OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6.00 P.M. **4TH FEBRUARY 2026**

PRESENT:- Councillors Martin Gawith (Chair), Chris Hanna (Vice-Chair), Wilson Colley, Gina Dowding, Sue Penney, Joyce Pritchard and John Wild

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Suhir Abuhajar and Maria Deery

Also in Attendance:- Helen Coombes - Executive Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Lancashire County Council

Officers in attendance:-

Jonathan Noad	Chief Officer - Sustainable Growth (Minute 60 only)
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Paul Blakeley	Project Engineer (Minute 60 only)
Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January, 2026 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

58 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There was no Urgent Business to consider.

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gina Dowding declared an interest in Minute 61 as a Lancashire County Councillor.

60 FLOODING IN LANCASTER - LANCASTER CITY SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Chair advised the Committee that the County Council, as the local Flood Authority had contacted officers to share the Lancaster City Surface Water Management Plan and had offered to meet with the City Council to discuss the Management Plan.

It was agreed that this was a suitable conclusion to this issue.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6.09pm to allow time for the Executive Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing to set up her presentation.

The meeting reconvened at 6.14pm

61 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) ASSESSMENT

All members of Council had been invited to attend for this item.

The Chair welcomed Helen Coombes – Executive Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing to the meeting.

The Committee received a presentation detailing the outcome of the assessment by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in February 2025 of Lancashire County Council's Adult Social Care services which resulted in a 'Requires Improvement' rating across all nine quality statement scores.

In terms of strengths, the report highlighted multi-disciplinary collaboration between partners and good risk management to maintain people's safety and well-being but also flagged that many people were waiting too long for assessments and reviews and that some systems, processes and relationships need to be improved.

It was reported that a high-level plan had been developed, drawing together improvement activity across the whole directorate. The plan considered each of the thematic areas and the relevant quality statements and considers what residents expected from services.

As part of the assurance process for Requires Improvement, authorities were required to submit a stage 1 report 10 days after report publication which included the County Council's reflections, priorities for action and governance. A Stage 2 report is then required three months after publication of the CQC assessment outcome. The stage 2 report included the development of an improvement plan with clear and realistic timeframes for each action, risks, a plan for monitoring and scrutinising progress and evidence of the capacity to deliver. Following this, a Stage 3 report is submitted every 3 months with updates on progress and any changes. Lancashire County Council's was up to date with all of its required reporting with the next report due on 15th February 2026.

The Committee went on to discuss the importance of partnership working with the voluntary and faith sector within the community and the importance of Day Centres within the district.

Resolved :-

That Helen Coombes Executive Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

62 FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The Chair circulated a paper regarding Fit for the Future.

Resolved :-

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Fit for the Future programme continues to encourage both modernising and innovative practices and a develops a framework of measurable outputs to enable successful monitoring.

Members recognise the workload and pressure that is already placed on officers so we would like to consider how one of the current projects could be aligned to demonstrate these measurable outputs. We would be happy to work with officers on a task group or working group to see how this can be achieved. The Committee would be happy to select a project with the officers.

63 FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

There were no issues raised in the Forthcoming Key Decisions.

64 CITY COUNCIL COMMISSIONED CONSULTATIONS

The Committee discussed the amount of consultations that were currently underway.

65 DECISIONS THE CHAIR HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON

The Chair advised that he had not been consulted on any decisions this month.

66 WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the updated Work Programme.

It was agreed to request the postponed Work Programme items from this meeting to be submitted to the 1st April meeting of the Committee and that Pride of Place be added to the West End agenda item.

It was further agreed to invite the Executive Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing to a future meeting to discuss Village Agents that had been introduced within Lancashire.

Resolved :-

That the actions above be agreed.

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Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.24 p.m.)

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Jenny Kay, Democratic Support - email jkay@lancaster.gov.uk