sector/local authority	17.2	2	94.6	-95.1	16.7	2
Total Variable Rate Funding	17.2		94.6	-95.1	16.7	

Total Loan Debt	1,047.6	100	868.7	-967.5	948.8	100
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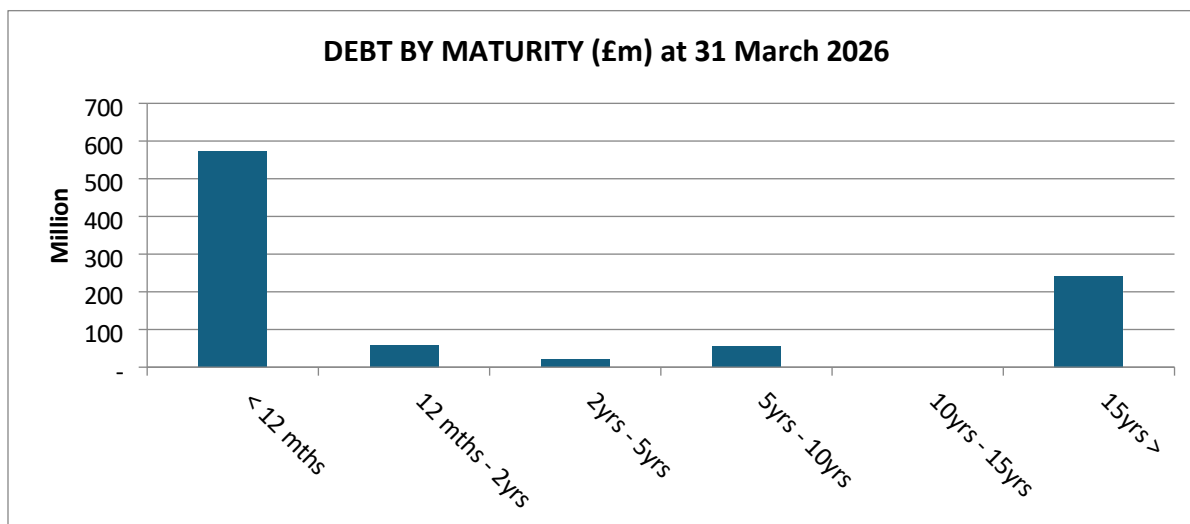
Overall, there was a reduction in borrowing in the year of £98.8m with maturing debt not entirely being replaced due to internal cash resources being available.

Borrowing from the PWLB undertaken in the year was mainly taken for one year rather than a longer term as PWLB rates were considered to be elevated, with rate reductions widely forecast throughout most of the year. Details of the PWLB loans taken in the year are shown below:

AMOUNT (£)	ADVANCE DATE	TERMS	REPAYMENT DATE	INTEREST RATE %
50,000,000	11-Apr-2025	1 YEAR	13-Apr-2026	4.660
50,000,000	29-Dec-2025	1 YEAR	29-Dec-2026	4.390
50,000,000	7-Jan-2026	1 YEAR	7-Jan-2027	4.390
50,000,000	7-Jan-2026	1 YEAR	7-Jan-2027	4.390
25,000,000	29-Oct-2025	1 YEAR	29-Oct-2026	4.360
50,000,000	24-Feb-2026	2.25 YEARS	31-May-2028	4.360

Also, during the year, the council made a partial repayment of its UKMBA bond. The council purchased some £38.1m of the bond below the nominal value, this debt was then redeemed. Overall, this transaction generated a saving of c£22m which is credited over the next 10 years under regulation.

Overall, an increased proportion of borrowing is now fixed, albeit for the short term as this provided the lowest rates on the yield curve at the time of undertaking. The following chart shows the value of the debt by maturity at 31 March 2026, with a detailed list provided at Appendix 'A' (i).



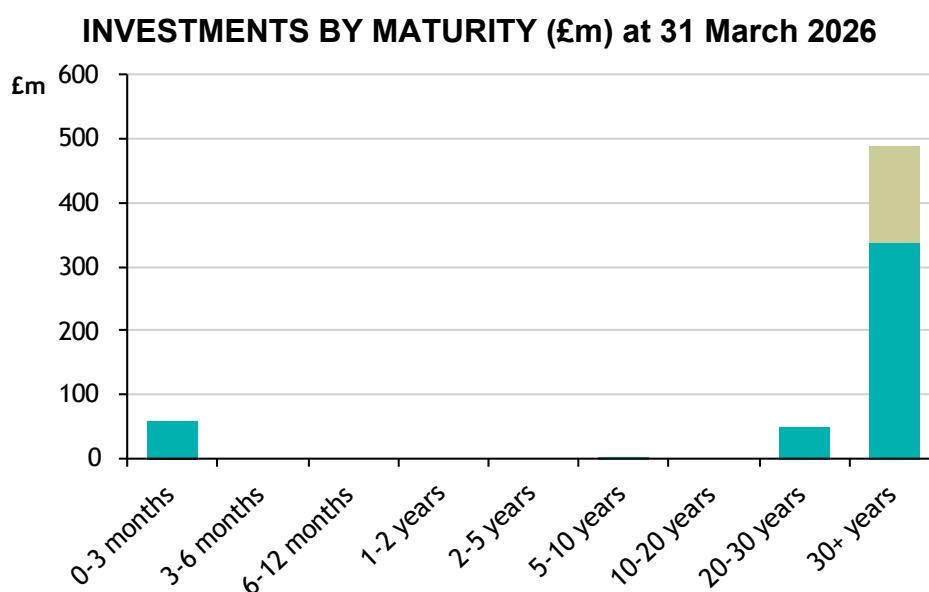
Overall, the average rate of interest paid in 2025/26 on borrowing was 4.00% which compared well to the average SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) of 4.01%.

The council did not enter into any new long term liability arrangement in 2025/26 and the outstanding PFI liabilities at 31 March 2026 was £114m. More detail relating to the PFI arrangements which relate to the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme, commencing in 2002 are set out in the council's Statement of Accounts.

Investments

The balance of investments (excluding call accounts) held at 31 March 2026 was £531.7m. This was £16.2m lower than at the beginning of the year, due to the cancellation of the UKMBA bonds repurchased. No new purchases of investments were made in the year. A list of investments held at the year-end is shown at Appendix 'A' (ii).

The following graph shows the investments by maturity. The very long-term investments are investments in UK government bonds and the investment in EDF.



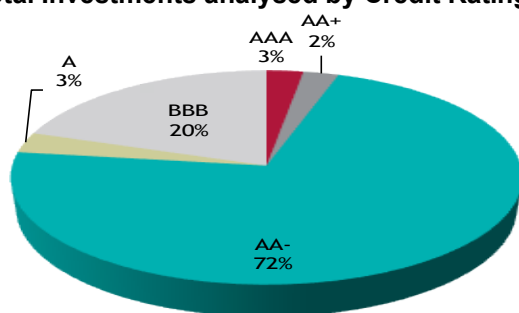
The CIPFA Treasury Management Code identifies three key principles for managing public sector investments: security, liquidity and yield, which are to be prioritised in that specific order. The position of the investment portfolio on these areas are reviewed as follows.

Security

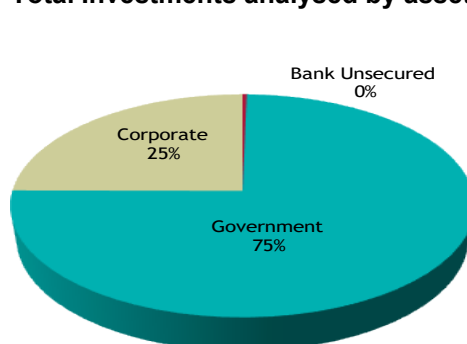
Security of investments is maintained by following the council's counterparty policy, which forms part of the Treasury Management strategy. This has defined high credit quality organisations as those having a benchmark long-term credit rating of A. In practice the average credit rating in 2025/26 was higher at A+, with the lowest rating being BBB which relates to the holding of bonds issued by the energy company EDF which is largely owned by the French government.

Deposits with banks were held in call accounts only for day-to-day cash management purposes. The following charts show an analysis of the investments at 31 March 2026 by credit rating and asset type.

Total Investments analysed by Credit Rating



Total Investments analysed by asset type



Liquidity

The council maintains day-day liquidity through the use of a Call Account with Svenska Handelsbanken. The planned sale of corporate bonds during the year supported the liquidity position enabling the council to more quickly draw on its cash resources. The council undertakes daily cash flow forecasting to actively manage day-to-day liquidity.

Yield

The investment portfolio returned an average rate of 2.35% in 2025/26 which is attributed to the categories as follows:

	Balance at year-end £m*	Average Rate
Call account	59.0	3.91%
Local authority bonds	22.4	4.33%
UK Government	359.0	1.50%
Corporate bonds	150.4	2.80%
Total	590.8	2.35%

*Value at time of purchase

The council's overall average rate of return of 2.35% was less than the SONIA rate

which averaged 4.0% over the financial year.

Comparison to budget

The table below provides a summary of the outturn position for 2025/26., . Overall, this shows a net overspend against budget of £2.7m, largely due to higher borrowing costs resulting from additional borrowing required to finance the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit. Investment income was also below budgeted targets, as the budget included some provision for gains on the sale of assets which were not achievable. The overspend was funded by the reserve set aside to manage variations of this nature, so as to report a nil variance to budget as part of the outturn report to Cabinet in July.

	2025/26 Budget	Outturn March 2026	Variance Deficit/ (Surplus)
	£m	£m	£m
Minimum Revenue Provision	35.1	35.1	0.0
Interest Paid	41.0	42.8	1.8
Net discount on early repayment of debt	-4.2	-4.5	-0.3
Total borrowing cost	71.9	73.4	1.5
Income received from investments	-21.4	-20.3	1.1
Net cost of borrowing	50.5	53.1	2.6
Contribution to reserves	5.4	5.4	0.0
Fair Value Adjustment	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total	55.9	58.6	2.7

Prudential Indicators

The council was within target for all prudential indicators at the year-end, aside from that relating to the maturity profile of debt.

Under the Prudential Code the maturity is measured in financial year terms. This means that at 31 March no loan will show as being within a 12-month duration. By referring to the maturity period back to 1 April, a significant number of loans which were taken out for less than one year are classified as maturing in more than 12 months. Consequently, the council will adopt an approach which shows maturity from the date of calculation (usually quarterly and in this instance 31 March). This shows that some 60% of loans are due to mature within 12 months.

The council has a high proportion of its borrowing with a short-term duration. This has arisen as shorter term borrowing was undertaken during the year whilst interest rates were elevated with rates widely forecast to reduce for longer term borrowing. The council did start to take longer duration borrowing as rates started to reduce, however, that was short lived due to the war in Iran resulting in rates rapidly increasing.

It was therefore considered appropriate to continue to take loans for up to a year rather than the medium term in the anticipation that the interest rates would ultimately fall.

This section shows the 2025/26 activity measured against the Prudential Indicators:

Authorised limit for external debt - The authorised limit is a prudent estimate of debt which reflects the council's capital expenditure plans and allows sufficient headroom for unusual cash movements.

	Limit 2025/26 £m	Actual £m
Borrowing	1,173	949
Other long-term liabilities (PFI schemes)	126	114
TOTAL	1,299	1,063

Operational boundary for external debt - The operational boundary is a prudent estimate of debt but has no provision for unusual cash movements. It represents the estimated maximum external debt arising as a consequence of the council's current plans.

	Limit 2025/26 £m	Actual £m
Borrowing	1,073	949
Other long-term liabilities (PFI schemes)	126	114
TOTAL	1,199	1,063

Loans Capital Financing Requirement to Gross debt - CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities recommends that the authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast capital financing requirement (CFR) over the next three years. The CFR is a measure of the total capital expenditure that is unfunded and may be funded by borrowing. The council's borrowing initially appears in excess of the CFR. However, there are amounts included in the total borrowing that do not count against the CFR. These include the premiums paid on the repayment of debt and debt held on behalf of other authorities i.e. due to historic local government reorganisation and that relating to the Waste PFI project payable by Blackpool Council.

	Actual £m
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	1,061
Debt counted against Loans CFR	917
Debt to Capital Financing Requirements	86%

Interest rate exposure - The limit measures the council's exposure to the risk of interest rate movements. The one-year impact indicator calculates the theoretical impact on the revenue account of an immediate 1% rise in all interest rates over the course of one financial year.

	Upper Limit £m	Actual £m
1 year impact of a 1% rise	50	2.9

Maturity structure of debt - Limit on the maturity structure of debt helps control refinancing risk.

<i>Maturity structure of debt at 31 March 2026, calculated per the CIPFA code</i>	Upper Limit %	Actual %
Under 12 months	33	0
1 year and within 5 years	33	69
5 years and above	33	31

<i>Maturity structure of debt at 31 March 2026, calculated on actual maturity</i>	Upper Limit %	Actual %
Under 12 months	33	60
1 year and within 5 years	33	9
5 years and above	33	31

Minimum Average Credit Rating - To control credit risk the council requires a high credit rating from its treasury counterparties

	Benchmark	Actual
Average counterparty credit rating	A	A+

Liquidity Indicator - The council has adopted a voluntary measure to monitor the amount it borrows for short durations typically for less than one week.

	Limit	Actual
Total sum borrowed for short duration	£50m	£20m

Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream – provides information as to the affordability of the council's borrowing

	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Actuals
Financing costs including MRP (£m)	76.1	77.9
Proportion of net revenue stream	6.1%	6.2%

Annex 2

Counterparty	Date of undertaking	Maturity date	Amount £
PUBLIC SECTOR/LOCAL AUTHORITY	07/10/2011	07/10/2031	5,000,000
	31/03/2026	01/04/2026	6,000,000
	31/03/2026	02/04/2026	2,000,000
	31/03/2026	03/04/2026	5,000,000
	15/10/2025	14/10/2026	6,000,000
	17/09/2025	16/09/2026	5,000,000
	25/04/2025	24/04/2026	5,000,000
	17/12/2025	17/12/2026	1,000,000
	29/04/2025	28/04/2026	20,000,000
	30/03/2026	25/03/2027	10,000,000
	02/05/2025	01/05/2026	5,000,000
	12/05/2025	11/05/2026	5,000,000
	21/05/2025	21/05/2026	10,000,000
	21/05/2025	20/05/2026	3,000,000
	02/06/2025	02/06/2026	5,000,000
	16/06/2025	15/06/2026	5,000,000
	19/06/2025	18/06/2026	5,000,000
	01/07/2025	30/06/2026	5,000,000
	14/07/2025	14/04/2026	1,000,000
	31/07/2025	02/04/2026	10,000,000
	29/08/2025	29/05/2026	5,000,000
	08/09/2025	07/09/2026	3,000,000
	10/09/2025	10/09/2026	2,000,000

	14/01/2026	14/12/2026	2,000,000
	10/09/2025	07/04/2026	3,000,000
	02/01/2026	21/09/2026	2,000,000
	07/10/2025	07/04/2026	10,000,000
	10/11/2025	11/05/2026	6,000,000
	10/11/2025	10/04/2026	5,000,000
	05/12/2025	04/12/2026	1,000,000
	15/01/2026	15/07/2026	3,000,000
	22/01/2026	21/01/2027	5,000,000
	26/01/2026	25/01/2027	10,000,000
	26/01/2026	25/01/2027	5,000,000
	28/01/2026	28/05/2026	5,000,000
	29/01/2026	28/01/2027	20,000,000
	16/03/2026	15/03/2027	7,500,000
	24/03/2026	23/03/2027	5,000,000
PUBLIC SECTOR/LOCAL AUTHORITY Total			218,500,000
PWLB	20/12/2008	20/12/2026	10,000,000
	20/12/2008	20/12/2027	8,400,000
	20/12/2008	20/06/2028	10,000,000
	20/12/2008	20/06/2029	11,200,000
	20/12/2008	20/06/2031	10,000,000
	20/12/2008	20/12/2032	20,000,000
	20/12/2008	20/12/2033	20,000,000
	20/12/2008	20/06/2041	30,000,000
	04/03/2025	06/05/2026	100,000,000
	11/04/2025	11/04/2026	50,000,000

	29/10/2025	29/10/202 6	25,000,000
	29/12/2025	29/12/202 6	50,000,000
	07/01/2026	07/01/202 7	50,000,000
	07/01/2026	07/01/202 7	50,000,000
	24/02/2026	31/05/202 8	50,000,000
PWLB Total			494,600,000
SANTANDER UK PLC	31/03/2026	02/04/202 6	20,133,157
UK MUNICIPAL BONDS AGENCY (UKMBA)	26/08/2020	26/08/206 0	211,894,000
LANCASHIRE COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS LTD	31/03/2026	01/04/202 6	3,665,755
TOTAL BORROWING			948,792,912

Annex 3

Investment Portfolio at 31 March 2026

Counterparty	Date of undertaking	Maturity date	£ Purchase Amount	£ Market Value (31st March 2026)
ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE	06/08/2021	23/01/211 4	10,085,120	4,357,782
	10/08/2021	23/01/211 4	9,615,474	4,190,175
	18/08/2021	23/01/211 4	4,265,446	1,843,677
	23/08/2021	23/01/211 4	387,011	167,607
	25/08/2021	23/01/211 4	2,708,833	1,173,249
	27/08/2021	23/01/211 4	9,536,533	4,190,175
	31/08/2021	23/01/211 4	189,636	83,803
	02/09/2021	23/01/211 4	1,926,685	838,035
	09/09/2021	23/01/211 4	3,582,120	1,592,266
	24/09/2021	23/01/211 4	5,215,261	2,346,498
	29/09/2021	23/01/211 4	9,315,152	4,357,782
	04/10/2021	23/01/211 4	4,670,736	2,262,694
	05/10/2021	23/01/211 4	3,464,130	1,676,070
	06/10/2021	23/01/211 4	3,429,457	1,676,070
	07/10/2021	23/01/211 4	3,267,793	1,592,266
	08/10/2021	23/01/211 4	3,311,109	1,676,070
	13/10/2021	23/01/211 4	494,511	251,410
	06/12/2021	23/01/211 4	17,964,533	7,626,118
	17/12/2021	23/01/211 4	9,744,837	4,190,175
	20/12/2021	23/01/211 4	6,730,598	2,933,122
	06/01/2022	23/01/211 4	2,689,842	1,257,052
	07/01/2022	23/01/211 4	7,177,065	3,352,140
EDF total			119,771,882	53,634,236

HM TREASURY	31/07/2020	22/10/205 0	40,173,885	14,037,890
	31/07/2020	22/10/206 1	19,730,492	4,777,156
	18/09/2024	31/07/205 4	10,034,443	8,408,105
	18/09/2024	22/10/206 3	28,601,803	23,397,973
HM TREASURY total			98,540,623	50,621,124
HM TREASURY - INDEX LINKED	01/12/2021	22/03/207 3	7,839,921	1,343,459
	02/12/2021	22/03/207 3	60,783,792	10,411,806
	08/12/2021	22/03/207 3	48,486,794	8,396,618
	14/12/2021	22/03/207 3	59,514,649	10,747,671
	27/04/2022	22/03/207 3	83,761,313	22,417,291
HM TREASURY INDEX LINKED total			260,386,469	53,316,845
OXFORD UNIVERSITY	08/01/2021	08/12/211 7	5,619,817	1,601,944
	11/01/2021	08/12/211 7	4,969,839	1,435,328
	18/01/2021	08/12/211 7	1,487,858	433,896
	01/02/2021	08/12/211 7	1,516,333	433,896
	02/08/2021	08/12/211 7	1,430,269	433,896
OXFORD UNIVERSITY total			15,024,116	4,338,960
THE WELLCOME TRUST	11/01/2021	07/02/211 8	7,070,909	1,939,841
	19/01/2021	07/02/211 8	7,769,317	2,155,379
	29/01/2021	07/02/211 8	782,276	215,538
THE WELLCOME TRUST total			15,622,502	4,310,758
Very long term investments			509,345,592	166,221,923
LOCAL AUTHORITY	17/05/2010	06/09/203 2	1,016,996	1,025,897
	24/11/2017	06/09/203 2	1,191,115	1,090,301
	28/12/2018	25/09/205 9	20,179,136	16,207,960

LOCAL AUTHORITY total			22,387,247	18,324,158
Call accounts			59,041,000	59,041,000
TOTAL INVESTMENTS			590,773,839	243,587,081

Treasury Management Strategy – progress 2026/27

1. The council's Treasury Management strategy for 2026/27 includes some key new provisions against which progress is reported here to provide assurance to the committee of compliance.
2. These key items are summarised as follows, and progress reported in the relevant sections:
 - Management of the Very Long-term investment portfolio
 - Implement enhanced controls relating to new long-term investments
 - Implement new internal governance procedures for treasury decisions

Very Long-Term Investment Portfolio

3. Predominantly between 2020 and 2022 the council invested £509.3m in UK Government and commercial bonds. These investments are referred to as the 'Very Long-Term Investment Portfolio' (VeLTIP) as the maturity dates are up to 100 years in the future.
4. It has previously been reported to the committee that the market value of this portfolio is now significantly below the amount invested. At 31 March 2026, as shown in Appendix 'A' (ii), the market value of these was £166.2m.
5. This means that these bonds would incur a loss if sold immediately and therefore are not currently available to meet cashflow requirements. This is expected to remain the case for at least into the medium term.
6. In building the Budget for 2026/27 the council agreed a strategic framework to manage this position, including:
 - a. Taking ongoing advice from external treasury advisers to keep the prospect of disposal of part or all of the VeLTIP under continuous review moving forward.
 - b. To create a Working Capital Enhancement Reserve (WCER) to
 - (i) re-build the council's levels of liquidity (i.e. access to cash at short notice) and
 - (ii) to provide resources to absorb any loss on sale in the medium term; and
 - (iii) credit the WCER with the balance of the existing Treasury Management Risk Reserve and Statutory Override Reserve which already exist with a similar/related purpose
 - c. Approval of the transfer of £15.9m in 2026/27, £20m in 2027/28 and £22.5m in 2028/29 of revenue resources to the WCER in order to make additional contributions of £58.4m over the life of the 3-year MTFS.

- d. Through a process of immediate and ongoing review to dispose of surplus property assets and pay the proceeds into the WCER to enhance liquidity and reduce borrowing costs.
 - e. To consider the payment of all windfall receipts (including corporate underspends) of any kind into the WCER to enhance liquidity and reduce borrowing costs.
7. The council has progressed in delivering against these plans. The s151 officer has considered a report that sets out under which circumstances the council may wish to make a decision to sell some or all of the VeLTIP investments.
8. The WCER has now been established, and budgetary provision allocated to make the contributions to this reserve in the relevant financial years.
9. So far, no surplus properties have been identified that would result in an additional contribution to the WCER. However, a contribution of £5.6m was made into the reserve which was released from the insurance provision. This was possible as the amount in the insurance provision exceeded the actuarial value for claims.

Enhanced controls on Long-term investments

10. The Treasury Management strategy for 2026/27 includes specific regulations that limit long term investments such that surplus cash could be used instead to reduce borrowing costs.
11. In particular, the regulations include that new investments will be restricted to the use of call accounts with banks or deposits with the government Debt Management Office (DMO) in response to cash flow movements, with no investments over 12 months being undertaken. Most deposits being for overnight/weekend and for times when there are higher cash balances, investments with the DMO are to be made.
12. It is confirmed here that no new investments with a duration of over 12 months have been undertaken in the year to date. Also, that no new investments of any amount have been undertaken outside of overnight deposits/DMO used to manage the council's day-to-day cashflow.

Internal governance

13. The council's internal audit service at the end of 2025 reported on a comprehensive audit undertaken of the internal governance procedures relating to treasury management. The audit produced a number of recommendations to enhance the existing controls.

14. The following recommendations were identified as being of high priority, against which progress is reported here:

- Complete a strategic review of the impact of the losses arising from decisions taken under the Treasury Management strategy and the impact of the fall in value of the investment in the medium to short term.

Progress: A strategic review has been undertaken and the mitigating actions approved by the Full Council as part of the February 2026 Budget.

- Review the Treasury Management strategy and officer investment limits and set appropriate limits relating to the length of time and value allowed for individual investments.

Progress: The strategy for 2026/27 has included new limits on investment duration and amount.

- Seek specialist advice to identify market strategies that can help offset capital losses on existing long-term investments;

Progress: Arlingclose Ltd have produced a report for the council presenting potential approaches that could be taken. This was received in 2025 and continues to be considered in developing the council's ongoing management of the investment portfolio.

- Seek specialist advice to ensure investment transactions, including losses, are accurately recorded in the statutory accounts.

Progress: Arlingclose Ltd have confirmed that the council's approach is compliant with accounting regulations. The accounts are also subject to annual external audit.

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Updates to the County Council's Constitution

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Hannah Lysons, Governance Support Manager, hannah.lysons@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

This report sets out updates which have been made to the County Council's Constitution since the last meeting of Full Council on 16 July 2026 and seeks approval for the recommendations of the Political Governance Working Group following its meeting on 9 September 2026.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to:

- (i) Note the amendments made to the Constitution since the last meeting of Full Council on 16 July 2026, as outlined at Appendix 'A'
- (ii) Consider and approve the recommendations of the Political Governance Working Group as outlined at Appendix 'B'

Background

1. The council's Constitution was approved by Full Council at its Annual General Meeting on 21 May 2026. The Constitution is available to view on the council's website via the following link: www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/constitution
2. Under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (section 9.52 of the Constitution), the Director of Law and Governance is authorised to make amendments to the Constitution to correct an error or resolve an inconsistency, and to comply with legislative changes. All such changes to be reported to Full Council at the next available meeting.

3. On 5 October 2026, the Director of Law and Governance took a decision under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to amend the Terms of Reference for the Development Control Committee and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to comply with legislative changes which come into effect on 31 October 2026 and introduce a standardised national scheme of delegation for planning matters. A summary of this change is provided at Appendix 'A', along with other changes which have been made since the last meeting of Full Council.

Membership of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee

4. At its meeting on 9 September 2026, the Political Governance Working Group considered a report on joint working between Lancashire Parent Carer Forum, which represents the views and experiences of parents and carers of children and young people with special education needs and disabilities, and the council's Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee.
5. The county council works closely with the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum and recognises the important contribution it makes in ensuring that the voices of children, young people and families are reflected in the development and improvement of services.
6. The working group agreed to recommend to Full Council that two representatives of the Parent Carer Forum be included as observers on the scrutiny committee's membership. Observer status would enable the two co-Chairs of the Forum to attend meetings, contribute to discussions at the invitation of the Chair, and provide insight from the perspective of parents and carers of children and young people who access SEND services. The observer role would not include voting rights or formal membership of the Committee.
7. The current membership of the committee is: 14 county councillors, five voting co-opted members (comprising three church representatives and two parent governor representatives) who have voting rights in relation to any education functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet, and two non-voting co-opted members representing the Lancashire Youth Council. Including two observers will therefore increase attendance at these scrutiny committee meetings to 23 attendees in total.

Notice of Motion Procedural Standing Orders

8. At its meeting on 9 September 2026, the Political Governance Working Group also considered the procedural standing orders for Notices of Motion at Full Council meetings.
9. The working group agreed to recommend the following changes to Full Council for approval:
 - Only two notices of motion may be submitted by members of the ruling group per meeting and only one notice of motion may be submitted by members of any of the opposition groups per meeting.
 - A maximum of three notices of motion may be permitted per meeting.
 - There will be a maximum time limit of 35 minutes per motion and any amendments thereto.

- The maximum length of time for the consideration of all such motions at a meeting will be 105 minutes.
- Amendments to Notices of Motion must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting start (usually 1pm on the preceding Wednesday).

10. A summary of all the changes proposed by the Political Governance Working Group is set out at Appendix 'B'.

Options and Proposals

11. Full Council is asked to note the amendments which have been made to the Constitution since its last meeting and consider and approve the proposed amendments recommended by the Political Governance Working Group.

Consultations

12. None

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

13. Under Section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000, the council has a legal duty to prepare and keep up to date its Constitution.

14. Section 9.52 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers authorises the Director of Law and Governance to make amendments to the Constitution to give effect to a decision, as a direct consequence of a change made outside the council (for example a change in legislation), or to correct an error or resolve an inconsistency. All such changes must be reported to Full Council.

15. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 places a statutory responsibility on a local authority to appoint overview and scrutiny committees. The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee also carries out statutory responsibilities relating to the scrutiny of education functions, in accordance with the Education Act 1996. The membership of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee is set out in the council's Constitution and includes county councillors plus voting co-opted members as required by s499 of Education Act 1996 by virtue of Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Financial

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Local Government Reorganisation

17. There are no implications relating the Local Government Reorganisation arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity

18. The Constitution of the county council sets out that all council decisions will be made in the best interest of the communities of Lancashire, including assessing the impact on human rights, equality, diversity and sustainability.

Risk Management

19. The Constitution of the county council sets out the rules governing the way the council transacts its business and takes decisions.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Record of Amendments to the Constitution since the last Full Council meeting on 16 July 2026
Appendix 'B'	Changes to the Constitution as recommended by the Political Governance Working Group at its meeting on 9 September 2026

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Lancashire County Council Constitution – Record of Amendments

Ref.	Constitutional Reference	Detail of Amendment	Approver	Date
2026-04	Committees	Amended the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference	Full Council Record of Meeting	04/08/2026
2026-05	Executive	Amended Cabinet Member Portfolios	Leader Record of Decision	14/08/2026
2026-06	Executive	Changes to Cabinet and Lead Members	Leader Record of Decision	01/09/2026
2026-07	Committees	Amended: • Development Control Committee Terms of Reference • Scheme of Delegation to Officers • List of Proper Officers	Director of Law and Governance Record of Decision	05/10/2026

Section	Reference	Detail
Section 10 - Standing Orders (Section B: Full Council Procedural Standing Orders)	37. Submission of Notice of Motion in Writing and Ruling of the Chief Executive	Section 37.4, 37.5, and 37.6 be amended to state: 37.4 A councillor may only submit one notice of motion per meeting. Only two notices of motion may be submitted by members of the ruling group per meeting and only one notice of motion may be submitted by members of any of the opposition groups per meeting, other than notices of motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 37.6. (For the purpose of this standing order, any councillors not aligned to a political group will be considered as one group.) 37.5 A maximum of three notices of motion may be permitted per meeting. Additional motions submitted above this number will not be accepted and will not automatically be dealt with at the next meeting. 37.6 In the event that the ruling group does not submit two notices of motion for a Council meeting, any available slots will be allocated to a different political group's notice of motion on a first come first served basis, provided their notice of motion has been received in accordance with Standing Order 37.1 above.
Section 10 - Standing Orders (Section B: Full Council Procedural Standing Orders)	39. Length of Speeches and Debates	Section 39.5 be amended to state: 39.5 The following will apply to the debate on motions of which notice has been given under Standing Order 37.1 or notices of motion accepted by the Chair under Standing Order 37.3 as an urgent item of business: a) There will be a maximum time limit of 35 minutes per motion and any amendments thereto; b) The maximum length of time for the consideration of all such motions at a meeting will be 105 minutes;

		c) The Chair may extend the limits at Standing Order 39.5 (a) and (b) in a particular case.
Standing Orders (Section B)	40. Amendments	Section 40.3 be amended to state: 40.3 An amendment to a motion must: a) Be relevant to the motion; b) Add and/or delete a word or words; c) Not introduce a new topic; d) Not negate the motion; e) Not be substantially the same as a motion or amendment which has already been submitted to the same meeting of the Council; f) Be worded so that, if it is agreed by the Council, it can be passed as a valid resolution. g) In the case of amendments to notices of motion submitted under Standing Order 37 above, be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting start. h) In the case of all other amendments, be submitted to the Chief Executive in writing no later than immediately following the end of the speech of the mover of the amendment.
Section 6 - Overview and Scrutiny	6.2 - Membership	The membership of Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee be amended to include the addition of two observers nominated by the Lancashire Parent Carer Forum.

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Review of Political Balance and Committee Appointments

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: Stronger communities;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Andy Milroy, Democratic Services Manager, Lancashire County Council Tel: 01772 530354, andy.milroy@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

To review the political balance of the county council following changes to political group membership and to seek approval of revised allocations of committee seats and associated appointments in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to:

- (i) Note the current political composition of the county council.
- (ii) Note the revised allocation of seats on politically balanced committees.
- (iii) Approve the appointment of county councillors to the politically balanced committees in accordance with nominations submitted by the relevant political groups.

Background

1. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to allocate seats on committees and certain other bodies in accordance with the principles of political proportionality.
2. At its Annual General Meeting on 21 May 2026, Full Council approved the constitution and membership of committees for the municipal year in accordance with those requirements.

3. Since that time there have been changes to the political composition of the county council arising from changes in political group membership.
4. Where the political composition of the council changes, and a request is made by one or more county councillors to review the political composition, the authority is required to review the allocation of committee seats and determine whether adjustments are necessary to ensure continued compliance with the political balance requirements.

Current Political Composition

5. The current political composition of the County Council is set out below.

Political Group	Number of Councillors	Percentage
Reform UK	51	60.71%
Progressive Lancashire	11	13.10%
Conservative	9	10.71%
Labour	6	7.14%
Liberal Democrat	5	5.95%
Our West Lancashire	2	2.38%

6. The revised political composition differs from that used to apply the committee allocations at the Annual General Meeting so therefore requires a review of committee allocations.

Political Balance Review

7. In applying the statutory political balance requirements, the council must seek, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that:
 - a. Appointments to committees reflect the political composition of the council;
 - b. The majority of seats on committees are allocated to the political group holding a majority of council seats, where such a majority exists; and
 - c. The total allocation of committee seats reflects the relative strength of political groups on the council.
8. A recalculation of committee allocations has therefore been undertaken and is set out at Appendix 'A'.
9. The outcome of that calculation identifies a number of changes required to committee memberships in order to maintain political proportionality. Political groups should therefore be invited to submit nominations to fill the seats allocated to their groups as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Options and Proposals

10. The proposal set out in this report ensures the county council complies with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the allocations to each group comply with its requirements.

Consultations

11. Each political group has been consulted on the changes to political balances set out in this report and should the recommendations set out be approved, be asked, via their Group Whips, to confirm their nominations.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

12. Appointments to committees must be made in accordance with the provisions set out in Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Financial

13. There are no direct financial implications in the report. The council has arrangements in place to ensure that the committees listed are appropriately resourced and supported to enable them to deliver their functions.

Local Government Reorganisation

14. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is currently paused pending Ministerial review. Government has made clear it remains committed to devolution and LGR. However, it is not yet clear what the impact of the review will be for Lancashire in terms of the make-up of any future unitary authorities or the timetable for implementation. The LGR implications of decisions will be kept under review and updated as required.
15. The recommendation set out in this report ensures that the county council complies with its political balance requirements and continues to operate in accordance with applicable regulations whilst LGR is paused.

Equality and Diversity

16. There are no equality or diversity implications in the report.

Risk Management

17. No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Revised Committee Structure 2026/27

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Revised Committee Structure – 2026/27

Committee Name	Total Number of Councillor Seats	Political Group					
		Reform UK	Progressive Lancashire	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Our West Lancashire
Urgency	12	7	2	1	1 seat on a maximum of 9 committees from a selection of 11 (2 not selected allocated to Our West Lancashire)	1 seat on a maximum of 8 committees from a selection of 9 (1 not selected allocated to Our West Lancashire)	3 seats
Development Control	12	7	2	1			
Regulatory	12	7	2	1			
Pension Fund	12*	7	2	1			
Health and Adult Services Scrutiny	10	6	1	1			
Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny	14**	10	1	1			
Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny	10	6	1	1			
Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny	10	6	1	1			
Budget and Finance Scrutiny	10	6	1	1			
Audit, Risk and Governance	8	5	1	1		0	
Employment	8	5	1	1		0	
Conduct	5	3	1	1	0	0	0
Total Seats	123	75	16	12	9	8	3

*Pension Fund Committee has an additional 7 voting co-opted members

**Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny has an additional 5 voting co-opted members

Revised Committee Structure – 2026/27

Combined Fire Authority

The allocation of seats on the Combined Fire Authority remains unchanged and is as follows:

Political Group	Seats
Reform UK	12
Progressive Lancashire	3
Conservative	2
Labour	1
Liberal Democrats	1

(plus 3 members each from Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Councils)

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: Thinking differently; Stronger Communities; Better Lives for All; Economic Ambition;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Samantha Parker, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01772) 538221, sam.parker@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025/26 is set out at Appendix 'A'.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to consider and comment on the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025/26.

Background

1. In line with the council's Constitution and following the establishment of new overview and scrutiny arrangements from 2022/23, there is a requirement to produce an Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Full Council. The Government's Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, and best practice guidance from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, highlight this as a key way to ensure that Full Council is informed about the activities of the council's scrutiny committees.
2. The current *Overview and Scrutiny: Statutory Guidance for Councils, Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities* published 22 April 2024, highlights several points on how local authorities can develop strong organisational cultures. In particular, local authorities can do so by communicating scrutiny's role and purpose to the wider authority, maintaining the interest of Full Council in the work of the scrutiny committee, and communicating scrutiny's role to the public.

Annual Report 2025/26

3. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26 attached at Appendix 'A' provides an overview of the work undertaken by the council's scrutiny committees during the year. It highlights how scrutiny contributed to accountability, policy development and service improvement, and supported the council's corporate priorities through constructive challenge, review and recommendations to the county council and partner organisations.

Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements Review

4. During 2025/26, the Political Governance Working Group commenced a review of the council's overview and scrutiny arrangements to identify opportunities to further strengthen the effectiveness, impact, and visibility of scrutiny. Initial proposals were considered by the working group in April 2026. A further report in June 2026 aligned those proposals to recommendations arising from the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge and the council's Annual Governance Statement. From this, the Political Governance Working Group endorsed the continuation of the review.
5. Since the end of the reporting year, progress has been made in developing guidance for members and officers, strengthening links between scrutiny reports, performance and risk information, improving collaboration between scrutiny and audit, enhancing work planning arrangements and supporting more pre-decision scrutiny. Member and stakeholder surveys have also been introduced, alongside further training and briefing opportunities for councillors.
6. Further work will continue during 2026/27, including engagement with external expertise, delivery of the next phase of improvements, and evaluation of their impact. The outcomes of the review and any further recommendations will be reported to the Political Governance Working Group and included in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2026/27.

Options and Proposals

7. The council's Constitution requires Full Council to receive an annual report on the work and recommendations of overview and scrutiny. No alternative option is therefore proposed.

Consultations

8. None.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

9. In accordance with section 3 (Full Council), paragraph 3.5 (z) of the Constitution, there is a requirement for Full Council to receive an annual report on the work and recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny during the preceding year.



Financial

10. There are no significant financial implications detailed in the report.

Local Government Reorganisation

11. There are no implications in relation to Local Government Reorganisation arising from the recommendations within this report.

Equality and Diversity

12. There are no significant equality and diversity implications detailed in the report.

Risk Management

13. There are no significant risk management implications detailed in the report.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

2025 – 2026





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Foreword from the Chair of the Scrutiny Chairs and Deputies Forum



I am pleased to present this report, which highlights the work of Scrutiny during the civic year 2025/26. The report provides an insight into the significant work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees over the past year and the positive impact this has had on both the democratic process within Lancashire County Council and the services delivered by us and our external partners.

Throughout the year, Scrutiny Members have continued to play a vital role in the Council's governance by holding decision-makers to account, contributing to the development and review of policy, and examining how effectively the Council is delivering on its commitments to the residents of Lancashire.

Scrutiny has remained focused on the issues of greatest importance to the Council and our communities, providing constructive challenge and valuable input to support improved outcomes for residents.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Members for the dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm they have shown throughout the year. Through their leadership and collaborative approach, the committees have continued to address key challenges, offering constructive scrutiny and making informed recommendations to Cabinet, senior officers, and partner organisations.

Finally, I would also like to thank the scrutiny officers for their professionalism, hard work, support, and guidance. Their contribution has been invaluable in ensuring the effective delivery of the Council's scrutiny function and in supporting Members to carry out their important roles.

County Councillor Joanne Ash

Chair of the Scrutiny Chairs
and Deputies Forum



Introduction

What is Scrutiny?

Overview and scrutiny is a key part of the county council's governance arrangements. It provides constructive challenge and helps ensure that decisions are transparent, evidence-based and focused on the needs of Lancashire's residents.

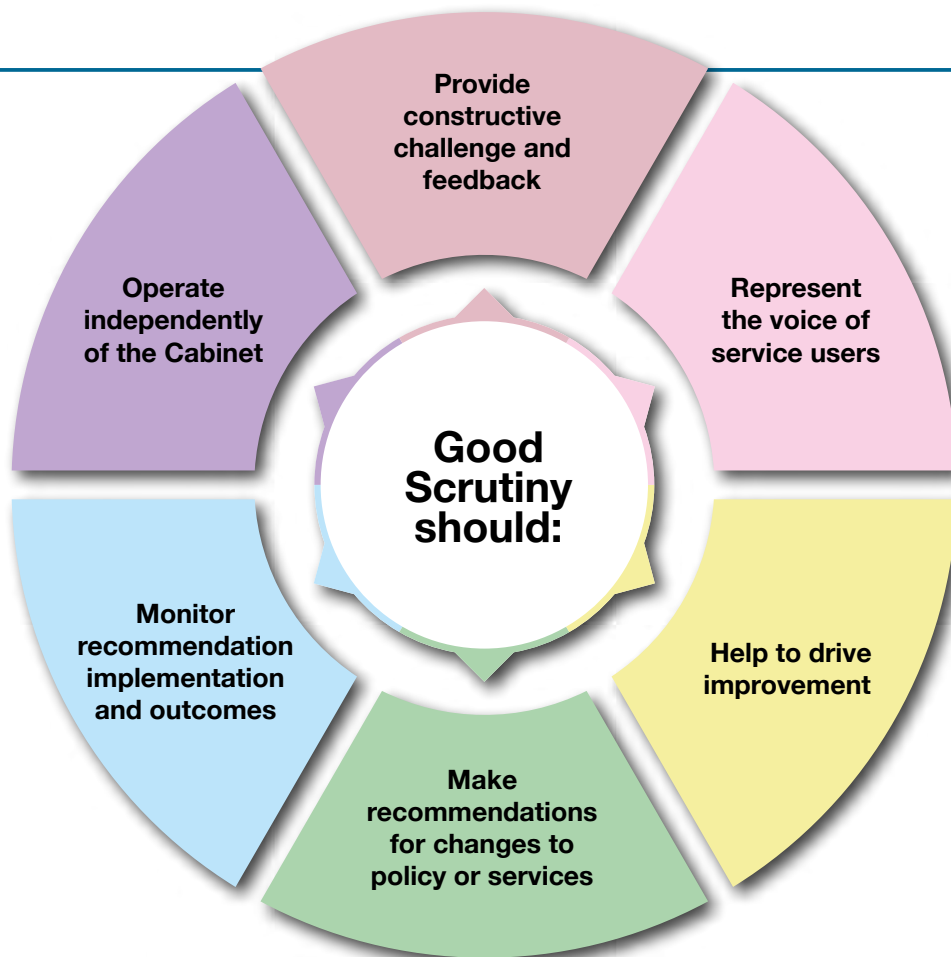
Membership

Scrutiny committees comprise county councillors from a range of political groups. Some committees also include a small number of co-opted members who contribute additional knowledge and experience.

Role and powers

Scrutiny may examine decisions that Cabinet is proposing to take, as well as decisions that have already been made or implemented. It also has specific statutory powers to hold local NHS organisations to account through the health scrutiny arrangements.





Scrutiny in Lancashire

Scrutiny in Lancashire is made up of five service area committees, and one steering group, and each has a different area of responsibility:

Budget and Finance

Support to the overall budget monitoring process and to consider and formulate recommendations on Cabinet budget revenue, capital and policy framework proposals. Monitor progress of agreed budget savings and associated resource requirements.

Children, Families and Skills

Review and scrutinise the county council's children's services functions and other matters affecting children, young people and families.

Satisfy the statutory responsibilities related to education functions of a Children's Services Authority.

Community, Cultural and Corporate Services

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.

Environment, Economic Growth and Transport

Review and scrutinise the work of the county council and external organisations on matters relating to the environment and climate change, economic development and growth, and highways and transport.

Health and Adult Services and Health Steering Group

Review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area, and to review and scrutinise county council Adult Services and Public Health.

Statutory responsibility for scrutiny of NHS proposals for a substantial development or variation relating to both adults and children's health in Lancashire.



Scrutiny Year at a Glance

Scrutiny Committee Meetings

- 32 committee meetings
- 56 reports from a variety of services across the county council and external partners
- 135 recommendations
- 0 call-in
- 5 in-year requests for the work programme

Inquiry Days / Joint Committees

- 1 Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
- 1 Inquiry Day

Scrutiny Development

- 12 service area briefings
- 5 Informal Chairs and Deputies meeting
- 3 training sessions



Street Lighting

The Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee received concerns that streetlighting columns deemed unsafe and removed were not automatically replaced. The committee reviewed the current policy position and recommended the introduction of a notification process to explain to county councillors the rationale for removal and next steps regarding the timeframe for replacement.

Digital Transformation

Committee listened to concerns about digital exclusion and the impact of digital transformation, securing a commitment to provide evidence on affected residents and improve support and communication for councillors.

Parent Carer Forum

The two co-Chairs of the Parent Carer Forum continue to attend meetings of the Children, Families and Skills Committee and provide valuable lived experience and insight to discussions on SEND matters

Scrutiny Listened...

Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Hospital Trusts

Regular engagement with the ICB has enabled the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee to maintain oversight of a range of service transformation programmes.

Youth Council

The Youth Council representatives on the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee continue to have an invaluable role in providing committee members and senior officers with the views from children and young people on all topics considered in committee meetings.



Scrutiny Learning and Impacts...

The Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee made a positive contribution for the budget setting process for 2026/27

Whilst conducting a themed review of the Transport/Highways Asset Management Plan, the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee requested a report on gully cleaning policy and subsequently identified a shortfall of around £7m was required to address the backlog of drainage works. The Cabinet Member accepted the committee's recommendation and sought to include a bid for Department for Transport funding during 2026 and 2027.

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy and Priority Action Plan, and provided robust feedback to strengthen the services provided to Lancashire residents

Following a request from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee carried out a review of public rights of way processes and made a number of recommendations to enhance processes and collaborative working.

Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee reviewed communities experiencing difficulties accessing council-owned buildings and called for clearer, more transparent and user-friendly arrangements.

Member visits have been arranged to Burnley College and Lancaster & Morecambe College, to enhance members' understanding of NEET provision, including progression pathways for 14-15-year-olds



Delivering Impact Through Scrutiny

During 2025/26, Lancashire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees played a significant role in supporting the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities through robust challenge, policy development, performance monitoring and service review. Across the scrutiny committees, members considered **56** substantive reports and major policy issues, generating **135** recommendations to Cabinet Members, council services, NHS partners and external organisations. These recommendations helped shape decision-making, improve transparency, strengthen accountability and support continuous service improvement across the authority and its partners.

Better Lives for All

A significant contribution was made towards the corporate priority of Better Lives for All, with scrutiny examining a wide range of issues affecting residents, including SEND improvement, school attendance, support for vulnerable children and young people, adult social care transformation, public health, mental health services, community facilities and neighbourhood health initiatives. Committees made **77** recommendations directly linked to this priority, ensuring that services remained focused on improving outcomes for Lancashire residents.



Thinking Differently

The scrutiny function also made an important contribution to Thinking Differently, generating recommendations focused on digital transformation, prevention, workforce development, innovation in service delivery, data and intelligence, artificial intelligence, and the use of technology to improve outcomes and efficiency. 16 recommendations supported this priority, helping to ensure that the Council continued to modernise services whilst maintaining effective governance and oversight.

Economic Ambition

Support for Economic Ambition was delivered through scrutiny of highways maintenance, strategic transport, economic growth initiatives, skills and employment programmes, property assets and infrastructure investment. Committees made approximately nine recommendations focused on strengthening economic development, maximising investment opportunities and improving the county's infrastructure.

Stronger Communities

The corporate priority of Stronger Communities was supported through scrutiny of community facilities, libraries, local government reorganisation, electric vehicle infrastructure, domestic abuse services and initiatives designed to improve community engagement and accessibility. Recommendations focused on strengthening local services, supporting residents and enhancing opportunities for communities to influence and benefit from council activity.

Overall Impact

The scrutiny function continued to provide a vital mechanism for democratic accountability, evidence-based challenge and policy development. Through detailed examination of services and strategic priorities, scrutiny ensured that member insight informed decision-making and that recommendations were made to strengthen service delivery, improve outcomes for residents and support achievement of Lancashire County Council's corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity throughout 2025/26 demonstrated the value of member-led review in driving continuous improvement, promoting transparency and ensuring that the voices of Lancashire residents remained at the heart of decision-making.



Scrutiny Contribution to Corporate Priorities

Thinking Differently

Draft Budget 2026/27

The Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee undertook detailed scrutiny of the Council's Draft Budget 2026/27, examining financial pressures, proposed savings and investment across all service areas. Members made recommendations to Cabinet, including proposals relating to the modernisation of care homes and day centres, mental health provision, funding for the Adult Social Care Improvement Plan, and the implications of setting Council Tax below the maximum permitted level.

Stronger Communities

Household Waste Recycling Centres

At its meeting in December 2025, the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee considered a report outlining current issues and the operational and performance status of the council's household waste recycling centre network. It was recommended to the Cabinet Member that they consider working with Merseyside authorities to identify ways of making recycling of hard plastics work in Lancashire and to consider methods of collecting hard plastics in a less contaminated way. The recommendation was accepted and it was anticipated that hard plastic recycling would be reinstated.

Better Lives for All

Lancashire House Project

In October 2025 the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee received an update on the Lancashire House project, supporting young people leaving care to create their own homes, through access to good quality, affordable properties where young people can live for life should they wish to. Following this, a letter was sent to district councils encouraging their support for this project and highlighting the positive impact of the project on care leavers' independence and wellbeing.

Property Services Update

The Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee promoted better marketing and use of council-owned assets to increase utilisation and improve opportunities for communities and partners to enable removal of barriers preventing community groups from accessing council-owned assets.

Economic Ambition

Get Lancashire Working

The Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee in considering a report on Get Lancashire Working recommended that the Cabinet Member be asked to consider the possibility of virement money between procured providers of the Connect to Work programme to enable any underperforming areas to benefit. This recommendation was accepted.

Looking Ahead 2026/27

Officer Contacts

The county council provides important local government services in Lancashire including education, fostering and adoption, health and social care, cultural services, libraries and archives, registering births, deaths and marriages, and highways and transport.

Areas of focus for the 2026/27 work programmes:

Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee

Budget Setting for 2027/28
Quarterly Financial Monitoring
Efficiency Review Phase 2

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee

SEND Priority Action Plan and SEND Reform Plan
Families First Programme and Family Hubs
Surplus Place Strategy
Looked After Children/Care Leavers

Community, Cultural and Corporate Services

Trading Standards
Civic Pride
Lancashire Community Safety
Agreement Performance Update
Organisational Approach to AI

Environment, Economic Growth and Transport

Highway Maintenance
Household Waste Recycling Centres
Road Safety
Tourism

Health and Adult Services

Adult Social Care – Model of Care
CQC Assurance
Winter Plans
Mental Health Act Reforms

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Environment, Economic Growth and Transport
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Samantha Parker,

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee and
Health Scrutiny Steering Group

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Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Corporate Director of Finance

Lancashire County Pension Fund - Annual Report 2025/26

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: Thinking differently;	Electoral Division(s): N/A;
Contact: Junaid Laly, Special Projects Pensions Lead, Junaid.Laly2@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The Constitution of Lancashire County Council requires an annual report to be submitted to Full Council on the performance and state of the Pension Fund and on investment activities during the preceding year. This report provides a summary of the key matters set out in the draft 2025/26 Pension Fund Annual Report, which was approved by the Pension Fund Committee on 18 September 2026.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the performance and state of the Pension Fund and investment activities for the year ended 31 March 2026 as set out in this report.

Background

1. The Constitution of Lancashire County Council states that Full Council should receive an annual report on the state of the Lancashire County Pension Fund (the Fund) and on investment activities during the preceding year.
2. On 18 September 2026, the Pension Fund Committee considered the Fund's draft 2025/26 Annual Report and approved it subject to:
 - i. The inclusion of the external audit opinion.
 - ii. Any accounting updates to be agreed by the Head of Fund, for publication on or before 1 December 2026.
 - iii. Any minor changes which may be required prior to publication, such changes being approved by the Head of Fund in consultation with the Chair of the Pension Fund Committee.

3. The Fund's Annual Report incorporates the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts, which is included within Lancashire County Council's Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee considered and noted the Council's 2025/26 Statement of Accounts at its meeting on 27 July 2026.
4. The Fund's external auditors, Grant Thornton, will provide an audit opinion on the Annual Report alongside their opinion on Lancashire County Council's accounts. The external audit opinion will consider whether the Fund's financial statements give a true and fair view of the Pension Fund's financial transactions and net assets, have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant accounting and legislative requirements, and whether the other information included within the Annual Report is materially consistent with the audited financial statements and the auditors' knowledge obtained during the audit.
5. The information below sets out the Fund's key activities throughout the year, together with a summary of the main financial information from the accounts.

Actuarial Valuation

6. Throughout 2025, a three-yearly valuation of the Fund's assets and liabilities was undertaken. As part of this valuation the Pension Fund was assessed to have a Funding Level of 134%, the 8th highest of all 86 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Funds in England and Wales. This strong funding position and the desire of the Pension Fund Committee to set affordable yet responsible contributions rates led to the Fund reducing average employer contribution rates from 17.1% to 9.1% of pensionable pay for the period April 2026 to March 2029, the third lowest LGPS employer contribution rate in the country.

Expansion of Investment Pool

7. National pension reforms during 2025/26 led to 6 LGPS funds joining Local Pensions Partnership Investments (LPPI) from 1 April 2026. This has increased the total value of assets under management by the company from £28bn to £56bn. This is expected to generate future cost efficiencies arising through economies of scale and also provide the pool with a greater range of investment opportunities to the potential future benefit of the Fund. New guidance was also introduced enhancing governance arrangements within the LGPS.
8. Work was undertaken throughout the year to ensure this transition was effective with LPPI demerging from the LPP Group before the new partner funds were admitted as shareholders to the company. The Fund has also been working to ensure its continued compliance with the updated relevant regulations and legislation.

Investments

9. Assets under management increased from £12.0bn at the end of March 2025 to £12.3bn at the end of March 2026, with the Fund remaining the 5th largest LGPS fund in England and Wales.



10. Investment performance during 2025/26 has significantly lagged its benchmark, largely due to the asset mix within its Global Equity Fund. However, as a long-term investor, the Fund is more focussed on its long-term performance. Benchmarking has identified that the Fund remains a top quartile performer on investment returns against its portfolio over a 5 and 10-year period.
11. The Fund maintains a well-diversified investment portfolio across a range of asset classes, designed to support the achievement of its long-term return objectives while maintaining an appropriate level of risk. Officers are currently reviewing the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement (ISS), including the strategic asset allocation, to ensure that it continues to reflect the Fund's objectives and evolving market conditions.
12. All of the Fund's assets are under pooled management with Local Pensions Partnership Investments Limited and over 95% of the Fund's assets are in pooled vehicles. This has resulted in investment management fee savings for the Fund of £22.9m in 2025/26 and a total of £124.6m worth of savings since pooling began in 2016. These savings have continually been re-invested into the Fund to give greater returns.

Administration

13. Membership of the Fund now totals 205,577, a small increase on the previous year, with over 370 employers being in the Fund.
14. LPPA consistently delivered above its target performance of 95% of cases to be completed within a certain number of days, achieving an average annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) performance of 98.9%.
15. The Contact Centre's performance for call waiting times exceeded the SLA target of four minutes, with an average wait time of 3 minutes 33 seconds over the 12-month period. While wait times were longer than the SLA target in some months, overall performance remained within target for the year. Performance is monitored regularly by both the Pension Fund Committee and the Local Pension Board to ensure service standards are maintained and any emerging issues are addressed promptly.

Annual Report Publication

16. The Fund's Annual Report will be published in accordance with the statutory deadline of 1 December 2026 and will be made available on the Fund's website. The Pension Fund Statement of Accounts will also be published as part of Lancashire County Council's Statement of Accounts on the Council's website.

Options and Proposals

17. Full Council is asked to consider and comment on the state of the Lancashire County Pension Fund and investment activities for the year ended 31 March 2026 as set out in this report.

Consultations

18. Local Pensions Partnership Administration Limited and LPPI. Grant Thornton is in the process of reviewing the financial statements of the Fund and will provide an opinion on both the accounts, and the consistency of the Annual Report with the accounts in due course.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

19. The County Council's Constitution provides that Full Council is to receive an annual report from the Pension Fund Committee on the state of the Fund and its investment activities during the preceding financial year. This report fulfils that requirement and summarises the key matters contained in the Fund's 2025/26 Annual Report, the preparation and publication of which is required by Regulation 57 of The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. No specific legal issues arise from the recommendation that Full Council notes the contents of this report.

Financial

20. The Fund's annual report is approved by the Pension Fund Committee, as the Fund is to be maintained by the Administering Authority. This report is presented to Full Council for noting, there are no financial implications in this report.

Local Government Reorganisation

21. This report provides an overview of the activity of the Lancashire County Pension Fund in 2025/26. This is unaffected by any decision associated with Local Government Reorganisation.

Equality and Diversity

22. There are no equality and diversity implications to consider.

Risk Management

23. As the Administering Authority, it is important that Full Council receives regular updates from the Pension Fund Committee regarding the activity and performance of the Lancashire County Pension Fund.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A



Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Lancashire County Council Timetable of Meetings 2027/28

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part A
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Craig Alker, Tel: (01772) 537997, Democratic Services Officer (Technical), craig.alker@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

This report sets out a draft timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings for the period 1 June 2027 to 31 May 2028.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to approve the timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and committee meetings for the period 1 June 2027 to 31 May 2028 inclusive, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Background

1. Attached at Appendix 'A' is a draft timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and committee meetings for the period 1 June 2027 to 31 May 2028 inclusive.
2. The timetable has been prepared taking into account:
 - The county council's existing governance and decision-making arrangements.
 - School holiday closures.
 - Bank holidays and major religious holidays.
 - District Council budget meeting dates (where dates are confirmed).
3. Subject to being agreed, the timetable of meetings will be circulated widely around the county council and to all 12 Lancashire district councils for information.

Options and Proposals

4. Full Council is being asked to approve the draft timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and committee meetings for the period 1 June 2027 to 31 May 2028, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Consultations

5. None.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

6. Paragraph 2 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 provides statutory guidance regarding the convening of meetings by principal councils. In addition to the Annual General Meeting, the provision enables principal councils to hold further meetings throughout the year as deemed necessary.
7. In accordance with section 3.6 of the council's Constitution, Full Council shall approve the programme of ordinary Full Council meetings and committee meetings for the year ahead. The date or time of meetings may be altered in accordance with the council's procedural standing orders.

Financial

8. There are no financial implications within this report.

Local Government Reorganisation

9. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is currently paused pending ministerial review. Government has made clear it remains committed to devolution and LGR. However, it is not yet clear what the impact of the review will be for Lancashire in terms of the make-up of any future unitary authorities or the timetable for implementation. The LGR implications of decisions will be kept under review and updated as required.
10. The proposed timetable covers the full municipal year 2027/28, and as such there are no LGR implications arising from this decision.

Equality and Diversity

11. The general aims of the Equality Act 2010's Public Sector Equality Duty have been reflected in preparing the Timetable of Meetings. The advancing of equality of opportunity general aim and its sub-aim of increasing participation in public life by groups with protected characteristics are particularly relevant to the proposed timetable. The timetable has been prepared so far as is practicable to avoid meetings taking place on dates of significance to those included within the religion or belief protected characteristic and more generally to be inclusive and accessible to the wider requirements of county councillors and others participating in the meetings.



Risk Management

12. There are no significant risks identified within this report.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Draft Timetable of Meetings 2027/28

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Lancashire County Council Timetable of Meetings 2027/28

		JUN '27	JUL '27	AUG '27	SEP '27	OCT '27	NOV '27	DEC '27	JAN '28	FEB '28	MAR '28	APR '28	MAY '28
Audit, Risk and Governance Committee (w)	2.00pm Monday		19			11			24			24	
Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee (w)	2.00pm Tuesday	29			14			7	25	1			
Cabinet (w)	2.00pm Thursday	3	1		2	7	4	2	20	3	2	6	11
Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee (w)	10.00am Wednesday	23			8 at 2pm	13	24		12	23		12	
Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (w)	10.00am Thursday		8		9	21		1*	13	17		13	
Company Member Cabinet Committee	10.00am Thursday	24			16		25				23		
Corporate Parenting Board	6.00pm Wednesday		21 at 1.30pm		1		17		19		8		17
Development Control Committee (w)	10.00am Wednesday	2	14		15	20		8	19		15	19	
Employment Committee (w)	1.00pm Tuesday	15			21		16		18		21		
Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee (w)	10.00am Thursday	10			30		11	16	27		16	27	
Full Council (w)	1.00pm Thursday		15			14		9		24 (B)	9		25 (AGM)
Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee (w)	10.00am Wednesday	9			22		10	15		2	8	26	
Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board (w*)	2.00pm Tuesday		13		7			14			7		
Pension Fund Committee (w)	10.00am Friday	18			17			10			17		
Pension Shareholder Governance Committee	10.00am Thursday		29			21 at 2pm			13 at 2pm		30		
Political Governance Working Group	2.00pm Tuesday	22				19			11			11	
Regulatory Committee (w)	10.00am Wednesday	16			8		17		26		22		

* = Change of day

B = Budget

AGM = Annual General Meeting

(w) = Meeting is webcast

(w*) = Meeting is webcast but only when held in County Hall

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Report of the Cabinet (Part B)

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Craig Alker, Democratic Services Officer (Technical), Tel: (01772) 537997, craig.alker@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The report of the Cabinet from its recent meetings on 3 September 2026 and 1 October 2026 are attached at Appendix 'A'.

The agenda, reports and minutes of the meetings are available to view on the county council's website. Members can also contact the officers specified in each report for further information about each item.

This report also presents details of an urgent key decision taken since the last meeting of Full Council, in accordance with Standing Order C21.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Cabinet.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Meeting of the Cabinet (3 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Quarter 1 2026/27 Corporate Performance Report

Cabinet considered the first Corporate Performance Report for 2026/27 (for the period April - June 2026), which provided an overview of performance of the key performance indicators, agreed by Cabinet on 2 July 2026, and the priorities set out in Moving the Dial, monitoring the delivery of the ambitions of the Council Plan 2025-2030.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the performance of the Council in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 against the ambitions set out in the Council Plan 2025-2030 and, specifically the annual priorities set out in Moving the Dial, the areas of strong performance and the key actions identified against indicators that are not achieving targets, be noted.

2026/27 Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report

Cabinet considered the Council's Quarter 1 financial position for the 2026/27 revenue, capital and schools budgets.

Resolved: That

- i. The current forecast Revenue Budget overspend at Quarter 1 of £15.655m (1.18%), as detailed in Appendix 'A' of the report, be noted.
- ii. The planned expenditure for the Strategic Contingency Budget, predominantly in highways-related areas, as outlined in paragraph 13 and Table 3 of the report, be approved.
- iii. The revised Capital Programme for 2026/27 of £271.116m, as set out in Appendix 'B' of the report, be approved, and it be noted that this incorporated the outcome of the Capital Programme review (part of Phase 2 of the Efficiency Review).
- iv. The current forecast capital expenditure of £262.944m for 2026/27, as set out in Appendix 'B' of the report, be noted.
- v. The emerging draft 2027/28 revised Capital Programme in advance of the formal budget setting process for the revenue and capital budget in February 2027 as set out in Appendix 'B' of the report, be noted; and
- vi. The current Schools Budget forecast overspend of £151.88m (9.7%) as detailed in Appendix 'C' of the report, be noted.

Ofsted Inspection of Lancashire Children's Services

Cabinet considered a report on the findings of Ofsted's recent inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) in Lancashire County Council.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the outcome of the inspection, which confirmed that Lancashire's Children's Services were performing at a consistently high standard, with leadership and care leaver services recognised as Outstanding, the Achieving Excellence Plan, developed in response to Ofsted's improvement recommendations, as set out at Appendix 'B' of the report, be approved.

SEND Capital Project

Cabinet considered a report on three linked proposals to increase the availability of specialist and inclusive provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Lancashire.

Resolved: That

- i. Following consideration of the positive consultation responses, the prior approval of those projects through the SEND capital plan in February 2026, the need to increase local specialist capacity, and the need to review the High Needs Capital budget profile if required for 2026/27 and future years forecasts in line with the grant allocation, the allocation of a further £19 million of capital funding to the progression of the four special school expansions as set out in Appendices 'A' to 'D' of the report, be approved;
- ii. The allocation of a further £4 million to a second round of the mainstream inclusion capital fund, to support adaptations to school, early years and college environments that enable inclusive practice and earlier support for children and young people with SEND, be approved;
- iii. Subject to positive consultation outcomes, the Director of Education and Inclusion be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, to approve individual specialist base projects below the existing key decision threshold and within the approved set budget; and
- iv. It be noted that projects above the key decision threshold, or projects with a negative or materially contested consultation response, would be brought back to Cabinet for further consideration and approval.

Consultation on the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Cabinet considered a report on the review of the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, and Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Local Plan.

Resolved: That

- i. The publication of the draft revised Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report, for consultation purposes during the autumn, be approved; and

- ii. Following the consultation, the Plan be presented to Cabinet on the 3 December 2026 and Full Council on the 10 December 2026 for approval before being progressed to Submission.

Refugee Resettlement

Cabinet considered a report on options for the future administration of the refugee resettlement schemes set out in the report.

Resolved: That

- i. Following consideration of the options for the future administration of the refugee resettlement schemes as set out in the report and appendices, Option 1 (Cessation of all refugee resettlement administration responsibility (allowing for managed transition)) be agreed and the Home Office be notified of the Cabinet's decision and supporting reasons; and
- ii. The Director of Communities and Engagement be authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance, to undertake any necessary actions, negotiations and engagement to implement the preferred option.

Part II (Not Open to Press and Public)

Grant of Option for / Land Exchange - Barrowford St Thomas Church of England Primary School

Cabinet considered a report that set out an option to a Purchase and Land Exchange at Barrowford St Thomas Church of England Primary School, Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford.

Resolved: That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.

Meeting of the Cabinet

(1 October 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Procurement Pipeline 2026/27 – Update and Additional Commissioning Requirements

Cabinet considered a report on an update and the additional commissioning requirements to the Procurement Pipeline 2026/27.

Resolved: That the commencement of the procurement exercises set out within Appendix 'A' of the report be approved.

Models of Care - Better Care, Better Lives

Cabinet considered a report that presented Lancashire's future Model of Care for Adult Social Care, which built on the strategic direction endorsed by Cabinet in May 2026.

Resolved: That

- i. Lancashire's Model of Care be agreed as the strategic model for Adult Social Care; and
- ii. That detailed design and implementation planning be progressed through co-production with residents, carers, communities, providers, and partners.

Public Health Strategy 2026-30

Cabinet considered a report on the Public Health Strategy 2026-2030.

Resolved: That

- i. The Lancashire Public Health Strategy 2026-2030 attached at Appendix 'A' of the report, be approved.
- ii. The strategy's vision, guiding principles and the strategic priorities for improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities across Lancashire be agreed; and
- iii. The implementation of the strategy be supported through partnership working with the NHS, district councils, voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations, businesses and local communities.

The Future of Thurnham Glasson Church of England Primary School, Lancaster

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval to commence consultation on the proposed closure of Thurnham Glasson Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School because the school was no longer considered educationally, financially or organisationally sustainable, either currently or in the longer term.

Resolved: That the commencement of consultation on the proposed closure of Thurnham Glasson Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School be approved, and the views from parents, carers, pupils, staff, governors, the Diocese, local schools, the local community and other relevant stakeholders be sought.

A582 Major Road Network – Enabling Works, Commencement and Procurement Route

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval to commence early enabling work associated with the next stage of the A582 Major Road Network programme and approval of the use of the Strategic Partnering Agreement for the associated Lancashire Central off-site highways works.

Resolved: That, the following be approved:

- i. The use of up to £7m of local match funding to facilitate early enabling works.
- ii. The Director of Growth and Property as Senior Responsible Officer, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance (s151 officer) and Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to release the remaining additional funds of £6m from the Cabinet approved local match funding to support scheme development and enabling works; and
- iii. The appointment in principle of Eric Wright Group Limited (specifically Eric Wright Civil Engineering Limited) to deliver the Lancashire Central off-site highway works (including the related early enabling works) under the existing Strategic Partnering Agreement and to delegate authorisation to the Director of Growth and Property as Senior Responsible Officer, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance (Section 151 officer) and Director of Law and Governance, to agree and enter into appropriate project agreement(s) to deliver the relevant works having regard to the requirements of the Strategic Partnering Agreement, National Highways and the Department for Transport Major Road Network funding.

Active Travel Grant Allocation 2026/27

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval for funding to be brought into the Transport Block of the Capital Programme and set out the schemes that were to be funded across the multi-year programmes.

Resolved: That

- i. The Active Travel Grant awards presented in Appendix 'A' of the report in Table 1 for 2026/27 be added to the Transport Block of the Capital Programme.
- ii. Subject to final grant award, the Corporate Director of Finance be authorised to accept the Active Travel Grant award presented in Appendix 'A' of the report in Table 2 for 2027/28, which would be added to the Transport Block of the Capital Programme;
- iii. The 2025/26 Active Travel Funding that had been previously approved against another scheme be reallocated; and



- iv. The Director of Highways and Transport be authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance, the Director of Law and Governance, and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to enter into a funding agreement(s) with the Canal & River Trust for the delivery of Accrington to Whitebirk towpath improvements to a value of £2,100,000.

Cottam Parkway Railway Station Project – Capital Programme

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval to add the Cottam Parkway Railway Station Project to Lancashire County Council's Capital Programme to enable delivery of a £69.2m major transport infrastructure scheme. It was noted that the project was predominantly externally funded, with £64.7m provided through the Department for Transport, Lancashire Combined County Authority and other partner contributions, while £4.5m was funded by Lancashire County Council. The county council was to act as the scheme promoter and delivery body and would be responsible for procuring and delivering elements of the project on behalf of the funding partners. Approval was also sought for the delivery and governance arrangements required to facilitate project delivery.

Resolved: That, the following be approved:

- i. The inclusion of the Cottam Parkway Railway Station Project within the Lancashire County Council Capital Programme, subject to final confirmation of Department for Transport and Lancashire Combined County Authority funding and associated grant conditions;
- ii. A capital budget of £69.2m for the delivery of the project, which £64.7m would be funded from approved external partner contributions and £4.5m from previously approved county council funding sources;
- iii. The continued delivery of the station and car park elements of the project through Network Rail in accordance with Cabinet's decision of 8 September 2022 to directly award the railway-related elements of the scheme to Network Rail;
- iv. The procurement of the highway and bridge works package by Lancashire County Council in accordance with the county council's Procurement Rules and applicable procurement legislation; and
- v. The Executive Director of Place be authorised in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, the Corporate Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance, to take all actions necessary to deliver the Cottam Parkway Railway Station Project within the approved budget, including undertaking procurement activities, awarding contracts, and entering into and completing funding, land, property and delivery agreements.

Part I (Open to Press and Public) – Item of Urgent Business

Local Government Reorganisation: Review and Preservation of the Council's Position

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update on the Government's announcement of 7 September 2026 that local government reorganisation affecting Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool had been paused and was under review; and on the council's subsequent correspondence with Government.

Resolved: That

- i. The Government's review and pause of local government reorganisation, the Council's request for clarification, and that no substantive response had been received that confirmed that the decision of 16 July 2026 be withdrawn and a fresh decision following the review provided, including sufficient reasons and information to enable the Council to understand how the decision was reached by reference to the Government's published criteria, be noted;
- ii. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, to take such legal steps as were considered necessary and proportionate to protect the Council's position. Those steps may include taking no immediate action, seeking further clarification, commencing protective proceedings and seeking a stay, or taking any associated procedural step, including discontinuing or withdrawing proceedings where appropriate;
- iii. It be noted that a further update report would be brought to Cabinet when the information was available on the outcome of the Government's review for Lancashire with options provided on next steps including the continuation of any protective proceedings or withdrawal; and
- iv. The decision be implemented immediately for the purposes of Standing Order C28(3) as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the county council's responsibilities. The reason for this was that any protective claim must be filed promptly and in any event by 16 October 2026 at the latest.

Urgent Key Decisions

It is a requirement of Standing Order C21 that any urgent Key Decision taken under the provisions of Standing Order C20 must be reported to Full Council for information.

The following urgent Key Decision was taken by the Leader of the County Council on 17 August 2026:

- [Local Government Reorganisation – Response to Government on Structural Changes Order and a Strategic Partner for Lancashire LGR Programme](#)

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): None;
Contact: Lauren Lewthwaite, Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01772) 539722, lauren.lewthwaite2@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting held on 27 July 2026 is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The agenda, reports and minutes of the meeting are available to view [here](#).

Members can also contact the officers specified in each report for further information.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Meeting of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee (27 July 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference

The Committee considered a report detailing the membership, Chairmanship and Terms of Reference of the Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Resolved: That the following be noted:

- i) The appointment of County Councillor G Mirfin as Chair and County Councillor R Edwards as Deputy Chair of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee for the 2026-27 municipal year;
- ii) The membership of the Committee, following the county council's Annual Meeting held on 21 May 2026; and
- iii) The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference.

Statement of Accounts 2025/26

Khadija Saeed, Head of Corporate Finance, and Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Finance, presented the council's statement of accounts 2025/26.

Resolved: That the 2025/26 statement of accounts for Lancashire County Council be noted.

External Audit: Lancashire County Council External Audit Plan 2025/26

Ian Pinches and Michael Green, Grant Thornton UK, presented the Lancashire County Council External Audit Plan.

Resolved: That the Lancashire County Council External Audit Plan 2025/26 be noted.

External Audit: Lancashire County Pension Fund External Audit Plan 2025/26

Kelly Jarvis and Georgia Jones, Grant Thornton UK, presented the Lancashire County Pension Fund External Audit Plan.

Resolved: That the Lancashire County Pension Fund External Audit Plan 2025/26 be noted.

Treasury Management Strategy Update and 2025/26 Outturn

Khadija Saeed, Head of Corporate Finance, and Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Finance, presented an update on the council's 2026/27 treasury management strategy and outturn for 2025/26.

Resolved: That:

- i) The Treasury Management Strategy Update and 2025/26 Outturn be noted, and;
- ii) The proposal to amend the 2026/27 prudential indicator relating to the profile of borrowing, as set out in the report, be recommended to Full Council for approval.

Internal Audit Annual Report 2025/26 and Progress Report

Andrew Dalecki, Head of Internal Audit, presented a report that summarised the work that the Internal Audit Service had undertaken during 2025/26.

Resolved: That the Internal Audit Annual Report 2025/26 and Progress Report be noted.

Internal Audit Charter and Mandate

Andrew Dalecki, Head of Internal Audit, presented the Internal Audit Charter and Mandate report.

Resolved: That the Internal Audit Mandate and Charter be approved.

Procurement Waivers and Non-Compliance 2025-26

Paul Fairclough, Head of Procurement and Contract Management, presented a report that outlined procurement waivers and non-compliance for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Resolved: That the report on Procurement Waivers and Non-Compliance 2025-26 be noted.

Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register – Quarterly Update

Hannah Race, Head of Governance and Democratic Services, presented the updated Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register.

Resolved: That the Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register be approved.

Annual Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee

The Chair presented the Annual Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee for 2025/26.

Resolved: That the Annual Report of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee for 2025/26 be noted.

Draft Work Plan 2026-27

The Chair presented the draft work plan for 2026/27.

Resolved: That the Audit, Risk and Governance work plan for 2026/27 be approved.

Part II (Not Open to Press and Public)

Appendix 'A' to Item 11 - Procurement Waivers and Non-Compliance 2025-26

Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information).

The committee considered the private and confidential Appendix 'A' to Item 11 – Procurement Waivers and Non-Compliance.

Resolved: That Appendix 'A' to Item 11 – Procurement Waivers and Non-Compliance, be noted.

Appendix C to Item 12 - Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register - Quarterly Update

(Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information).

The committee considered the private and confidential Appendix 'C' to Item 12 – Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register – Quarterly Update.

Resolved: That Appendix 'C' to Item 12 – Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register – Quarterly Update, be noted.

Counter Financial Crime, Investigations and Whistleblowing Annual Report

(Not for Publication – Exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interests in disclosing the information).

Caroline Ayres, Investigations Manager, presented the private and confidential Counter Financial Crime, Investigations and Whistleblowing Annual Report.

Resolved: That:

- i) The Counter Financial Crime, Investigations and Whistleblowing Annual Report be noted; and
- ii) The updated Counter Financial Crime, Financial Crime Sanctions and Prosecution, and Whistleblowing policies were approved.

Update on the Overpayment of Salaries

(Not for Publication – Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interests in disclosing the information).

Allison Leach, Head of Payroll, presented the private and confidential Update on the Overpayment of Salaries.

Resolved: That the Update on the Overpayment of Salaries be noted.

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

The Employment Committee

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): None;
Contact: Craig Alker, Democratic Services Officer (Technical), Tel: (01772) 537997, craig.alker@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The report of the Employment Committee from its meeting held on 18 August 2026 is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The agenda, reports and minutes of the meetings are available to view on the county council's [website](#).

Members can also contact the officers specified in each report for further information about each item.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Employment Committee.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Meeting of the Employment Committee (18 August 2026)

Part II (Not Open to Press and Public)

Changes to Senior Leadership Responsibilities

Mark Wynn, Chief Executive, and Jacquie McGeachie, Director Advisor/LGR, presented a private and confidential report that sought approval for temporary senior leadership arrangements to support the Chief Executive during Local Government Reorganisation and to maintain effective leadership of the council's core business.

Resolved: That

- i. Following consideration of the additional leadership responsibilities being undertaken by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) in relation to the Lancashire Combined County Authority and as Senior Responsible Officer for Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire, approval be given for the proposal for a temporary Deputy Chief Executive acting-up arrangement for an existing member of the Executive Leadership Team until Vesting Day.
- ii. A sub-committee of the Employment Committee, as set out in the report, be established to act as the appointment panel for the role of Deputy Chief Executive.
- iii. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Employment Committee Sub-Committee, be authorised to approve a temporary salary supplement or uplift for the successful candidate for the duration of the acting-up arrangement.
- iv. The temporary secondment of the Corporate Director of Finance to the Lancashire Combined County Council, in place of the Chief Executive's existing secondment, for the role of Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer) on an in-kind basis for up to 20% of their working time, be approved.

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

The Pension Fund Committee.

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A	Electoral Division(s): None;
Contact: Mike Neville, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01772) 533431, mike.neville@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The report of the Pension Fund Committee meeting held on 18 September 2026 is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The agenda, reports and minutes of the meeting are available to view [here](#).

Members can also contact the officers specified in each report for further information about each item.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Pension Fund Committee.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Meeting of the Pension Fund Committee (18 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Lancashire County Pension Fund - Governance matters.

The Committee considered a report on various risk management and governance issues, including internal/online pension related training involving Committee members since the last meeting and the Chair noted that six members of the Committee had not yet completed any of the online training modules.

Resolved:

- i) That the updates set out in the report regarding training, oversight and governance of the Lancashire County Pension Fund are noted.
- ii) That the Lancashire County Pension Fund Communications Policy, as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report presented, is approved.
- iii) That the Lancashire County Pension Fund Governance Compliance Statement, as set out in Appendix 'B' to the report presented, is approved.
- iv) That the updates and associated risk rating in the Fund's risk register, as set out in Appendix 'C' to the report presented, are noted.

Lancashire County Pension Fund - Conflicts of Interest Policy.

The Committee considered a report on the draft Conflicts of Interest Policy for the Fund which detailed how conflicts will be identified, monitored, and managed effectively in accordance with regulations. It was noted that the draft Policy would be considered by the Lancashire Local Pension Board on 20 October 2026 and any recommended substantive changes would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee. In response to a query regarding a potential conflict of interest for any County Councillors who had elected to join the LGPS The Head of Fund confirmed that there would not be a conflict and text would be added to the Policy to that effect.

Resolved: That, subject to any minor amendments that may be suggested by the Lancashire Local Pension Board, the draft Conflicts of Interests Policy for the Lancashire County Pension Fund, as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report presented, is approved.

Audit Assurance 2025/26

The Committee considered a report which summarised the internal audit work undertaken in relation to the Lancashire County Pension Fund in 2025/26 and confirmed that both Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd and Local Pensions Partnership Administration Ltd had received unqualified reasonable assurance opinions from their independent service auditor. The report also included a summary of five Fund related audits which were planned for 2026/27.

Resolved: That the summary of outcomes from internal audit work undertaken in relation to the Lancashire County Pension Fund in 2024/25 together with details of further audits planned for 2025/26, as set out in the report presented, are noted.

Independent Governance Review

The Committee considered a report on the new regulatory requirement to undertake an independent review of how LGPS Funds are governed, managed and overseen to provide assurance that Funds operate effectively, comply with regulations and act in the best interest of scheme members and employers.

The Head of Fund reported that the governance review would be undertaken in the first half of the 2027/28 financial year and completed by 31 March 2028. The Independent Person would work with the Pensions Team to develop the scope of the review and procure an appropriate assessor to undertake the review and details would be reported to the Committee in March 2027 with a report on the outcome of the review and draft action plan in response to any recommendations, being presented later that year.

Resolved: That approval is given for an Independent Governance Review of the Lancashire County Pension Fund to be undertaken in Q1 of 2027/28 and for the Independent Person/Pensions Team to develop the scope of the review and procure an assessor.

Investment Strategy Statement

The Committee considered a report on the updated Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) which had been developed in conjunction with the Investment Panel, Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd and Committee members through a series of workshops and a survey relating to local investment. It was noted that the recommended Strategic Asset Allocation was aimed at balancing long-term affordability of employer contribution rates with stability of those rates and, if approved, the ISS would be the subject of a consultation exercise involving key stakeholders within the Fund.

Resolved:

- i) That, having considered the advice and options made available by the Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd the revised Strategic Asset Allocation, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report presented, is approved.

- ii) That the draft Investment Strategy Statement for the Lancashire County Pension Fund (including the Strategic Asset Allocation) set out at Appendix 'A' to the report presented is approved.
- iii) That a further report on the outcomes of the consultation exercise with key stakeholders within the Fund be presented to the Committee in December 2026.

Lancashire County Pension Fund Annual Report 2025/26.

The Committee considered a detailed report on the draft Lancashire County Pension Fund Annual Report for 2025/26 which included the draft statement of accounts for the Fund (approved by the Audit Risk and Governance Committee) and the Annual Report recommended by the Lancashire Local Pension Board.

Resolved: That the draft Lancashire County Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts for 2025/26 (including the Annual Report from the Lancashire Local Pension Board set out in the Governance Section) attached as Appendix 'A' to the report presented, is approved, subject to:

- i) The inclusion of the external audit opinion.
- ii) Any accounting updates to be agreed by the Head of Fund, for publication on or before 1 December 2026.
- iii) Any minor changes which may be required prior to publication, such changes being approved by the Head of Fund in consultation with the Chair of the Pension Fund Committee.

Responsible Investments Report

The Committee considered a report on responsible investment activity by Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd during Q1 of 2026 and the Head of Fund highlighted the intention to move to annual reporting on Responsible Investment (RI) in September each year (as recommended by the Investment Panel) with a focus on stewardship activity and highlighting points of interests from earlier in the year. It was also reported that in future the quarterly RI reports would be made available to view on the Fund website. It was noted that the Investment Panel will review the RI reports quarterly, to ensure appropriate governance is maintained within the Fund, and present any relevant information to the Committee as appropriate.

Resolved:

- i) That the update on responsible investment matters during Q1 of 2025, as set out in the report presented, is noted.
- ii) That in future an annual report on responsible investment stewardship activity and key points of interest be presented to the Committee in September each year with quarterly reports being made available via the Fund website.

Pensions Administration Strategy Statement Review.

The Committee considered a report on the draft Pension Administration Strategy Statement which had been updated following a review and consultations with the Lancashire Local Pension Board and Scheme Employers.

Resolved: That the Pension Administration Strategy Statement, as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report presented, is approved.

Pension Administration Performance Update.

The Committee considered a report on the performance of the pension administration service for Q1 (April to June 2026) and the Chief Executive of Local Pensions Partnership Administration Ltd answered questions from Committee members. It was reported that whilst a high percentage of Annual Benefit Statements had been issued by the 31st August 2026 deadline a small number had not, which constituted a breach of regulatory requirements. However, given the low number and minimal impact it was not considered to be a material breach that required reporting to the Pensions Regulator.

Resolved: That the Committee:

- i) Note the update on service performance (which indicates that Service Level Agreements have been met) and information provided on other aspects of the service as set out in paragraphs 4 to 26 of the report presented.
- ii) Note the project updates and regulatory changes set out in paragraphs 27 to 49 of the report; and
- iii) Agree that as the percentage of Annual Benefit Statements produced (as set out in paragraph 27 of the report) is high, it is not necessary to report the situation to the Pensions Regulator.

Part II (Not Open to Press and Public)

Reflections on the Valuation.

Exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Committee considered a report on the findings of a review of the 2025 actuarial valuation outcomes and implementation of the revised Funding Strategy Statement. It was reported that the 2025 valuation had presented an opportunity to share the benefits of a strong funding position with employers through significantly lower contribution rates and a 115% funding buffer sought to balance employer affordability with long-term contribution stability/funding. The Committee noted that a small number of employers had requested indicative exit valuation estimates to

better understand their potential position if they left the Fund, and one employer was seeking to progress this.

Resolved: That the findings of the review of the 2025 actuarial valuation outcomes and implementation of the revised Funding Strategy Statement, as set out in the report presented, are noted.

Investment Performance Report.

Exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Committee considered a report on the factors that influenced the investment markets, and the Independent Investment Adviser and LPPI Chief Executive answered questions from Committee members regarding investments in the technology sector.

Resolved: That the performance of the Fund's investments during Q2, as set out in the report presented, are noted.

Investment Implementation - Due Diligence Meeting focused on Global Equity Performance.

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Committee considered a report on the findings of a due diligence review of Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd (LPPI) by the Investment Panel regarding investment implementation arrangements and the factors influencing performance outcomes, particularly with regard to the Global Equity Fund.

Resolved: That the findings of the due diligence review of the Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd investment, implementation and performance, as set out in the report presented, are noted.

Investment Panel – Update.

The Committee considered a report on the decisions taken by the Investment Panel on the 18 June 2026.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Investment Panel on 18 June 2026 are noted.

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);
Contact: Marianne Sherman, Democratic Services Officer, (01772) 533053, marianne.sherman@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The most recent cycle of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last Full Council meeting took place. A report of the committees as follows is attached at Appendix 'A':

- Budget and Finance (29 June 2026 and 2 September 2026)
- Children, Families and Skills (14 May 2026 and 16 September 2026)
- Community, Cultural and Corporate Services (11 September 2026 and 24 September 2026)
- Environment, Economic Growth and Transport (17 September 2026)
- Health and Adult Services (23 September 2026)

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Meeting of the Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee (29 June 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Framework for the County Council's Budget Setting Programme - 2027/28

Members received an overview of the proposed budget-setting framework.

Resolved: That;

- i. The emerging financial position and budget-setting framework for 2027/28 be noted.
- ii. Future reports to the committee should include further detail on the review of reserves and the financial implications associated with Local Government Reorganisation; and
- iii. The intention to bring a report on the Efficiency Review Phase 2 to the 3 September meeting of the committee be noted.

The County Council's Financial Position - 2025/26 Outturn

A report was presented to the committee on the county council's outturn financial position for 2025/26.

Resolved: That;

- i. The 2025/26 outturn position be noted.
- ii. Further information regarding the delayed delivery of major capital schemes through the forthcoming capital programme review be reported to the committee in due course.
- iii. Continued scrutiny of major procurement and contract management arrangements be considered as part of future committee work programming.

Building a Better Lancashire: Moving the Dial on Our Priorities in 2026/27

The committee considered a report outlining progress against the council's priorities and improvement programme.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Meeting of the Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee (2 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

2026/27 Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report (Including Capital Review)

Members reviewed the 2026/27 Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report.

Resolved: That;

- i. Cabinet be asked to support the establishment of a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to look at highway maintenance, particularly the quality of pothole repairs and costings and report back to the October or November Cabinet.
- ii. Cabinet be asked to consider establishing a Levelling Up Fund Member Working Group to work with officers and contractors to oversee the implementation of the East Lancashire Levelling Up Fund Programme.
- iii. Cabinet be asked to use the strategic contingency budget allocation to fund Lancashire County Council's 50% share of the capital cost, along with Wyre Borough Council, to keep the Knott End Ferry in service.
- iv. Cabinet be asked to write to Government seeking clarification on the proposals for addressing the SEND deficit prior to local government reorganisation vesting day on 1 April 2028, impressing the importance that this issue is fully addressed and funded prior to the four new local authorities in Lancashire coming into effect.

Efficiency Review Phase 2 (Including Capital Review)

The committee noted the report that outlined progress on Phase 2 of the Efficiency Review.

Resolved: That the progress made in delivering Phase 2 of the Efficiency Review be noted.

Meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee (14 May 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Early Years Education & Childcare

A report was provided with an overview of the council's statutory duties in relation to early years provision and childcare sufficiency.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. That a further report / briefing be brought back to the committee providing detailed proposals on the future early years support model, including rationale, data analysis, and impact assessment.
- ii. That a briefing be provided on the statutory duty relating to holiday clubs and extended childcare provision, including current provision, identified gaps, and proposed next steps.
- iii. That further information be provided on comparative wage levels and cost of living in Lancashire versus other regions, including consideration of the relationship between wages and the cost-of-service provision and workforce impacts.
- iv. That the committee include Early Years provision and childcare sufficiency within its future work programme for continued scrutiny.

SEND Priority Action Plan Update

A presentation was given to the committee where officers outlined that improving SEND services had been a core priority.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. That, at an appropriate stage, further updates be brought to the committee on the SEND reform plan, including next steps following public consultation.
- ii. That further information be provided on Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) auditing processes and the approach used to monitor and improve quality.

- iii. That communication and messaging in relation to proposed changes be reviewed by all stakeholders to ensure clarity and consistency.

Lancashire House Project Update

The committee considered a report which provided a progress update on the Lancashire House Project as requested by the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 22 October 2025.

Resolved: That the committee note the update report on Lancashire House Project.

Meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee (16 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Children and Young People's Participation and Co-production Strategy 2026-2029

The committee received a report setting out the second iteration of the council's approach to participation and co-production.

Resolved: That the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee;

- i. Noted the Participation and Co-production Strategy as set out and provided comments as set out in the minutes.
- ii. Requested the draft Participation and Co-production Dashboard be presented to the committee for consideration prior to implementation.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2026 - 2030

The committee received a report presenting the proposed Corporate Parenting Strategy 2026-30, which set out the shared vision, priorities and commitments for Lancashire's corporate parenting responsibilities over the next four years.

Resolved: That the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee;

- i. Requested further information on accommodation capacity for care leavers, geographical distribution of accommodation and any identified gaps in provision be provided.
- ii. Agreed to formally place on record its thanks and recognition for the contribution of Louise Anderson to the development and improvement of Lancashire's Children's Services.

Meeting of the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (11 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Call-In Request: Refugee Resettlement

Following a call-in request submitted from 19 councillors in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedural Standing Orders E1.2, the committee considered the decision taken by Cabinet on 3 September 2026 to cease all refugee resettlement administration responsibility for the specified schemes, subject to a managed transition.

Resolved: That the decision taken by Cabinet on 3 September 2026 in relation to the Refugee Resettlement Scheme be supported and therefore should not be called in.

Meeting of the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (24 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Trading Standards Work on Supporting Community Safety

The committee were informed of the work of the Trading Standards Service in relation to its role in supporting community safety and in the context of changing legislation.

Resolved: That the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Environment and Communities be asked to consider:

- i. The circulation of a district-level breakdown of age-restricted product test purchases and failure rates for the previous 12 months as a briefing note to committee members, with mapping or graphical presentation where practicable.
- ii. The circulation of the monthly Trading Standards community bulletin to all county councillors and, councillors be added to the distribution list.
- iii. Circulation of information on bluetongue disease, together with a specialist response concerning animal feed and disease.

Civic Pride

Members received a report that outlined the progress to date with the Civic Pride agenda and explain how Lancashire County Council is engaging with partners.

Resolved: That the Cabinet Member for Civic Pride be asked to consider:

- i. A discussion on the potential use of the Community Payback scheme to take place at forthcoming district Charter meetings and the outcome reported back.
- ii. The development of a support model for community groups, including advice, guidance and templates.
- iii. Recognising animal charities and sanctuaries as part of the review of award categories for future Pride of Lancashire Awards.

Meeting of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee (17 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Lane Rental Scheme

The report outlined the findings of the feasibility study into what the benefits of a Lane Rental Scheme could be for Lancashire County Council. A presentation to complement the report was provided at the meeting and a copy is set out in the minute book.

Resolved: That;

- i. The Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport that subject to the outcomes of discussions with Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council, a report be presented to Cabinet in December 2026 on the implementation of a Lane Rental Scheme for the Lancashire County Council area.
- ii. Subject to the Cabinet Member for Highway and Transport's acceptance of the committee's recommendation at (i) above, and subsequent approval by Cabinet,
 - a. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport gives consideration to writing to all Lancashire MPs asking for their support and the potential to fast track the county council's application for a Lane Rental Scheme to the Department for Transport.
 - b. The Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee receive a quarterly progress report on the implementation of the scheme.

Tree Management

This report provided the committee with information relating to the current policy on tree management and replacement, how the council plants trees, available funding and data on trees planted and removed. A presentation to complement the report was provided at the meeting and a copy is set out in the minute book.

Resolved: That;

- i. The Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee recognised that the removal of danger is paramount and that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport gives consideration to:
 - a. Increasing the budget allocation to adequately address urgent and emergency works.
 - b. Introducing a separate budget to address lower priority work, for example because of accessibility, amenity, drainage issues and issues with self-seeded trees in hedgerows (cutting back/removal).
- ii. The Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Environment and Communities gives consideration to:
 - a. Taking advantage of new National Forestry funding and become part of the Northern Forest.
 - b. Encouraging volunteer micro forest planting across the county council area.
- iii. The Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee recognised the value of trees in the urban treescape and the benefit in terms of mitigating a warming climate and the provision of shade in town centres and that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport considers the introduction of a budget for tree replacement with a system of prioritisation.

Task Group Request - Highways Maintenance: Right First Time

Following its work programming session held on 25 June 2026, members discussed a report to establish a task group to review highways maintenance and the right first-time approach.

Resolved: That that a task group to review highways maintenance and the right first time approach be established and membership confirmed subject to advice on political balances

Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2026/27

The committee received the work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year. In addition, a formal written response to the committee's recommendations on Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure was received from the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Environment and Communities. Formal written responses to the committee's recommendations on Public Rights of Way – Processes, Street Lighting column routine structural surveys, and Gully Cleansing regime in the Highway Asset Management Plan, were also received from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

Resolved: That;

- i. Subject to the inclusion of Resident Parking Schemes as a topic for review, the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2026/27 at Appendix 'A', be agreed.
- ii. The formal written response from County Councillor Joshua Roberts, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Environment and Communities to the Committee's recommendations on Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure at Appendix 'B' be noted.
- iii. The formal written response from County Councillor Warren Goldsworthy, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to the Committee's recommendations on Public Rights of Way - Processes at Appendix 'C', be noted, and that a further response will come back.
- iv. The formal written response from County Councillor Warren Goldsworthy, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to the Committee's recommendations on Street Lighting column routine structural surveys at Appendix 'D', be noted, and that the committee's questions set out in the minutes above be shared with the Cabinet Member for response.
- v. The formal written response from County Councillor Warren Goldsworthy, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to the Committee's recommendations on Gully Cleansing regime in the Highway Asset Management Plan at Appendix 'E', be noted and suggested that an additional point regarding reported gullies "being on a surface water run-off route to an area with a history of flooding" be included in the 'History of the Area' section of the supplementary guidance.

Meeting of the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee (23 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Report of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust - Right Care, Right Place: Managing Demand in the Community

Members were presented with a report to describe the local approach to Right Care, Right Place in order to increase community services in the Lancaster area and a consequential reduction in the hospital bed base.

Resolved: From consideration of the information presented:

- i. The proposal did not constitute a substantial variation.
- ii. Continued engagement with the committee on the delivery of the national policy of Right Care, Right Place with:
 - a. The provision of written updates, including evidence that community, voluntary and other alternative services could provide safe replacement care before beds closed.
 - b. Updates to be provided to the Chair and Deputy Chair before any decision taken to close beds.
 - c. Comparative corridor-care and winter-pressure information to be included in future winter planning scrutiny item in November.
 - d. A shared working understanding of substantial variation be developed for future scrutiny of health service changes.

Model of Care

The committee were asked to approve a new model of care for Lancashire, which sets out a person-centred, community-led approach to adult social care that aims to improve outcomes, strengthen independence, and ensure sustainable support closer to home.

Resolved: That;

- i. the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee recommended that Cabinet ensure that implementation of the model:
 - a. made appropriate use of technology and artificial intelligence, while retaining accessible alternatives.
 - b. provided workforce training to support person-centred, strengths-based conversations; and
 - c. secured sustainable investment in communities and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, including consideration of a community investment fund or similar arrangement.
- ii. a briefing note be provided to committee members on the advocacy provision and anticipated demand under the new model.

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): None;
Contact: Gary Halsall, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01772) 536989, gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

Appendix 'A' sets out a summary report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority meeting held on 21 September 2026. This is now presented to Full Council for information.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Summary report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority meeting held on 21 September 2026

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority – 21 September 2026

New Constitution

The Constitution had undergone major revision of what had previously existed, it was noted that future changes may be required once implemented and operated against and the constitution would be reviewed at least on an annual basis. Should Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire proceed, certain sections would need to be revisited to reflect the changes. Members approved the new constitution for adoption from 21 September 2026.

Pilot flexible day crewing trial at Fleetwood Fire Station

The report provided the authority with an overview of the flexible day crewing trial pilot at Fleetwood Fire Station and included details of the consultation outcomes and evaluation process. The authority noted the contents of the report and the evidence supporting the decision and approved monitoring of trial evaluation at 6, 12 and 18 months by the Performance Committee.

Member Champion Activity Report

The Member Champions gave an update to members in relation to their areas of responsibility, which were:

- Community Safety – County Councillor Andy Blake
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Salim Sidat
- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Sohail Asghar
- Road Safety – County Councillor Joanne Ash

Operational Incidents of Interest

The Authority received a report that provided information relating to operational incidents of note since the last meeting. Full details of the following incidents were provided in the report:

- National Resilience and Major Incident support across varying Fire and Rescue Services
- Building fire in Fleetwood (3/6/26)
- Commercial building fire in Chorley (17/6/26)
- Rescue from major entrapment in Accrington (22/6/26)
- Commercial building fire in Ormskirk (30/6/26)
- Waste fire in Preston (18/7/26)
- Fire involving agricultural building in Bispham (21/7/26)
- Derelict building fire in Chorley (11/8/26)
- Domestic dwelling fire in Nelson (22/8/26)

Crew Manager Chris Jowett and Watch Manager Lindsay Sielski gave a presentation to members on the UK International Search and Rescue (ISAR) Team.

Further details of the meeting can be found on our website -

<https://cfa.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MIId=511&Ver=4>

County Councillor Ged Mirfin
Chair of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Report to the Full Council

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 October 2026

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Part B
Corporate Priorities: N/A;	Electoral Division(s): None;
Contact: Craig Alker, Democratic Services Officer (Technical), Tel: (01772) 537997, craig.alker@lancashire.gov.uk	

Summary

Purpose of the Report

The report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority from its recent meeting on 8 September 2026 is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The agenda, reports and minutes of the meeting are available to view on the county council's [website](#).

Members can also contact the officers specified in each report for further information about each item.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

Meeting of the Lancashire Combined County Authority (8 September 2026)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Governance Review/Future Devolution

Matthew Sidgreaves, Chief Operating Officer of the Lancashire Combined County Authority, provided a verbal update on the ongoing governance review and progress towards future devolution.

It was noted that significant developments had taken place since the authority's previous meeting, including a change of Government, publication of the "rewiring of the state" blueprint and the anticipated publication of a White Paper during the autumn. It was also noted that the Leaders of the Combined County Authority had written jointly to the new Secretary of State and the Minister for Devolution, and the correspondence had highlighted that Lancashire's Leaders had been seeking ministerial engagement for some time concerning the authority's future development and Lancashire's role within the Government's wider devolution agenda.

A formal response remained outstanding. However, officers had maintained regular contact with government officials, who had indicated that the Minister wished to prioritise engagement with Lancashire, and it was expected that a meeting date be confirmed shortly.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Employment Matters - Appointment of the Chief Finance Officer

The Lancashire Combined County Authority considered a report that proposed to appoint Gary Fielding as the Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer) for the Lancashire Combined County Authority.

Resolved: That Gary Fielding be appointed as the Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer) of the LCCA.

Transport Delivery Plan and Implementation Update

The Lancashire Combined County Authority considered a report that sought approval of the Lancashire Combined County Authority's Local Transport Delivery Plan for 2026/27 to 2029/30 for submission to the Department for Transport, reflective of the consolidated transport funding settlement notified to the LCCA in December 2025.

Resolved: That

- i. The Local Transport Delivery Plan be submitted to the Department for Transport covering the period 2026/27 to 2029/30 (to 2028/29 for revenue only), and the Plan be signed and submitted by the Chief Finance Officer;
- ii. The progress with the development of the associated Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan, be noted; and
- iii. The Director of Transport be authorised, in consultation with the Statutory Officers, to approve the reallocation of any transport funding during the delivery of the programme.

Lancashire Spatial Development Strategy Update

The Lancashire Combined County Authority considered a report that provided an update on matters relevant to Lancashire's Spatial Development Strategy preparation, including the key policy and legislative changes, the progress on the Spatial Development Strategy preparatory and enabling workstreams, and details on the Spatial Development Strategy planning ecosystem, current indicative Spatial Development Strategy /Local Plan timelines, and the proposed Spatial Development Strategy governance.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the Lancashire Spatial Development Strategy, the updates on preparatory and enabling works for Lancashire's Spatial Development Strategy be endorsed, including:

- i. The Spatial Development Strategy planning ecosystem diagram as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report;
- ii. The indicative Spatial development Strategy and Local Plan timetables as set out at Appendix 'B' of the report; and
- iii. The emerging governance arrangements as set out at Appendix 'C' of the report.

Adult Skills Fund and Wider Devolution Announcements

The Lancashire Combined County Authority considered a report that provided an update on the implementation of the devolved Adult Skills Fund following the commencement of delivery on 1 August 2026.

Resolved: That, following consideration of the update provided on the implementation of the devolved Adult Skills Fund, the following be noted:

- i. The successful commencement of devolved Adult Skills Fund delivery from 1 August 2026.
- ii. The Adult Skills Fund commissioning routes and local funding flexibilities approved by the LCCA which were in progress, including grant-funded provision, community grants, cross-border arrangements and mobilisation of procured provision.
- iii. The early evidence of improved strategic alignment within provider delivery plans for 2026/27 resulting from devolution.
- iv. The announcements made by government regarding deeper devolution of education, skills and employment provision.



Lancashire Business Board Update

Mo Isap, Chair of the Lancashire Business Board, provided a verbal update on the Board's recent activity.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Advisory Boards Update

The Chairs of the three Advisory Boards, the Transport Advisory Board, the Economy Advisory Board, and the Skills Advisory Board, were invited to provide an update to the meeting on the work their advisory boards had been undertaken.

Resolved: That the updates be noted.

Report of the Lancashire Combined County Authority Committees

The Lancashire Combined County Authority received a report that provided an update from the recent meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved: That the report of the Committees as presented, be noted.

2026/27 Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Lancashire Combined County Authority considered a report that provided a summary a summary of 2026/27 budget performance as at the end of Quarter 1 and included proposed budget amendments that had arisen to date.

Resolved: That

- i. The following budget amendments as listed below and detailed in the report, be approved:
 - a. Skills Hub transfer to the LCCA 1 April 2027; and
 - b. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to reflect remaining grant balance for 2026/27 (revenue budget and capital programme).
- ii. The LCCA 2026/27 Budget Monitoring Report as at Quarter 1 be noted, including the forecast overspend of £0.002m, which resulted in an increase to the required contribution from reserves, making the 2026/27 forecast contribution £0.147m.

To consider Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order B37

1. To be moved by County Councillor Adrian Owens

This Council notes that:

- Following street works, reinstatements must be notified to Lancashire County Council at the time the reinstatement is completed and state whether the reinstatement is permanent or interim.
- If it is interim, the permanent reinstatement of the street must be made as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within six months.
- Lancashire County Council should prescribe to the undertaker to reinstate features to assist disabled people and should prescribe the like-for-like replacement of prestige paving and the standards of workmanship required.
- Any undertaker who fails to comply with these provisions commits an offence and is liable to a fine.

This Council believes:

- That Lancashire County Council are currently failing to ensure that undertakers are fulfilling their legal obligations to complete permanent reinstatements within the time period prescribed and to the correct specification and not effectively utilising the power to fine such undertakers.
- That this failure is leaving pedestrianised areas in Lancashire's town centres with a patchwork quilt of black tarmac temporary repairs which are then left unaddressed, sometimes for several years.
- That this failure negatively affects the appearance and economic performance of Lancashire's town centres.

This council therefore resolves:

- To require officers to provide a detailed report to cabinet within 4 months setting out steps to ensure an effective system and sufficient resources are put in place to ensure undertaker compliance with Section 70 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.

2. To be moved by County Councillor Azhar Ali OBE

This Council believes that no man should face poorer outcomes simply because of his postcode and calls for urgent action at both local and national level to ensure fair access to early diagnosis, innovative treatment and life-saving prostate cancer care.

- Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men
- Earlier diagnosis, including the appropriate use of Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) testing and timely access to treatment, would significantly improve outcomes and survival
- Access to diagnostic pathways and some specialist treatments, including focal therapies such as High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) and cryotherapy, varies across England
- Men in deprived communities face additional barriers to diagnosis and treatment.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Call upon Secretary of State for Health & NHS England to develop a national strategy to eliminate regional inequalities in prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment as well as establishing a 'Centre of Excellence' in Lancashire to provide the latest treatment locally.
2. Accelerate access to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence supported focal therapies, including HIFU, for eligible patients.
3. Advocate access to PSA testing and awareness campaigns targeted to those at greater risk of developing prostate cancer.
4. Request that Lancashire's Health & Wellbeing Board review current prostate cancer pathways to improve PSA testing, and reduce referral to treatment waiting times.
5. Ask the Director of Public Health to work with partners to increase awareness of prostate cancer symptoms, risk factors and PSA testing, particularly to those over 50.

3. To be moved by County Councillor Daniel Matchett

This Council notes that:

This council has set aside £16.5m as this council's equitable share of reorganisation costs, within a £30m Implementation Reserve this council holds for Lancashire's fifteen councils.

On 7 September 2026, following judicial reviews including those brought by Reform UK-led councils, the Government paused Lancashire's proposals, with May 2027 elections proceeding on existing boundaries.

This Council believes that:

Residents are entitled to know, in one place, the full cost of preparing for a paused reorganisation. Where central Government directs a reorganisation then pauses it, central Government, not Lancashire council tax payers, should bear the cost. Any revived reorganisation should not proceed without the direct consent of Lancashire's residents.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Request that the Cabinet Member for Resources, Property and Efficiency publish within one month a single statement of this council's full reorganisation costs to date, covering the £16.5m and any part drawn down, external advisory costs and officer time, distinguishing money spent from money held, with any plans still assuming abolition.
2. Request the Chief Executive write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government seeking full reimbursement of preparation costs stranded by the pause and by extending the delay.
3. Request that this council, as accountable body, uses this period to review every contract relating to LGR and use best endeavours to minimise spending during this pause.
4. Request that, should reorganisation be revived, the Leader ask Government that no change take effect without a binding referendum of Lancashire's electorate.

4. To be moved by County Councillor James Tomlinson

This Council recognises:

Lancashire's farmers, growers and food producers make vital contributions to the county's economy, environment, food security and rural communities.

- Farmers face unprecedented challenges from rising costs, labour shortages, increasing regulation, planning constraints, environmental pressures and market uncertainty.
- Recent changes to Agricultural and Business Property Relief have caused concern throughout the farming community regarding succession planning and the future viability of family farms.
- Lancashire hosts many successful livestock, dairy, poultry, horticultural and arable enterprises vital to the local and national food supply.
- Strong local food networks improve resilience, food security and support rural businesses.
- The contribution of Lancashire's family farms, tenant farmers, dairy, livestock and horticultural businesses.
- Existing efforts to promote local food production, food education and environmental stewardship.

This Council resolves to:

1. Establish a cross-party Lancashire Farming and Rural Prosperity Forum chaired by the Champion for Rural Affairs & the Agricultural Community involving councillors, farming representatives and rural stakeholders.
2. Invite representatives of the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association, local agricultural societies and rural businesses to join the Forum and engage with the Council on issues affecting Lancashire farming.
3. Explore opportunities, where legally permissible, operationally practical and financially appropriate to increase the use of Lancashire-produced food within council-supported services.
4. Support initiatives linking farmers with schools, colleges, food partnerships and community organisations.
5. Bring forward proposals from the Forum supporting farming, rural businesses and food security to the Cabinet for consideration.

5. To be moved by County Councillor Tom Lord

This Council notes the importance of ensuring that electors in Lancashire can identify, understand and scrutinise campaign messages presented to the electorate.

The Council also notes the recent national debate concerning the use of languages other than English in election campaign material.

The Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting a review of the law governing campaign

material used in UK parliamentary and local government elections in England, including elections held in Lancashire.

The review should consider measures to ensure that:

- official printed and digital campaign material is available in English, Scots Gaelic, Scots, Irish Gaelic, Welsh, Cornish or BSL
- material targeted at different sections of the electorate does not contain materially different messages which are unavailable for wider public scrutiny;
- the promoter, publisher and source of campaign material are transparent;

The Council requests that any proposals are developed in consultation with the Electoral Commission and with proper consideration of freedom of political expression.