



# Meeting of the Burnley Borough Council

To be held at 6.30 pm on  
Wednesday, 6th December, 2023





Sir or Madam,

Notice is given of a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF BURNLEY to be held at MECHANICS THEATRE, BURNLEY on

**DATE: Wednesday, 6th December, 2023**

**starting at 6.30 pm**

To transact the business specified below.

**Catherine Waudby**  
**Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

**Members of the public may ask a question, make a statement, or present a petition relating to any matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the Borough.**

**Notice in writing of the subject matter must be given to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services by 5.00 pm on the day before the meeting. Forms can be obtained for this purpose from the reception desk at Burnley Town Hall, Manchester Road or from the web at: [Request to speak form](#). You can also register to speak via the online agenda. Requests will be dealt with in the order in which they are received.**

**All Full Council meetings are livestreamed on the Council's [Youtube Channel](#)**

**Due to limited space in the venue members of the public wishing to observe the meeting are advised to watch the live stream on Youtube. Priority will be given to those who have registered to speak if seating capacity is exceeded.**

## **A G E N D A**

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting 5 - 10  
To receive, as read, the Minutes of the proceedings of the previous Council meeting, and to confirm them or otherwise.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Mayor's Communications  
To receive communications (if any) from His Worshipful the Mayor.

4. Public Question Time  
To receive questions, statements or petitions (if any) from members of the public.
5. Motions to Council
- a) Motion on ceasefire for the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, The West Bank and Israel and immediate release of hostages 11 - 12
- b) Motion on the establishment of a County Combined Authority for Lancashire 13 - 14
6. Items for Decision by the Council
- a) Lancashire Combined County Authority and Devolution Proposal 15 - 134  
To consider the recommendations as set out in the report.
- b) Constitutional Updates & Amendments and Appointments 135 - 158  
To consider the recommendations set out in the report.
7. Reports from Committee Chairs
- a) Report from the Chair of Scrutiny 159 - 160
- b) Report from the Chair of Audit & Standards 161 - 162
- c) Report from Chair of Licensing 163 - 164
- d) Report from Chair of Development Control 165 - 166
8. Strategic Plan Progress Reports 167 - 190
9. Questions  
To deal with questions (if any) relating to matters not contained in the Minutes before the Council and of which notice in writing has been received in accordance with Standing Order No. 10(2).

### **Councillor Attendance**

Please use the link below to access Councillor attendance records. You can refine your search by time or by committee.

<http://burnley.moderngov.co.uk/mgUserAttendanceSummary.aspx>





## BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL

MECHANICS THEATRE

Wednesday, 27th September, 2023

### PRESENT

### MEMBERS

His Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Arif Khan) in the Chair;

Councillors S Hussain (Vice-Chair), A Anwar, H Baker, G Barton, G Birtwistle, H Bridges, C Briggs, M Brindle, J Broughton, S Chaudhary, S Cunliffe, J Harbour, B Horrocks, A Hosker, M Ishtiaq, M Johnstone, N Kazmi, A Kelly, L Khan, J Launer, A Lewis, S Lone, J McGowan, N Mottershead, M Payne, A Raja, P Reynolds, C Sollis, M Steel, J Sumner, M Townsend, D Whitaker, A Wight and F Wild

### OFFICERS

Lukman Patel	– Chief Executive
Rob Dobson	– Chief Operating Officer
Chris Gay	– Governance Manager
Alison McEwan	– Democracy Officer
Carol Eddleston	– Democracy Officer
David Bristow	– Mayor's Officer
MJ Hindman	– Graphic Designer
Dexter Almond	– Admin Officer

### 30 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED, THAT: The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 31 Declarations of Interest

As Board Members of Burnley Leisure and Culture, Councillors Cunliffe and Lewis declared a 'other interest – non prejudicial' in minute no. 39 Climate Action Fund [agenda item 6e] and a prejudicial interest in minute no. 48 Replacement of Fitness Equipment [agenda item 11a].

### 32 Mayor's Communications

The Mayor informed members about a forthcoming Charity Civic Ball.

### **33 Public Question Time**

Mrs J Braddock addressed the Council under the Right To Speak policy regarding selective licensing, anti-social behaviour, lack of investment in Queensgate ward, properties having problems and youth nuisance.

Mr J R Pilling addressed the Council under the Right To Speak policy regarding rat infestations, people leaving bins open, various bags of waste in streets, rats in property and health department response.

### **34 Motion to Remove the Two Child Benefit Cap**

It was moved by Councillor Cunliffe and seconded by Councillor Launer that:

This Council notes that:

In 2017, families were stopped from claiming Child Tax Credits or Universal Credit for more than two children.

It is estimated that this policy now affects over 1.5 million children.

Studies have shown that families in the poorest areas are worse off by over £3000 per year.

Ethnic communities are disproportionately affected by the benefit cap.

The estimated cost of removing the cap would be £1.5 billion per year.

Removing the cap could lift a quarter of a million children out of poverty and over three quarters of a million children could see their poverty levels decrease.

The estimated cost of Child Poverty, taking into account costs such as health issues, risk of unemployment later in life, risk of lower income levels, social costs and public services costs is £35 billion per year.

6,520 children in the Burnley Constituency are living in relative poverty according to figures from the DWP, with thousands of families relying on Food Banks or the Community Grocery.

This Council resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to the town's MP Antony Higginbotham, asking him to support the removal of the cap and to raise awareness in the House of Commons of the poverty that it is causing.

Ask the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, asking them to consider removing the benefit cap in order to lift thousands of Burnley families out of poverty.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

### **35 Revenue Monitoring Report 2023/24 Quarter 1**

Consideration was given to a report outlining the forecast outturn position for the year ending 31 March 2024 based upon actual spending and income to 30 June 2023 and the financial impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The latest revised net budget of £16.267m as shown in Table 1 in the report be approved, and
2. The net transfers from earmarked reserves of £4.972m as shown in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

### **36 Capital Monitoring Report 2023/24 Quarter 1**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on capital expenditure and the resources position, along with any variances.

RESOLVED, THAT:

1. Net budget changes totalling a reduction of (£1,235,466) giving a revised capital budget for 2023/24 totalling £39,190,265 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
2. The proposed financing of the revised capital budget totalling £39,190,265 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

### **37 Treasury Management Activity 2023/24 Quarter 1**

Consideration was given to a report on treasury management activity for the first quarter of 2023/24 covering the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

RESOLVED, THAT: the quarterly update on the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 in compliance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management be endorsed.

### **38 Revenue Budgets 2024-27 - Latest Position and Savings Proposals**

Consideration was given to a report on the latest position regarding balancing the Council's 2024/27 revenue budgets and proposed savings.

RESOLVED, THAT: Proposed savings totalling £255k to assist in balancing the 2024/27 revenue budgets be approved.

### **39 Climate Action Fund: Burnley Green Activities Project**

Councillors Cunliffe and Lewis declared a 'other interest - non-prejudicial' in this item as Board Members of Burnley Leisure and Culture. In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members they were permitted to remain in the meeting and to participate fully in the debate and vote on the item.

Consideration was given to a report relating to the acceptance of grant funding from Burnley Leisure and Culture for the Green Activities Project.

RESOLVED, THAT: The establishment of the budgets outlined in the report be approved.

#### 40 Constitutional Updates, Reporting and Appointments to Committees

Members considered a report setting out information that was required to be reported to Full Council, nominations to committee seats and changes to the Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED, THAT:

1. The call-in waivers relating to an urgent Executive decision taken by the Chief Executive and urgent Executive decisions be noted.
2. The change in the political balance of the Council following the disbanding of the Burnley and Padiham Independents Group, the resignation of Councillor Fewings and the decision by Councillor Briggs to join the Labour Group be noted, and the following consequential changes to committees be approved:

	Councillor Added	Councillor Removed
Scrutiny	Margaret Lishman Charlie Briggs	Martyn Hurt Neil Mottershead
Development Control	Martyn Hurt Syeda Kazmi	Beki Hughes Neil Mottershead
Licensing	Howard Baker Charlie Briggs	Mark Payne Andy Wight
Audit & Standards	Scott Cunliffe Mike Steel	Mark Payne Howard Baker
Member Structures Working Group	Saeed Chaudhary	Mark Payne

3. The following amendments to the Constitution Part 3, the Scheme of Delegation be approved:
  - i) 1. Council Functions – b) Licensing Committee  
Add Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999, Environmental Permitting (E&W) Regulations 2016 to the list of delegations to the Head of Street Scene at paragraph 1.
  - ii) 2. Executive Functions  
Remove Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 from the list of delegations to the Head of Street Scene relating to Environmental Protection at paragraph 30.

#### 41 Substitute Scheme for Disabled Members

Consideration was given to a report detailing a limited scheme to allow the appointment of substitute members to committees by disabled members.

RESOLVED, THAT:

1. A limited substitute scheme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
2. The additions to the Constitution required to give effect to the decision at 1. above as set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

#### **42 Parental Leave Policy**

Consideration was given to a report outlining a parental leave policy for elected members.

RESOLVED, THAT: The Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members be adopted and included as part of the Members' Allowance Scheme at Part 6 of the Constitution.

#### **43 Review of Key Decision Threshold**

Consideration was given to a report setting out a review of the financial threshold for Key Decisions.

RESOLVED, THAT:

1. The financial threshold for Key Decisions be raised to £125,000 in line with the Standing Orders for Contracts, and
2. The corresponding changes to the relevant parts of the Constitution outlined in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

#### **44 Reports from Committee Chairs**

The reports from Committee Chairs were noted without further debate.

#### **45 Strategic Plan Progress Reports**

At 21:19 Councillor Anwar moved a motion under Council Procedure Rule 13 Motions without Notice (I) that the meeting continue beyond three hours in duration. The motion was seconded by Councillor Townsend. On being put to the vote it was duly RESOLVED that the meeting continue beyond three hours in duration to enable the business remaining on the agenda to be completed.

RESOLVED, THAT: the Strategic Plan Progress Reports of Executive Members be noted.

#### **46 Questions**

No questions had been received in writing in accordance with Standing Order No 10(2).

#### **47 Exclusion of the Public**

Members determined to exclude the public from the meeting before discussion took place on Minute 48 [Agenda item 11] and Minute 49 [Agenda item 12] on the grounds that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted if the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **48 Replacement of Fitness Equipment at St Peter's and Padiham Leisure Centres**

Councillors Cunliffe and Lewis declared a prejudicial interest in this item as Board members of Burnley Leisure and Culture. They left the meeting at this point and took no part in the discussion or vote.

Consideration was given to a report relating to the replacement of fitness equipment at St Peter's and Padiham Leisure Centres.

RESOLVED, THAT: The establishment of a new budget of £563,000 in the 2023/24 Capital Programme be approved.

#### **49 Building Control IT Procurement**

Consideration was given to a report relating to Building Control IT procurement.

RESOLVED, THAT: the budget be approved.

## **Motion on Ceasefire for the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, The West Bank and Israel and immediate release of hostages.**

**Moved by Lubna Khan**

**Seconded by Scott Cunliffe**

Residents in Burnley including those in the interfaith community are very concerned about what is happening in Palestine and Israel. This issue has been debated regularly by the building bridges in Burnley Forum. As a town we need to continue to work hard on the relationships in the town between all sections of the community. The situation in Palestine and Israel is of direct relevance to building community cohesion in Burnley. We have been approached by residents with strong links to Palestine and Israel who are deeply concerned. It should be noted that there are a number of residents with strong connections and family in the region who are deeply impacted by the conflict.

For many years our Borough has come together to resolve conflicts across social and cultural divides, a fact celebrated through the continuous work of community-based organisations like Building Bridges. Hundreds of our residents are engaged in activities organised by and for residents of diverse backgrounds and beliefs.

We are appalled by the violent conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, that has had severe consequences for civilians in both Israel and Palestine. The unprecedented level of casualties has resulted in countless lives being lost. Each passing day sees a rising toll on lives and a worsening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Civilian deaths in Gaza are increasing rapidly due to the relentless Israeli bombardment, retaliating to the horrific attacks by Hamas on October 7th in Israel, which led to 1,400 fatalities and the abduction of civilians.

Many residents from across Burnley have asked us, their representatives, to speak out and call on the UK government to push for an immediate ceasefire to stop the mass killing of civilians in the Israel-Gaza conflict and for the immediate release of all hostages held since October 7th, 2023.

According to recent figures at least 15,271 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, including 3,561 women and 6,403 children, often through indiscriminate and unlawful attacks. Over half of Gaza's casualties are children, and thousands are missing with many trapped beneath the rubble. Millions face additional displacement, dispossession, and suffering. Over 200 Israeli hostages held by Hamas and other resistance groups in Gaza are in peril, and ongoing indiscriminate rocket fire into Israel poses risks to civilians. Israel's tightened siege on Gaza has blocked essential goods like water, food, and fuel, leaving over 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive.

The humanitarian catastrophe resulting from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade will escalate further if the fighting doesn't cease immediately.

Serious violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes, persist among all parties involved in the conflict.

Therefore, this council moves that: L  
SEP

This Council believes that an immediate ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages is needed to halt the ongoing violence.

We direct the Council Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to:

1. Urge the Government to work with Israel and Hamas to bring about a negotiation in which we can ensure the immediate release of all hostages.
2. Ask the Government to call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Israeli siege of Gaza.
3. Ask the Government to guarantee the prompt opening of aid corridors into Gaza, enabling the delivery of crucial supplies such as food, water, fuel, and life-saving medical equipment to those impacted by the conflict.
4. Urge the United Nations and International Criminal Court to appoint independent arbitrators to assess the validity of evidence of war crimes.
5. Urge all parties to collaborate on achieving peace , enabling the establishment of a recognised and sovereign Palestine alongside a secure and sovereign Israel. Advocate for the appointment of a British special envoy to collaborate with the United Nations (UN) and other stakeholders, expediting the peace process in alignment with the Oslo Accords and preceding UN resolutions.
6. Ask the Government to consider the wider refugee implications of Palestinian displacement and that an international resettlement scheme is negotiated.



## **Motion on the establishment of a County Combined Authority for Lancashire**

Mover: Cllr Mark Townsend

Seconder: Cllr Sue Graham

This Council strongly opposes the establishment of a County Combined Authority for Lancashire as detailed in the Chancellor of Exchequer Autumn statement and the Lancashire County Council consultation documents.

There are 3 major areas of deficit in what is being proposed which can be summarised as follows :

- a. It lacks ambition - Lancashire needs a top tier devolution deal if the inequalities and productivity gaps with other regions are to be closed. The deal on offer goes nowhere near achieving what our current and future residents require.
- b. It is undemocratic - No directly elected decision makers from large swathes of the County are included resulting in a lack of credibility for the proposed CCA. The democratic deficit is profound with little/no accountability to residents. Residents will not accept faceless unknown individuals making decisions on their behalf who they cannot have their say over at elections.
- c. It has inbuilt unfairness - the proposals do not include any references to burden sharing across the County. Currently high deprivation areas in the County take on the biggest burdens when it comes to tackling big national issues. Until this unfairness is addressed residents in deprived areas will not buy in to the ambitions of devolution.

Council directs the Leader/Chief Executive to :

- a. respond to the LCC consultation accordingly, and
- b. write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) expressing the Council's strong opposition to the proposals.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Lancashire Combined County Authority and Devolution Proposal

### FULL COUNCIL



<b>DATE</b>	<b>6 December 2023</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leader</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<b>Rob Dobson, COO</b>
<b>TEL NO</b>	<b>01282 475842</b>
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:rdobson@burnley.gov.uk">rdobson@burnley.gov.uk</a>

### PURPOSE

1. That Full Council consider the proposed combined authority and devolution deal for Lancashire.

### RECOMMENDATION

2. That Full Council is recommended to either:
  - a. Ask the Chief Executive to submit a consultation response supporting the proposal (with or without amendments), or;
  - b. Ask the Chief Executive to submit a consultation response opposing the proposal (with or without amendments), or
  - c. Not respond to the consultation.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. As part of the Autumn Budget Statement on 22 November 2023, the Government announced the opportunity for a devolution deal for Lancashire and proposed the creation of a non-mayoral Combined County Authority for the administrative area covered by the three upper tier councils, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council.
4. The Deal Document is available at Appendix 2 or from this link:  
<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lancashire-devolution-deal>

Members will note that part of the deal includes UK Shared Prosperity Fund being handed from districts to the proposed Combined Authority from 2025/26, subject to certain considerations which are highlighted in the deal document.

5. To progress the potential devolution deal, under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, a consultation is required on the draft Combined County Authority (CCA) Proposal ('the Proposal'). The Proposal is available at Appendix 3 or here:  
<https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s224030/Appendix%20A%20-%20Proposal.pdf>

6. Following consultation, the three upper tier councils will need to submit their final Proposal to Government, which will take account of the outcome of the consultation, and which, if appropriate, will formally propose the creation of the CCA.
7. Full Council is asked to consider the draft Proposal and agree a consultation response. The consultation is open to the residents and other stakeholders of the wider CCA area for a period of 8 weeks starting 1st December 2023.
8. It is anticipated that a further meeting of each of the three upper tier councils in March 2024 will consider the results of the consultation and agree whether or not to formally submit the final Proposal to Government.
9. The table at Appendix 1 sets out the powers which could be devolved under three different models. The table was extracted from the Levelling Up White Paper from February 2022. The Government offers greater devolution under the Directly Elected Mayor model (level 3 in the table).
10. The background papers listed from paragraph 40 below link to past Full Council resolutions, made in July 2020 and January 2022 provide some background information in relation to the Council's previous resolutions in relation to the matter.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

11. Members will note that on 15 July 2020, Full Council resolved the following (further details can be found via the link at paragraphs 40 and 41):

*“1. The Full Council approves that the Council should work with other Lancashire Councils to explore a Lancashire Combined Authority with a directly elected Mayor;*

*2. (a) Council notes the previous decision of the Council in December 2015 on a Combined Authority without an elected Mayor and no requirement to acknowledge that local government functions may need to be simplified.*

*(b) That Council approves that, after the Governments English Devolution White Paper has been published, the Council should work, with all 14 other Lancashire Councils to explore a Lancashire Combined Authority with a directly elected Mayor, with limited powers as agreed by Lancashire Leaders at their meeting on June 10th, 2020.*

*(c) A report be brought to a future Full Council for further consideration on the results of the work and any associated options: and*

*(d) That Council rejects any form of local government reorganisation, or simplification, as a condition for the establishment of a Lancashire Combined Authority.”*

12. The table at Appendix 1 sets out the powers which could be devolved under three different models. The table was extracted from the Levelling Up White Paper from February 2022. The Government offers greater devolution under the Directly Elected Mayor model (level 3 in the table). The three upper tier authorities have reported that they have been in discussions with the Secretary of State who have advised that there is insufficient time to explore a level 3 Mayoral model during this parliamentary election cycle. It has been suggested by the three upper tier authorities that upgrading to a level 3 deal in the future will remain an option.
13. The following detail is taken from the report considered by the Full Council of Lancashire County Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **Background**

14. In February 2022, the Government published its White Paper on Levelling Up, a significant set of proposals which sought to address geographical disparities in funding, productivity and growth across England. The resulting legislation, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, allows for the creation of new Combined County Authorities (CCAs) that require the agreement of upper-tier Local Authorities in the area.
15. Securing a devolution deal has been a long-standing ambition for Leaders across Lancashire to address years of historically low investment in the area whilst providing a platform for accelerated growth. Following the publication of the White Paper, the three upper tier Councils agreed to cooperate at pace on the creation of a new devolution deal that would cover the Lancashire area by establishing a CCA. The Leaders of the three Councils have overseen extensive negotiations between officers and Government officials to agree the basis of a proposed devolution deal. The Deal document, sets out the basis for the deal, including the key powers to be devolved, main objectives of the proposed CCA and the governance principles. The Deal document has been further developed into a Proposal document, linked to at paragraph 5 above. This Proposal document will be subject to an extensive consultation process across the area in accordance with the statutory requirements. The full consultation arrangements, setting out how the Councils will seek the views of the public and stakeholders are set out in the Proposal document.

### **The Combined Authority**

16. The main elements of the Proposal (if approved) are as follows:
  - Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council will form a Combined County Authority, to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, and be accountable to local residents.
  - The arrangements will include the integration of the relevant functions of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) into the CCA, ensuring that there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice in the form of a Lancashire Business Board which informs local decision making and strategic economic planning. In absorbing the role and functions of the Growth Lancashire Company, LEP Growth and Skills and Employment Hubs, LEP Investment Team, and destination management/visitor economy, the

Lancashire CCA will deliver a number of functions on behalf of the central government departments.

- The CCA will have new powers to better shape local skills provision to ensure these meet the needs of the local economy. This will include devolution of adult education functions and the core Adult Education Budget, and the opportunity to further refine the Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- There will also be new powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to develop the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) partnership and strengthen co-ordination of local transport functions.
- Subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review, Government's expectation is that delivery responsibility for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a flexible funding pot, will be aligned with devolution deal responsibilities. This would mean that the proposed CCA could have such responsibilities from 2025/26. In carrying out this role, the proposed CCA and the constituent councils will work closely with the Lancashire District Leaders Forum in an advisory capacity. Delivery of these functions will build on existing district-led delivery arrangements for UKSPF and align with the Lancashire 2050 strategy, as agreed by all Local Authorities in Lancashire, to ensure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.
- The CCA will have the ability to exercise compulsory purchase powers to help drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes, subject to the agreement of the Constituent Council and the Local Planning Authority where the relevant land is located.
- The area will receive up to £20 million capital funding in the current Spending Review period to support innovation led growth (including assets to maximise the benefits of National Cyber Force) and net zero ambitions across Lancashire. This investment is subject to agreement of the relevant business cases.
- The CCA will strengthen the local visitor economy, reinforcing Lancashire's attractive and vibrant cultural and creative sector through the formation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership to help further develop the region's visitor economy. It will also deliver innovation-led growth, including working with Government to capitalise on Lancashire's economic potential in growing the Energy and Low Carbon sector.

#### **Additional funding for Lancashire**

17. The Deal includes up to £20 million capital funding in the current Spending Review period to support innovation led growth and net zero ambitions across Lancashire. This investment is subject to agreement of the relevant business cases. The portfolio of capital regeneration projects will drive growth and levelling up across Lancashire and includes:

- Assets to maximise the benefits of the National Cyber Force and a proposed Innovation Hub in Lancashire
- Blackburn Tech Innovation Quarter (TIQ)
- Silicon Sands, Low Carbon Data Centre Demonstrator, Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone

- Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) - additional capital investment for extending an existing domestic retrofit scheme

18. The recent Network North announcement also suggests that:

- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £2.5 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North outside of the big city regions.
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £770 million of funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North.
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £3.3 billion funding to fix potholes in the North.

### **How the CCA will work**

19. A Combined County Authority is a way for the three upper tier Authorities in Lancashire to work more closely together, and to receive devolved powers from the Government. The report to LCC's Full Council states that "It is not an additional tier of local government; it is a way for existing locally elected representatives to have more say over decisions that affect the area." However, given the governance arrangements as set out below, it could be argued to the contrary.

20. In order to deliver this, the proposed arrangements are outlined below.

21. The CCA Board will be made up of up to 8 members:

- Four elected members, consisting of a lead/executive member for each constituent council and one further member appointed by Lancashire County Council.
- Two non-constituent members, who will be nominated by the district and borough councils to represent the interests of district and borough councils on the CCA
- Up to two further associate or non-constituent members, to be appointed by the CCA.

22. The voice of business will be a critical component in the future proposed CCA, given that a key area of focus would be economy, industry, and business. The proposed CCA will appoint an Associate Member who can represent the views of business on the proposed CCA.

23. The proposed CCA, in partnership with Government, will ensure that the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is invited to attend and participate in CCA meetings as an observer, or as a non-constituent member. This will ensure close collaboration and productive joint working between the CCA and PCC.

24. Proposals for decisions by the CCA may be put forward by any constituent member. All constituent members will have one vote. Constituent members will work towards the principle of unanimity of all key decisions. Other questions that are to be decided by the CCA are to be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided for in legislation. Decisions requiring unanimity amongst the constituent members will include:

- Approval of the CCA’s budget, including significant financial decisions.
- Approval of the policy framework, which will include:
  - Corporate Strategy
  - Economic Growth Strategy
  - Skills and Employment Strategic Framework
  - The Local Transport Plan, Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- Appointment of the Chief Executive
- Approval of and significant amends to the Constitution.

25. The following decisions will require the consent of the lead member of the relevant constituent council, or substitute members acting in their place, in whose area the decision will apply:

- Compulsory purchase of land or buildings by the CCA
- The exercise of compulsory purchase power will also require the consent of the relevant planning authority
- Any decision by the CCA that could lead to a financial liability falling directly upon that constituent council, or significant material impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd
- Such other matters as may be contained within the CCA constitution.

26. The constituent councils recognise the importance of local consensus in relation to matters that could impact companies wholly owned by those councils, and they have resolved to require Blackpool Council’s consent for any decision which may have a significant, material and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd.

27. In accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023), the proposed CCA would have the power to grant voting rights to the non-constituent members. The responsibility for agreeing any such rights would rest with the constituent members of the CCA and would be set out in the CCA’s constitution. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 does not allow associate members to vote.

28. The CCA will be responsible for agreeing its own constitution, including chairing arrangements, meeting procedures and decision-making processes. Whilst the work to develop a constitution will not be finalised until the outcome of the consultation is known and the decision made on whether to formally proceed, some aspects have been agreed in principle, including that Lancashire County Council will Chair the CCA, and that this and the rest of the constitution will be subject to annual review.

29. The CCA will have a Scrutiny Committee, as well as an Audit Committee. In addition, the CCA may establish sub-committees or advisory boards as it deems necessary.

### **District Council involvement**

30. The Combined County Authority model, as established by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, says that only Upper Tier Local Authorities can be constituent members. However, it is recognised that it will be essential to ensure that the voice of the district councils in Lancashire is heard.



31. To achieve that, district councils will be invited to nominate two “non-constituent” members to serve as members of the CCA. The Act gives the CCA the right to grant voting rights to the non-constituent members. The responsibility for agreeing any such rights rests with the constituent members of the CCA and would be set out in the CCA’s constitution.
32. In addition, Districts will also be invited to nominate representatives to the CCA Audit and Scrutiny Committees. It is proposed that these nominations are made by the District Leaders Forum, as a body which commands the consent of all 12 districts in Lancashire. The nominating body may change, in consultation with the districts, if an alternative nominating body which represents the interests of all districts in Lancashire, is preferred.

### **Next Steps**

33. If a consultation on the Proposal is agreed by all three upper-tier Councils, then the results of the consultation will be considered in March 2024 when the said Councils will be asked to agree the final Proposals for submission to government. The devolution agreement and creation of the Combined County Authority will then be subject to formal parliamentary approval in summer and autumn 2024.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

34. There are no new budget implications arising for Burnley Council from this report.
35. If the decision is taken by the Secretary of State to establish the proposed CCA then the Establishment Order will indicate that the proposed CCA will be funded by the three Constituent Councils. Funding of £1m has been secured as part of the deal from central Government to cover the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26. In addition, the proposed CCA would consider whether to seek the power to borrow and explore the extent of these powers. In practice it is expected that the running costs of the proposed CCA will be met by either continued central Government support or with funding from the Constituent Councils.
36. The general powers the proposed CCA is intended to have around finance and funding are expected to be substantially the same as local authorities enjoy generally. However, it will not have the power to raise a precept. That means that the CCA will not be able to raise money through increasing Council Tax.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

37. As set out in the report.
38. Additionally, an equality impact assessment by Lancashire County Council is available: <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s224031/Appendix%20B%20-%20EIA.pdf>

## **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

39. The Proposal is subject to a public consultation lasting 8 weeks from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

40. [Burnley Council : Agenda for Full Council on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022, 6.30 pm \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

41. [Burnley Council : Agenda for Full Council on Wednesday, 15th July, 2020, 6.30 pm \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**The Chief Executive**

**ALSO:**

# Appendix 1- devolution framework

**Table 2.3 Devolution Framework**

**Level 3** – A single institution or County Council with a directly elected mayor (DEM), across a FEA or whole county area

**Level 2** – A single institution or County Council without a DEM, across a FEA or whole county area

**Level 1** – Local authorities working together across a FEA or whole county area e.g. through a joint committee

Function	Detail	L1	L2	L3
<b>Strategic role in delivering services</b>	Host for Government functions best delivered at a strategic level involving more than one local authority e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategies	✓	✓	✓
	Opportunity to pool services at a strategic level	✓	✓	✓
	Opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's Net Zero targets	✓	✓	✓
<b>Supporting local businesses</b>	LEP functions including hosting strategic business voice		✓	✓
<b>Local control of sustainable transport</b>	Control of appropriate local transport functions e.g. local transport plans*		✓	✓
	Defined key route network*			✓
	Priority for new rail partnerships with Great British Railways – influencing local rail offer, e.g. services and stations			✓
	Ability to introduce bus franchising		✓	✓
	Consolidation of existing core local transport funding for local road maintenance and smaller upgrades into a multi-year integrated settlement			✓
<b>Investment spending</b>	UKSPF planning and delivery at a strategic level		✓	✓
	Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation			✓
<b>Giving adults the skills for the labour market</b>	Devolution of Adult Education functions and the core Adult Education Budget		✓	✓
	Providing input into Local Skills Improvement Plans		✓	✓
	Role in designing and delivering future contracted employment programmes			✓
<b>Local control of infrastructure decisions</b>	Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations (with consent of host local planning authority)			✓
	Devolution of locally-led brownfield funding			✓
	Strategic partnerships with Homes England across the Affordable Housing Programme and brownfield funding			✓
	Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)		✓	✓
<b>Keeping the public safe and healthy</b>	Mayoral control of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where boundaries align ^			✓
	Clear defined role in local resilience*		✓	✓
	Where desired offer MCAs a duty for improving the public's health (concurrently with local authorities)			✓
<b>Financing local initiatives for residents and business</b>	Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax*			✓
	Ability to introduce supplement on business rates (increases subject to ballot)			✓

\* refers to functions which are only applicable to combined authorities

^ refers to functions which are currently only applicable to mayoral combined authorities

This page is intentionally left blank

# Lancashire Devolution Deal

Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including the consent of all councils affected and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this Deal.



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities



## **Signature Page**

### **Jacob Young MP**

Minister for Levelling Up

### **Cllr Phillippa Williamson**

Leader of Lancashire County Council

### **Cllr Phil Riley**

Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

### **Cllr Lynn Williams**

Leader of Blackpool Council

## Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Governance .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Finance and Investment .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Skills and Education .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Housing and Land.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Transport .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Net Zero and Climate Change .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Digital and Cyber.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Culture and Tourism .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Innovation, Trade and Investment .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Public Service Reform .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Resilience and Public Safety.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Lancashire’s Commitments Underpinning the Deal .....</b>	<b>35</b>

## Introduction

1. Lancashire is a diverse county with a rich history and culture. The emblem of the historic county of Lancashire is the Red Rose of the English royal House of Lancaster. The contrasting geography of the area, along with the creativity and friendliness of its people, combines to make Lancashire a great place to live, learn and work. Lancashire has a long tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship which has gone on to change the world. Today, over 250 years since Richard Arkwright's cotton spinning technology helped to reshape the global economy, the county is again on the cusp of another transformative chapter in its industrial and commercial history.
2. With a population of 1.5 million residents and a GVA of £35 billion, Lancashire offers enormous potential. It has over 55,000 businesses providing over 637,000 jobs. It is a coherent economic area and has a range of significant future looking sectors with potential for growth, including advanced manufacturing and engineering (one of the world's largest aerospace clusters), cyber, digital and low carbon, as well as traditional strengths in areas such as tourism and food production. Given its size, scale and importance, a thriving Lancashire remains one of the prerequisites to a successful economy in the North of England.
3. Lancashire is truly 'polycentric' with a strong network of urban centres set within an area of outstanding natural beauty. Home to the cities of Preston and Lancaster and the larger towns of Blackpool and Blackburn, the area brings together a range of nationally significant businesses and assets including BAE Systems, Springfields Nuclear Fuels, combined with a highly capable engineering and manufacturing supply chain. It contains four world class universities and eleven Further Education colleges which provide excellence in research, skills development and business support. The area has a rich quality of place offer that complements the more urban offers of Manchester and Liverpool with its population living within easy access of countryside and coast.
4. But Lancashire also face challenges which impact on productivity and employment levels and the ability to grow. The historic structure of Lancashire's economy has a range of sectors which are gradually losing jobs. Economic shocks can hit harder and take longer to bounce-back from than in neighbouring economies. There are clear and profound disparities in skill levels, health, economic productivity measures and resident prosperity across the county which, in turn impact more widely on people's life chances. 2021 data (latest) on Gross Disposable Household Income shows considerable variation across Lancashire, with around £10,000 difference between the households in Lancashire with the lowest disposable household income (Blackburn with Darwen (£15,025) and the highest Ribble Valley (£24,734).<sup>1</sup> Lancashire also has more than 220,000 economically inactive

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS, Regional Gross Disposable Household Income: Local Authorities by ITL1 Region. Table 3: GDHI local authority by ITL1 region: TLD North West: GDHI per head of population at current basic prices, pounds



residents. Almost a quarter of all of Lancashire's working age residents are economically inactive, partly due to long-term ill-health (33.2% of all inactive residents, compared to 26.5% nationally), and more than 50,000 of Lancashire's inactive residents would like to get into employment (23.6% compared to 18.0% nationally).<sup>2</sup>

5. Greater local powers are needed to level up, to tackle the challenges facing the Lancashire area, to harness its huge economic opportunity for the benefit of the people of the area and for the whole of the UK. In recognition of this, the Government has already invested £225 million through the Levelling Up Fund. Local authorities across the Lancashire area have also been allocated a three-year total of over £60 million UK Shared Prosperity Fund (including Multiply programme funding).
6. The Government has set itself a mission that, by 2030, every part of England that wants a devolution deal will have a devolution deal with powers at, or approaching, the highest level of devolution, with a simplified, long-term funding settlement. The 2022 Levelling Up White Paper makes clear the case for devolution as the engine room of improved productivity and reduced regional disparities. Devolution will be critical to delivering our twelve headline levelling up missions by strengthening local leadership to act more flexibly and innovatively to respond to local need, whether on transport, skills or regeneration.
7. In the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government published for the first time a devolution framework, which set out a clear menu of options for places in England that wish to unlock the benefits of devolution. This framework places a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership, strong local governance, and joint working across sensible and coherent economic geographies. The most comprehensive package is a Level 3 deal, for areas with a single institution over a sensible geography, with the strongest and most accountable leadership, such as a mayoral combined authority (MCA) or a mayoral combined county authority (MCCA) covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography with a directly elected mayor. The Level 2 offer is for devolution to single local government institutions without a directly elected mayor, such as a combined authority or combined county authority covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography. The Level 1 offer is for local authorities with looser joint working arrangements, such as a joint committee model.
8. This document sets out the terms of an agreement for a Level 2 devolution deal between the Government and Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (“Lancashire”), subject to ratification of the deal by the Councils and the statutory requirements for making the secondary legislation implementing the deal. The statutory requirements include public consultation on a proposal, Ministerial decision that the proposal meets the

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: ONS annual population survey. Economic Inactivity (Apr 2022 - Mar 2023)

statutory tests, the Councils consenting to the secondary legislation implementing aspects of the deal, and Parliament approving it. Once this legislation is approved and made, the devolution deal will be confirmed. This document describes both the offer of functions and funding from the Government, and the reforms and measures that Lancashire will need to deliver.

9. The local authorities of Lancashire and Government have agreed a historic Level 2 devolution deal which will provide powers and funding to enable Lancashire to unleash its economic potential and in doing so level up, raise living standards for its communities and make a greater contribution to the UK economy. The Lancashire devolution deal shows how levelling up can be done in practice – with clear alignment to the twelve headline Levelling Up missions.
10. Government recognises that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This agreement is the first step in a process of further devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Lancashire will be able to deepen their devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement. The Government will also continue to work with Lancashire on important areas of public service reform and infrastructure investment, to support inclusive economic growth in towns, cities and rural areas whilst tackling climate change, on our journey to 2030.

## **Summary of the Devolution Deal between the Government and the Local Authorities of Lancashire, comprising of Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

The Government and the constituent councils are minded to agree a devolution deal which will provide Lancashire with new powers and funding to increase opportunities and living standards through inclusive growth and productivity improvements.

A devolution agreement is contingent upon the constituent councils proceeding through the steps necessary to meet the governance criteria required for a Level 2 devolution deal.

The devolution agreement includes:

- The formation of the Lancashire Combined County Authority (CCA) to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, and be accountable to local residents.
- The integration of relevant functions of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership into the Lancashire CCA, ensuring that there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice in the form of a Lancashire Business Board which informs local decision making and strategic economic planning. In absorbing the role and functions of the Growth Lancashire Company, LEP Growth & Skills & Employment Hub, LEP Investment Team, destination management/visitor economy, the Lancashire CCA will deliver a number of functions on behalf of the central Government departments.
- New powers to better shape local skills provisions to ensure these meet the needs of the local economy. This will include devolution of Adult Education functions and the core Adult Education Budget, and the opportunity to provide input into Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- New powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to introduce bus franchising subject to approval from the Secretary of State for transport, and control of appropriate local transport functions e.g. responsibility for an area-wide local transport plan.
- Subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) planning and delivery at a strategic level from 2025/26.
- The ability to exercise compulsory purchase powers to help drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes, subject to the agreement of the Local Authority where the relevant land is located.

- Up to £20 million capital funding in the current Spending Review period to support innovation led growth (including assets to maximise the benefits of National Cyber Force HQ) and net zero ambitions across Lancashire. This investment is subject to agreement of the relevant business cases.
- Strengthening the local visitor economy, reinforcing Lancashire's attractive and vibrant cultural and creative sector through the formation of a wider Lancashire visitor offer encompassing Blackpool, which remains the UK's No1 seaside resort, and nationally significant investments such as Eden North, with facilities and events of regional and national significance, aligned to the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP).
- Deliver innovation-led growth, including working with Government to capitalise on Lancashire economic potential in growing the Energy and Low Carbon sector.
- Improve urban quality and help address poor health.

More detail on these commitments is given in the main body of the document below.

Once the CCA has been established, further devolved functions and consolidated funding may be agreed over time and included in future legislation. This will be subject to the area's status as a Level 2 devolved area.

## Governance

11. Local Authorities in Lancashire have a long history of working together to deliver efficient, effective and transformational services for the people of Lancashire. This approach was recently formalised into a ground-breaking "Lancashire 2050" strategic framework document, setting out the agreed aims of the 15 local authorities in 8 key priority areas. Lancashire 2050 provides a basis for enhanced and increased joint working using existing powers and resources. The framework sets the context for a Devolution deal between the three Upper Tier Local Authorities and the Government to provide further opportunities for partnership working in Lancashire to deliver the Levelling Up agenda.
12. In order to ensure clarity and unity around devolution to achieve this next step, the constituent councils (working closely with district colleagues) have agreed the following principles to be applied to this devolution deal:
  - Lancashire can deliver effective local leadership through a Combined County Authority
  - The governance arrangements will be designed to deliver the best deal for the people of Lancashire within the provisions of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) and any regulations made under it by the Secretary of State.
  - Upper Tier Councils will be constituent members. District Councils will be represented by non-constituent members on the decision-making body.
  - Decisions taken by the Combined County Authority will follow the principles of open and transparent decision making adopted by local government
  - That the Combined County Authority and the devolution deal will not affect the sovereignty of member councils in terms of existing services and investment decisions. Voting structures will be aligned to risks carried.

### Governance arrangements

13. As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government will devolve functions from central government under a level 2 devolution deal to Lancashire CCA, which will allow strengthened local decision-making powers to benefit the residents of Lancashire.
14. The Lancashire CCA will comprise of the following members:
  - 4 elected members, consisting of a lead member for each constituent council and 1 further member appointed by Lancashire County Council.
  - 2 non-constituent members, who will be nominated by the district and borough councils to represent the interests of district and borough councils on the CCA
  - Up to 2 associate or non-constituent members, to be appointed by the CCA.

15. Proposals for decisions by the CCA may be put forward by any constituent member. All constituent members will have one vote. Constituent members will work towards the principle of unanimity of all key decisions. Other questions that are to be decided by the CCA are to be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided for in legislation. Decisions requiring unanimity amongst the constituent members will include:

- Approval of the CCA's budget, including significant financial decisions.
- Approval of the policy framework, which will include:
  - Corporate Strategy;
  - Economic Growth Strategy;
  - Skills and Employment Strategy;
  - The Local Transport Plan, Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP);
  - Appointment of the Chief Executive;
  - Approval of and significant amends to the Constitution.

16. The following decisions will require the consent of the lead member of the relevant constituent council, or substitute members acting in their place, in whose area the decision will apply:

- Compulsory purchase of land or buildings by the CCA;
- The exercise of compulsory purchase power will also require the consent of the relevant planning authority;
- Any decision by the CCA that could lead to a financial liability falling directly upon that constituent council, or Blackpool Transport Services Ltd;
- Such other matters as may be contained within the CCA constitution.

17. The constituent councils recognise the importance of local consensus in relation to matters that could impact companies wholly owned by those councils, and they have resolved to require Blackpool Council's consent for any decision which may have a significant, material and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd.

18. As part of this deal, the constituent councils intend to adopt the combined county authority (CCA) model which is provided for in the LURA

19. A key advantage of the CCA model is its capacity to provide for joint governance arrangements between upper tier local authorities around key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development and regeneration, which creates a shared structure through which strategic prioritisation can be taken forward across an area and integrated policy goals better pursued. A CCA also offers additional accountability and improved line of sight for Government around local delivery and commissioning.

20. In bringing forward the Lancashire CCA, Government and the constituent councils are aware that the CCA institutional model as set out through the LURA only provides opportunities for upper tier authorities to be formal voting members.
21. The CCA will have the ability to appoint non-constituent and associate members should it wish. The maximum number of non-constituent or associate members is not to exceed the number of constituent members. It will be up to the CCA to set out further constitutional arrangements, including delegation to committees to support its operation, which may include members from district councils who are not members of the authority itself. It will also be for the CCA to decide on the nominating bodies for non-constituent members.
22. Lancashire is to be given powers in relation to:
- Economic development and regeneration functions;
  - Adult education and skills functions;
  - Transport functions;
  - Compulsory purchase powers (subject to the consent of the local planning authority affected by the exercise of the function).
23. For the overview and scrutiny committee(s) and audit committee, at least one member will be nominated from each constituent council for each committee. In addition, there will be non-constituent council representatives on each Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee. The chair and vice chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be appointed by the CCA. The chair shall not be a member of a registered political party which has the largest number of members on the CCA. Further detail on the approach to nomination of those representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area and included in the proposal to be consulted on. The Audit Committee must also include at least one independent person.
24. As a local government institution with devolved powers, the CCA will be subject to the English Devolution Accountability Framework ('the Framework'). The Framework applies to all English institutions with devolved powers. In line with the Framework, the Government, Lancashire and other areas with devolution deals will work together to put in place mechanisms to ensure that local leaders and institutions are transparent and accountable, work closely with local businesses, seek the best value for taxpayers' money, and maintain strong ethical standards.
25. Lancashire should also have regard for the Government's Scrutiny Protocol, which develops the standards and best practice to make sure that scrutiny committees in areas with devolution deals can meet this unique challenge. This is to empower local residents and provide them with the confidence that devolution is leading to improvements in their area.

26. The proposals in this devolution deal are subject to ratification by each constituent council. This will include: the development of a proposal; a public consultation on that proposal with local residents and stakeholders; and the submission of proposal and the outcomes of the consultation to the Government. Implementation of the deal is subject to the Secretary of State being satisfied that the required statutory tests have been met, the consent of each constituent council and parliamentary approval of the required implementing secondary legislation. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Lancashire will be able to deepen their devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement and appropriate accountability arrangements.

27. The CCA institutional model includes upper tier authorities only. Both the Government and the Lancashire constituent members place high importance on the CCA working collaboratively with the 12 district councils across Lancashire (“the district councils”) and ensuring that they have a voice in the CCA. They are:

- Burnley Borough Council
- Chorley Council
- Fylde Borough Council
- Hyndburn Borough Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Pendle Borough Council
- Preston City Council
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Rossendale Borough Council
- South Ribble Borough Council
- West Lancashire Borough Council
- Wyre Borough Council.

28. The Lancashire constituent members will work with the district councils in the area to develop the detail of the arrangements for appropriate district council input to the CCA; this will be for inclusion in the detailed proposal which will be subject to public consultation across the area, prior to formal submission to the Secretary of State. These arrangements will include, for example, a mechanism for appointment of representative non-constituent members from the district and borough councils to the CCA and representatives of the district councils on the CCA’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee. These arrangements are for local choice and will not be expected to be specified in any implementing secondary legislation.



29. Certain decisions of the CCA will have consent requirements attached to them in which district and borough councils' consent will be required as a condition of the decision, including the exercise of compulsory purchase powers, as set out at paragraphs 15 and 65. Furthermore, in accordance with the LURA, the CCA has the right to grant voting rights to the non-constituent members. The responsibility for agreeing any such rights rests with the constituent members of the CCA and would be set out in the CCA's constitution.

### Role of the LEP

30. The Levelling Up White Paper announced the Government's intention to support the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership functions and roles into local democratic institutions. On 4 August 2023 Government confirmed its previous 'minded to' decision to withdraw central government support (core funding) for Local Enterprise Partnerships from April 2024 and transfer their functions to local and combined authorities. This deal confirms the integration of LEP functions into the Lancashire Combined County Authority, subject to Government endorsement of an integration plan and the agreement of the Lancashire Combined County Authority.

31. The Lancashire Combined County Authority will be supported to take on relevant functions and roles of the Lancashire LEP in line with published guidance and with any agreed interim arrangements. In doing so, all parties will work together to ensure the independence of the local business voice is maintained, with the business voice to be represented within the Combined County Authority, and with advisory boards representative of the geographies and composition of their local communities. The Lancashire Combined County Authority will ensure that any business advisory board or equivalent structure is meaningfully involved in local decision making, maintaining a culture of constructive challenge and scrutiny with the Combined County Authority framework.

32. Government funding for integrating LEP functions will be subject to future spending decisions by individual departments and business planning.

## Finance and Investment

33. The constituent councils will create a fully devolved funding programme covering all budgets for devolved functions accountable to the Lancashire CCA.
34. The Lancashire CCA will have the flexibility to secure private and public sector leverage as appropriate. As per local government guidance, the Lancashire CCA will also be able to use capital receipts from asset sales as revenue funding for public service transformational initiatives.
35. The costs of establishing the CCA will be met from the overall resources of the CCA. To support the Lancashire CCA in its early stages of this deal, the Government will provide £250,000 of capacity funding in 2024/25, £500,000 in 2025/26 and £250,000 in 2026/27. This will be provided on the basis that the establishing legislation has been made and an Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government. Any future capacity funding will be subject to Spending Review, in line with arrangements for other devolution deals.
36. The Government will provide the Lancashire CCA with up to £20 million capital funding in the current Spending Review period to support innovation led growth (including assets to maximise the benefits of National Cyber Force HQ) and net zero ambitions across Lancashire. This investment is subject to agreement of the relevant business cases.
37. Subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review, the Levelling Up White Paper sets out the Government's expectation that delivery responsibility for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be aligned with devolution deal responsibilities. This would mean that Lancashire CCA could have such responsibilities from 2025/26. In carrying out this role, Lancashire CCA and the constituent councils will work closely with the Lancashire District Leaders Forum in an advisory capacity. Delivery of these functions will build on existing district-led delivery arrangements for UKSPF and align with the Lancashire 2050 strategy, as agreed by all Local Authorities in Lancashire, to ensure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.
38. The Government understands that Lancashire currently has, and will in the future have, interest in applying for funding and other opportunities made available. This includes but is not limited to the Levelling Up Fund. This deal does not preclude participation in these processes where the Lancashire CCA meets the relevant criteria.

### UK Infrastructure Bank

39. The UK Infrastructure Bank ("the Bank") will increase infrastructure investment across the UK by partnering with the private sector and local government to help tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth. The Bank can offer advice and support to local actors, including the Lancashire CCA, to help

deliver on their objectives, including driving investment into net zero infrastructure and innovative local projects. It can also act as a convenor, bringing together local actors for collaborative projects, and where appropriate identifying where projects can be aggregated to achieve greater impacts.

## Skills and Education

### Adult Education

40. Lancashire is an area of low and slowly growing productivity relative to the national average, trailing the national average by almost 16%. Productivity in Lancashire grew by less than 5% between 2004 and 2020, whilst in the UK it grew by more than 13% and more than 11.4% in the North West.<sup>3</sup> Lancashire's productivity is being hampered by both investment spending and by the labour market. Lancashire's growth in investment is almost two thirds lower than the national rate of growth.<sup>4</sup>
41. In Lancashire's labour market, the estimated employment rate (72.7%) is below the national rate (75.4%) and has contracted by 3.9% points and almost 30,000 people since the pandemic. This is based on the latest survey data covering April 22 to March 23.<sup>5</sup> Lancashire's labour force is also characterised by a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications. Though a higher proportion of Lancashire residents are qualified to Level 3 (18.2% vs 16.9% in England, Census 2021), Lancashire trails at Level 4 or above qualifications (29.5%) compared to the national average (33.9% in England).<sup>6</sup> This demonstrates a lower proportion of people with higher level and graduate level qualifications, a problem which is compounded by Lancashire's below average graduate retention, which is the second lowest in the NP11.
42. The Government will fully devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to the Lancashire CCA from academic year 2026/27 subject to readiness conditions and Parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation conferring the appropriate functions. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.
43. Prior to full devolution taking place, the Government will work with Lancashire CCA to support their preparations for taking on the relevant functions and will make implementation funding available for Lancashire, subject to the availability of appropriate central funding including in the next Spending Review.
44. Upon devolution, the Lancashire CCA will be responsible for making allocation to providers and the outcomes to be achieved, consistent with statutory entitlements. The Government will not seek to second guess these decisions, but it will set proportionate requirements about outcome information to be collected in order to allow students to make informed choices.

---

<sup>3</sup> ONS: Table A5: Chained Volume (unsmoothed) GVA (B) per hour worked indices; ITL2 and ITL3 subregions, 2004 - 2020

<sup>4</sup> Source: Experimental Regional Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) estimates by asset type, ONS, 2022. 1997-2020 (latest)

<sup>5</sup> ONS Annual Population Survey - Published on NOMIS ([www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)); Jan 19 to Dec 19 data was used as the pre-pandemic comparator as this was the latest period available pre-pandemic.

<sup>6</sup> Census 2021, ONS. TS067 - Highest level of qualification

45. The Government will inform Lancashire on which basis the existing methodology operates to calculate the size of the grant to be paid to the CCA for the purpose of exercising the devolved adult education functions.
46. The Government will discuss with Lancashire CCA, and other areas with, or which are planning to secure, devolved adult education functions, any proposed changes to its methodology for calculating devolved areas' grants. Any discussions will be undertaken in a timely manner and before decisions are made.
47. In order to proceed with devolution, the Government needs to be assured of the following readiness conditions:
- a. The Secretary of State for Education and appropriate accounting officer are assured that Lancashire CCA is operationally ready to administer the adult education budget and is satisfied the required statutory tests have been met.
  - b. Parliament has legislated to enable transfer to Lancashire CCA of the current statutory duties on the Secretary of State to secure appropriate facilities for further education for adults from this budget and for provision to be free in certain circumstances.
  - c. Agreement to a memorandum of understanding between the Department for Education and Lancashire CCA that provides appropriate assurance that the named parties will work together to ensure the future financial stability of the provider base, including for sharing financial risk and managing provider failure.
  - d. Learner protection arrangements are agreed between parties.
48. The Department for Education will continue to work with Lancashire to commission a local programme of Skills Bootcamps, to be informed by future spending agreements.

### Skills

49. Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) will set out the current and future skills needs of the area and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects. LSIPs will build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers and allow provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.
50. Working with the designated Employer Representative Body, and utilising and sharing the local labour market intelligence and analysis developed Lancashire CCA will support and provide refinement of the LSIP for the area. Government will consider the LSIP boundaries in 2025 at the end of the funding period, with the aim of maximising alignment across boundaries where possible.
51. Lancashire will be considered alongside other areas with a Level 2 devolution deal at future Spending Reviews with regard to the devolution of skills funding.

52. The Department for Education will work with the Lancashire CCA to undertake an Early Connect pilot to test raising the visibility of apprenticeships through the UCAS system with college and sixth form leavers, and to raise the visibility of employer vacancies. The Department will also continue to engage with Lancashire to consider ways in which apprenticeship opportunities in the area can be developed further.
53. Lancashire will work in partnership with the National Cyber Force (a Defence and intelligence partnership), the Ministry of Defence (MoD), GCHQ the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and DSIT to grow the digital, cyber and wider talent pipeline in Lancashire. These organisations, working with the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and other partners, will support the development of outreach and engagement programmes in Lancashire to inspire and engage Lancashire residents in roles in cyber, and to meet Levelling Up aspirations.

### Employment

54. Lancashire CCA and the Government recognise the crucial link between local skills, education, health and workforce development activity in the region and the work of the Department of Work and Pensions.
55. The Department for Work and Pensions, through regional Jobcentre Plus and Partnership teams, and the Lancashire CCA will work together on shared strategic employment priorities through a place-based approach.
56. Lancashire CCA will work in partnership with local and regional work and health stakeholders, including all local authorities in the region with responsibility for UKSPF until 2025, as well as Department for Work and Pensions and other parts of UK Government to ensure effective and coordinated strategic planning and delivery of local employment, health and skills provision, that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.

### Careers Education and Advice

57. The Government recognises the significant unique opportunities that are developing across Lancashire and that, to ensure maximum benefit of the AEB allocation and the area's economic growth, a more place-based and industry led approach to careers education is developed for both adults and young people. Ensuring access to high quality careers, advice and guidance is a crucial element of the Government's long-term ambitions around social mobility, raising aspiration and ensuring we are able to secure the future workforce our economy needs.
58. In support of this objective, Lancashire LEP and Local Authority partners have worked closely on the development of the Lancashire Career Hub. With the folding in of relevant LEP functions as announced in August 2023, the Government and partners within the Lancashire CCA wish to ensure that there remains a shared

focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the specific challenges faced in Lancashire, including higher than average NEET rates in Lancashire County (bottom third of local authorities nationally) and Blackpool (bottom tenth) and Lancashire businesses commonly citing that employability skills are the most important attribute that they look for in job applicants (LSIP reported 83% of those employers surveyed). The Department for Education will therefore seek to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Lancashire and other relevant partners to support the continuity of activity within the Careers Hub.

59. To ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally, the Government supports Lancashire CCA to work with local stakeholders to align careers provision with devolved AEB activities.

## Housing and Land

60. The Government and partners within Lancashire recognise the need to deliver decent and affordable housing that will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the longer term. Constituent councils have identified several priorities including improving and increasing the availability of good quality housing on both new sites and through existing stock, more effectively linking housing regeneration to economic and transport plans, securing urban renewal by demolishing and replacing housing stock in some areas and improving the attractiveness of the built environment for communities.
61. As local authorities, the constituent councils already have access to a broad range of powers and tools allowing them to collectively work together to acquire land, develop new homes and act more generally to improve local housing conditions.
62. The Government and the constituent councils believe that devolution at Level 2 now offers an opportunity to better align this work within the Lancashire area, seeking to accelerate housing delivery as well as promote wider measures that enhance availability and affordability locally. The Government and the constituent councils will therefore seek to work together to explore further opportunities to improve housing delivery across the next period through the CCA.

### Working with Homes England

63. Lancashire's authorities and Homes England are committed, with the support of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to working collaboratively on this basis – combining their skills and capacity to reduce the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a shared development pipeline for the region.
64. Homes England and DLUHC will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline – in support of Lancashire CCA's wider strategic ambitions for enhancing the affordability and accessibility of housing locally – through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Homes Programme and Brownfield, Infrastructure and Land Fund. Through taking a co-design approach with Homes England, Lancashire CCA will seek to enhance the impact of any funding allocated within the area over the next five years.
65. As part of this approach, partners within Lancashire will seek to further align their own resources and capacity alongside the work of the Combined County Authority, working closely with Government to maximise the impact of joint programmes such as the One Public Estate through the use of their land and wider capital assets.

### Compulsory Purchase Powers



66. The Lancashire CCA will also have access to additional land assembly and compulsory purchase powers, subject to the agreement of the Lancashire local authority constituent member where the relevant land is located, the relevant local planning authority (where that isn't the constituent member), and to the consent of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
67. Housing quality is a major issue in many parts of Lancashire, where substandard conditions drive poor socioeconomic outcomes, especially in areas characterised by large concentrations of failed private rented stock. DLUHC can facilitate access to relevant best practice resulting from the delivery of several programmes. This includes the Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP) which is delivering new approaches to enforcement against poor quality supported housing, which in Lancashire is already operating in Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen, and in Lancaster City partnered with Preston, and the Private Rented Sector (PRS) Pathfinder Programme, which is trialling a range of new enforcement approaches in Blackpool, and other areas throughout the country. The revenue costs of any new enforcement action would be met by the local authorities themselves, except to the extent these are already being funded for existing participants of SHIP.

## Transport

68. Lancashire lies within the nationally important north-south motorway and main rail line transport spine, providing excellent connectivity with other parts of the UK, and a comprehensive network of motorways and railways linking much of Lancashire with the major regional employment centres of Manchester and Liverpool, and the international gateways of Manchester Airport and the port of Liverpool.
69. Connectivity and the quality of Lancashire's transport provision varies significantly between the strategic north-south and east-west transport corridors, impacting travel opportunities and choice locally across Pennine Lancashire, the Blackpool and the Fylde Coast and West Lancashire, and to regional destinations such as Leeds and Liverpool. Walking and cycling rates for Lancashire remain below the national average but continue to grow in popularity; and a longer-term decline in public transport use has been exacerbated over recent years by the pandemic. However, there are now signs of growth, with investment through the Bus Service Improvement Plans, and on the Fylde Coast the Blackpool tramway has experienced substantial growth and is undergoing further expansion. Ultra-low emission vehicles account for a significant and increasing proportion of new vehicles, and growth in Lancashire's Electric Vehicle (EV) fleet will be facilitated by their EV infrastructure strategies and Local EV Infrastructure funding.

### Network North

70. As set out in the recent Network North announcement:
- The Lancashire CCA will receive a proportion of the £2.5 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North outside of the big city regions.
  - The Lancashire CCA will receive a proportion of the £770 million of funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North.
  - The Lancashire CCA will receive a proportion of the £3.3 billion funding to fix potholes in the North.

### Powers of the Local Transport Authority and Local Transport Plans

71. The Lancashire CCA will become the Local Transport Authority (LTA) for the new combined county authority area and take on all associated responsibilities and local public transport powers.
72. As part of becoming the LTA, responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan (LTP) will be conferred on Lancashire CCA. Lancashire will develop a provisional area-wide LTP by March 2025 to be finalised by the Lancashire CCA once established. Spending Review is expected in 2024; in developing its case for local transport investment DfT will be engaging the local transport sector. As such, we will look to draw on any emerging evidence base and strategy Lancashire is able to make available by that time. Lancashire CCA will be expected to ensure its LTP

aligns with best practice in transport planning including any revised LTP guidance, and to update their LTP as necessary.

73. Under the terms of this devolution deal, ownership and operation of Blackpool Transport Services Limited (BTS) and all associated assets, including the Bus and Tram fleet, will remain with BTS. BTS will remain as an arm's length company owned by Blackpool Council.

#### Local and Regional Partnership Working

74. The Government recognises that local and regional level organisations are often best placed to make practical changes required to meet shared strategic objectives on local economic growth and decarbonisation, ensuring that local communities and businesses are engaged. Transport for the North Sub-national Transport Body (STB) will develop its Regional Centre of Excellence, which will offer bespoke capability and tools to support to all Local Authorities in the STB area. This provides the opportunity for Lancashire CCA to work with Transport for the North STB to establish if Lancashire CCA would benefit from capability support.

75. As set out in the National Electric Vehicle Strategy, the Government recognises the aspirations of Lancashire CCA to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, which would increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions by supporting all motorists in making the switch. Lancashire CCA can also access support from their Sub-National Transport Body, Transport for the North, which has received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) strategy. This EVCI strategy will provide a robust plan of charging needs in Lancashire and can be used to underpin any public sector funding proposals, including applications for the LEVI Capital Fund. It will also help local authorities in Lancashire CCA to develop their own strategies to scale up the rollout of public chargepoints in their areas. The constituent councils within Lancashire have also received £13.4 million in capital funding from Government's Local EV Infrastructure Fund and a further £1.4 million revenue funding to increase their capability to plan and deliver public, on-street EV infrastructure. Through the LEVI fund, Lancashire CCA will be able to utilise the LEVI support body for further assistance and upskilling of EV officers.

#### Local Highways Networks

76. Unless otherwise agreed locally, all operational responsibility for highways will remain with the constituent Councils. However, where practical we would expect the Lancashire CCA to work towards streamlining contractual and delivery arrangements across the region. The Lancashire CCA should consider how highways across the region are managed, which may include developing a single strategic assessment plan for local highways in the area, in partnership with constituent Councils.

77. Lancashire CCA will be able to enter into agreements with Government, other Local Authorities and National Highways, including to determine shared priorities for its strategic route network roads.

78. Lancashire CCA may by exception also take on some highways powers to coordinate or deliver highways functions for the full Lancashire area to be exercised concurrently with the relevant highway authorities. Any such powers are to be agreed separately with Government and set out in the proposal/required scheme and consultation, with local agreement on how concurrency will work in practice.

### The Blackpool Tramway

79. Blackpool Tramway is a key local attraction and a vital part of Blackpool's tourism offer. The tramway network operates locally, extending through Blackpool and into the surrounding area, connecting over 300,000 people. Patronage has tripled since the tramway's modernisation in 2012, and it now carries around 5 million passengers annually. Notwithstanding its contribution to travel provision in the local area, its importance to the local visitor economy is paramount and as such it represents an integral asset in the town's tourism and marketing activities.

80. Lancashire CCA will set the strategic direction for public transport services through the Local Transport Plan for the CCA area and hold the powers to support public transport services. Blackpool Transport Services Limited will continue to operate tram services in Blackpool and the surrounding area. Blackpool Council will retain the relevant powers to manage Blackpool Transport Services Limited. Maintenance of tram infrastructure and assets will continue to be the responsibility of Blackpool Council in partnership with Lancashire County Council.

### Buses

81. As the Local Transport Authority (LTA), the Lancashire CCA will be responsible for:

- Bus Service Improvement Plans
- Enhanced Partnerships (EPs);
- Subsidised bus services;
- Concessionary fare schemes;

And will, where practical, streamline engagement with bus operators and seek efficiencies in their future contractual and delivery arrangements across the combined county area.

82. Blackpool Transport Services Limited (BTS) provides vital bus services to Blackpool and the surrounding area. BTS will continue to deliver bus services locally.

### Bus Enhanced Partnerships

83. BTS, along with other bus operators in the Lancashire CCA area, will work with Lancashire CCA as part of any EPs in the area. Lancashire CCA has responsibility for making the EP scheme(s), but at set points in the process it can only proceed with its proposals if it has the support of local bus operators. Bus operators will maintain responsibility for their operational arrangements under any EPs.

### Bus Franchising

84. If Lancashire CCA concludes that bus franchising is likely to deliver better outcomes, the Government will consider conferring franchising powers under the Transport Act 2000 to Lancashire CCA where it demonstrates it has the capability and intention to deliver its chosen franchise model, and that franchising will deliver better services than its Enhanced Partnership without unnecessarily delaying benefits to passengers.

### Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)

85. The Lancashire CCA will work with constituent councils to deliver against the existing Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs). Lancashire CCA will work towards integrating the existing BSIPs in the area.

### Active Travel

86. To ensure consistency in the quality and safety of schemes, Active Travel England (ATE) will provide support to ensure walking and cycling schemes are designed and delivered to high standards, including compliance with Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN 1/20). Lancashire CCA will work with ATE to improve the design quality of all active travel schemes funded by Government and those that are locally funded. All cycling and walking schemes funded by Government must be approved by ATE as complying with LTN 1/20.

## Net Zero and Climate Change

87. As part of its Net Zero Strategy and Net Zero Growth Plan, the Government recognises that devolved and local government can play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions. Local leaders in the Lancashire area and elsewhere are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action. This is why the devolution framework grants places the opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's net zero targets.
88. The Local Net Zero Forum, chaired by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is cross-Government and brings together national and local senior officials. Through representative organisation on the forum – The Local Government Association (LGA), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Core Cities and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) – Lancashire CCA will get the opportunity to discuss local net zero policy and delivery issues in the round.

### Energy system

89. The Government recognises the need to increase Lancashire's electricity network capacity to meet future electricity demand. Government is committed to ensuring that devolved regional institutions such as combined authorities, including the Lancashire CCA, have a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero, alongside other local areas as appropriate.
90. The Government is considering the role of local energy plans, including their role in supporting strategic network investment, working closely with Ofgem as part of its ongoing governance review into local energy institutions and its proposals on regional energy system planning.

### Heat networks

91. The Government has confirmed its intention to establish heat network zoning in England. Under the zoning proposals, Zoning Coordinators within local government will be able to designate areas as heat network zones where heat networks are going to be the most cost-effective way to decarbonise heating and hot water within the zone. Local authorities will have powers to require certain buildings to connect to heat networks within the zones. This will enable the Lancashire CCA to assume the role of heat network Zoning Coordinator for its locality and play a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure. The Government is committed to have heat network zoning in place by 2025.
92. The Government will support the Lancashire CCA alongside other local authorities across England to take forward heat network zoning, including collaboration with

the private sector on developing heat networks within zones and to help capitalise on unique local opportunities to utilise all available low carbon heat sources, including geothermal energy.

### Buildings

93. The Government commits to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the Government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.

94. This work will involve inviting the Lancashire CCA to work with the Government through the relevant representative organisations to consider if such an approach could accelerate the meeting of net zero goals and provide better value for money.

### Green Jobs

95. Through the Green Jobs Delivery Group, the Government is working to ensure that workers, business and local areas, including Lancashire, are supported through net zero transition. Lancashire CCA now has the opportunity to deliver green skills interventions at a local level through having a greater role in delivering the Adult Education Budget and the UKSPF.

96. Lancashire's Energy and low Carbon sector is particularly important due to its existing ecosystem and capabilities in designing and manufacturing low carbon technologies. The area is forecast to have the highest number of jobs per capita in the Energy and Low Carbon sector in England between 2030 – 2050.<sup>7</sup> Government will work with Lancashire to enable the continued growth of this sector by supporting the delivery of Lancashire's Energy and Low Carbon sector plans.

### Nature Recovery

97. Lancashire County Council has been appointed by Defra SoS as the authority response for preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Lancashire Combined County Authority Area. LNRSs will agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing habitat for nature; and map proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. Defra has confirmed total planned funding of £388,000 for financial years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to cover the costs of strategy preparation, including the required stakeholder engagement. The Government will work closely with responsible authorities to ensure they are supported in preparing their LNRS, including by making available Defra group expertise and data, and agrees to

---

<sup>7</sup> Local Government Association (2021), *Local green jobs – accelerating a sustainable economic recovery*. Available from [https://gemserv.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Local-green-jobs-accelerating-a-sustainable-economic-recovery\\_final-1.pdf](https://gemserv.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Local-green-jobs-accelerating-a-sustainable-economic-recovery_final-1.pdf)

consider the role of Lancashire CCA in the LNRS process following establishment of the new body.

98. The Government will ensure that over time locally identified environmental priorities are incorporated into environmental land management schemes where appropriate.
99. Government will work with Lancashire to ensure that local environment policies, including Lancashire's LNRS and existing and potential protected landscapes, support the delivery of England's new Environmental Improvement Plan.
100. Government will ensure the new environment land management schemes are implemented in line with local needs and priorities, including those of Lancashire which has identified the need for more coordinated specialist business support for the farming and wider rural community to foster rural business resilience; sustainable new market opportunities; and environmental gains.



## Digital and Cyber

101. Continued improvements to Lancashire's digital infrastructure, digital and knowledge-based industries and an innovation base which can practically display how these capabilities can be deployed, are all vital to balancing and modernising Lancashire's industrial base.
102. This is essential to fully realise the impact of new opportunities across Lancashire such as the decision of National Cyber Force to locate their national headquarters at Samlesbury, infrastructure projects in Blackpool built around exploiting the benefits of ultra-high-speed transatlantic data cable connecting New York, the United Kingdom and Northern Europe which comes ashore in Blackpool and major innovation projects in Blackburn and Preston that will enhance east-west innovation and connectivity..
103. Lancashire CCA will continue to work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, to fully capture the investment, business, research and skills development benefits of these new developments, creating opportunities and new careers for local residents, developing markets and technologies of local businesses and making a reality of the North West Cyber Corridor concept.
104. The Government is committed to supporting Lancashire's digital connectivity ambitions, including through the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy which was published in April 2023 and sets out a strategic framework for the development, deployment and adoption of 5G and future networks. This includes working closely with places to encourage investment in advanced wireless connectivity and increase its adoption across the local economy and public services.
105. As set out in the National Cyber Strategy 2022, the Government is committed to strengthening the capability of local authorities such as Lancashire to buy and use connected places technology securely. In May 2021, the National Cyber Security Centre published the Connected Places Cyber Security Principles, a foundational step in supporting the cyber security of the UK's connected places. Since then, the Government has continued to develop its support of local authorities deploying and managing connected places technologies and in 2022 the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology published the alpha Secure Connected Places Playbook. The Playbook was designed in collaboration with local authorities and helps them to get their cyber security foundations right whilst setting a strong cyber security culture. Government hopes to continue to work with local authorities such as the Lancashire CCA to support the secure and sustainable adoption of connected places technologies. Bolstering the UK's Cyber Ecosystems remains a high priority for the Government.
106. Government recognises that high quality digital connectivity is crucial for future economic growth and productivity in the region. The private sector will continue to lead on the rollout of broadband and mobile infrastructure, with DSIT supporting

delivery in less commercially viable areas. The Government will engage with the Lancashire CCA on a regular basis on delivery plans in the region, particularly where they involve hard to reach rural areas. The Government is committed to achieving nationwide coverage of gigabit capable broadband by 2030 and to ensuring that rural areas are not left behind including in Lancashire. Procurements covering Lancashire are scheduled to launch in 2024, and regular Project Gigabit programme updates will be provided demonstrating progress in delivering for communities across the area.

107. The National Cyber Force (NCF), a partnership between Defence and Intelligence, will establish its future home in Samlesbury, Lancashire, helping to stimulate technology, digital and defence sectors, as well as encouraging partnerships between Government, industry and academia in the North West of England across the Cyber Ecosystem in line with Pillar One of the National Cyber Strategy.

108. The Lancashire area stands out for the quality of universities, further education colleges and schools alongside its appeal to existing staff, offering improvements in wellbeing and good growth opportunities. The region's ethnic diversity will secure a workforce with the right mix of minds for the NCF to be a centre of excellence for offensive cyber, reflective of the nation it serves.

109. DSIT will engage with the National Cyber Force, Lancashire CCA, academia, local partners and stakeholders to bring together relevant parts of Government, supporting the alignment of research and development priorities and identification of potential collaboration and future funding as Lancashire mobilises its plan to deliver economic and social transformation for the region, and in the process strengthen the UK's international position as a leader in cyber security and a responsible and democratic cyber power.

## **Culture and Tourism**

### Culture

110. Lancashire's rich cultural and heritage offer has an important role in the area's plans to attract and retain skilled workers, and in contributing to pride in place in the region. Tourism and the visitor economy are crucial industries for Lancashire, with the area amongst the UK's most prolific visitor destinations every year. Blackpool, on the western coast of the county, is the nation's No1 seaside resort, with some 20m visits per year, and represents a £1.5 billion visitor economy.
111. Lancashire and a subset of DCMS Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs), supported by DCMS, will hold a series of exploratory conversations to explore the region's appetite and capacity for partnership working across (some or all of) culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy (as applicable). If there is agreement to undertake any partnership working, this would focus on the region's particular priorities and potential opportunities for the ALBs to help the region achieve these where they align with ALBs' own priorities for the region.
112. Insofar as appropriate this will lead to recommendations that the ALBs and/or place can act on if they wish to. This does not prejudice ALB decisions around national grant funding processes or their national priorities. ALBs will also seek to use any partnership to deliver their national priorities, which will remain paramount. The scale of each ALB's involvement in any partnership will be dependent on the specific context and degree of alignment identified between individual priorities.
113. These exploratory conversations will take place over a six month period that will start at a time agreed on by the region and relevant ALBs. DCMS will be involved in discussions as appropriate.

### Tourism

114. VisitEngland and the Lancashire CCA will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, and encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season.

## **Innovation, Trade and Investment**

115. The Government is committed to supporting places to realise their entrepreneurial and innovation potential, underpinned by ambitious measures set out in the Levelling Up White Paper.
116. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) will work closely with devolution deal areas, including Lancashire, to make it easier for businesses to access the information, advice and support they need, drawing on DBT's global and sector offer.
117. The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will work with Lancashire to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening their local research and innovation capacity.

## Public Service Reform

118. The Government supports the Lancashire area in its ambition for public service reform, including a focus on creating safe, healthy, resilient communities. The Government commits to working with the region and partners to explore initiatives to improve delivery of public services, such as how best to support residents with multiple complex needs. Where appropriate, and as part of its levelling up agenda, the Government will also consider devolving further powers to the Lancashire CCA to support public service reform, in relation to the statutory duties held by its constituent councils.
119. Good quality data is essential for understanding local need and the place-specific issues affecting people in an area. As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and the Government Statistical Service's Subnational Data Strategy, the Government is working to improve the dissemination of subnational statistics to empower local decision makers, including in Lancashire, to use data-led evidence to respond to local priorities.
120. The Lancashire CCA will work with the Government to understand the existing barriers to data sharing and better use of data in their area, and explore where improvements to the quality of, or access to, data could support them in achieving Lancashire's local ambitions. As part of this, the Spatial Data Unit (SDU) will work with the CCA to help support data capability, including in data science, and will engage with the CCA to further understand its needs and priorities.
121. The Government is committed to relocating roles out of Greater London and closer to the policy issues they are addressing. Relocation will benefit communities across the UK, bringing more diversity of thought into policy making leading to better-informed policy, built on an understanding of the impacts across the UK and drawing on a more diverse range of experiences, skills and backgrounds. The Government will continue to work with departments to consider the potential for any future relocations of government roles to Lancashire as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

## **Resilience and Public Safety**

122. The Lancashire CCA, in partnership with Government, will ensure that the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is invited to attend and participate in CCA meetings as an observer, or as a non-constituent, member. This will ensure close collaboration and productive joint working between the CCA and PCC.
123. The Lancashire CCA will work with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) to agree an appropriate arrangement to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the CCA and FRA.
124. The UK Government will work to significantly strengthen Local Resilience Forums by 2030, as described in the UK Government Resilience Framework. This will include considering a clear role for Lancashire CCA in local resilience and civil contingency planning, preparation and delivery.
125. This is subject to the conclusion and full consideration of the Stronger Local Resilience Forums (LRF) pilot programme in 2025/26, and Lancashire CCA having a strong working relationship with Lancashire LRF.

## **Lancashire's Commitments Underpinning the Deal**

126. The constituent councils will work with the Government to develop a full implementation plan, covering each policy agreed in this deal, to be completed ahead of implementation. This plan must be approved by the Government prior to delivery. Any issues of concern with the subsequent delivery of this deal will be escalated to ministers and leaders to resolve, in keeping with the letter and spirit of devolution.
127. As part of the implementation of the deal, the Lancashire CCA and Government will agree a process to manage local financial risk relating to the deal provisions.
128. Prior to the implementation of the deal, Government will work with the Lancashire CCA to give the public and stakeholders – including Parliament – a clear understanding of: the powers and funding that are being devolved to the CCA, where accountability sits as a result of this deal; and how decisions are made.
129. The Lancashire CCA and its members will continue to adhere to their public sector equality duties, for both existing and newly devolved responsibilities.

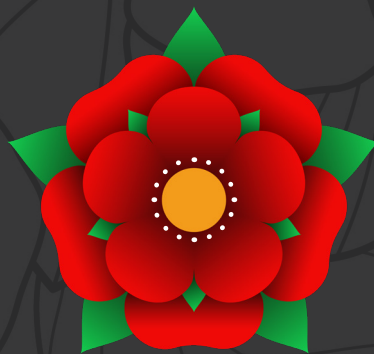
This page is intentionally left blank



# LANCASHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY

---

DRAFT PROPOSAL



November 2023

Page 61

This document has been prepared by  
**Lancashire County Council,**  
**Blackburn with Darwen Council**  
and **Blackpool Council.**



# CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
1. Introduction	11
2. Background and context	15
3. Our ambitions	27
4. Delivering our ambitions	39
5. Governance	43
6. Consultation	51
7. The Deal	53
8. Next steps (Transition)	55
9. Legislation	59
References / Defined terms	60
Appendix A: Table of Powers / Functions	63



KUN

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document outlines our Proposal for a Combined County Authority (“CCA”) model of local government. It has been prepared by the three upper tier councils of Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council which have negotiated a proposed Devolution Deal with Government. If the proposals are accepted, Government would give additional powers and funding to the Lancashire CCA and more control over the decision-making that affects Lancashire’s residents and businesses.

The proposed CCA is intended to work collaboratively with the 12 district councils across Lancashire and would cover the whole Lancashire area. The creation of the CCA would not result in the merger or take-over of councils in the Area.

## Objectives

The objectives for the Proposal reflect regional and national strategy and are designed to ensure a positive future for our county and its people. Together they offer a bold and strategic framework so that:

- Lancashire competes better for its share of national resources and investment
- Lancashire’s public, private and voluntary sectors collaborate better to maximise the best use of our resources
- Lancashire has a strong and clear voice that responds innovatively to new opportunities and challenges
- Lancashire has a rich, meaningful and strategic dialogue with central government about the future of our county
- Lancashire is better positioned to respond to Government’s

Levelling Up objectives:

- Boosting productivity, pay, skills, jobs and living standards
- Spreading opportunities and improving public services
- Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging
- Empowering local leaders and communities.

## Context

A thriving Lancashire remains one of the prerequisites to a successful economy in the North of England. With a population of 1.53 million residents and a GVA of £35 billion, Lancashire already makes a major contribution and offers enormous potential to UK PLC. It has over 55,000 businesses providing over 728,000 jobs. It is a coherent economic area and has a range of significant future-looking sectors with potential for growth, including advanced manufacturing and engineering (one of the world's largest aerospace clusters), cyber, digital and low carbon, as well as traditional strengths in areas such as tourism and food production.

However, alongside this, the CCA Area also experiences challenges which impact on productivity and employment levels and the ability to grow. The historic structure of Lancashire's economy has a range of sectors which are gradually losing jobs. Economic shocks can hit harder and take longer to bounce-back from than in neighbouring economies. There are clear and profound disparities in skill levels, health, economic productivity measures and resident prosperity across the county which, in turn impact more widely on people's life chances.

## The Proposal

Our vision is for the 1.53 million people in Lancashire to be able to enjoy greater health, prosperity and wellbeing through the opportunities available to them within an inclusive and confident Lancashire.

We propose to use devolution to build upon Lancashire's substantial strengths in delivering benefits for its residents. This initial Proposal, if approved by the Secretary of State, will focus on the following priorities and will also establish our case for enhanced future deals.

### **Innovation, Trade, and Investment**

We will work with local and national stakeholders to become a globally recognised and sustainable economy, distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity, and access to opportunities.

### **Skills**

We will work collaboratively with employers, skills and training providers, local authorities and other stakeholders to support people to develop their skills throughout their lives and attract business to Lancashire because of our highly skilled workforce.

### **Transport**

We will work with transport providers inside and outside Lancashire to create better connected infrastructure that links opportunity to need and delivers travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon.



### **Net Zero and Climate Change**

We will work across Lancashire to meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy, and enhance our natural environment. Our ambition is that Lancashire becomes internationally recognised as a leader in the creation of 'green jobs', building upon our world class engineering and manufacturing capabilities.

### **Digital and Cyber**

We will work across Lancashire to continue to transform our digital infrastructure and knowledge-based sectors to balance and modernise our industrial base.

### **Culture and Tourism**

We recognise the fundamental importance of our culture and tourism assets and will work with stakeholders across Lancashire to strengthen these. This work includes the creation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership to help further develop the region's visitor economy.

### **Housing and Land**

We will support the delivery of decent, affordable and low carbon housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.

---

The county is again on the cusp of another transformative chapter in its industrial and commercial history.

---

### **Delivery**

We will implement streamlined governance and decision-making arrangements with a strong business voice to address the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire<sup>1</sup>.

The Proposal includes up to £20 million capital funding in the current Spending Review period to support innovation led growth (including assets to maximise the benefits of the National Cyber Force in Samlesbury) and net zero ambitions across Lancashire .

<sup>1</sup> Subject to agreement of the relevant business cases.

## Principles

Our Proposal is based upon the four principles for levelling up set out in the Levelling Up White Paper:

Principle one: **Effective leadership** with a revised governance model across the CCA Area.

Principle two: **Sensible geography** – the CCA Area covered by this devolution deal has a clear functional economic geography as identified in the Lancashire independent Economic Review (2021).

Principle three: **Flexibility** – the Proposal recognises the unique needs and ambitions of the CCA Area in terms of its governance and priorities.

Principle four: **Appropriate accountability** – the Constituent Councils have, should the Proposal be approved by the Secretary of State, committed to developing a Constitution and Assurance Framework that will confirm, clarify and formalise the intention of institutions and local leaders to continue to be transparent and accountable, work closely with local businesses, seek the best value for taxpayers' money and maintain strong ethical standards.

Our principles also include the local commitments established through the Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework:

Principle five: **Work collaboratively** – we will work collaboratively on our collective priorities sharing ideas, assets, skills and knowledge.

Principle six: **Cross-cutting themes** – we will ensure our commitments to diversity and inclusion, reducing inequalities, children and families, climate and improving quality of life are addressed through the CCA priorities.

Principle seven: **Listening to residents** – we will be active listeners in building our plans for Lancashire. Everyone will be able to contribute to shaping our shared future.

Principle eight: **Being open and transparent** – we will ensure decisions are made democratically and transparently, so residents can easily understand progress against our priorities.



## Benefits of the Proposal

We believe the time is now for devolution for Lancashire – drawing power from Whitehall to give Lancashire greater control over our public services and funding. The proposed CCA would give Lancashire a stronger voice both nationally and in the North West, allowing the region to compete on a more even playing field with our neighbours in Manchester and Liverpool.

Devolution in Lancashire would:

- Ensure we benefit from a boost in government funding, allowing the proposed CCA to tackle the issues that matter most to the people of Lancashire
- Give us new powers to drive regeneration in our town and city centres and build more affordable homes across Lancashire
- Enable us to support new jobs in growing industries such as low carbon technologies, cyber security and energy, making sure we have the right skills to take advantage of these opportunities
- Enable greater co-ordination of investment in, and management of our expertise, priorities, and investment in our transport infrastructure to ensure that it meets the needs of people across the region
- Drive investment across Lancashire, ensuring no area is left behind.

## Next steps

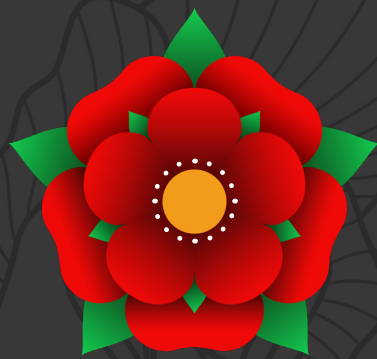
To gain feedback on the Proposal and to inform the decision as to whether to proceed to advance the Proposal (with any potential amendments) to the Secretary of State, an eight-week consultation is planned to be undertaken between 1st December 2023 and 26th January 2024. Transition to the proposed CCA is dependent on a number of factors:

- This Proposal being accepted by the constituent councils as a result of public consultation
- This Proposal then being accepted by Government
- The approval by Parliament of the necessary secondary legislation implementing the deal.

The transition to a formal CCA in Autumn 2024 is planned to be in three stages:

- Stage 1: Establishing transition arrangements – Autumn 2023 to Spring 2024
- Stage 2: Working as a shadow organisation – Spring 2024 to Autumn 2024
- Stage 3: Formal establishment of the CCA – Autumn 2024 onwards.

Lancashire partners recognise that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This Proposal is the first step in a process of further intended devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Lancashire will seek to deepen its devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

Lancashire is a diverse county with a rich history and culture. The emblem of the historic county of Lancashire is the Red Rose of the English royal House of Lancaster. The contrasting geography of the area, along with the creativity and friendliness of its people, combines to make Lancashire a great place to live, learn and work. Lancashire has a long tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship which has gone on to change the world. Today, over 250 years since Richard Arkwright's cotton spinning technology helped to reshape the global economy, the county is again on the cusp of another transformative chapter in its industrial and commercial history.

On the 22 November 2023 the government announced the potential for a devolution deal for Lancashire. The potential signing of the proposed deal would, subject to relevant approvals and consultation, represent a significant milestone in the region's development, addressing decades of historically low investment and providing a platform for innovation-led growth.

A thriving Lancashire remains one of the prerequisites to a successful economy in the North of England. With a population of 1.53 million residents and a GVA of £35 billion, Lancashire already makes a major contribution and offers enormous potential to UK PLC. It has over 55,000 businesses providing over 728,000 jobs. It is a coherent economic area and has a range of significant future-looking sectors with potential for growth, including advanced manufacturing and engineering (one of the world's largest aerospace clusters), cyber, digital and low carbon, as well as traditional strengths in areas such as tourism and food production.

However, alongside this, Lancashire also experiences challenges which impact on productivity and employment levels and the ability to grow. The historic structure of Lancashire's economy has a range of sectors which are gradually losing jobs. Economic shocks can hit harder and take longer to bounce-back from than in neighbouring economies.

A thriving Lancashire remains one of the prerequisites to a successful economy in the North of England.

There are clear and profound disparities in skill levels, health, economic productivity measures and resident prosperity across the county which, in turn impact more widely on people's life chances. 2021 data (latest) on Gross Disposable Household Income shows considerable variation across Lancashire, with around £10,000 difference between the households in Lancashire with the lowest disposable household income (Blackburn with Darwen (£15,025) and the highest Ribble Valley (£24,734).

As a result of their devolution agreements, other areas such as Greater Manchester have seen significant benefits and stronger economic performance. Lancashire now has its opportunity to access greater local powers and funding to address its challenges and exploit its significant opportunities.

Government's devolution framework places a strong emphasis on strong local governance and joint working across functional economic geographies. The upper tier local authorities of Lancashire and Government have agreed a historic Level 2 devolution deal which will provide powers and funding to enable Lancashire to unleash its economic potential and in doing so level up, raise living standards for its communities and make a greater contribution to the UK economy. The Proposal shows how levelling up can be done within a complex geographical area – with clear alignment to the 12 headline Levelling Up missions.

CCAs are a new model of devolution, outlined in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023). Establishing a CCA is a formal, legal step, allowing upper tier councils across the region to work more closely together in a more structured way. A CCA for the region would be a new statutory authority created to lead collaboration between councils and would act as the recipient of powers and funding from Government.

The creation of the proposed CCA would not result in the merger or take-over of councils in the Area nor would it require individual councils to give up their powers, except in the specific area of transportation, where some powers would be transferred from the upper tier authorities to the CCA. Cooperation in transport matters between the CCA and the councils would also continue into the longer term with certain powers to be held concurrently moving forward to enable the parties to work together effectively in the years ahead. The CCA would work as one democratically accountable body on key priorities such as economic development, regeneration and transport, enhancing the investment capability of the CCA Area and individual authorities to support growth.

We believe the time is now for devolution for Lancashire – drawing power from Whitehall to give Lancashire greater control over our public services and funding. The CCA will give Lancashire a stronger voice both nationally and in the North West, allowing the region to compete on a more even playing field with our neighbours in Manchester and Liverpool.

Devolution in Lancashire would:

- ensure we benefit from a boost in government funding, allowing the proposed new CCA to tackle the issues that matter most to the people of Lancashire
- give us new powers to drive regeneration in our town and city centres and build more affordable homes across Lancashire
- enable us to support new jobs in growing industries such as low carbon technologies, cyber security and energy, making sure we have the right skills to take advantage of these opportunities
- enable greater co-ordination of investment in, and management of our expertise, priorities, and investment in our transport infrastructure to ensure that it meets the needs of people across the region
- drive investment across Lancashire, ensuring no area is left behind.

Whilst the devolution of power and responsibilities would be to the CCA whose constituent members are the three upper tier local authorities, the Proposal respects the importance of the continued role of the district / borough councils<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 1 below) whose powers and functions remain intact and who would also have specified consenting rights in respect of the exercise of some powers by the CCA.

**If devolution goes ahead, all local councils in Lancashire will continue to exist, as they do now. Councils will continue to have the responsibilities they do now, providing vital services to their communities and championing their towns, rural communities, and cities.**

Lancashire partners recognise that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This Proposal is the first step in a process of further devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Lancashire would intend to deepen its devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement.

This Proposal document sets out further detail on our plans<sup>3</sup>.

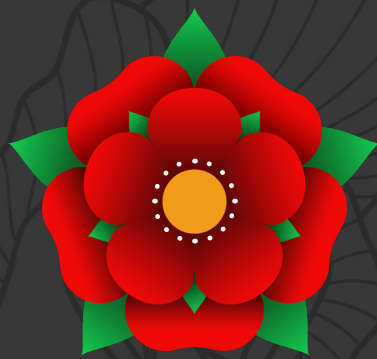


**Figure 1** Map of the proposed Lancashire CCA Area and local authority boundaries. The area covered by Lancashire County Council is shown in light blue.

<sup>2</sup> Burnley Borough Council, Chorley Council, Fylde Borough Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council.

<sup>3</sup> In line with guidance from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, this Proposal adopts and acknowledges best practice from a range of devolution documents from other areas, including the EMCCA.





## 2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Lancashire is 'polycentric' with a strong network of urban centres set amongst areas of outstanding natural beauty. Home to the cities of Preston and Lancaster and the larger towns of Blackpool and Blackburn, the area brings together a range of nationally significant businesses and assets including BAE Systems and Springfields Nuclear Fuels, combined with a highly capable engineering and manufacturing supply chain. Our county contains four world class universities and 11 further education colleges, which provide excellence in research, skills development, and business support. The area has a rich quality of place offer that complements the more urban offers of Manchester and Liverpool, with its population living within easy access of countryside and coast.

Partners across Lancashire already work closely together on many collaborative large-scale initiatives such as major inward investment projects and the underpinning evidence base and strategies. The proposed CCA supports the growing recognition that our extensive range of strengths and opportunities as a functional local area complement each other. The Proposal's focus on Lancashire-wide issues will improve cohesion between local areas and with other areas.

### Population

The proposed CCA Area will cover a population of more than 1.53 million people. This compares to:

- West Midlands Combined Authority - 2.9 million
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority - 2.9 million
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 1.9 million
- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority - 1.56 million
- North East Combined Authority - 1.16 million
- South Yorkshire Combined Authority - 1.41 million
- West of England Combined Authority - 0.95 million
- Tees Valley Combined Authority - 0.66 million.

This would make the proposed CCA comparable in size to mid-sized combined authority areas. The Proposal would play a key role in driving new economic, social and cultural opportunities to ensure the CCA Area is better able to compete with other sub-regional economies.

## Economy

The proposed CCA is very significant, covering almost as many residents and working age residents as the Liverpool City Region, and contributing £35bn in GVA to the UK economy<sup>i</sup>.

In 1998, Lancashire was the second-largest economy in the North West, this continued for the next decade until the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, when Lancashire was badly impacted. Along with Cumbria and the Liverpool City Region, Lancashire's economy did not recover to pre-2008 levels until 2014, whilst both Greater Manchester and Cheshire had recovered by 2011. Cumbria and the Liverpool City Region both enjoyed a stronger recovery than Lancashire did, with Cumbria recovering to 3.3% above pre-crisis levels and Liverpool City Region to 2% above – with Lancashire recovering to just 1% above. By the time Lancashire's economy had recovered to pre-crisis levels of output, it had fallen to the third largest in the North West, having been overtaken by the Liverpool City Region.

Pre-Pandemic, Lancashire's economy was still the third largest economy in the North West, but economic data for 2021 shows Lancashire's economy is still 3% smaller than pre-pandemic in real terms<sup>ii</sup>. History dictates a change of tack is needed to ensure Lancashire's recovery from the pandemic does not take as long as the recovery from the Global Financial Crisis – implementation of this Proposal would unlock policy levers to better stimulate, recover and grow Lancashire's economy.

---

The Proposal would play a key role in driving new economic, social and cultural opportunities to ensure the CCA Area is better able to compete with other sub-regional economies.

---

The functional economic area (areas that share a number of similar economic factors with boundaries that ideally reflect the drivers of the local economy) has been strengthened through the Local Enterprise Partnership, in place since 2011. This footprint renews those boundaries, and will cover a combined 1.53 million residents, and more than 700,000 jobs. 88% of employed Lancashire residents also work in jobs in Lancashire, though Lancashire residents are also working in large numbers in neighbouring areas like Greater Manchester (38,000), Liverpool City Region (15,000), Cumbria (4,500), Cheshire and Warrington (4,000) and as far as the Leeds City Region (3,800) and York and North Yorkshire (3,400). The integration of these economies and labour markets works both ways, with Lancashire attracting talent from all over the North, with some 30,000 from Greater Manchester, 16,000 from the Liverpool City Region, and more than 3,000 from both Cumbria and the Leeds City Region<sup>iii</sup>.



## Transport and Infrastructure

The proposed CCA Area benefits from a huge amount of strategic assets summarised as follows:

- 104 miles of motorways, the M6, M55, M58, M61 and M65 as well as 616 miles of major roads, and more than 5,000 miles of roads in total<sup>iv</sup>
- High levels of strategic rail connectivity, including stations on the West Coast Mainline, and stations connected to Merseyrail, Northern, and Transpennine Express
- Preston Railway Station is a key stop and saw more than 4.1million entries and exits in 2021-22, the 70th most used rail station of more than 2,500 nationally, with direct trains to London in 2 hours and 15 minutes<sup>v</sup>
- In total, stations in Lancashire handled more than 16 million entries and exits in 2021-22<sup>vi</sup>
- Heysham Port with links to Ireland and the Isle of Man, connected to the M6 via The Bay Gateway
- Blackpool Airport and Blackpool's connectivity to the North Atlantic Loop
- Enterprise Zones at Blackpool Airport, Samlesbury, Warton, and Hillhouse
- An established pipeline of major development and infrastructure projects with the potential to secure over £20bn of investment over the next decade<sup>vii</sup>

## Business and Manufacturing

The proposed CCA Area has 627,000 employed people<sup>viii</sup> with 55,000 businesses, and 220 large employers<sup>ix</sup>. The proposed CCA Area benefits from an exceptionally strong advanced manufacturing base and one of the largest aerospace clusters in the world. The manufacturing sector in Lancashire:

- Generated £6.4bn in 2021 - 8th highest of any enterprise region
- Employs 84,000 people in Lancashire
- Its contribution to the Lancashire economy is almost double what is typical nationally<sup>x</sup>.

Lancashire is a world leader in transport equipment manufacturing, in both aerospace and automotive, with prime manufacturers such as BAE Systems in Warton and Samlesbury, which has two of its three largest sites in the UK situated within Lancashire, employing 10,000 people. Other major employers include Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick, Safran Nacelles in Burnley, and Leyland Trucks in South Ribble. Lancashire is home to the North West Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), supporting manufacturing innovation across Lancashire.

Lancashire also has a strong food manufacturing sector, which contributes almost 3.5% of Lancashire's economy (compared to around 2% nationally), with large employers such as Fox's Biscuits, Huntapac, and Flavourfresh Salads.

These draw on Lancashire's strong and concentrated Food and Agriculture businesses, which provide more than £2bn a year to Lancashire's economy, accounting for almost 7% of Lancashire's economy, compared to 5% nationally<sup>xi</sup>.

Nuclear technology is also significant in Lancashire given the presence of EDF's Nuclear Power Stations at Heysham, currently the only site in the UK with two operating nuclear power stations. Lancashire also plays host to The National Nuclear Laboratory in Salwick with Springfields Nuclear Fuels, where the design and manufacture of nuclear fuels takes place. Alongside Springfields is Westinghouse's Clean Energy Technology Park, an innovation campus open to the nuclear supply chain, academia, and technology developers to collaborate to develop and demonstrate advanced nuclear technologies. Lancashire's nuclear specialisms dovetail well with its Low Carbon story, producing almost 10% of the UK's wind power in 2022<sup>xii</sup>, as well as being forecast to be home to the highest number of Low Carbon Electricity jobs per head of the population by 2030<sup>xiii</sup>.

Lancashire also has a burgeoning Healthcare sector, which employs more than 100,000 people, 16% of employment in Lancashire comes from this sector, almost a fifth higher than the national average<sup>xiv</sup>. This comes with the presence of large hospitals, such as Blackpool Victoria, Royal Preston and Royal Blackburn teaching Hospitals, as well as from our base of innovative businesses working across MedTech, Life Sciences, diagnostics, and clinical research. Lancashire's health sector is also supported by the presence of innovation assets such as Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus, and the THRIVE research centre at University of Central Lancashire, amongst many others.

Our science and innovation ecosystem are underpinned by Lancashire's three universities, Edge Hill, Lancaster University and the University of Central Lancashire, as well as the Lancaster Campus of the University of Cumbria. In 2021, 91% of research undertaken within Lancaster University's Faculty of Health and Medicine's was rated as "world leading" or "internationally excellent".

Its Management School is rated as the number one business school in the UK for research power, and its Environment centre is ranked 5th nationally for "research power".

The University of Central Lancashire opened its £35m Engineering Innovation Centre in 2019 supporting innovation in engineering and manufacturing in Lancashire.

Lancashire is also to be the permanent home of the National Cyber Force (NCF), and will create the North West Cyber Corridor in collaboration with Greater Manchester, joining NCF with GCHQ in Manchester. This will cement the North West as the Cyber Centre of the UK, with Lancashire playing a leading role.

The investment in the National Cyber Force will bring 2,000 jobs to Lancashire, long-term sustainable funding and will catalyse clustering and agglomeration of digital and cyber businesses in Lancashire, creating high-quality well-paid jobs, and bringing further prosperity.

Outside of our two cities, Lancaster and Preston, the businesses and activities located in the proposed CCA Area's districts and boroughs generate almost 80% of our GVA<sup>xv</sup>. The share of Lancashire's economy that comes from its cities has remained largely unchanged in the last 20 years, but there have been winners and losers in the distribution of the remainder. The Fylde coast accounts for 1.7% less of Lancashire's economy now than it did in 1998, and there are shrinking shares of the economy that come from most districts and boroughs of East Lancashire. These towns, boroughs and rural economies play host to key manufacturing sites, large employers and thriving small businesses, and are home to much of Lancashire's workforce too.

## Commuting and Labour Force

The proposed CCA Area is already a highly functional economic geography, with the Lancashire LEP area having 88% of its workforce living in Lancashire, and 14% of residents working outside of Lancashire in areas like Greater Manchester, the Liverpool City Region, Cheshire and Warrington, and Cumbria. Whilst there is a large labour force locally to provide businesses with employees (940,000 working age residents), the proposed CCA Area will need to continue to catalyse the delivery of great opportunities for work, housing and leisure in order to remain attractive to those who live and work here. This will include building a more attractive proposition to retain more of the graduates from Lancashire's three universities, with around a quarter of graduates from Lancashire universities in the last three years staying to work in Lancashire after they graduate. Lancashire's retention of graduates is the second lowest of all areas of the North, and below the national average of an area retaining a third of its graduates in employment after they graduate<sup>xvi</sup>.

Whilst Lancashire does have a large working age population, post-pandemic the proportion of Lancashire residents who are economically active (that is they are employed or are looking for work) has fallen considerably. Lancashire has more than 220,000 residents who are economically inactive, which is almost a quarter of its working age population. Lancashire has long had an economically inactive cohort which has been greater in proportion of the workforce than was typical nationally, but this has become more acute post-pandemic, with the gap between Lancashire's economic inactivity rate and the national rate growing from 0.4% to 3.3%<sup>xvii</sup>.

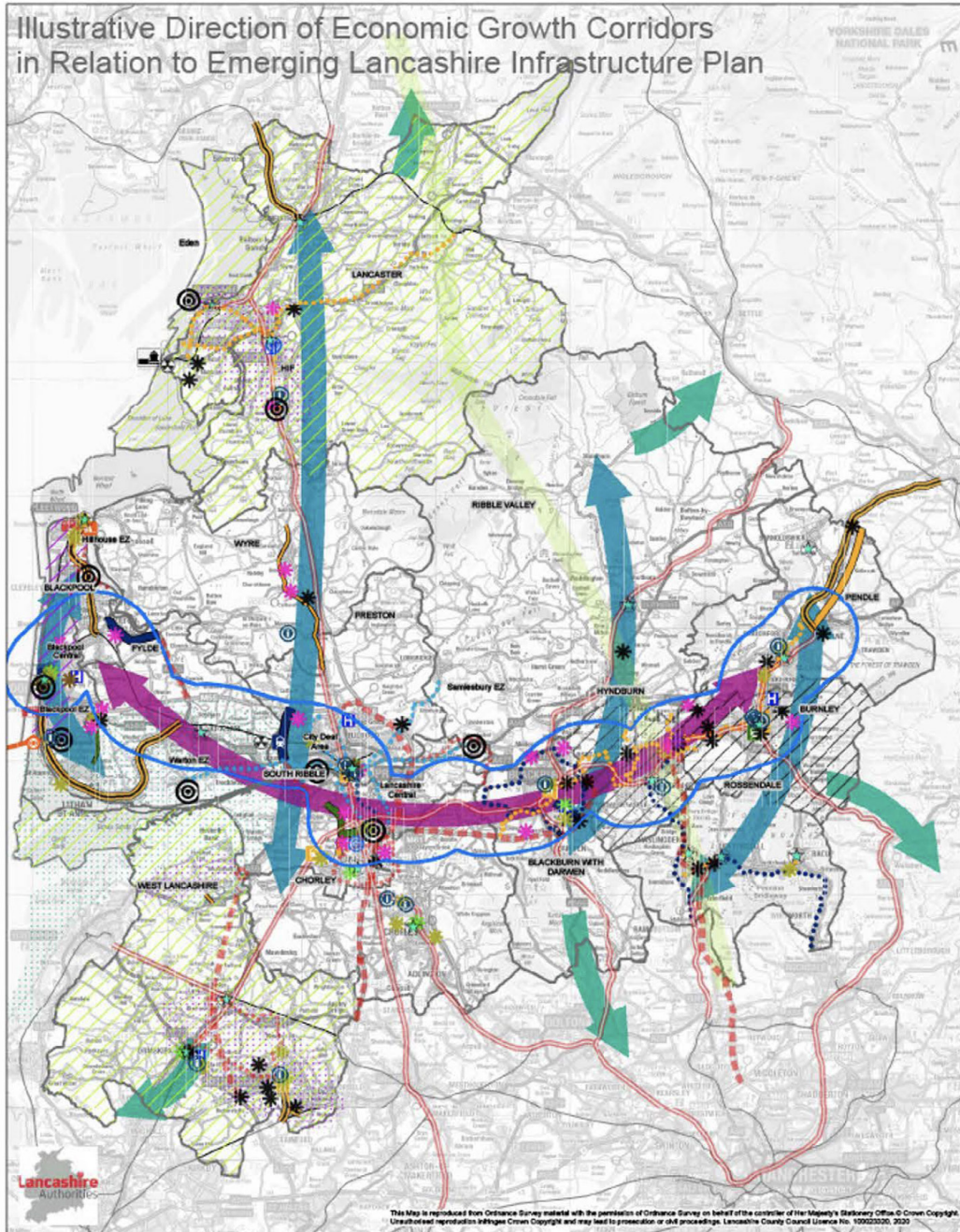


Figure 2 - Map of Economic Corridors in Lancashire, source: LIER 2021

## Housing

Across the country, mismatches of demand for housing and housing supply are ubiquitous. In many areas, this leads to increasingly unaffordable and, in some areas, unsuitable dwellings. The proposed CCA Area, like much of the nation, has seen a shortage in housing supply. An estimated 5,200 homes a year are required to meet local need<sup>xvii</sup>. Over the last five years, an average of 4,560 homes a year have been completed<sup>xix</sup>. Based on these trends, we are likely to see a shortfall of over 6,400 homes over the next 10 years, which adds to the existing lack of supply.



This is a challenge, but Lancashire is somewhat insulated from lack of affordability for existing housing (relative to the typical position nationally), with a median house price to earnings ratio of 5.64:1, compared to the England average of 8.91:1 and the North West average of 6.47:1<sup>xx</sup>.

For newly built dwellings though, Lancashire's house price to workplace-based earnings ratio is 8.66:1 (i.e. earnings typical for someone working in a Lancashire workplace, as opposed to earnings from Lancashire residents who may work outside of Lancashire) - this is much closer to the England average of 8.91:1 for existing dwellings, and 9.85:1 for newly built dwellings<sup>xxi</sup>.

Newly built homes are not being built quickly enough in Lancashire and the gap between housing need and housing provision is widening every year. Despite being the third most affordable new-builds of all "Shire Counties," the affordability of new-builds has dipped by a factor of more than four times the median income in Lancashire since 1998, and they are increasingly unaffordable for Lancashire residents.

## Parity of investment

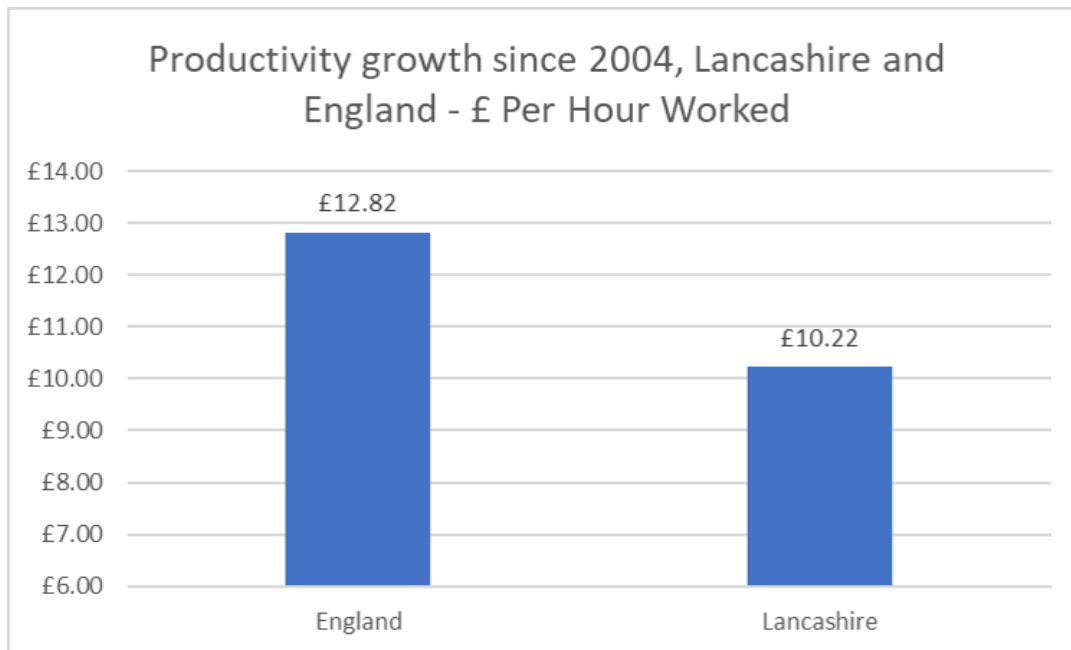
Investment spending in Lancashire has grown on average by 0.8% a year since the Global Financial Crisis. This rate of growth in investment spending puts Lancashire in the bottom fifth of areas nationally, and looking at growth from 1997 onwards, Lancashire is the worst performing region in the country for growth in investment spend. In the North West, only Cumbria had a lower investment spend than Lancashire in 2020, but investment in Cumbria totalled around £11,300 per head, in Lancashire it was just £3,700<sup>xxii</sup>.

## Addressing productivity, skills, and employment

Improvements in productivity can help lift wages and provide high quality jobs across all parts of the country. Across the proposed Lancashire CCA Area there has been a long-standing gap in productivity compared to England as a whole. Despite an increase in productivity of almost 45% since 2004, this has been slower than the growth nationally (49.1%), and so the gap between Lancashire's productivity and the national average rate of productivity has grown.

In 2004, Lancashire's productivity was 12.7% below the national average, as of 2021 this gap has grown, and Lancashire's productivity is 15.3% below the national average<sup>xxiii</sup>.

A devolved CCA can support the improvement of skills and qualifications in Lancashire residents, boosting workforce participation and employment, enhancing productivity, improving earnings and standards of living.



**Figure 3 – Graph of Productivity Growth in Lancashire and England**

Source: Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by UK ITL2 and ITL3 subregions - Gross Value Added (Balanced) per hour worked at Current Prices 2004-2021 2023, ONS  
© Crown Copyright

After the recovery from the Global Financial Crisis, and prior to COVID-19, the proposed CCA Area’s economy had grown by an average of 1.9%, slightly below the rate seen in Cheshire and Warrington and 1.3% below Greater Manchester. During this time, Lancashire saw improvements in skills, with an additional 47,000 residents holding Level 4 or above qualifications, and in high value employment opportunities, with an additional 25,000 people working in the most highly qualified occupations. Despite these improvements there remains a significant gap between Lancashire’s economic performance and that of England and there remains some fundamental challenges to be addressed:

- A loss of £3.8 billion in GVA during the first year of COVID-19, and Lancashire’s economy still almost 3% smaller than pre-pandemic. <sup>xxiv</sup>
- An estimated 22% of jobs in the Area will be affected by the transition to a net-zero carbon economy requiring the upskilling of 70,000 workers. <sup>xxv</sup>
- Poor east-west connectivity by road and rail, more than half of Lancashire’s population live along the east-west axis between Colne and Blackpool, and the four largest settlements in Lancashire lie along this stretch. <sup>xxvi</sup>
- The Area has a low skill low wage economy with the median annual pay of both residents and workplaces in the proposed Area being almost 11% lower than the United Kingdom average. <sup>xxvii</sup>
- Four of the proposed Area’s 14 local authorities rank in the bottom 10% (decile) of all authorities across the United Kingdom on median gross annual workplace pay, and half are in the bottom third. <sup>xxviii</sup>

- Lower than average labour market participation with the Area's employment rate (72.5%) falling below the Great Britain (75.6%) average. Lancashire has a higher rate of economic inactivity amongst the working age population (24.7%) than is typical across Great Britain (21.4%). <sup>xxix</sup>

In terms of levelling up measures there are significant differences between different district/borough localities in the Area:

- Productivity, with three of the Area's local authorities in the top 25% (quartile) nationally in 2021 (South Ribble, Fylde and Ribble Valley), but six falling in the lowest performing quartile, including Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, which were in the bottom 10% (decile) nationally, and a total of nine in the bottom third. <sup>xxx</sup>
- Workplace pay, with Ribble Valley in the best-paid 50 local authorities nationally where pay is around 9% higher than the UK average, but six of the Area's authorities amongst the lowest ranking 25.0% nationally (Blackburn with Darwen, Wyre, Blackpool, Rossendale, Pendle and Burnley) where weekly pay is up to 22% below the UK average. <sup>xxxi</sup>
- Employment rate, with two District/Borough areas in the best performing quartile (Fylde, South Ribble) nationally, but eight in the worst performing 25.0%, including Pendle, ranked second lowest in the country (after Brent), with Wyre fourth lowest, and Chorley 10th lowest. <sup>xxxii</sup>

## Reducing wider inequalities

The proposed CCA Area experiences persistent and systemic deprivation, with almost a fifth of neighbourhoods in Lancashire considered to be in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods across England.<sup>xxxiii</sup> There are significant pockets of deprivation right across Lancashire, with 8 of the 10 most deprived neighbourhoods in the country coming from Blackpool alone, and a further 33 neighbourhoods in the most deprived 1% across the country. On a district/borough level, Blackpool is the most deprived in the country, Burnley and Blackburn with Darwen are in the top 10, and Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston are in the 50 most deprived nationally.

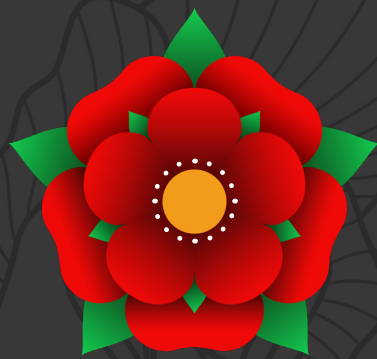
In Lancashire, there are significant differences in outcomes depending on where you live:

- Both males and females have a lower healthy life expectancy than is typical nationally across all upper tier authorities of the proposed CCA. In Blackpool, males and females both have the worst recorded healthy life expectancy of any local authority in the county, at 74.1 years for males and 79 years for females, compared to a national average of 79.4 and 83.1 years respectively. For males across Lancashire, healthy life expectancy is particularly challenging, with eight of the proposed CCA's 14 district/unitary authorities amongst the lowest fifth of local authorities in the country by healthy life expectancy. <sup>xxxiv</sup>

- From a health standpoint, more than a third of economic inactivity in Lancashire is due to long-term ill health, compared to 26.6% nationally – Lancashire’s proportion of inactivity due to ill health is the 7th highest area in the country. <sup>xxxv</sup>
- GCSE Average attainment 8 scores at Key Stage 4 for all upper tier authorities in the proposed CCA are below the England average. <sup>xxxvi</sup> Across the districts/boroughs, attainment varies considerably, Blackpool was the third lowest performing district authority nationally at Key Stage 4 in 2022/23, with four other Lancashire districts in the worst performing fifth. On the other hand, Chorley, Ribble Valley, and Rossendale are in the best performing third nationally. <sup>xxxvii</sup>
- At the early years foundation stage, four of Lancashire’s district/boroughs are in the lowest 10% (decile) nationally on children meeting the expected level on early learning goals for five-year-olds <sup>xxxviii</sup>. Additionally, 10 of the Area’s 14 local authorities are in the poorest performing 25% of areas nationally, only Ribble Valley and Fylde are in the top 50% of local authorities by this measure.
- A lower proportion of adults are qualified to NVQ level 3+ than England (47.7%: 50.8% respectively), and six of Lancashire’s 14 districts are in the least well qualified third of local authorities nationally. <sup>xxxix</sup>
- Similarly, Lancashire is also behind the national average for the proportion of adults with a Level 4 or above qualification (29.5% vs 33.9% in England). <sup>xl</sup>







# 3. OUR AMBITIONS

Our vision is for the 1.53 million people in Lancashire to be able to enjoy greater health, prosperity, and wellbeing through the opportunities available to them within an inclusive and confident Lancashire.

## Objectives

The objectives for the Proposal reflect regional and national strategy and are designed to ensure a positive future of our county and its people. Together they offer a bold and strategic framework so that:

- Lancashire competes better for its share of national resources and investment
- Lancashire's public, private and voluntary sectors collaborate better to maximise the best use of our resources
- Lancashire has a strong and clear voice that responds innovatively to new opportunities and challenges
- Lancashire has a rich, meaningful and strategic dialogue with central government about the future of our county.
- Lancashire is better positioned to respond to Government's Levelling Up objectives which are;
  - Boosting productivity, pay, skills, jobs and living standards
  - Spreading opportunities and improving public services
  - Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging
  - Empowering local leaders and communities.

## Outcomes

Through delivering on these objectives, we aim to achieve the following outcomes for our residents and the CCA Area:

- A stronger voice in the North West that is currently dominated by Manchester and Liverpool
- Encourage innovation led growth through long term investment in major opportunities
- Match skills to economic need to increase productivity and wellbeing of people who live and work in the area
- Reduce inequality and promote social mobility to allow people to achieve their potential

- Improve transport links to offer greater choice and facilitate better and more sustainable access to our economic hubs, including improving east – west connectivity
- Greater access to Government funding that is exclusively targeted at devolved areas
- Greater say on where to spend investment
- Decision making brought closer to communities, increasing the visibility of those decisions
- Lancashire authorities will gain powers from Whitehall.

## The Lancashire evidence base

Our devolution ambitions have been informed by substantial Lancashire level analysis over recent years and are based upon a series of major reviews and consultations.

### Lancashire Independent Economic Review | 2021

This major review showed how the county can build on its world-beating strengths, tackle its economic challenges, and deliver environmentally responsible and inclusive growth while shaping public sector reform and local government reorganisation. The exercise was informed by a call for evidence that was open to individuals, communities, businesses, or representative organisations from within Lancashire and beyond who had an interest in the economic future of Lancashire and who could deepen partners' understanding of the Lancashire economy. One of the central recommendations was for 'strengthened combined governance across Lancashire' to take advantage of the opportunities offered through devolution.

The main report covered 'Productivity, Innovation and Work', 'Skills, Education and Health', 'Housing and Resilience', 'Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity' and 'Place Governance Capacity' and was enhanced by a series of deep dive reports:

- Internationalisation Strategy for Lancashire
- Economic Geography and the future of towns
- Infrastructure Strategy for Lancashire
- Health, Wealth and Wellbeing
- Stronger and Greener: The future of manufacturing in Lancashire
- Lancashire Net Zero Pathways Options
- Climate Resilience Study
- Lancashire State of the Environment
- State of the Environment: Renewable Technology

### Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework, launched in 2022

Initiated by Lancashire's 15 councils and involving a wide range of stakeholders, Lancashire 2050 sets out a long-term vision, ambition and plans for the Area.

**Vision:** a place where every single person can live their best life.

**Ambition:** to be seen across the world as the best place to make a home, raise a family, develop a career, do business, and grow old. A place made up of communities everyone is proud of, that celebrates our sense of place, heritage, and natural environment. A place where we always look to the future.

**Plan:** Our plan for achieving our vision is organised around eight priority areas. The framework for action will help us focus on the things that are most important, as well as respond to changing local and global trends, policy mandates and place needs. It will mean that Lancashire can speak with one voice when championing our needs in government.

Local partners have established working groups across the eight priority areas as described within section 4 of this proposal.

## Responding to the Devolution opportunity

Lancashire partners used the substantial local evidence base and strategic work to assess the devolution framework set out by government in the Levelling Up White Paper. This technical assessment exercise, shared with Government officials in June 2023, considered the following four points across the range of devolution functions set out by Government for a Level 2 Deal:

- What Lancashire is/has already done under each devolution theme
- Identification of specific Lancashire options and proposals under each devolution theme
- Why these proposals are a priority/key issue for Lancashire
- How the Lancashire proposals aligns with Government policy <sup>4</sup>

Crucially, this approach has allowed partners to understand which priorities can be supported through the Proposal and which could be taken forward over time.

## Our Priorities

We propose to use devolution to build upon Lancashire's substantial strengths in delivering benefits for its residents. This initial Proposal will focus on the following priorities and will also establish our case for potential enhanced future deals.

Within this section, we set out what we would intend the CCA would deliver across our key priority areas if this Proposal is approved.

<sup>4</sup> The CCA Priorities also directly support a number of Labour's Missions announced in February 2023; Securing the "highest sustained growth" in the G7 group, Making Britain a "clean energy superpower", removing fossil fuels from all of Britain's electricity generation by 2030 and Raising education standards.

## Innovation, Trade, and Investment

**We will work with local and national stakeholders to become a globally recognised and sustainable economy, distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity, and access to opportunities.**

We will use the devolution process to refresh our strategic plans for economic prosperity. These plans will build upon our competitive advantages, exploit opportunities, and develop new sectors capable of delivering economic growth and high-value job creation over the long term. The proposed CCA will enable Lancashire to produce better strategic cases for investment and gain a greater share of national resources.

Devolution for Lancashire can support us to overcome a historical imbalance of economic performance, low productivity, low investment, and employment at a local level and ensure that Lancashire gets the necessary boost in funding to address longstanding inequalities and support levelling up our communities. Lancashire has opportunities aplenty in all parts of the county, and devolution will put Lancashire in a better position to realise the benefits of these opportunities to improve the lives of residents.

This Proposal can further stimulate business diversification through building upon the existing sectoral strengths of the CCA Area, and catalysing growth in future industries, such as Energy and Low Carbon and Cyber. This activity will ensure no area of Lancashire is left behind, and the future of Lancashire is one which is equitable for residents in all corners of Lancashire. Devolution will allow Lancashire to build on its proud history of international trade, supported by a county wide internationalisation strategy, and boost investment across all areas of Lancashire.

Subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review, Government's expectation is that delivery responsibility for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a flexible funding pot, will be aligned with devolution deal responsibilities. This would mean that the proposed CCA could have such responsibilities from 2025/26. In carrying out this role, the proposed CCA and the constituent councils will work closely with the Lancashire District Leaders Forum in an advisory capacity. Delivery of these functions will build on existing district-led delivery arrangements for UKSPF and align with the Lancashire 2050 strategy, as agreed by all Local Authorities in Lancashire, to ensure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.

The Proposal will provide £6m capital investment<sup>5</sup> to create an Innovation Hub of international excellence at Samlesbury Enterprise Zone. The new centre will help stimulate the growth of new clusters to maximise the transformational benefits of the £5bn National Cyber Force in Lancashire.



The Proposal will provide £6m for the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter<sup>6</sup>. The project will provide new business space to support the growth of Lancashire's digital, creative, and cyber sectors.

Through the Proposal, Government departments will consider the potential for future relocations of Government roles to Lancashire as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

To support the proposed CCA in its initial stages of this deal, the Government will provide £1m of capacity funding.

## Skills

**We will work collaboratively with employers, skills and training providers, local authorities, and other stakeholders to support people to develop their skills throughout their lives and attract business to Lancashire because of our highly skilled workforce.**

In Lancashire's labour market, the estimated employment rate is below the national rate and has worsened since the pandemic. Lancashire's labour force is also characterised by a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications.

The Proposed deal includes new powers to better shape local skills provisions to ensure these meet the needs of the local economy. This will include devolution of adult education, the core Adult Education Budget, and the opportunity to further refine the Local Skills Improvement Plan. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.

A strong, resilient, and inclusive economy brings health benefits to its residents, just as good population health is essential to economic prosperity, health and wealth are effectively 'two sides of the same coin'. As a CCA Area, Lancashire will be better placed to bid to become a pilot on national economic inactivity programmes that support individuals with health conditions to be retained or re-engaged through early intervention in the workplace.

## Transport

**We will work with transport providers inside and outside Lancashire to create better connected infrastructure that links opportunity to need and delivers travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon.**

Partners will build on a successful track record of major transport investment, and Lancashire's fourth Local Transport Plan will set its direction and priorities

<sup>5</sup> Subject to Business Case approval.

<sup>6</sup> Subject to Business Case approval.

for highways and transport investment. This plan will work across the county to secure the benefits of connectivity in support of widening transport choices and supporting low carbon travel opportunities. Lancashire has a significant infrastructure pipeline of road transport, bus and rail schemes, and active travel projects that it is seeking to fund through devolution.

The Proposal includes new powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to develop the bus service improvement plan (BSIP) partnership and strengthen co-ordination of local transport functions.

The Proposal includes plans to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure to increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions.

As such devolution will help Lancashire deliver improved productivity, health and wellbeing, air quality and net zero carbon policies - and support objectives for maintaining a safe and reliable transport network.

As set out in the recent Network North announcement:

- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £2.5 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North outside of the big city regions.
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £770 million of funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North.
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £3.3 billion funding to fix potholes in the North.

Note: Under the terms of this Proposal, ownership and operation of Blackpool Transport Services Limited (BTS) and all associated assets, including the Bus and Tram fleet, will remain with BTS. BTS will remain as an arm's length company owned by Blackpool Council.

Blackpool Transport Service also provides vital bus services to Blackpool and the surrounding area. BTS will continue to deliver bus services locally.

## **Net Zero and Climate Change**

**We will work across Lancashire to meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy, and enhance our natural environment. Our ambition is that Lancashire becomes internationally recognised as a leader in the creation of 'green jobs', building upon our world class engineering and manufacturing capabilities.**

Lancashire's Energy and Low Carbon sector is particularly important due to its existing ecosystem and capabilities in designing and manufacturing low carbon technologies. The area is forecast to have the highest number of jobs



per capita in the Energy and Low Carbon sector in England between 2030 – 2050. Government will work with the proposed CCA to enable the continued growth of this sector by supporting the delivery of Lancashire’s Energy and Low Carbon sector plans.

Lancashire partners have been successful in securing funding for natural carbon capture and storage projects including for woodland creation, peatland restoration and pioneering soil management techniques. The county’s Biological Heritage Site system of managing locally important wildlife sites has been strengthened to support the development and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Lancashire.

The Proposal will provide £2m<sup>7</sup> additional capital investment for the Cosy Homes in Lancashire domestic retrofit scheme to extend eligibility criteria and complement the current Home Upgrade Grant scheme. This investment will support a reduction in carbon emissions, better quality housing and improved health outcomes.

## Digital and Cyber

**We will work across Lancashire to continue to transform our digital infrastructure and knowledge-based sectors to balance and modernise our industrial base.**

Lancashire has continued the development of a Lancashire Infrastructure Plan and supported rollout of Openreach and Gigabit programmes, including establishing Superfast Atlantic connection with the North Atlantic Loop at Blackpool Enterprise Zone. This increased digital connectivity provides competitive advantages to attract more cutting-edge, tech-based industries.

Locating the National Cyber Force in Lancashire will attract significant investment and create over 2,000 new jobs. Lancashire CCA will work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, to fully capture the investment, business, research, and skills benefits of this new location. These activities will create opportunities and new careers for residents, develop markets and technologies of local businesses and help to establish a North West Cyber Corridor.

The Proposal will provide £6m capital investment for a Low Carbon Data Demonstrator Centre at Blackpool Enterprise Zone . The project will provide new business space to support Lancashire’s low carbon and digital innovation ambitions.

<sup>7</sup> Subject to Business Case approval.

## Culture and Tourism

**We recognise the fundamental importance of our culture and tourism assets and will work with stakeholders across Lancashire to strengthen these. This work includes the creation a Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region’s visitor economy.**

Lancashire’s rich cultural and heritage offer has an important role in the proposed CCA’s plans to attract and retain skilled workers, and in contributing to ‘pride in place’ in the region. Tourism and the visitor economy are crucial industries for Lancashire, with the area amongst the UK’s most prolific visitor destinations every year. Blackpool is the nation’s Number 1 seaside resort, with some 20 million visits per year, and represents a £1.5bn visitor economy.

The proposed CCA will work with Government to hold a series of exploratory conversations to test the region’s appetite and capacity for partnership working across culture, heritage, sport, communities, and the visitor economy.

VisitEngland and the proposed CCA will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region’s visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government’s Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region’s potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, and encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season.

## Housing and Land

**We will support the delivery of decent, affordable, and low carbon housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.**

Housing is a crucial issue for Lancashire. We need more and better housing to help support a return to growth in our working-age population and economic growth more widely. We also need concerted action to tackle poor-quality housing across the county as this stock drives many of our worst socio-economic outcomes.

As a collaborative, Lancashire authorities have successfully delivered £22m Local Authority Green Home Grant providing home energy improvements to over 2,000 households through the Cosy Homes in Lancashire scheme. £41m has been secured from the Home Upgrade Grant to provide energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures over the next two years.

Blackpool Council have been a Levelling Up partner with Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) since March 2022 and is now trialling policy changes in decent homes standards for the private rented sector and supported housing, and Blackburn with Darwen is also confirmed as one of 20 national Levelling Up Partnership areas.

Lancashire has a major development and infrastructure pipeline in excess of £22bn and a consistent understanding with regard to brownfield land opportunities and outputs including economic development, infrastructure, and housing. Lancashire has clear evidence of the blockages to development, infrastructure, and housing especially on brownfield land where issues such as ownership and contamination and/or buildings from previous uses can present a barrier to achieving outcomes.

The proposal would give Lancashire the ability to exercise compulsory purchase powers, to help drive regeneration and build more affordable homes, boosting supply and bringing down the cost of newly built dwellings.

The Proposal supports our ambition to deliver a pipeline of strategic development sites and infrastructure opportunities faster and more strategically than would otherwise be the case.

## **Delivery**

**We will implement streamlined governance and decision-making arrangements with a strong business voice to address the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.**

This priority will allow the creation of a powerful CCA to drive growth in the North, empowered through strong leadership and effective governance.

To achieve this, our Proposal includes the integration of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership with wider structures and the formation of a new Business Board. This change will help ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice which informs local decision making and strategic economic planning. The model places a strengthened private sector voice at the heart of growth strategy development.

The governance model proposed (see section 5) builds upon existing structures and recognises the significant role of District Councils. The Proposal includes new arrangements for Transport and Skills and will enable partners to collaborate more effectively and focus on the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.

The proposal will see the integration of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership investment team, Marketing Lancashire - the destination management organisation and the Growth Lancashire company, and existing powers to assemble land to unlock sites of significance to stimulate investment in Lancashire. The integration of the LEP and Business Board helps Lancashire choose its own economic path.

The plans proposed respond to national policy on levelling up and devolution including integration of LEP functions and roles into local democratic institutions to ensure a strong business voice at the heart of local decision making.

---

We propose to use devolution to build upon Lancashire's substantial strengths in delivering benefits for its residents.

---

## Our Principles

Our Proposal is based upon the four principles for levelling up set out in the Levelling Up White Paper:

Principle one: **Effective leadership** with a revised governance model across the CCA Area.

Principle two: **Sensible geography** - the CCA Area covered by this Proposal has a clear functional economic geography as identified in the Lancashire Independent Economic Review (2021).

Principle three: **Flexibility** - the Proposal recognises the unique needs and ambitions of the CCA Area in its governance and programme.

Principle four: **Appropriate accountability** – the Constituent Councils have committed to developing a Constitution and Assurance Framework that will confirm, clarify, and formalise the intention of institutions and local leaders to continue to be transparent and accountable, work closely with local businesses, seek the best value for taxpayers' money and maintain strong ethical standards.

Our principles also include the local commitments established through the Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework:

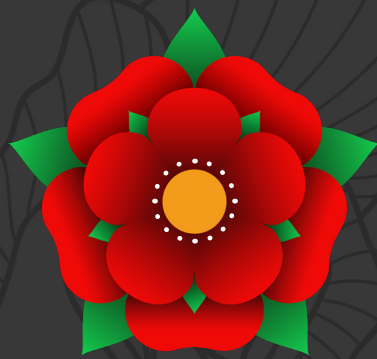
Principle five: **Work collaboratively** – we will work collaboratively on our collective priorities sharing ideas, assets, skills, and knowledge.

Principle six: **Cross-cutting themes** – we will ensure our commitments to diversity and inclusion, reducing inequalities, children and families, climate and improving quality of life are addressed through the CCA priorities, referred to above.

Principle seven: **Listening to residents** – we will be active listeners in building our plans for Lancashire. Everyone will be able to contribute to shaping our shared future.

Principle eight: **Being open and transparent** – we will ensure decisions are made democratically and transparently, so residents can easily understand progress against our priorities.

A major advantage of the CCA model is its capacity for joint governance arrangements across key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development and regeneration, which allows for more integrated policy development and better strategic prioritisation.



# 4. DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Work is currently underway to define the intended operating and delivery arrangements for the proposed CCA. The proposed CCA would build upon existing structures and expertise to deliver the ambitions set out above.

Lancashire local authorities have a long history of joint working to deliver projects and services for the whole county. This joint work has included extensive engagement with public, private, and voluntary sectors and communities. Since its launch in 2022, this joint working has been enhanced through the Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework (L2050) and the formation of eight theme groups (shown below).



**Figure 4 - Diagram of Lancashire 2050 Priority Theme Groups established in 2022**

Once established, the proposed CCA would build upon the L2050 theme groups to develop a pipeline of key priorities and projects. The projects are intended to be underpinned by the priorities of the proposed CCA and actioned through the powers and functions sought as part of the Proposal.

We recognise that Lancashire is a diverse place and the proposed CCA will deliver our shared vision and outcomes via targeted investment and support that acknowledges our geographic differences and similarities. The needs of Lancashire and the projects to address these needs are not all area-wide.

Some priorities may be focussed on our urban and suburban areas and/or our market towns, and/or our rural areas, recognising that new investment should be able to deliver regional wide benefits. The work of the proposed CCA would be informed by a Lancashire Data Observatory that is an alliance of local authorities, industry experts and academic researchers delivering sub-regional research and analysis.

---

Lancashire local authorities have a long history of joint working to deliver projects and services for the whole county.

---

## Social Value

The Proposal provides an opportunity for Lancashire to expand its leading work around generating social value. The proposed CCA would support the development of a Lancashire wide Social Value Framework in delivering devolution.

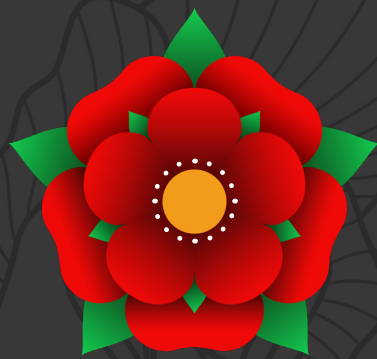
The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has been a leading area of the country in realising social value<sup>9</sup> through its investment spend. Lancashire Enterprise Partnership successfully embedded social value within their key infrastructure investment programmes through the adoption of a LEP wide Social Value Framework. The framework utilises the National Themes Outcomes and Measures to embed social value within the procurement, monitoring and evaluation of projects across the LEP's project and programme portfolio including the Growth Deal, City Deal, and Boost business support programmes.

The impact of this approach can be seen at programme and project level. The £320m Lancashire Growth Deal programme generated a total of £56.9m of added benefits from social value, including for example, 638 Apprenticeships and 338 work placement weeks for unemployed residents.

<sup>9</sup> Social Value is the additional economic, social and environmental benefits that can be created when an organisation purchases a service from an outside organisation, above and beyond the value of the goods or services.







# 5. GOVERNANCE

The Constituent Councils have proposed a governance structure for the proposed CCA which is true to the principles of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, and which would secure effective and convenient local government for the proposed CCA Area.

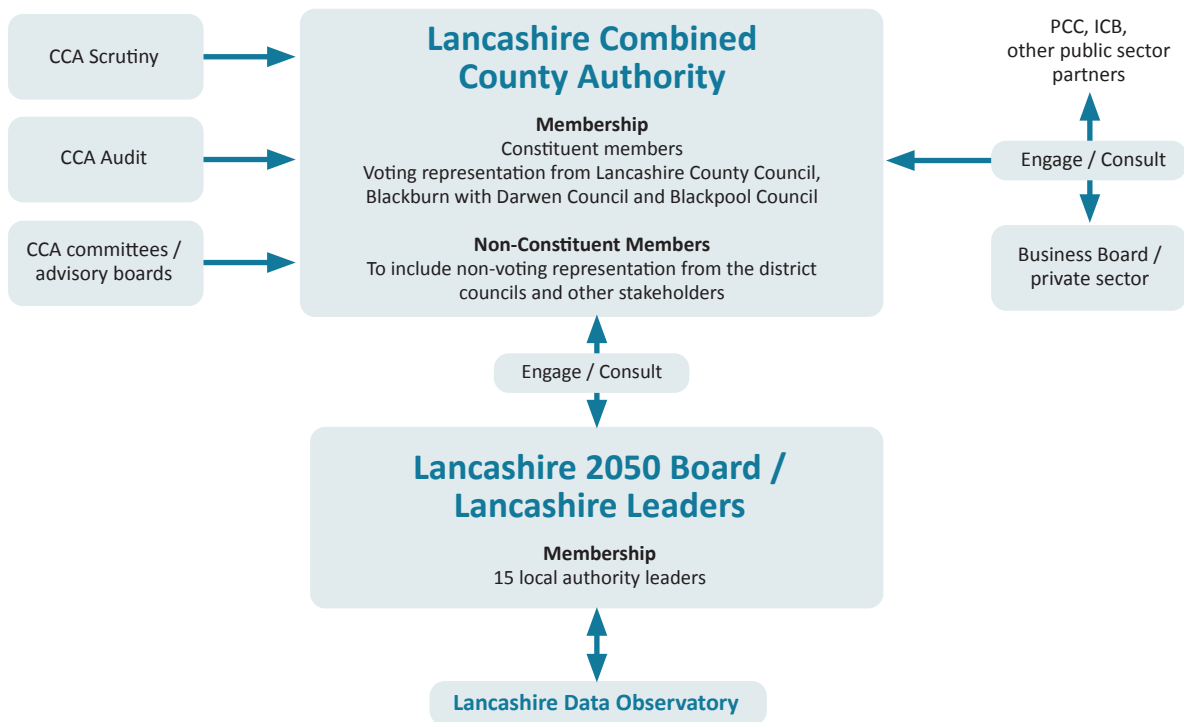


Figure 5 - Diagram of proposed CCA governance model

## Name and Area

The proposed CCA would be formally known as the Lancashire Combined County Authority. It would cover the geographical areas of the Lancashire County, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils, which together would form the Constituent Councils of the proposed CCA.

## Membership of the CCA

The proposed CCA would have up to eight Members in total, comprising:

- Four Constituent Members (Members appointed by the Constituent Councils, with Lancashire County Council appointing two members and Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils appointing one each)
- Two Non-Constituent Members nominated by the District Councils within the area
- Up to two further Non-Constituent or Associate Members, to be appointed by the CCA

The four constituent members would have full voting rights. In accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023), the proposed CCA would have the power to grant voting rights to the non-constituent members. The responsibility for agreeing any such rights would rest with the constituent members of the CCA and would be set out in the CCA's constitution. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 does not allow associate members to vote.

## District Councils

There are 12 District Councils within the proposed CCA Area. The Districts would be invited to nominate two individuals to represent their interests on the proposed CCA as non-constituent members

The Constituent Councils have worked with the District Councils to agree a system of nominations. It has been agreed that nominations would be made by the Lancashire District Council Leaders Forum, on the basis that that Forum operates with the unanimous support of the District Councils in Lancashire. This arrangement would be regularly reviewed to ensure that all District Councils, as well as the proposed CCA, remain content that the district voice is properly reflected in the proposed CCA.

The same appointment arrangements would also be used for the District Councils to nominate additional individuals as substitutes and representatives on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee, who may come from different Councils than the nominated Non-Constituent Members.

The inclusion of a mechanism by which the District Councils can have a key role on the proposed CCA ensures that the identities and interests of all our local communities would be fully represented on the proposed CCA.

## Business Interests

The voice of business will be a critical component in the future proposed CCA, given that a key area of focus would be economy, industry, and business. The proposed CCA will appoint an Associate Member who can represent the views of business on the proposed CCA.

This function of the Lancashire LEP will be integrated into the proposed CCA, through the creation of a Business Board.

The Business Board would not be a formal committee of the proposed CCA, but it would be part of the formal governance arrangements and would exist to provide advice to the proposed CCA on all issues of business and economy relevant to the proposed CCA. The proposed CCA would then appoint the Chair of the Business Board to the proposed CCA as an Associate Member representing the views of business on the proposed CCA.

## **Resilience and Public Safety**

The proposed CCA, in partnership with Government, will ensure that the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is invited to attend and participate in CCA meetings as an observer, or as a non-constituent member. This will ensure close collaboration and productive joint working between the CCA and PCC.

## **Other Memberships**

There would be one remaining potential space for a further member, either as a “non-constituent” or “associate” member. This would be determined by the proposed CCA itself.

## **CCA Functions**

The functions of the proposed CCA will be exercisable by the proposed CCA. On day one these will include:

- The duty to set a budget for the proposed CCA
- Duty to prepare an economic assessment of the proposed CCA Area
- Compulsory purchase, land acquisition and disposal and development of land powers (the exercise of compulsory purchase functions is subject to the consent of all the local planning authorities affected)
- Consideration of whether to seek the power to borrow and to explore the extent of those powers
- Housing supply and regeneration functions
- Duty to review air quality plans and propose and undertake steps to support the delivery of those plans by Districts Councils in the proposed CCA Area, and,
- Incidental powers in relation to its functions (the power to do anything which is incidental to the exercise of its functions).

In addition, the CCA will have functions relating to transport.

More detail is given in the table of powers at Appendix 1.

## CCA decision making

The Members of the proposed CCA would be the main decision-making group of the proposed CCA. The proposed CCA will have the power to establish sub-committees to exercise CCA functions.

## CCA voting

The proposed CCA would prescribe voting requirements in its Constitution, but the following principles are intended to be applied:

Proposals for decisions by the proposed CCA may be put forward by any constituent member. All constituent members would have one vote. Constituent members would work towards the principle of unanimity of all key decisions. Other questions that are to be decided by the proposed CCA are to be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided for in legislation. Decisions requiring unanimity amongst the constituent members would include:

- Approval of the proposed CCA's budget, including significant financial decisions
- Approval of the policy framework, which will include:
  - Corporate Strategy
  - Economic Growth Strategy
  - Skills and Employment Strategic Framework
  - The Local Transport Plan, Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
  - Appointment of the Chief Executive
  - Approval of and significant amendments to the Constitution.

The following decisions would require the consent of the Lead/Executive member of the relevant Constituent Council, or substitute members acting in their place, in whose area the decision will apply:

- Compulsory purchase of land or buildings by the proposed CCA
- The exercise of compulsory purchase power will also require the consent of the relevant planning authority
- Any decision by the proposed CCA that could lead to a financial liability falling directly upon that constituent council, or significant material impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd
- Such other matters as may be contained within the proposed CCA's constitution.

The constituent councils recognise the importance of local consensus in relation to matters that could impact companies wholly owned by those councils, and they have resolved to require Blackpool Council's consent for any decision which may have a significant, material and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd.

## Advisory Boards

The proposed CCA may choose to establish advisory boards. Advisory boards are formally constituted boards which would form part of the operation of the proposed CCA, but which have no decision-making power.

Advisory Boards may be formed if required to support the business of the proposed CCA. Membership of Advisory Boards would reflect the role and purpose of the Board, including members from outside the Constituent Councils as required to ensure the relevant expertise is available.

The role of any Advisory Boards established would be to advise the proposed CCA on the exercise of functions in their areas of expertise.

## Members Allowances

The statutory instrument (SI) which may create the proposed CCA will set out the position on members allowances. DLUHC have indicated that the SI will provide that allowances will be payable as follows:

- Members of committees/sub-committees who are not elected members of a Constituent Council may be paid an allowance, the amount to be recommended by an independent remuneration panel
- Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and/or Audit Committee (whether or not also elected members of a Constituent Council) may also be paid an allowance, the amount to be recommended by an independent remuneration panel and,
- Otherwise, members may only be paid allowances for travel and subsistence, paid in accordance with the proposed CCA's published policy.

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The proposed CCA would be required to have at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to monitor the decision making of the CCA to ensure that the decision making is appropriately focussed on community needs, and that high quality delivery is taking place for the benefit of the proposed CCA Area.

In accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and given the role of the Committee, its membership must involve different individuals than those who are Members of the proposed CCA. However, the proposed CCA would intend to ensure that the District Councils would be represented on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and would consider how and whether to represent any additional Non-Constituent and Associate Members on the Committee.



Practically this means that at least one member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be nominated from each Constituent Council of the proposed CCA. At least two members are intended to be nominated by the District Councils. Any members of the Committee not drawn from the Constituent Councils would not automatically have voting rights on the Committee.

There is intended to be a requirement for political balance on the Committee which would reflect the political balance of the CCA Area (which in this context means to reflect the voting in respect of the Constituent Councils but taken across the whole CCA Area).

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be an independent person – i.e. not a member of the Constituent Councils or District Councils in Lancashire. The Independent Chair of Overview and Scrutiny would be appointed by the proposed CCA through an open recruitment process.

## **Audit Committee**

The proposed CCA would be required to have an Audit Committee. The role of the Audit Committee is to support and monitor the authority in the areas of governance, risk management, external audit, internal audit, financial reporting, and other related areas to ensure that the financial and governance decision making position of the proposed CCA is sound.

As with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this means that at least one member of the Audit Committee would be nominated from each Constituent Council of the proposed CCA. At least one member would be nominated by the District Councils. Any members of the Committee not drawn from the Constituent Councils would not automatically have voting rights on the Committee.

There would be a requirement for political balance on the Committee which will reflect the political balance of the proposed CCA Area (which in this context means to reflect the voting in respect of the Constituent Councils but taken across the whole CCA Area).

There is a requirement for the Chair of the Audit Committee to be an independent person, who is not otherwise involved in the proposed CCA. Again, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 requires that members of the Audit Committee must not be the same individuals as those representatives who are members of the proposed CCA.

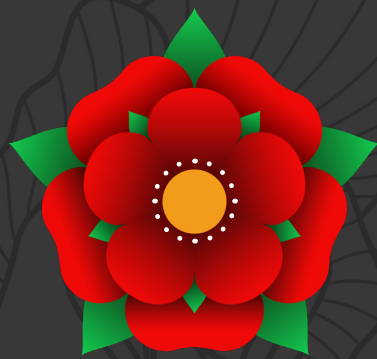
The proposed CCA will ensure that the Audit Committee has the right people to ensure effective oversight of the adequacy of the proposed CCA's overall assurance arrangements, and scrutiny of financial decision making by the proposed CCA.



## Funding of the CCA

If the decision is taken by the Secretary of State to establish the proposed CCA then the Establishment Order will indicate that the proposed CCA will be funded by the three Constituent Councils. Funding has been secured as part of the deal from central Government to cover the financial years 2023/4 and 2024/5. In addition, the proposed CCA would consider whether to seek the power to borrow and explore the extent of these powers. In practice it is expected that the running costs of the proposed CCA will be met by either continued central Government support or with funding from the Constituent Councils. The proposed CCA will not have the power to raise a precept. That means it will not be able raise money through increasing Council Tax.

The general powers the proposed CCA is intended to have around finance and funding are expected to be substantially the same as local authorities enjoy generally.



# 6. CONSULTATION

To gain feedback on the Proposal and to inform the decision as to whether to proceed to advance the Proposal (with any potential amendments) to the Secretary of State, an eight-week consultation is planned to be undertaken between 1 December 2023 and 26 January 2024.

The consultation methods will include:

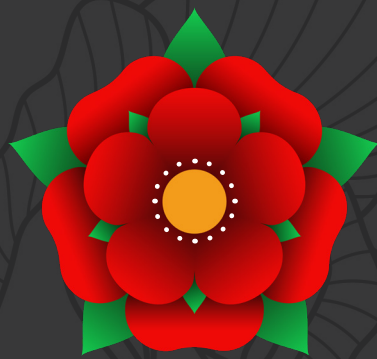
- an online survey with alternative options provided on request to meet the needs of participants (translations, paper copies and easy-read versions)
- stakeholder engagement with businesses, the voluntary sector, and other stakeholders identified
- events to engage residents and stakeholders of the proposed CCA Area.

Active steps will be taken to encourage participation and to ensure that the consultation is accessible to all (including, for example, the digitally disadvantaged, those with protected characteristics and high intensity users of affected services). An equality impact assessment has been completed to inform engagement undertaken by Constituent Councils.

A detailed plan of communications will be created with support from each Constituent Council to identify the best method of promoting the consultation in their local areas, including a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

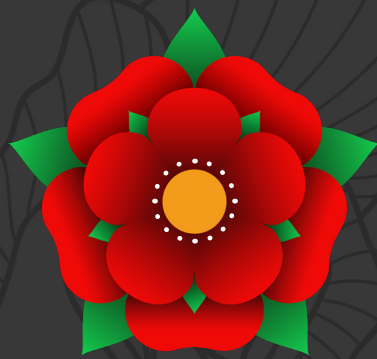
A Data Protection Impact Assessment will be undertaken to assist the Constituent Councils in ensuring that data shared and collected through the consultation process is held, processed and stored correctly, and for no longer than is necessary.

Findings from the consultation will be analysed and published in March 2024. These will support consideration of the Proposal by each Constituent Council.



# 7. THE DEAL

The Lancashire Devolution Deal can be viewed here:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/lancashire-devolution-deal](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lancashire-devolution-deal)



# 8. NEXT STEPS (TRANSITION)

The transition to a formal CCA in Autumn 2024 is planned to be in three stages:

- **Stage 1: Establishing transition arrangements – Autumn 2023 to Spring 2024**
- **Stage 2: Working as a shadow organisation – Spring 2024 to Autumn 2024**
- **Stage 3: Formal establishment of the CCA – Autumn 2024 onwards**

It is important to note that transition to the proposed CCA is dependent on a number of factors: this Proposal being accepted as a result of public consultation; this Proposal then being accepted by Government; and the approval by Parliament of the necessary secondary legislation implementing the Proposal. Importantly we would not propose to move into 'shadow' mode until the outcome of the consultation was known and all parties agreed to progress advancing the Proposal for the establishment of a CCA to the Secretary of State for consideration.

## **Stage 1: Establishing transition arrangements – Autumn 2023 – Spring 2024**

The three Constituent Councils will work closely together in this Stage to oversee consultation and engagement, consider any amendments to the Proposal in light of the outcome of the consultation and prior to potential submission to the Secretary of State, take a decision as to whether to submit a proposal to the Secretary of State following consultation, and plan for the potential establishment of the proposed CCA. If it is decided to submit a proposal, then this stage will involve:

- ensuring collaborative leadership from Leaders of Constituent Councils to enable decisions to be made
- consolidating a programme team to operate as the 'engine' of the shadow CCA – drawing on staff from Constituent Councils, other stakeholders, and professional advisors
- defining a resource plan so that individual authorities can take decisions about their financial and time commitments
- developing an engagement plan to ensure that key partners, including District Councils and the business community are involved in the development activity
- putting in place the necessary arrangements to begin developing plans for priority areas such as transport, skills, and employment



- starting to consider the practical arrangements for shadow and combined authority working and decision making, including the role of districts and the Lancashire Leaders forum.

In this and subsequent stages, the relationship between the future CCA and existing local authorities (and other stakeholders) will be developed to ensure effective and constructive governance.

## **Stage 2: Working as a shadow organisation - Spring 2024 to Autumn 2024**

In this stage, the focus will be on working as a shadow organisation and making preparations for the formal CCA. It is important to note that this shadow organisation will not be a new legal entity and therefore any activities (such as employing people or financial accountability) will be done by the existing local authorities. Functions at this stage will involve:

- preparing functional plans ready for the formal CCA to pick up if it is established
- designing and confirming important aspects of the formal CCA, such as the future management structure and resources to enable delivery of the objectives
- developing and designing a constitution for the CCA to ensure effective governance arrangements
- planning the integration of the functions of the LEP into the CCA, ensuring it is ready for delivering functional responsibilities if the formal CCA is established.

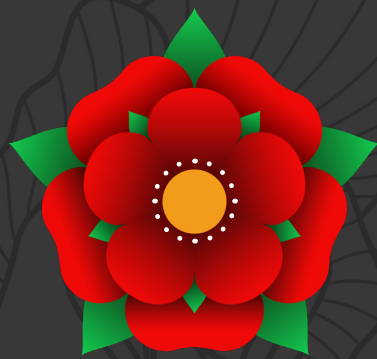
## **Stage 3: Formal establishment of the CCA – Autumn 2024 onwards**

In this stage, which would follow the laying of the necessary Statutory Instrument, the constituent councils will begin to formally meet as a Combined County Authority, informed by the preparation and planning undertaken in the previous two stages. It will begin to deliver on the objectives and ambitions of this proposal:

- begin the process of appointment to Statutory Roles to manage the CCA's operations
- delivering on functional plans to begin delivering CCA responsibilities and achieving outcomes for the region
- scaling up the enabling competencies in order to allow the organisation to operate as required
- implementing the governance model for the CCA, including establishing the various committees
- continuing to enable the CCA to operationally evolve as is required.







# 9. LEGISLATION

Set out in the Appendix is a table of the powers which the Constituent Councils are proposing are available to the proposed CCA. The powers are those which the Constituent Councils believe are needed to enable the proposed CCA to deliver the purposes outlined in this Proposal.

In considering our Proposal, the Government, and in particular, specialist legislative counsel, will review the table below and some of the detail set out may be required to change as a consequence of the drafting of establishment orders, and other consequential amendments to existing powers for combined authorities.

The scope of powers to be available, and the broad terms of the exercise of those powers are unlikely to change, and, in any event, the powers will not go beyond the scope set out in the governance section of this Proposal.

In particular it should be noted that discussions are ongoing with the Department for Transport in relation to certain transport functions, in particular the necessity for concurrent exercise of specified functions. The Appendix therefore sets out the intended position in relation to these powers, but this may be subject to change as a result of these ongoing discussions.

# REFERENCES

- <sup>i</sup> Regional Gross Value Added (Balanced) by Industry: City and Enterprise Regions, 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
- <sup>ii</sup> Regional Gross Value Added (Balanced) by Industry: City and Enterprise Regions, 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
- <sup>iii</sup> ONS: 2011 Census: Origin-destination (flow) data
- <sup>iv</sup> Road lengths in Great Britain: 2022, Department for Transport
- <sup>v</sup> Office of Rail and Road: Estimates of Station Usage 2021-2022
- <sup>vi</sup> *ibid*
- <sup>vii</sup> Lancashire Economic Strategy 2023 – 2025, Lancashire County Council, <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/940760/economic-strategy.pdf>
- <sup>viii</sup> Annual Population Survey, 2023, ONS (Nomis)© Crown Copyright
- <sup>ix</sup> UK Business Counts, 2022, ONS (Nomis), © Crown Copyright
- <sup>x</sup> Regional Gross Value Added (Balanced) by Industry: City and Enterprise Regions, 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
- <sup>xi</sup> Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub: Food and Agriculture Study, July 2022: <https://www.lancshireskillshub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Lancashire-Food-Agriculture-LMI-study-Final-Report-2022.pdf>
- <sup>xii</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero – Regional Renewable Statistics, 2023
- <sup>xiii</sup> Lancashire LEP Analysis of Local Government Association Research: Local green jobs - accelerating a sustainable economic recovery. Report by Ecuity Consulting for the Local Government Association (LGA). Statistics available on LGInform
- <sup>xiv</sup> ONS: Business Register and Employment Survey, BRES, NOMIS
- <sup>xv</sup> Regional Gross Value Added (Balanced) by Industry: Local Authorities by International Territorial Level (ITL) 1 region: TLD North West, 2023, ONS © Crown Copyright
- <sup>xvi</sup> Lancashire LEP Analysis of 2018/19 - 2020/21 Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) Graduate Outcomes Survey
- <sup>xvii</sup> ONS: Annual Population Survey, 2023
- <sup>xviii</sup> Housing need sourced from the Planning Authorities or their current Local Plans, Lancashire LIER Infrastructure in Lancashire 2021, and <https://lichfields.uk/grow-renew-protect-planning-for-the-future/how-many-homes-the-new-standard-met>
- <sup>xix</sup> Table 253: permanent dwellings started and completed, by tenure and district, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, © Crown Copyright
- <sup>xx</sup> ONS: House price (existing dwellings) to workplace-based earnings ratio, 2023
- <sup>xxi</sup> House price (newly built dwellings) to workplace-based earnings ratio, ONS, 2023
- <sup>xxii</sup> ONS: Experimental regional gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) estimates by asset type, 2022
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by UK ITL2 and ITL3 subregions, Current Price (Smoothed) Gross Value Added (Balanced) Per Hour Worked, Indices 2004-2021. ONS, 2023 © Crown Copyright
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: city and enterprise regions, 2021, ONS © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxv</sup> Tracking Local Employment in the Green Economy: The Place-based Climate Action Network Just Transition Jobs Tracker, PCAN

<sup>xxvi</sup> Lancashire Independent Economic Review: Infrastructure in Lancashire, 2021. Link: [https://www.lancashireier.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LIER\\_Infrastructure\\_In\\_Lancashire\\_2021\\_v1.pdf](https://www.lancashireier.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LIER_Infrastructure_In_Lancashire_2021_v1.pdf)

<sup>xxvii</sup> Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2022, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxviii</sup> Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2022, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxix</sup> Annual Population Survey, Jul 2022-Jun 2023, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxx</sup> Subregional productivity, Current Price (smoothed) GVA per hour worked, 2004-2021, ONS © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxxi</sup> Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2022, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxxii</sup> Annual Population Survey, Jul 2022-Jun 2023, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxxiii</sup> English Indices of Deprivation, 2019, The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxxiv</sup> PHE Fingertips Dashboard, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Life Expectancy at Birth 2018-2020, © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxxv</sup> Annual Population Survey – Jun 2022 to Jul 2023. ONS, Accessed via NOMIS

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Department for Education, Average Attainment 8 Score of all pupils. Key stage 4 performance: Local Authority Data, 2022/23

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Department for Education, Average Attainment 8 Score of all pupils. Key stage 4 performance: Local authority district and region of school location data by FSM and disadvantage status, 2022/23

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results, 2021-22, Department for Education © Crown Copyright

<sup>xxxix</sup> TS067 - Highest level of qualification, Census 2021, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

<sup>xi</sup> TS067 - Highest level of qualification, Census 2021, ONS (Nomis) © Crown Copyright

## DEFINED TERMS

**CCA** - Combined County Authority.

**Constituent Councils** - Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council.

**Functional Economic Area** - FEA - areas that share several similar economic factors with boundaries that ideally reflect the drivers of the local economy.

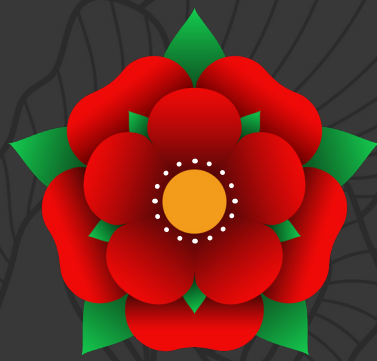
**GVA** - Gross Value Added – this is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry, or sector of an economy.

**Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)** - Partnerships between local authorities and businesses to help determine local economic priorities and undertake activities to drive economic growth and create local jobs.

**The Area** - The Area covered by the proposed Lancashire Combined County Authority.

**Statutory Instrument (SI)** - Statutory instruments are the most common form of secondary (or delegated) legislation.





# APPENDIX A: TABLE OF POWERS/ FUNCTIONS

Set out below is a table of the powers which the Constituent Councils are proposing are available to the CCA. The powers are those which the Constituent Councils believe are needed to enable the CCA to deliver the purposes outlined in this proposal. In considering our proposal the Government, and in particular, specialist legislative counsel, will review the table below and some of the detail set out may be required to change as a consequence of enactment of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act, the drafting of establishment orders, and other consequential amendments to existing powers for combined authorities. The scope of powers to be available, and the broad terms of the exercise of those powers are unlikely to change; and in any event, the powers will not go beyond the scope set out in the governance section of this proposal, and the Devolution Deal.

## Finance, Investment, Innovation and Trade

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent	Voting
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 Section 69	Upper tier councils	Yes	No, but requirement to consult and seek the participation of the district/ boroughs.	Unanimous vote
Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17A	Upper tier councils	Yes	No	Simple majority
Local Government Act 1972 Sections 113, 142(2), 144, 145 and 222	All LAs	No (but LAs do not lose powers)	No	Simple majority
Local Government Act 1985 Section 88	All LAs	No	No	Simple majority

## Finance, Investment, Innovation and Trade (cont.)

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent	Voting
Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 13	Applies to all powers conferred on any relevant authority by s102(1) of the Local Government Act 1972	N/a – this relates to voting rights rather than exercise of powers	No	N/a – no voting
Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013	N/a – provision for pension arrangements	No – administering authority is Lancashire County Council	No	N/a – no voting
Local Government Act 2003 Section 31	Minister	Yes	Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent.  Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent.  Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent.	Simple majority



## Skills and Education

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent	Voting
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009  Sections 86 and 87, 88, 90 and 100(1)	Secretary of State functions	Section 86, 87 and 88 are transferred  Sections 90 and 100(1) are exercised concurrently with Secretary of State	None specified	Simple majority
Education Act 1996  Sections 13A , 15ZA, 15ZB and 15ZC	Upper tier councils	Yes	None specified	Simple majority
Education and Skills Act 2008  Sections 10, 12, 68, 70, 71 and 75	Upper tier councils	Yes	None specified	Simple majority
Further and Higher Education Act 1992  Section 51A	Upper tier councils	Yes	None specified	Simple majority

## Housing and Planning

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent	Voting
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</p> <p>Sections 226, 227, 229, 230(1)(a), 232, 233, 235, 236, 238, 239, 241</p>	LPA (Local Planning Authority) powers	Yes	Section 226 requires consent of lead member of CCA designated under paragraph 1(3) of schedule 1 whose area contains land subject to the acquisition, and of district councils in whose area the land subject to the acquisition is located.	Simple majority
<p>Housing and Regeneration Act 2008</p> <p>Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, paragraphs 19 and 20 of Schedule 3 and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 and 20 of Schedule 4</p>	Homes England powers	Yes	<p>Section 9(2) requires consent of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead member of CCA designated by constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the relevant land;</li> <li>• Each district council whose area contains any part of the relevant land.</li> </ul> <p>Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required.</p>	Simple majority
<p>Housing Act 1985</p> <p>Sections 8(1), 11, 12, 17 and 18</p>	City Council and District/ Borough powers	Yes	<p>Section 17(3) requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead member of CCA designated by constituent council whose local government area containing the relevant land;</li> <li>• Each district council whose area contains any part of the relevant area</li> <li>• Where exercise of 17(3) results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</li> </ul>	Simple majority

## Transport

Discussions are ongoing between the Constituent Councils and the Department for Transport in relation to the necessity for the concurrent exercise of those functions and/or powers marked with a [\*]

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent required before exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Part 2 Transport Act 2000</b>					
Local transport plans and bus strategies (sections 108, 109 and 112) (sections 110 to 111 repealed)	A local transport authority or local transport authorities or a district council or a Passenger Transport Executive (as applicable)	The following are concurrent during the transition period: • 113C-123 • 123A-123X • 124-134B • 138A-143B • 151-162 Thereafter, the following are concurrent and continuing: • 134C – 138 • 145A to 150	In respect of all powers:  • Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent  • Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent  • Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent  In addition, s123A-123X are only exercisable with the consent of the affected constituent council.	Unanimous for s108-113 Otherwise, simple Majority	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Bus services: advanced quality partnership schemes (sections 113C to 113O)					
Bus services: quality partnership schemes (sections 114 to 123)					
Bus services: franchising schemes (sections 123A to 123X)					
* Bus services: advanced ticketing schemes (sections 134C to 134G)					
* Bus services: ticketing schemes (sections 135 to 138)					
Bus services: enhanced partnership plans and schemes (sections 138A to 138S)					
Bus services: provision of information (section 139 to 141A)					
Bus services: miscellaneous (sections 142 to 143B)					
* Mandatory travel concessions for journeys not beginning on the London bus network (sections 145A to 150)					
Travel concessions in Greater London (Section 151)					
Financial and competition provisions (sections 152 to 159 (156 and 158 repealed))					
Supplementary (Section 160 to 162)					

## Transport (cont.)

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent required before exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Part 2 Transport Act 2000</b>					
Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 3 (Workplace parking levy, General and supplementary) and Workplace Parking Levy (England Regulations 2009	Local Authority (charging authority which is the traffic authority (charging schemes can be made by a non-metropolitan local traffic authority (or jointly by more than one non-metropolitan local traffic authority), by an Integrated Transport Authority or combined authority and one or more eligible local traffic authorities, or the Secretary of State [or a strategic highways company]; a licencing authority or licencing authorities)	Concurrent and continuing	<p>Only exercisable with consent of the affected constituent council.</p> <p>Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent</p> <p>Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</p> <p>Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</p>	Simple majority	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.

## Transport (cont.)

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent required before exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Highways Act 1980</b>					
Section 6 Highways Act 1980 (Delegation etc. of functions with respect to trunk roads etc)	Public Authority  Minister of Crown [or a strategic highway company]	With Constituent Councils	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council.  Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that Constituent Council must consent  Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent  Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent	Simple majority voting but the agreement of the Constituent Council would be needed before vote	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Sections 8 of the Highways Act 1980 (Agreements between local highway authorities [and strategic highways companies] for certain works)	Local Authority  Local highway authorities [and strategic highway companies]	With Constituent Councils	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council.  Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a Constituent Council, that constituent council must consent  Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent  Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent	Simple majority voting but the agreement of the Constituent Council would be needed before vote	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.

## Transport (cont.)

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent required before exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Part 4 Transport Act 1985</b>					
<p>Passenger Transport Areas (section 57 to 62)</p> <p>[* - in relation to sections 65 to 71 only]</p>	<p>In a non-metropolitan county in England and Wales, the county council, a non-metropolitan district council in England, Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area, council operating a bus undertaking, public transport company or its controlling authority, a Passenger Transport Executive or a council or local authority</p>	<p>The following sections are concurrent during the transition period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S57 to 62</li> <li>• S80 to 87</li> </ul>	<p>In respect of all powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent</li> <li>• Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</li> <li>• Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</li> </ul> <p>In addition, s63-64 and 72-79 only exercisable with consent of affected constituent council</p>	Simple majority	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
<p>Passenger Transport in other areas (sections 63 to 71)</p>		<p>The following are concurrent and continuing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s63 and 64</li> <li>• s65 to 71</li> <li>• s72 to 79</li> </ul>			
<p>Further Provisions (sections 72 to 79)</p>					
<p>Miscellaneous (section 80 to 87)</p>					

## Transport (cont.)

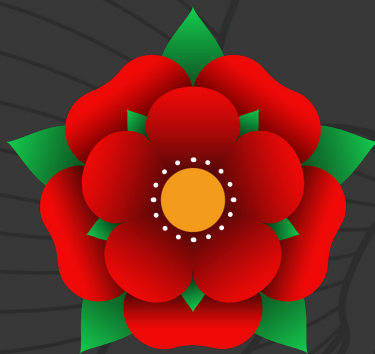
Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent required before exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Part 5 Transport Act 1985</b>					
[* - in relation to section 88 only]  Expenditure on public passenger transport services (sections 88 to 92)	Any authority responsible for expenditure on public local transport, any local authority or any two or more local authorities acting jointly, Passenger Transport Executive, a county or district council operating any public passenger transport service, a parish council or community council, the Secretary of State	The following are concurrent and continuing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s88 to 92</li> <li>• s93-101</li> <li>• s103-105</li> <li>• s106 and 106A</li> </ul>	In respect of all powers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent</li> <li>• Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</li> <li>• Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</li> </ul> In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• during transition period s88 only exercisable with consent of constituent council and;</li> <li>• s93-101 only exercisable with consent of constituent councils</li> </ul>	Simple majority	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
* Travel Concession Schemes (sections 93 to 101 (102 repealed))					
*Travel concessions apart from schemes (sections 103 to 105)					
Grants for transport facilities and services (sections 106 and 106A)					
Grants for services in rural areas (sections 108 to 109)					
Miscellaneous (sections 110 (111 repealed) and 112)					

## Transport (cont.)

Legislative Provisions	From	Concurrent exercise?	Consent required before exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Traffic Management Act 2004</b>					
Part 3 Permit Schemes Section 33 Section 33A Section 36	Local Highway Authorities	Concurrent and continuing	<p>Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).</p> <p>Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent</p> <p>Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</p> <p>Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</p>	Simple majority	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Part 6 (Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) and paragraph 10 (designation of civil enforcement areas for moving traffic contraventions) of Schedule 8 (civil enforcement areas and enforcement authorities outside Greater London)	Enforcement Authority	Concurrent and continuing	<p>Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).</p> <p>Where exercise of power will result in financial liability of a constituent council, that constituent council must consent</p> <p>Where exercise of power will result in financial liability for Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</p> <p>Where exercise of a power may have a significant, material, and direct impact on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Borough Council must consent</p>	Simple majority	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis







## CONSTITUTIONAL REPORTING AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

### FULL COUNCIL



<b>DATE</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leader</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<b>Alison McEwan</b>
<b>TEL NO</b>	<b>01282 477259</b>
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:amcewan@burnley.gov.uk">amcewan@burnley.gov.uk</a>

### PURPOSE

1. To inform members of the Council of the removal of the Deputy Leader, and Executive Members on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
2. To inform members of the Council of the appointment of a Deputy Leader and Executive by the Leader on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, and to note amended Executive Portfolios.
3. To note the impact on the political balance of the Council and approve consequential appointments to the membership of committees and outside bodies following the recent election of Cllr Alex Hall in Trinity Ward, and the resignation from the Labour Group of 11 Councillors who have formed a new group on the council, known as Burnley Independent Group, and as a result of the implementation of the Substitute Scheme for members with a disability.
4. To note a minor amendment to Part 2 of the Constitution – Articles (Article 12) by the Monitoring Officer.
5. To make an amendment to the Guidance for Members and Officers involved in outside organisations at Part 5.7 of the Constitution to clarify the rules regarding insurance.

### RECOMMENDATION

6. That Council note the Leader's removal of the Deputy Leader and Executive members as set out in Appendix 1.
7. That Council note the Leader's appointment of the Deputy Leader and the Executive as set out in Appendix 2, and the detailed remits of those portfolios as set out in Appendix 3.
8. That Council note the change in the Political Balance of the Council following the election of Councillor Alex Hall; and approve consequential changes to committee places and Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 4.
9. That Council note the following minor amendment to Part 2 of the Constitution – Articles (Article 12) – the transfer of Housing & Development Control Service from

Chief Operating Officer to Chief Executive as set out in the Management Structure Review as set out in Appendix 5.

10. That Council approve an amendment to the Guidance for Members and Officers involved in outside organisations at paragraph 2.10 of Part 5.7 of the Constitution to clarify the rules regarding insurance.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

11. To note the Leader's removal of the Deputy Leader and Executive Members as set out in the Council's Constitution.
12. To note the Leader's appointment of the Deputy Leader, Executive and detailed portfolios according to the Council's constitution.
13. To ensure that committee seats are politically balanced as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and appointments are up to date.
14. To ensure the Constitution is updated as required.

#### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

15. Part 2 of the Constitution (Articles) sets out at:
  - a. Section 7.04 (b) That the Deputy Leader will hold office until the end of the Leader's term of office unless.....
    - (v) he/she is removed by the Leader who must give written notice of such removal to both the Deputy Leader and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The removal of the Deputy Leader will take effect on receipt of the Leader's written notice by both the Deputy Leader and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will keep a written record of any removal of the Deputy Leader, and the Leader will report any such removal of the Deputy Leader to Council and the Executive at the earliest opportunity.
  - b. Section 7.05 That An Executive Member shall hold office until the end of the Leader's term of office unless:
    - (d) he/she is removed by the Leader who must give written notice of such removal to both the Executive Member and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The removal of an Executive Member will take effect on receipt of the Leader's written notice by both the Executive Member and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will keep a written record of any removal of an Executive Member, and the Leader will report any such removal of the Executive Member to Council and the Executive at the earliest opportunity.

16. On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Leader gave appropriate notice according to the Constitutional requirements that he was removing the following members from his Executive:

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Resources & Performance	Cllr Sue Graham
Executive Member for Economy & Growth	Cllr Mark Townsend
Executive Member for Housing & Leisure	Cllr John Harbour

17. On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Leader gave appropriate notice according to the Constitutional requirements that he was appointing the following members to his Executive:

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Resources & Performance Management	Cllr Margaret Lishman
Executive Member for Sustainable Development & Growth	Cllr Scott Cunliffe
Executive Member for Community and Environmental Services	Cllr Howard Baker
Executive Member for Health, Culture and Wellbeing	Cllr Jack Launer
Executive Member for Housing & Development Control	Cllr Lubna Khan

18. Following the resignation of Trinity Ward councillor Andy Fewings a by-election was held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Councillor Alex Hall of the Green Party was elected.

19. By 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the following 11 members of the Labour Group had resigned from that group and the Labour Party: Cllrs Afrasiab Anwar, Saeed Chaudhary, Shah Hussain, Mohammed Ishtiaq, Nussrat Kazmi, Syeda Kazmi, Arif Khan, Lubna Khan, Sehrish Lone, Asif Raja, and Christine Sollis. Those 11 members have now formed a new group on the Council – Burnley Independent Group.

20. The political makeup of the Council is now:

Burnley Independent Group	11 seats
Labour	11 seats
Conservative	7 seats
Green	7 seats
Liberal Democrats	7 seats
Independents	2 seats

21. Accordingly, the political balance and resulting changes to committee places have been calculated. Group Leaders have submitted details of nominations and

removals from Committees and Outside Bodies to give effect to the calculation. (Appendix 4).

22. Following approval of the Council's new Management Structure by Council in July, a number of amendments were made to the Constitution to give effect to the decision.
23. During an unrelated review it was highlighted that there were a number of small changes that were also required to Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution (Article 12) to reflect the decision. The Monitoring Officer considers that these changes were minor and could be made under delegated powers.
24. The changes are set out for members to note in Appendix 5.
25. Elected members and officers are often appointed or nominated by the Council to represent it on the management committees of outside bodies. The Guidance for Members and Officers involved in Outside Organisations is contained in Article 5.7 of the Constitution, with paragraphs 2.8 and 2.10 setting out the rules regarding indemnity for actions. Having clarified the extent of the insurance for outside bodies with the Council's insurer, it is considered appropriate to replace the current wording of paragraph 2.10 with the wording below to clarify the situations where the elected member or officer will be insured by the Council. Appendix 6 sets out the changes as below
26. Revised Section 2.10:

The Council will indemnify any elected member or officer arising from their service on the board or participation in an outside body (e.g. in the capacity of a governor, officer, trustee, director, committee member or other official of any not-for profit entity) in the following situations subject to the limitation at c);

- a) where the service or participation by the officer or elected member is specifically requested by or under the specific direction of the Council
- b) where the Council is legally entitled to approve the service or participation and to indemnify the officer or elected member in respect of it
- c) any payment will only be made by the Council for an amount in excess of any indemnification or insurance coverage provided by the not-for-profit entity or afforded from any other source and to which the officer or elected member is entitled.

The indemnity the Council can provide is subject to limitations. In general terms, if a elected member or officer is acting properly, within their powers and in good faith, the power to indemnify will usually apply. However, the Council cannot, for example, provide an indemnity in relation to any action or failure by any elected member or officer which constitutes a criminal offence, or for any action or failure by any elected member or officer which is the result of fraud, or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of the elected member or officer. You can seek further advice on indemnity from the monitoring officer.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

27. None.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

28. None.

**DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

29. Member Structures and Support Working Group.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

30. None.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Alison McEwan**

**Catherine Waudby, Monitoring Officer**

This page is intentionally left blank



Executive Members

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Councillor,

Removal by Leader of Deputy Leader and Executive Members

I, Councillor Afrasiab Anwar, as Leader of Burnley Borough Council, remove you as Executive Member for the relevant portfolios, as set out below;

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Resources & Performance	Cllr Sue Graham
Executive Member for Economy & Growth	Cllr Mark Townsend
Executive Member for Housing & Leisure	Cllr John Harbour

**Yours Sincerely**



**Cllr Afrasiab Anwar**

**Leader of the Council**

This page is intentionally left blank

Executive Members

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Councillor,

Appointment by Leader of Deputy Leader and Executive Members

I, Councillor Afrasiab Anwar, as Leader of Burnley Borough Council, appoint you as Executive Member for the relevant portfolios, as set out below;

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Resources & Performance Management	Cllr Margaret Lishman
Executive Member for Sustainable Development & Growth	Cllr Scott Cunliffe
Executive Member for Community and Environmental Services	Cllr Howard Baker
Executive Member for Health, Culture and Wellbeing	Cllr Jack Launer
Executive Member for Housing & Development Control	Cllr Lubna Khan

**Yours Sincerely**



**Cllr Afrasiab Anwar**

**Leader of the Council**

This page is intentionally left blank

## Executive Member Portfolios 2023-24 (from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023)

Portfolio	Services	Officer	Responsibilities	Lead Roles
<p>Leader</p> <p>Councillor Afrasiab Anwar</p>	<p>Policy &amp; Engagement</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Policy &amp; Engagement</p>	<p>Ensure effective leadership of Council as a whole, that work is co-ordinated, resources are linked to agreed strategic priorities and the culture is responsive, open and helpful</p> <p>Determining the Council's strategic framework - Strategic Plan and ensuring this is translated into action</p> <p>Strategic direction of local, sub regional and regional partnerships</p> <p>Overseas links and corporate hospitality Promoting inclusive growth and social inclusion within the borough</p> <p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Promotion of Burnley</p> <p>Strategic regional/sub-regional agenda</p> <p>Education and skills lead</p> <p>UCLan lead</p> <p>Local Government Association</p> <p>Barnfield and Burnley Development Company</p> <p>PLLACE</p> <p>Economic Recovery Board</p>

**Executive Member Portfolios 2023-24 (from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Lead Roles</b>
Deputy Leader	People & Development	Chief Operating Officer	Budget Preparation & monitoring	Financial Planning and budget preparation
Executive Member for Resources & Performance Management	Legal & Democracy	Director of Resources	Asset Management	Budget Consultation
	Finance & Property		HR & Workforce Planning	
	Revenues & Benefits	Strategic HR Manager	Performance & Improvement	Risk Management
Councillor Margaret Lishman		Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Procurement	Organisational Development
			Corporate Health & Safety	Performance
			Corporate Governance	Liberata Partnership
			Freedom of Information	NWLA Employers Organisation
			Customer Services & IT	
			Civics - Civic matters/mayoral matters, Parish liaison	
			Climate Change	

**Executive Member Portfolios 2023-24 (from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Lead Roles</b>
<p>Portfolio Holder for Health, Culture &amp; Wellbeing</p> <p>Councillor Jack Launer</p>	<p>Green Spaces &amp; Amenities</p> <p>Leisure &amp; Culture</p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Head of Green Spaces &amp; Amenities</p> <p>Head of Policy and Engagement</p>	<p>Cemeteries &amp; Crematoria</p> <p>Parks, Open Spaces and Allotments</p> <p>Towneley Hall</p> <p>Leisure &amp; Culture</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Engagement and Communication</p> <p>Equalities</p> <p>Young People</p> <p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Leisure Trust</p> <p>Armed Services/Military Covenant Champion</p> <p>Older People</p> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing Partnerships</p> <p>Burnley Together</p> <p>Burnley and Pendle Citizens Advice Bureau</p>

**Executive Member Portfolios 2023-24 (from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**

<p>Executive Member for Housing and Development Control</p> <p>Councillor Lubna Khan</p>	<p>Housing &amp; Development Control</p>	<p>Director of Economy &amp; Development</p> <p>Head of Housing &amp; Development Control</p>	<p>Development Management</p> <p>Building Control</p> <p>All aspects of Housing, including Homelessness and Rough Sleeping</p> <p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Heritage Member Champion</p> <p>Pennine Lancashire Building Control Joint Committee</p> <p>Housing Associations in the Borough</p> <p>Private Rented Sector Forum</p> <p>Housing Joint Venture Contract</p> <p>Selective Licensing</p>
--	--	---	--	---



**Executive Member Portfolios 2023-24 (from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**

<p>Executive Member for Sustainable Development &amp; Growth</p> <p>Councillor Scott Cunliffe</p>	<p>Economy &amp; Growth</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Director of Economy &amp; Development</p>	<p>All aspects of Economic Development</p> <p>Strategic Transport</p> <p>Town Centre Strategy</p> <p>Markets</p> <p>Planning Policy</p> <p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Economic Development</p> <p>Transport Policy Local Plan</p> <p>Business Engagement</p> <p>Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan</p> <p>Growth Lancashire</p> <p>LEP Scrutiny</p> <p>Sustainability Member Champion</p> <p>Climate Change</p>
---	-----------------------------	---	---	--

**Executive Member Portfolios 2023-24 (from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**

<p>Executive Member for Community &amp; Environmental Services</p> <p>Councillor Howard Baker</p>	<p>Streetscene Policy and Engagement</p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Head of Streetscene</p>	<p>All Streetscene issues</p> <p>Waste Collection/Recycling</p> <p>Community Safety: ASB and Domestic abuse</p> <p>Emergency Planning</p> <p>Environmental Health &amp; Licensing</p> <p>Climate Change</p>	<p>County Waste Management Group</p> <p>Lancashire Waste Partnership</p> <p>Equality &amp; Inclusion</p> <p>Lancashire Police &amp; Crime Panel (Liaison)</p> <p>Urbaser/Waste Partnership</p> <p>Public Transport Issues</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Partnership</p>
---	--	---	---	--

Page 150

Signed by Leader – Cllr Afrasiab Anwar



27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Changes to be made to Committees 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

<b>Committee/OB</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Remove</b>	<b>Appointment</b>
Audit & Standards		Lubna Khan	Mohammed Ishtiaq
		Scott Cunliffe	Alex Hall
Development Control		Joanne Broughton	Lubna Khan
			Alex Hall as named substitute for Martyn Hurt
Licensing Committee		Mohammed Ishtiaq	Paul Reynolds
		Jackie Inckle	Marcus Johnstone
		Howard Baker	Jeff Sumner
		Scott Cunliffe	Beki Hughes
Scrutiny Committee		Charlie Briggs	Sehrish Lone
		Paul Reynolds	Alex Hall
		Jack Launer	Beki Hughes
		Howard Baker	Gordon Lishman
		Margaret Lishman	Jeff Sumner
Member Structures & Support Working Group		<i>Andy Fewings</i>	Martyn Hurt
		Lubna Khan	Gail Barton
PATROL (parking committee)	Exec Community & Environment	Lubna Khan	Howard Baker
	1 largest opposition	Gordon Birtwistle	Mark Townsend
Burnley Leisure Trust	Non-Executive Member	Scott Cunliffe	Appointment to follow agreed recruitment process. Formal appointment January 2024
Burnley & Pendle CAB	Exec Community & Environment	Lubna Khan	Howard Baker
	Experienced Opposition Member	Jackie Inckle	Mark Townsend
Burnley Private Rented Sector Forum	Exec member for Housing & Leisure	John Harbour	Lubna Khan
Burnley Together Steering Group	Exec Community & Environment	Lubna Khan	Howard Baker

<b>Committee/OB</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Remove</b>	<b>Appointment</b>
	Chief Operating Officer	Lukman Patel	Rob Dobson
	Head of Policy & Engagement	Rob Dobson	Clare Jackson (from 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024)
COVID-19 Economic Recovery Board	Experienced Opposition Member	Gordon Birtwistle	Sue Graham
East Lancashire Health & Wellbeing Partnership	Exec Member for Health, Culture & Wellbeing* change to qualification following revised portfolios	Lubna Khan	Jack Launer
Growth Lancashire	Exec Member Sustainable Development & Growth	Mark Townsend	Scott Cunliffe
Lancs Waste Partnership	Exec Community & Environment	Lubna Khan	Howard Baker
North West Employers	Exec Resources	Sue Graham	Maggie Lishman
Stocks Massey Bequest	Any Exec Member (May 2023 – 27)	John Harbour	tbc

**Article 12 – Officers**

**TERMINOLOGY**

**12.01 Management structure**

- (a) **General.** The full Council may engage staff (referred to as officers) as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.
- (b) **Chief Officers.** The full Council will engage people for the following posts, who will be designated chief officers:

<b>Post</b>	<b>Functions and areas of responsibility</b>
1. Chief Executive	<p>Overall corporate management and operational responsibility (including overall management responsibility for all officers)</p> <p>Undertake the duties associated with the statutory role of Head of Paid Service (see 12.02 below)</p> <p>Provision of professional advice to all parties in the decision making process.</p> <p>Together with the monitoring officer, responsibility for a system of record keeping for all the Council’s decisions.</p> <p>Representing the Council on partnership and external bodies (as required by statute or the Council).</p> <p>Oversee the activities of the following Service Unit or Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Economy and Growth Development</u></li> <li>• <u>Housing &amp; Development Control</u></li> <li>• Policy and Engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Post</b>	<b>Functions and areas of responsibility</b>
2. Chief Operating Officer	<p>Provision of professional advice to all parties in the decision making process.</p> <p>Contribute to the overall corporate management and operational responsibility and offer corporate advice and personal leadership to specific tasks and projects</p> <p>Representing the Council on partnership and</p>

	<p>external bodies (as required by statute or the Council).</p> <p>Oversee the activities of the following Service Units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Space &amp; Amenities</li> <li>• Streetscene</li> <li>• <del>Housing &amp; Development Control</del></li> <li>• Revenues and Benefits (Liberata)</li> <li>• Finance and Property</li> <li>• Legal and Democratic Services</li> <li>• People &amp; Development</li> <li>• Customer and IT Services (Liberata)</li> </ul>
--	--

(c) **Head of paid service, monitoring officer and chief financial officer.** The Council will designate the following posts as shown:

Post	Statutory Designation
Chief Executive	Head of Paid Service
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Monitoring Officer
Director of Resources	Chief Finance Officer - Undertake the duties associated with the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer (see 12.04 below)

These posts will have the functions described in Article 12.02–12.04 below.

(d) **Structure.** The head of paid service will determine and publicise a description of the overall structure of the Council showing the management structure and deployment of officers. This is set out at Part 7 of this Constitution.

## 12.02 Functions of the head of paid service

- (a) **Discharge of functions by the Council.** The head of paid service will report to full Council on the manner in which the discharge of the Council's functions is co-ordinated, the number and grade of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation of officers, and the appointment and proper management of Officers
- (b) **Protocols.** The head of paid service's activities will be in accordance with the relevant legislation and the Protocol set out in Part 5 of this constitution consistent with that legislation
- (c) **Restrictions on functions.** The head of paid service may not be the monitoring officer but may hold the post of chief finance officer if a qualified accountant.

## 12.03 Functions of the monitoring officer

- (a) **Maintaining the Constitution.** The monitoring officer will maintain an up-to-date version of the Constitution and will ensure that it is widely available for consultation by Members, staff and the public.
- (b) **Ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making.** After consulting with the head of paid service and chief finance officer, the monitoring officer will report to the full Council, or to the executive in relation to an executive function, if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or if any decision or omission has given rise to maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered.
- (c) **Supporting the Audit and Standards Committee.** The monitoring officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Audit and Standards Committee.
- (d) **Receiving reports.** The monitoring officer will receive and act on reports made by ethical standards officers and decisions of the case tribunals.
- (e) **Conducting investigations.** The monitoring officer will conduct investigations into matters referred by ethical standards officers and make reports or recommendations in respect of them to the Audit and Standards Committee.
- (f) **Proper officer for access to information.** The monitoring officer will ensure that executive decisions, together with the reasons for those decisions and relevant officer reports and background papers are made publicly available as soon as possible.
- (g) **Advising whether Executive decisions are within the budget and policy framework.** The monitoring officer will advise whether decisions of the executive are in accordance with the budget and policy framework.
- (h) **Providing advice.** The monitoring officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors.

- (i) **Restrictions on posts.** The monitoring officer cannot be the chief finance officer or the head of paid service
- (j) **Protocols.** The monitoring officer's activities will be in accordance with the relevant legislation and the Protocol set out in Part 5 of this Constitution consistent with that legislation

#### 12.04 Functions of the chief finance officer

- (a) **Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making.** After consulting with the head of paid service and the monitoring officer, the chief finance officer will report to the full Council, or to the executive in relation to an executive function, and the Council's external auditor if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or deficiency or if the Council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.
- (b) **Administration of financial affairs.** The chief finance officer will have responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council.
- (c) **Contributing to corporate management.** The chief finance officer will contribute to the corporate management of the Council, in particular through the provision of professional financial advice.
- (d) **Providing advice.** The chief finance officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all Members and will support and advise Members and officers in their respective roles.
- (e) **Give financial information.** The chief finance officer will provide financial information to the media, members of the public and the community.
- (f) **Protocols.** The chief finance officer's activities will be in accordance with the relevant legislation and the Protocol set out in Part 5 of this Constitution consistent with that legislation

#### 12.05 Duty to provide sufficient resources to the monitoring officer and chief finance officer

The Council will provide the monitoring officer and chief finance officer with officers, accommodation and other resources as are in their opinion sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

#### 12.06 Conduct

Officers will comply with the Officers' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Officer/Member Relations included in the Code of Conduct for Members set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

#### 12.07 Employment

The recruitment, selection and dismissal of officers will comply with the Officer Employment Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.



- 2.5 In almost all circumstances you will owe a duty to act in the best interests of the outside body. You will have to exercise your own best judgement and you cannot just take instructions from the Council. It is permissible to take account of the Council's wishes, but in any conflict, you must act in the best interests of the outside body. The Council recognises this in appointing or nominating you.
- 2.6 Your responsibilities as a member of an outside body depend on the legal form of that body. The outside body will through its own constitution specify the formal role and responsibilities of the local authority member
- 2.7 Members and officers serving on outside bodies could have personal liability as a direct consequence of their actions in serving on outside bodies. This is particularly so they act in an executive capacity as opposed to a 'non decision making ' role.
- 2.8 Indemnity Insurance – legally the Council cannot insure the liability of another body or organisation. Therefore you need to be satisfied that there is sufficient indemnity insurance cover to protect your position, particularly when serving in an executive capacity on an outside organisation.
- 2.9 There is a need for you to be assured on an annual basis of the existence of insurance, covering public liability, employees' liability; defamation; and Directors and Trustee liability.

2.10

At the request of the Council the insurer will indemnify any elected member or officer arising from their service on the board or participation in an outside body (e.g. in the capacity of a governor, officer, trustee, director, committee member or other official of any not-for profit entity) in the following situations;

a) where the service or participation by the officer or elected member is specifically requested by or under the specific direction of the Council

b) where the Council is legally entitled to approve the service or participation and to indemnify the officer or elected member in respect of it

c) any payment will only be made by the insurer for an amount in excess of any indemnification or insurance coverage provided by the not-for-profit entity or afforded from any other source and to which the employee or elected member is entitled.

The indemnity the Council can provide is subject to limitations. In general terms, if a elected member or officer is acting properly, within their powers and in good faith, the power to indemnify will usually apply. However, the Council cannot, for example, provide an indemnity in relation to any action or failure by any elected member or officer which constitutes a criminal offence, or for any action or failure by any elected member or officer which is the result of fraud, or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of the elected member or officer. You can seek further advice on indemnity from the monitoring officer.

~~The Borough Council indemnity insurance solely covers the following situations~~

- ~~a. — where the terms of reference are laid down in pursuance of the authority's statutory powers.~~
- ~~b. — where an individual acts in an advisory capacity only in connection with the Council's functions.~~
- ~~c. — where the Member occupies an observational role only on an outside body, representing the Council, and not in any decision making capacity.~~
- ~~d. — where a Member acts on behalf of a joint committee established by two or more local authorities.~~

2.11 In all cases which are outside the scope of the previous paragraph , indemnity cover should be obtained from the outside organisation concerned.

The principal forms of outside bodies are:

## Scrutiny Chair Report to Council

Since the last report to you at September's Full Council, the Scrutiny Committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Committee received a report seeking authority from the Executive to extend the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to manage all current and future applicable alleygate schemes in the Borough for a further three years. There are currently 178 schemes in Burnley, with 80 schemes on the current consideration list and new applications being received each year. Alleygating sites are based on crime and disorder data over a three year rolling period and applications for new sites are expected to have already secured the support of neighbours so as to avoid objections at the consultation stage. Comprehensive information about eligibility and the application process is available at [Alley gating - burnley.gov.uk](https://www.burnley.gov.uk/Alleygating)

The Committee also received a report seeking authority from the Executive to advertise for the tender of asset and development management services at Charter Walk as the current Asset Management Agreement is due to expire on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Members asked a number of questions and it was confirmed that occupancy rates were on target and measured both in terms of square footage and rental income. Rising inflation and other costs had been factored into the budget for the new management services and tenderers would be asked to include proposals in their tender submissions for how they should be paid, such as, based on the size of development or as a percentage of income generated.

The final substantive item was an update on Scrutiny Review Groups. I reported that the Climate Change Review Group would report to the Committee once it had concluded its current work in the New Year. The Committee also received a detailed verbal report on the Queensgate Review Group, including a reminder of the initial Task and Finish Group approach with one current and one former elected member, along with key Council officers, meeting with residents from the Burnley Lane Residents Group to discuss their areas of concern including rubbish & littering, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and empty properties and to identify a number of actions that were taken promptly as a result. The Committee also discussed issues of concern that remain, including ASB and speeding, in relation to which the Council can take preventative and reactive actions but not solve.

In relation to the Committee's Work Programme it was agreed that reports on Charter Walk and Pioneer Place, including planned purchase costs versus actual operating income and expenditure, would be added to the 2023/24 and 2024/25 work programme.

At the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the Committee received the Quarter 2 Performance Report which highlighted that 87% of Liberata telephone calls were answered within the target time, with the caller abandonment rate also within the target of 1%. In terms of missed bins, at 79 per the 100,000 collections, the target of 75 per 100k collections was narrowly missed. Lastly, the average number of days per employee lost to sickness absence, had increased to an average of 1.6 days during Q2.

The Committee received a presentation from Burnley Leisure and Culture on their annual report. It provided figures which highlighted the highest ever numbers of fitness members, swimmers in the swim academy, visits to the driving range and golf memberships. A breakdown of the financials was provided in terms of earned income, grant income, insurance, investments, expenditure and funds. Some impact stories were provided along with the vision, mission and priority aims for the next 3

years; which are putting people first; improving health and wellbeing; destination of choice for leisure and culture; fostering partnerships; and delivering business excellence.

A further presentation was given on the culture document: Our People, Our Culture – A Cultural Re-imagining of Burnley 2023-2027. The presentation provided a definition of culture; the framework context; the vision and mission; challenges; driving change; infrastructure development priorities; Burnley 2027; what success would look like; community change outcomes; and systems change outcomes. The Committee were keen to see community involvement and Members were asked to send any suggestions to link in with other communities to the Cultural Strategy Manager.

## **Chair of Audit and Standards Committee Report to Full Council**

**Meeting Date 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

### **Annual Accounts 22/23**

The Finance Manager presented the Annual Statement of Accounts for 22/23 to the committee for approval and signature by the Chair. The Committee was also asked to approve the Letter of Representation from the Director of Resources to Grant Thornton with signature from the Chair; and approve the signed 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement.

The External Auditor provided details on the Audit findings.

There was a discussion on heritage assets.

The committee approved for the accounts to be signed by the Chair and Director of Resources subject to any non-material changes.

For the Letter of Representation to be signed.

And for the approval of the Annual Governance Statement.

### **Internal Audit Charter and Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP)**

The Internal Audit Manager presented two documents to the committee to approve.

The Internal Audit Charter was explained as the remit for the Internal Audit service within the Council. This was approved.

The Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme is a required element for the Public Sector internal audit Standards and details how the service checks itself and improves itself.

### **CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance**

The CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance presented with two questionnaires for members to complete – one on the status of the audit and Standards Committee and one on the knowledge and understanding of members.

### **External Review Report**

An update on the actions taken in response to the External Review of Internal Audit was presented by the Internal Audit Manager. The progress included the charter, Quality assurance, progress to the CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance.

### **Internal Audit Progress Report 23/24 Q1**

The Internal Audit Manager presented details of the work completed during the first quarter of 2023/24.

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Chair of Licensing Report to Council 06.12.23**

November's Licensing Committee considered a number of key policy issues relating to Taxis.

Fees were not increased for 2024, but will be reset for 2025 in accordance with the 3yr fee setting policy.

Vehicle safety requirements were amended to include a requirement for manufacturer recall issues to be resolved on renewal, Age limits were reviewed to enable vehicles that continue to meet specific safety and emission standards to remain on the fleet for longer. The intention being to incentivise vehicle maintenance and a transition to a cleaner fleet. In addition to benefitting the community in terms of safety and air quality, it rewards the owners of vehicles who look after their cars. Wheelchair accessible vehicles that continue to meet the safety and emissions standards can be retained on the fleet indefinitely, for the purpose of increasing the number of vehicles available to wheelchair-bound passengers and increase choice. Retaining vehicles on the Burnley fleet means that licensing officers have greater control over taxi & private hire journeys in the Borough.

The DfT issued revised Best Practice Guidance for Taxi & Private Hire licensing to local authorities on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, so officers will be carefully considering further policy matters that arise from the document.

Following the revocation of the Premises Licence at Mode, an appeal has been lodged which allows the club to continue to operate. The Bees Knees appeal is scheduled for Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.

Officers are preparing pre-Christmas compliance activities in and around the town centres to support licence-holders to operate responsibly throughout the festive period, and allow the community to enjoy the variety of entertainment that the Borough has to offer.

This page is intentionally left blank



## **Chair of Development Control Report to Council 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

At the October meeting Members of Development Control Committee approved planning permission for a reserved matters application for 73 houses on land off Barden Lane. The site had previously been granted outline planning permission and this application was to confirm the detail of the proposal. It will include a mix of 1,2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties, mainly in pairs of semi-detached properties with 6 detached homes and a small block of 4 one bed apartments.

November's committee had a mixed agenda with Members granting outline planning permission for up to 40 dwellings on land at the northern end of the former Baxi site in Padiham, approving a solar farm of 1978 panels at the Crow Wood leisure facility and granting permission to maintain trees covered under tree preservation orders. Applications associated with tree preservation orders are not normally considered by committee but in this case the Council was the applicant and in line with the Council's constitution all Council applications must be presented before committee for a decision.

This page is intentionally left blank



# BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

06 December 2023

---

COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.....	2
COUNCILLOR MAGGIE LISHMAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT .....	4
COUNCILLOR HOWARD BAKER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.....	6
COUNCILLOR LUBNA KHAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.....	9
COUNCILLOR SCOTT CUNLIFFE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH .....	12
COUNCILLOR JACK LAUNER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CULTURE & WELLBEING .....	19

## COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR1-</b> We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment and skills.</p>	<p><b>County Combined Authority</b></p> <p>Members will have received the announcement that the Government has supported the application (in principle) from the three upper-tier authorities in Lancashire to form a non-Mayoral Combined Authority for Lancashire. This was signed off by the Minister on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 along with the Leaders of the Upper Tier Local Authorities.</p> <p>My initial view remains that whilst devolution for Lancashire is welcomed, the proposed terms are underwhelming. The secrecy by which it has been developed has been disappointing. The proposal simply does not represent Burnley’s ambitions or consider Burnley’s challenges, a view shared by some fellow Burnley Council Group Leaders and other District Leaders across Lancashire. A group of us collectively wrote to Jacob Young MP on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with our concerns. In particular, the prospect of losing local control over the distribution of the UKSPF to the proposed CCA is unwelcome and disappointing as well as not providing the Districts with a meaningful voice or vote.</p> <p>Members will be aware that this Council’s position has supported exploring a Mayoral Combined Authority. The Government has also made it clear that a Mayoral Combined Authority secures the largest devolution. This Council also did not support local government re-organisation as a precursor to the establishment of a Combined Authority.</p> <p>Members will have noted that there is a formal statutory consultation taking place for 8 weeks commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. It is important that this Council puts forward its representations to the Consultation which shall be considered at the council’s meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.</p> <p><b>Government’s levelling up agenda</b></p> <p><i>Long-Term Plan for Towns</i></p>

I was pleased that Burnley was selected for the allocation of the £20 million endowment announced as part of this initiative for 55 Towns across the Borough. Whilst further guidance is awaited, correspondence has been sent to DHLUC/BEIS requesting clarification on the extent of the boundary that will benefit from this initiative. Eligibility appears to exclude Padiham, Cliviger and Worsthorne for which clarification has been sought.

There is also a requirement for a Towns Board to be set up by April 2024 and for a Plan to be submitted to Government by Summer 2024. Further guidance from Government will be issued before we can progress these schemes of work.

### *Levelling up 3*

Like many of you, I was disappointed with the announcement of this allocation. Pre-allocated schemes for specified places for this funding that we (and many other authorities across the Country) were unable to apply for was an incredulous decision. I have contacted the Minister and the MP to express my disappointment and welcomed a discussion on whether they would be amenable to consider Burnley for further funding.

**PR5-** We will support UCLan's expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town

### **UCLAN Update**

Following extensive market research UCLan will focus its Burnley Campus on Health and Social Care, linked to the NHS workforce plan as well as digital. It was great to hear that UCLan now has permission for extra domiciled medical students. In response to local demand the campus will continue to offer courses aimed at businesses and addressing workforce needs across the digital sector and opportunities arising from the development of the National Cyber Force centre at Salmesbury. UCLan is planning a programme of events and activities aimed at engaging the local community with the campus. UCLan are also delivering a range of programs to support business growth and innovation.

### **Newtown Mill**

Building works continue onsite and are making good progress against the current programme. Roof works, repairs/cleaning of stonework to the north mill are complete. The internal partitions continue to progress to the upper ground floor level within the south mill. Work in connection with services and mechanical and electrical works is progressing. The aluminium glazed windows have been installed to the upper ground floor and with structural openings underway to the

	<p>ground floor along the Queens Lancashire Way elevation. Completion of the building works and external areas is expected by June 2024.</p> <p>Improvements to the canal towpath are now complete - resurfacing works have been undertaken between bridge 129b and aqueduct 32 along with improvements to access points at Westgate and Manchester Rd.</p>
--	---

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE1-</b> We will continue to work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration and pride. This will include supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development.</p>	<p>I was delighted to learn about Burnley College’s £1.6 million investment in its state-of-the-art Department of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing. The college is now part of the new Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology, which will equip people learners with future-facing, technical-based training, working with employers to address skills gaps.</p> <p>Further details on how the council is raising aspiration and instilling pride of place will be reported by the Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Growth and the Executive member for Community and Environmental Services.</p>

## COUNCILLOR MAGGIE LISHMAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF1-</b> We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.</p>	<p>Liberata have achieved their key targets in the benefits service. Against a target of 9 days, the Q2 result for the average number of days to process benefits new claims and change of circumstances was 2 days, which is lower than the same period last year. The latest available data for comparison with other areas is from Q4 22/23 (this measures housing benefit processing only) and shows that Burnley's housing benefit processing time overall was 2 days. The district average in the Northwest is 3 days.</p> <p>In the contact centre, 87% of calls were answered within time, exceeding the target of 80%.</p> <p>KPIs for IT, revenues and HR were also achieved.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF2-</b> We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.</p>	<p><b>Revenue Budget</b></p> <p>The Council reported a projected net overspend of £243k at the end of quarter 1 for the 2023/24 financial year. This is in line with the position in previous financial years. The quarter 2 report has been delayed until the January 2024 cycle of committee meetings but is expected to report an improved position. We expect to balance the books by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2024/27 was updated and approved at the September 2023 Full Council meeting. The updated MTFS has identified a potential budget gap of up to £1m over the 3-year period. Savings proposals were approved at that meeting with a budget gap of £118k remaining for 2024/25. Savings proposals to bridge the remaining gap will be recommended for approval in February 2024, once the outcome of the provisional budget settlement is announced in December 2023.</p> <p><b>Statement of Accounts</b></p> <p>The Council published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, finished the main element of their audit and presented their audit findings to the September</p>

	<p>2023 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee for approval. Quality assurance work is in the final stages and formal sign off of the accounts is expected to be ratified at the December 2023 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee. Grant Thornton is continuing their annual Value for Money review of the Council which will also be reported to the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee in December 2023.</p> <p><b>Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates</b></p> <p>It is estimated that business rates collection rates for 2023/24, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> October, are on target to achieve 97.5% for the year. Council tax collection rates are 1.2% below the target of 94.5% for the year. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> October, collection rates for council tax and business rates were 60.36% and 65.35% against targets of 61.58% and 63.57% respectively.</p>
--	---

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PF3-</b> We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.</p>	<p>In Q2, 67% of "report it" and "request it" actions were made online. This figure excludes revenues and benefits transactions, where digital take up is closer to 25%. Officers are reviewing processes to make it easier for those that can, to transact online.</p> <p>A review is also underway to improve the experience of making online payments. This work is being undertaken in partnership with other councils and an implementation plan will be brought forward in the New Year.</p>
<p><b>PF4-</b> We will deliver our Organisational Development strategy, ensuring we plan for the structures and capabilities that the organisation needs, and empowering our workforce to deliver the objectives of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The current Talent Management programme is due to complete with presentations on the outcome of the projects taking place in December. The two projects have been on Volunteering and Climate Change.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on the roll out of the Carbon Literacy training to start in the new year. The Learning Programme for 2023/24 has been finalised with a focus on Leadership &amp; Management and Neurodiversity awareness.</p>
<p><b>PL6-</b> We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.</p>	<p><b>Council Chamber Works</b> The restoration works in the Council Chamber, due to extensive issues of dry rot, are due to be completed during December 2023. Progress is being made on accessibility and audio-visual equipment upgrades that will commence once the restoration works have been completed. The tender process has commenced and survey work to inform the bids will be undertaken once scaffolding has been removed.</p>



# COUNCILLOR HOWARD BAKER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## Progress against our strategic commitments

**PL1-** We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe, attractive and environmentally friendly borough. This will include community engagement and cleansing in 'hotspot' areas

### **Waste & Cleansing Update**

#### **Simpler Recycling**

The Government has announced its long-awaited proposals on standardising recycling services in England and Wales. The proposals called "Simpler Recycling" impose a statutory duty on councils across the country to provide a kerbside collection to all households of a standardised list of dry recycling materials (Paper, Card, Glass Cans and Plastics) by April 2026. The Government is allowing flexibility to councils on how to deliver this service: councils will be allowed to collect all dry recycling fully co-mingled. The arrangement for Lancashire will be clarified in the coming months in conjunction with Lancashire County Council as the statutory waste disposal authority.

The majority of councils including Burnley will also be required to rollout a new weekly food waste collection service by April 2026 to all households. Despite earlier statements that Councils would not be allowed to charge for garden waste collections the Government has decided to allow Councils to continue to charge for collections but has placed a statutory duty on them to provide the service to any household requesting the service.

In addition to requirements for households "Simpler Recycling" also mandates that all business with the exception of Micro Firms must introduce both a dry recycling and food waste collection by April 2025. The Government is due to provide details over the next few months of the New Burdens funding that will be available to facilitate the introduction and operation of the new services.

#### **Garden Waste**

Once again Burnley Council will be issuing its collection calendars to residents during December. Again, we will be offering a real Christmas tree collection and composting service to residents after the festive period. To book a collection residents need to go online to [www.burnley.gov.uk/christmastrees](http://www.burnley.gov.uk/christmastrees)

#### **Streetscene Environmental Enforcement**

Following the recent Government announcement that XL Bully type dogs will be added to the breed types banned in the UK by 31st December 2023. The Council website has now been updated to include guidance for owners, links to free muzzle

training supplied by The Dogs Trust and other useful information.

Residents affected by the announcement should be signposted to the following link:

<https://burnley.gov.uk/environmental-problems/dogs/dangerous-dogs/american-xl-bullies/>

### **Enforcement Action Figures. July – Oct 2023**

The council's education and enforcement officers continue to proactively work within the Borough, reacting to fly-tipping intelligence reports and liaising with the council's waste and cleansing contractor. As a result of this work, over this period (1st July – 31st Oct) the council has successfully prosecuted 12 individuals for fly tipping and other waste offences. The 12 individuals were given the opportunity to attend a formal interview but failed to attend, resulting in all the cases being taken to the Magistrates court.

Alongside this and over the same period, council officers have also issued the following:

- 196 Warning letters sent out for incorrect waste presentation and other waste related issues.
- 28 Community protection warning letters for repeatedly presenting side waste.
- 76 Fixed penalty notices for flytipping and incorrect waste presentation offences.
- 371 Fixed penalty notices for littering.
- 9 Fixed penalty notices for dog foul/dog exclusion.
- 37 suspected flytippers invited for police and criminal evidence interviews.

### **Community Safety & ASB**

#### **Queensgate Multi-Agency Activity**

The Council and Police, working with other partners, have delivered a programme of activities in the Queensgate area during October and November. Officers have been out in the ward on joint operations looking at ASB and environmental issues, addressing issues raised by residents. The work of Streetscene and Housing colleagues has been well received by residents and further events covering the borough are to be planned and delivered over 2024.

In October there was a reduction in all reported ASB of 21%, compared to September. Youth ASB fell by 42% in the same period and in October accounted for just 19% of all ASB. The Burnley average is currently 27%.

#### **Safer Streets**

The Pennine Lancashire CSP has successfully bid for £400k as part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The money

will provide upgrades to town centre CCTV in busy nighttime economy areas.

### **White Ribbon Day and the 16 Days of Action**

The 25th November marked International White Ribbon Day and the start of the 16 Days of Action. The Council again will be linking with local partners, including Burnley Football Club, to promote the campaign and raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and gender violence.

### **Joint work within Community Safety Partnership**

The ASB team has made a successful application, supported by the Police, to close a property identified as being used for the sale and consumption of drugs. This is the 5th Closure Order obtained this year. They are also progressing with further applications relating to both residential and commercial properties that have been identified as attracting ASB.

Ongoing work includes an increasing number of reports concerning dog behaviour and nuisance, together with more cooperative work with Calico and the Neighbourhood Police Teams.

### **Rowley Lake**

Repair works are due to be undertaken to the dam structure and a flood modelling study is also to be carried out, arising from recommendations in the most recent inspection report and in order to comply with Environment Agency regulations and recent statutory changes regarding reservoir management.

# COUNCILLOR LUBNA KHAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL2-</b> We will improve the management and condition of rented accommodation in the private and social sectors and enforce standards in a robust way.</p>	<p><b>Selective Licensing</b></p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse &amp; Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</b></p> <p>The total number of properties that are required to be licensed is 2649 across all four areas. We have received 2845 applications since the start of these designations. 89% of licensable properties are currently licensed; a further 109 applications are being processed by the licensing team.</p> <p>The final report has been published on the selective licensing area of our website for the completed audit in parts of Trinity which took place from Aug to Oct 2023. Audits were also undertaken in August in parts of Stoneyholme identifying external disrepair, dirty back yards and ensuring all properties have valid documentation in place. A final report is available on our website.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area 2022-2027</b></p> <p>The designations for the above areas came into force on 21st July 2022. Since this date we have received 782 applications. 71 % of those properties that require a licence have been licensed, with the team currently progressing a further 118 applications.</p> <p>The first area audit took place in August in part of the Leyland Road area. A full report of the outcomes of this audit will be published in November. In addition, following monitoring by one of our officers, a mini audit of Pine Street in the Burnley Wood area has been audited; this area is not due to be audited until November, however we have concerns about the condition of some of the properties, so we are prioritising this street ahead of schedule. The report is available on our website.</p> <p><b>Civil Penalties/Prosecutions</b></p> <p>The priority for all six licensing areas is securing applications for all properties that are required to be licensed and enforcing the conditions of the licence. During the current designations we have prosecuted landlords in respect of four properties and issued twelve civil penalties where landlords were operating without a licence. We continue to review the outcome of the area audits to prioritise further cases for legal action, focusing on properties which have been unlicensed for long periods, or where we have concerns about the condition of the properties.</p>

	<p><b>Landlord and Agent Training Days</b> We held a Landlord Development Day in person event at the Town Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and an online damp and mould half day course on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b> Since the start of April 2023, the council has received and dealt with 240 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Housing Standards Team has a current caseload of 170 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases. Since April 2023, the Housing Standards Team have served 21 formal improvement notices requiring owners to complete specified repairs within a given timescale, as well as 3 emergency remedial action notices, and 6 prohibition orders.</p>
--	--

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL3-</b> We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties</p>	<p><b>Empty Homes Program</b></p> <p>Several more compulsory purchases will be started before the end of the calendar year. Several acquisitions by agreement are also progressing slowly.</p> <p>Renovations are underway at five properties with tenders out or recently completed for another four properties. Two of these properties are nearing completion and will be on the market soon. Four of the properties being renovated (or will be renovated) will then be passed to our Housing Needs team and will be used for temporary accommodation and for our refugee program. Sales are progressing on three properties, and three others have gone on the market.</p> <p>The facelifting scheme is nearing completion at the rears of Windsor and Ivory Streets, unfortunately the completion has been delayed by the weather. The Piccadilly Road scheme has started but is being delayed due to the amount of rain we have had.</p> <p>Enquiries for the loans scheme are still slow at the moment.</p>

<p><b>PE3-</b> We will continue to work with partners to provide necessary support systems to reduce homelessness and to end rough sleeping in the borough.</p>	<p>Burnley Council continue to support and accommodate rough sleepers and homeless households who have a connection to the borough. Since the last update, we now have six RSAP (Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme) properties and they are currently fully occupied, with the clients being supported by the RSAP Officer.</p> <p>We have 16 ABEN (A Bed Every Night) properties managed by Stepping Stones, and 15 properties that are Council managed and all these properties are also fully occupied. From the 1st April 2024 to 31st October 2023, we received 1410 enquiries around homelessness, which 370 were opened as cases. We have successfully prevented or relieved 194 household's homelessness or threat of homelessness so far this financial year, and have accommodated 158 households in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>We have successfully bid for the Local Authority funding round 2, to enable us to acquire 6 properties to use for temporary accommodation, three of these will be used to support Afghan families moving from the hotels. Two of the 15 Council managed properties have now passed to the Councils ownership following the funding being awarded, and we continue to work to secure another 4 properties. We continue to work in partnership with agencies to increase the positive outcomes and prevent and relieve homelessness households or those at threat of homelessness throughout the borough.</p>
---	--

## COUNCILLOR SCOTT CUNLIFFE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR2- We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</b></p>	<p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>The Business Support team are currently working with 30 companies following an inward investment or expansion enquiry. The range of premises required is across the office and industrial sectors with the latter showing strong continual demand against a backdrop of limited supply. Recent relocations include an engineering company who have taken an additional 13,000 Sq Ft on top of their existing 7,000 Sq Ft as part of their growth plans; and a business in the personal services sector who have fully renovated a gateway building that was derelict. Both were assisted with the Business Growth Programme to aide their expansion with the investment figures for both companies exceeding £500,000 and creating 10 new jobs and safeguarding 10 jobs.</p> <p>On the 27<sup>th</sup> November the Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Growth visited Process Instruments to present and award for 20 years of outstanding achievements in international trade and innovation. Process Instruments design, develop and deliver innovative water analysing technologies and invest significantly in new product development.</p> <p><b>Vision Park</b></p> <p>As part of our ongoing wrap around support to Vision Park tenants, businesses are being offered a programme of support on marketing strategies including two workshops, tailored individual support for three months. Six businesses (9 tenants) have signed up to receive the support.</p> <p>Vision Park remains at full occupancy with a waiting list for available units with 4 occupiers currently renewing their existing tenancies.</p> <p><b>Padiham Town Hall</b></p> <p>Another company has joined the co-working space in Room and Power. The company which provides AV, IT and Software support has bases in Blackburn and Manchester and has now decided to create a base in the borough following an initial trial period.</p> <p>This now takes the co-working space up to 13 businesses working out of the co-working space. The fixed office space remains at full capacity with a waiting list operating.</p>



## **UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Supporting Local Business Theme**

All business support projects are now live, with the last 3 going live on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 (Innovation, Manufacturing & Boost). To date 37 Burnley businesses have been engaged with under the International Trade project delivered by East Lancashire Chamber and 67 Burnley businesses have been engaged with under the Net Zero/Decarbonisation project also delivered by the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce. Six Burnley businesses have been identified as high growth (20% year on year growth) to receive specialist support through the Scale to Thrive programme delivered by the Growth Company.

### **Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders**

Since last full council there have been 20 pieces of positive news on Burnley.co.uk. Burnley has featured in 905 pieces of online, print and broadcast news with a combined AVE of £909,000 and reach of 365 million.

The Burnley sector video series launched Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, showcasing professional services. This has been followed by charity/not-for-profit and design and textiles. The #madeitinburnley video series launched alongside, showcasing some of our best talent in Burnley.

There have been 5 bondholder events since the last full council.

InBusiness Burnley was published 27<sup>th</sup> November and distributed to businesses across East Lancashire.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PR3-</b> We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.	<b>Burnley Town Centre</b> <b>Pioneer Place</b> Heavenly Deserts opened in early October. The restaurant outlets report to be trading well. There have been some issues with the operation of the REEL parking concessions, but these have now been resolved.  Work commenced on the former cinema site at Manchester Road site on the 6 <sup>th</sup> November with an expected completion date of March 25.



## **Charter Walk**

Footfall, year to date, to end of October was 1.7% down compared to the same period last year. Tenants report positive trading, despite the cost of living crisis. 6 tenants have invested in re-fits in the last 3 months which is a sign of confidence in the location. The Asset Management Company have successfully re-negotiated leases with two existing tenants expanding into bigger units and works are underway to facilitate this.

Working in partnership with Table Tennis England, Charter Walk hosts a Ping Pong Parlour offering free table tennis. The Parlour brings additional activities into the Town Centre as well as encouraging people to remain active and healthy.

The center won a Britain in Bloom Gold Award in the large retail category and was also best in the Northwest. The sensory garden, that opened earlier this year, has recently won an International Green Apple Award for Innovation. Footfall on Howe Walk has increased by 62% since the garden opened.

## **Town 2 Turf**

Pavement widening and resurfacing works to the Harry Potts Way section of the scheme are complete. Resurfacing works are now focused on the Yorkshire St section. Repairs, cleaning and redecoration of the aqueduct have been completed. The Yorkshire Street roundabout has been removed and replaced with a temporary roundabout whilst works continue at this junction.

The current program sees Sept 2024 completion.

## **Lower St James Street Heritage Action Zone**

Restoration work to 158 Lower St James Street is underway including the reinstatement of a traditional shop front, bay windows, rainwater goods, Doff cleaning and architectural repairs. This is due to be completed at the end of December. The Property owner is investing internally with a change of use from taxi office to retail unit and two apartments to the upper floors.

Work continues to 123-125 St James Street, the HSHAZ Exemplar building, with completion due. Footfall figures continue to increase in the HSHAZ area. In Q2 July-Sept 23 compared to July – Sept 2022 the street so an additional 60,000 visitors.

The Regional Director of Historic England visited Burnley in October and was delighted with the progress that has been made in the High Street Heritage Action Zone and the

Conservation Areas. The council was commended and its contractors on the quality of the work in the area.

The HSHAZ Social media pages continue to see a significant 40% increase in new followers and interactions with 11.5K reach within the last 90 days.

### **Burnley Market**

We continue to offer a place for people to start their businesses with a low-cost start up incentive scheme.

Rupi's Kitchen selling Bengali cuisine and a barber shop has recently opened. The tailor is expanding his business and taking an extra unit.

10 leases have been renewed in the last 3 months. Occupancy is up 60% compared to the same time last year.

The market hall and its tenants are pro-actively promoted on social media channels. A program of events is being delivered to bring new customers to the market including a successful bi-monthly Record Fair.

The market hosted Re-Fashion Week – a collaboration with British Textile Biennial, UCLAN and Gawthorp Textiles Collection to educate young people in how to recycle and upcycle fashion items. The market hosted workshops and a fashion shoot.

A Christmas program of events is in place for December 2023.

The markets manager continues to work with the BID, Charter Walk and the police to address ASB and additional security has been employed to address ASB issues ensuring that the market hall is a pleasant environment for shoppers.

A Christmas program of events is now in place for December 2023.

### **Business Improvement District**

The BID is now in its third year of operation. The BID manager and chair have been engaging with the Police and Crime Commissioner to try to secure additional resources to address ASB in the Town Centre.

The BID continues to deliver a program of town centre events aimed at attracting families to the town centre, the latest being the Christmas Light Parade and Light Switch on held on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

The BID has agreed funding for a wayfinding and signage strategy, as recommended in the Town Centre Masterplan. The council is leading this work.

### **Padiham Town Centre**

Recent community engagement events include the High Street Heritage Trail that took place for a week in September, as part of Heritage Open Days, supported by Padiham Library and Gawthorpe Hall. Designed to attract new visitors into the town and highlight Padiham's unique historical features.

The Padiham Halloween Trail took place during the October half term school holidays and was supported by the Padiham Town Centre Officer. The trail brought children and families into the town to visit local shops, with a total of 27 businesses involved and received positive feedback from participants.

The Christmas Light Switch On Event, took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Promotional videos for the event are being created and will feature 6 new Padiham businesses.

The Padiham Town Centre social media platforms have reached over 22.5k in the last 28 days and continue to share positive news about events and businesses.

### **Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative**

Works have completed at Nos. 25 & 27 Burnley Rd (Woof & Tumble and Party Glitz). There is one final building project on site 12-14 Burnley Rd (vacant, formerly Timeless). Grant has been awarded for a package of external repair and restoration works, due to complete by March 2024.

Leases have been agreed for the retail units at No. 33-35 Burnley Rd (Exemplar project). 'The Hub' has opened at No. 35 and Millie & Rubys' Doggy Bakery is due to open within No. 33 at the beginning of December.

A project evaluation is being undertaken by the TH Officer with input from consultant, Creative Talent Management, whom have been appointed to collect independent feedback about the scheme which will feed into the evaluation report. The overall TH programme is due to complete by June 2024.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR4-</b> We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>Housing Land Supply Assessment:</b></p> <p>The required annual update of the 5-year housing land supply assessment was completed in October 2023. This assessment demonstrates a supply of deliverable housing sites equivalent to 11.2 years and includes information on the progress of all allocated sites and all windfall sites with planning permission that are not yet completed. (<a href="#">5-Year Housing Land Supply Assessment</a>)</p> <p>Maintaining a 5-year supply of land for housing is important to avoid the 'tilted balance' of the National Planning Policy Framework whereby the 'need' for housing can override local policy requirements and can for example allow poorer quality developments and development on greenfield sites outside of development boundaries.</p>

**Allocated Housing Sites:**

*Sites Under Construction:*

Site HS1/1 Former Hambleton School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes and Site HS1/3 Former Blythe's Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) are both nearing completion with all remaining plots released and only 5 remaining on each site for sale (including the Showhomes). Site HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes) has over 66% reserved or sold and the on-site affordable housing (discounted sales) is now being marketed with three of the five reserved. Site HS1/4 Rossendale Road (Barratt Homes - Brun Lea Heights) is well under construction with 11 properties sold – all of the detached homes offered for sale have been sold.

Construction is now underway at site HS1/30 Land West of Smithyfield Avenue, Brownside for 38 age-restricted specialist bungalows (FUL/2021/0274) (Applethwaite Homes).

*Applications and Approvals:*

Reserved matters approval for 73 affordable homes on site HS1/29 Lodge Mill was granted at Development Control Committee on 17 October 2023 (REM/2023/0169). Outline planning application for up to 40 dwellings on the northern (upper) part of Site HS1/5 (Former Baxi Site) was approved at Development Control Committee on 9 November, subject first to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (OUT/2023/0294). A previous similar outline permission had lapsed. Amended plans have been received for 36 dwellings at Site HS1/12 Former Heckenhurst Reservoir (Applethwaite homes) (FUL/2022/0629). Applications to discharge and vary conditions have been received at Site HS1/32 Butcher Farm, Worsthorne (CND/2023/0644 and VAR/2023/0602).

**Allocated Employment Sites:**

An application for discharge of conditions has been received at Site EMP1/1 Rossendale Road (North) (CND/2023/0590) in relation to full planning permission 2022/02598 which is for part of the allocated site.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PR6-</b> We will work with partners to ensure that residents are able and ready to participate in the workforce.	<b>Burnley Employment &amp; Skills Group (BSEG)</b> Working with the county council the group is currently focussing work on a cohort of young people aged 16-24 Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETS) further discussions will take place on how we can support this group. The L.C.C. team have directly contacted the individuals on

their NEET caseload and invited them to meet at the Thrive hub for support.

### **Thrive Youth Hub**

Current caseload of Thrive is 178. It is worth noting that over 40% of the participants on the UKSPF (people & skills) programme are young people under 25. The HATCH programme delivered by BFC in the Community, has seen 7 people successfully complete the 4 weeks paid work experience and then moved into employment. 7 additional volunteer placements have also taken place. The Princes Trust programme - "Get into Health & Social Care with East Lancs Hospital Trust has seen 9 people being employed and a further 6 signed up to start the next cohort.

A new group now regularly using the Thrive hub is Positive Action in the Community (P.A.C) who support homelessness in your people – they are working very closely with the team from Child Action North West who support substance misuse in young people – so this is a great show of partnership working.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund – People & Skills Theme**

In the first 6 months of year 2, (April - Sept 23, a total of 81 individuals have been engaged with on this project. Whilst the majority of these are still actively accessing support, to date 7 have moved into employment, 7 have engaged with mainstream healthcare services and a further 5 have received benefits following support. We expect most outputs/outcomes to come in Year 3 given the nature of the complex individuals on programme with a range of barriers & additional needs to gaining employment. A key focus of this project is working in the community and outreach work is taking place in venues such as Padiham Town Hall, Down Town, Valley St and Stonyholme Primary School.

### **Universal Credit Claimant Changes**

Unemployment Data reported in the last report was to July 23. There is no further data available after this point in time at the moment. An update will be provided in the next report.

### **PL5- We will implement our Climate Change Strategy**

The first draft of the 'Road Map to Net Zero' report has been completed. This document will outline potential costs and timeframes for each main area of climate action, between now and 2050. The document will be monitored and updated as needed and will also help to identify if an earlier net zero target can be achieved for the Council, or if 2050 remains the most feasible target.

A staff commuting survey has been completed across the Council and Burnley Leisure and this data will be incorporated into the Council's 2022/23 carbon budget. This information will inform the Council's future carbon budget analysis.

The Council are in the process of completing a train the trainer exercise for Carbon Literacy Training. This will allow a quicker and more efficient roll out of the training.

The Climate Change Scrutiny Review Group met again in November where members of the group have continued to review the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

The project to provide electric vehicle charging facilities has now been completed by the Council's Streetscene department and once a utility connection has been carried out at Riley Street Car Park, all chargers will be live and available for public use across the borough. During the programme additional works were also undertaken to improve accessibility for those using the chargers.

# COUNCILLOR JACK LAUNER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CULTURE & WELLBEING

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</b>	<p><b>Play Strategy</b> The refurbishment of Queens Park play area starts on site shortly and will be complete by the new year. Consultation on designs for the relocation of Barden Lane play area to Disraeli St. Recreation have taken place and a planning application is being submitted. Designs for Picadilly Gardens and Underly Street play areas are complete and ready for consultation and the scheme to refurbish Underley street has been boosted by a section 106 planning contribution from a nearby housing development, which will enable other improvements to the recreation ground to be undertaken.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the youth shelter at Park Road Padiham has been completed by a local contractor and I am grateful to Padiham Town Council for their very generous financial support. A survey of Burnley's 22 multi use games areas (MUGAs) is currently being undertaken and an improvement plan will be developed to ensure that these popular and well used facilities are maintained in good condition.</p> <p><b>Playing Pitch &amp; Outdoor Sport Strategy</b> A scheme to improve pitches at Lockyer Avenue playing fields is being designed and tendered ready for implementation in spring 2024. Designs for the improvements to Queens Park football pitches are being progressed with a view to implementation in 2025.</p> <p><b>Worsthorne Recreation Ground</b> A contract to construct the access road and install electricity and sewerage connections is currently on site which will enable Fulfilled Colts to progress work on the facilities.</p> <p><b>Stables Cafe</b> I am pleased to report that the stables café has now re-opened with its new operator Park Life. It has been a long journey to get to this point and I acknowledge the commitment of previous administrations to ensuring that this outcome has been achieved.</p> <p><b>Towneley Hall</b> The first phase of work to re-roof the west wing of the hall including major stonework and window repairs is complete and contractors programme is now focussed on repairs to the south wing (containing the regency rooms) and the restoration of the ornate plaster ceiling in the great hall. The contract is currently on schedule to complete at the end of 2024.</p>



### **Towneley Park Masterplan**

Consultation is complete with user groups and the public, with nearly 1,100 people completing an online and paper survey to express their views on how the park should be improved and developed in the coming years. The master planning consultants are now using the data to inform the development of the masterplan which aims to ensure that the heritage, ecology, recreational and economic potential of the park is developed over the next 10 years.

### **Off-road Motorcycle Nuisance**

The council is working with the Police, Calico and the Community Safety team to on a programme to address problems of off-road bikes across the borough. The project is linked to the Police's Operation Centurion and the Designing Out Crime Officers are providing site specific advice for several problem areas. An initial report will be taken to Scrutiny Committee in the new year.

### **Climate Action Fund – Outdoor Town**

I am pleased to report that this 4-year project is now underway with the recruitment of a Green Activities Coordinator who will organise green volunteering activities and support residents, park friends and other voluntary groups to plant new woodlands, wildflower meadows, improve open spaces and restore neglected sites.

The project links to Beat the Street and over this winter the project will plant small woodlands in each of the Borough's 15 wards, supported by grants from the Trees for Cities charity. Details of BtS planting locations can be found by following this [link](#).

### **Urban Tree Challenge Fund**

The Council has also been awarded funding from the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge fund to plant 100 large specimen trees on ten open spaces across the borough, all in areas of the town that will benefit. Details of planting locations can be found by visiting the [Plant a Tree!](#) Page of the Council's website.

### **Towneley Bonfire**

I'm pleased to report that this year's event was a success with a sell-out audience of 6,000 and despite heavy rain showers, the Mayor lit the bonfire in record time. Planning for next year's event will aim to increase the diversity of the food offer.



Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p><b>HAF Programme</b></p> <p>Our Burnley Holiday Activities with Food programme (HAF) saw a total of 1889 children and young people enjoyed our holiday activities over the Summer 2023 holidays, taking part in 12,294 sessions. 88% of children were on free school meals. Participants were equally split across age ranges and gender suggesting that our programme offered something for all.</p> <p><b>Cultural Framework</b></p> <p>The cultural framework 'Our People, Our Culture - A Cultural Reimagining of Burnley 2023-2027' has recently been considered at Scrutiny Committee and will be taken to the Executive for endorsement in the new year.</p> <p>The framework been developed through a partnership of cultural organisations in Burnley and reflects the voices and perspectives of a broad range of local and regional stakeholders and the general public. It promotes a shared vision for culture as a catalyst for social and economic development.</p> <p>The document provides a framework for delivering high quality cultural activity, removing barriers and tackling fundamental challenges at their root, it will create opportunities for learning and enjoyment, supporting employment, generating local pride and enhancing residents' daily lives.</p> <p>The framework identifies that, to create a sustainable infrastructure for cultural development, the foundation blocks needed to achieve success are cultural leadership, cross sector collaboration, funding and resources and community engagement.</p> <p>The 2023 – 2026 development phase will culminate in a largescale festival programme in 2027 which will showcase Burnley and its cultural offer, bringing sectors, organisations and communities together, building from our past, to create exciting new futures.</p> <p><b>St Peter's Centre</b></p> <p>I'm pleased to report that a significant programme of work is in progress at St Peter's Centre over the coming months to improve customer experience, including refurbishment of the reception area, changing rooms, sports hall and expansion of the fitness area and replacement of gym equipment.</p> <p><b>Padiham Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>Work to provide a new changing places toilet is in progress and the replacement of gym equipment is currently being tendered and expected to be installed by Easter.</p>

	<p><b>Mechanics</b></p> <p>Santa’s Christmas Grotto, which is being run in partnership with Charter Walk shopping centre, opened on 19<sup>th</sup> November is proving very popular and whole day (9<sup>th</sup> December) has been set aside for a fully inclusive SEND (Special Educational Needs) day and special education needs events have sold out. Other Christmas shows have sold out and the festive period makes an important contribution to BLC finances.</p>
--	--

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE4-</b> We will continue to work on the wider determinants of poor health. This will include reducing food insecurity and responding to the cost of living crisis with practical support. We will work closely with the Integrated Care Board and ensure that the Borough Council plays an active role on the proposed placed based partnerships.</p>	<p>The end of September saw the 10,000<sup>th</sup> person to be offered support by Burnley Together since its inception in March 2020.</p> <p>Positively, there is a downward trend in the number of emergency food parcels being issued. In Q4 22/23, 1,456 were provided. In Q2 of this year, the figure was 1,135. Conversely, the Community Grocery is seeing an increase in members and shops. In Q2, 8,000 shops took place in the borough’s Community Groceries and nearly 600 new members joined. This suggests that the council’s partnership work in Burnley Together is successfully reducing dependency on emergency food with fewer residents needing multiple parcels.</p> <p>In addition, there were 800 shops in the pre-loved school uniform shop over the summer. This sustainable approach is good both for household budgets and the environment.</p>