

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

3RD JUNE 2025

PRESENT:- Councillors Peter Jackson, Martin Bottoms, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Paul Hart, Sally Maddocks, Sue Tyldesley and Nick Wilkinson

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Caroline Jackson (Chair) and Sam Riches

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Davies	Chief Executive
Luke Gorst	Chief Officer - Governance and Monitoring Officer
Mark Cassidy	Chief Officer - Planning and Climate Change
Jonathan Noad	Chief Officer - Sustainable Growth
Elliott Grimshaw	Business Imp & Project Delivery Lead
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

In the absence of the Leader Councillor Peter Jackson took the chair.

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 were approved as a correct record.

8 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

However, following a question by Councillor Bottoms during consideration of the Public Sector Decarbonisation item (Minute 16), the Monitoring Officer advised Cabinet members who also sat on Planning Committee that they should not now participate in, and leave the room, when this matter came before Planning Committee.

10 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

11 PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE QUARTER 4 - 2024-25

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive that provided members with an update on corporate performance and strategic projects during quarter four of 2024 - 25

(January to March 2025).

As the report was for commenting and noting no options were provided.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reasons for making the decision:

Monitoring of strategic projects and key performance indicators provides a link between the Council Plan 24-27 by providing progress updates.

12 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive that provided Cabinet with an update on the authority's progress in updating the Strategic Risk Register.

As the report was for comments and noting no options were provided.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reasons for making the decision:

The Council have a Risk Management Policy, which is written to provide guidance on the management of risk. Risk Management is identified in the Council Plan 2024-27.

13 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Page 9)

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Caroline Jackson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive requesting that Cabinet appoint or re-confirm appointments to the various outside bodies which Cabinet appoint to. The current appointments were appended to the report and Cabinet reconfirmed the appointments with the exception of Councillor Wilkinson's appointment to Growth Lancashire as the council has chosen not to be a member of Growth Lancashire for 2025/26.

Resolved unanimously:

That Cabinet appointments to the various Outside Bodies, as appended to the minutes, be confirmed with the exception of the appointment to Growth Lancashire.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive

Reasons for making the decision:

Representation on Outside Bodies is part of the City Council's Community Leadership role.

14 LANCASTER CITY CENTRE CAR PARKING PORTFOLIO IMPROVEMENTS - DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Wilkinson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Sustainable Growth to consider the next steps in agreeing and approving elements which support the Lancaster City Centre Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan Project Programme. Approval was sought for the resources required to take forward initial critical proposals, defined as part of the draft Strategy's Action Plan, through design development and planning phases to ensure proposals in future iterations of the Strategy were achievable and meet the council's wider objectives.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: Do not approve the parking portfolio design and development resources as outlined in the report.	Option 2: Approve the parking portfolio design and development resources as outlined in the report.
Advantages	<p>Reduces immediate budgetary pressure and revenue risk exposure during a period of wider funding constraints.</p> <p>Avoids the council taking on potential risks associated with the delivery of feasibility and potential capital programme of parking improvements.</p>	<p>Provides a clear route to delivering an improved parking portfolio aligned with the council's broader goals on economic vitality, climate action, and housing.</p> <p>Facilitates the development of business cases for capital interventions, and ANPR system roll out, helping to future-proof the parking network.</p> <p>Responds to consultation feedback and business/community concerns by demonstrating active delivery, not just policy intent.</p> <p>Ensures considered investment in better infrastructure to make parking safer, more inclusive, and user-friendly.</p> <p>Enables phased rationalisation of outdated surface sites without compromising network</p>

		<p>capacity, improving land use and user experience.</p> <p>Helps maintain budget contributions by improving space use efficiency, turnover, and digital payment systems.</p> <p>Enables consideration of release of further Canal Quarter sites for affordable housing objectives as the proposals ensure target strategic car parking numbers can be maintained.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Fails to capitalise on consultation, policy design, and alignment with regional transport and regeneration goals.</p> <p>Council does not further commit to evidence-based infrastructure planning, which may erode trust in decisions.</p> <p>Creates uncertainty limiting strategic planning and reducing the council's ability to coordinate land use.</p> <p>Without reinvestment or planning, car parking capacity may degrade incrementally, undermining city centre vitality and visitor perception.</p> <p>Difficult to consider release of further Canal Quarter sites for affordable housing as the target strategic parking numbers could not be maintained without the proposed interventions.</p>	<p>Commits around £200,000 in initial revenue/feasibility funding and potentially a future of around £1M capital, with longer term liabilities subject to further business case consideration.</p> <p>Involves the city council in multiple sites, external contractors, and planning dependencies increase delivery risk and demands strong programme management capacity.</p>
Risks/ Mitigation	<p>Failure to act may conflict with the council's own stated economic and climate priorities. Risk could be partially mitigated by future ad hoc interventions or</p>	<p>Rising construction or consultancy costs could exceed estimates. However, the council's stage-gate approval systems and value engineering at feasibility stage will assist in</p>

	alternative “road map” Impact on other council objectives and uncertainty.	mitigation. Site constraints may cause delays although early engagement with planning and legal teams and phased design should alleviate concerns. Investments will be aligned with LCWIP and BSIP progress and update strategy in future reviews.
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Following Members’ consideration and confirmation that the proposals meet the council’s objectives and its wider policy aspirations, Option 2 is preferred. Approve the parking portfolio design and development resources as outlined in the report. The work will inform phased, and pragmatic investment in Lancaster’s future parking infrastructure as a significant element of local transport and regeneration infrastructure planning.

Councillor Wilkinson proposed, seconded by Councillor Bottoms:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the proposals as outlined in Section 2.0 of the report are supported and the submission of reserve bids requested from officers with reference to:
 - Feasibility & design development and project management costs of potential car parking capital projects to £118K
 - Progress investment proposals into digital technology (ANPR) with allocation of £232K
- (2) That Officers to continue developing proposals for
 - Proposals to be considered for inclusion into the Capital Programme at the mid-year review stage in Autumn 2025, subject to the correct governance and required financing being in place.
 - Finalising implementation phasing and project-level business cases.
 - Submission of planning applications and/or procurement activity as appropriate
- (3) That Individual project decisions will return to the relevant authority (Cabinet/Portfolio Holder) where further staged approvals or funding decisions are required.
- (4) That a revised final draft Lancaster City Centre Parking Strategy is presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Sustainable Growth

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council Plan:

A Sustainable District – car parking provision and car use is a consideration in meeting the challenges of the council's declared Climate Emergency and a range of other council objectives.

An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy – building a sustainable and just local economy that benefits people and organisations needs to consider car parking provision as a key feature of accessibility for certain groups and communities.

Healthy and Happy Communities – tackling car parking provision and some of the negative consequences inherent in the current portfolio will contribute to healthy and happy community objectives

A Co-Operative, Kind and Responsible Council – further consultation and ongoing discussion with stakeholders will achieve the best outcomes for in tandem with running efficient quality public services, of which car parking provision is a key service provision.

Concerns from the business and cultural sectors community as well as the public about the long-term provision of public parking, and general parking are understood. The city council is addressing the matter at a strategic city-wide level, with appreciation of the statutory strategic policy imperatives the city council is working within.

The council recognises that having an appropriate level of car parking in the city is important to support the economy and provide a range and choice of transport options and to ensure accessibility for the less mobile and populations underserved by public transport. The work supported through this report will provide context and framing for the council's ambitions to provide parking provision that is fit for purpose and fit for the future.

15 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Peter Jackson and seconded by Councillor Maddocks:-

"That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act."

Members then voted as follows:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

16 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME 3C (Pages 10 - 12)**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Riches)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change to update Cabinet with regard to building decarbonisation work. The report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the exempt.

Resolved unanimously:

The resolution is set out in an minute exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council's priorities. Exactly how the decision fits with Council priorities is set out in the exempt minute.

17 CANAL QUARTER REGENERATION PHASE III (HERON WORKS) - PROGRESSING DEVELOPMENT DESIGN, PLANNING APPROVAL, AND DELIVERY

The Chair advised the meeting that this report had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.58 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Support - email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY 5 JUNE, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
FRIDAY 13 JUNE, 2025.**

CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – CONFIRMED JUNE 2025

BID Company Ltd (Morecambe) *Cllr Bottoms*

Community Safety Partnership (Cabinet Member and reserve) *Cllr P Jackson (Cllr C Jackson reserve)*

Health and Wellbeing Partnership (Cabinet Member and reserve) *Cllr P Jackson (Cllr C Jackson reserve)*

Lancashire Leaders Meeting (Leader of the Council) *Cllr C Jackson*

District Leaders Board (Leader of the Council) *Cllr C Jackson*

Lancashire Waste Partnership *Cllr Hart*

Lancaster Community Fund Grants Panel (1 place; the other place is by nomination and voting at Council) *Cllr P Jackson*

Lancaster Business Improvement District (BID) Management Group *Cllr Wilkinson*

LGA General Assembly (Leader of the Council) *Cllr C Jackson*

Yorkshire Dales National Park Board *Cllr P Jackson*

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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