

**Minutes of the 434<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the County Executive Committee of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) held virtually on Saturday, 22 June 2024**

<b>Present:</b>	Rt Hon Sir Rober Atkins	Hon President
	Phil Orme (Chair)	Wyre
	Pat Hastings (Vice-chair)	Preston
	Alan Yates	Wyre
	Michael Hill	Ribble Valley
	Mike Royds	Burnley and Pendle
	Jan Finch	Wyre
	Jane Smith	Blackburn
	Keith Martin	South Ribble
	Richard Vickers	Ribble Valley
	Alan Neal	Rossendale
	Gordon Smith	Fylde
	Darren Cranshaw	Chorley
	Jack Speight	Westhoughton
	County Councillor Paul Rigby	Lancashire County Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Glynn from Fylde Area Committee and Debra Platt, County Secretary of LALC.

**2. Minutes of the 433<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee held on Saturday, 13 April 2024**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and correct record for signing by the Chair.

**3. Matters of Update**

Item 4 – Highways Update from County Councillor Swarbrick

We were awaiting an update from the County Council’s Highways Cabinet Member, County Councillor Swarbrick.

**ACTION: Debra to pursue for the next meeting.**

#### **4. Lancashire County Council Update**

The Chair welcomed the County Council's Parish Champion, County Councillor Paul Rigby who gave an update on Lancashire County Council matters.

Members raised the issues of the increasing number of potholes and highways defects being reported and not attended to. County Councillor Rigby responded that the County Council was aware of this issue which had been exacerbated by the extreme weather conditions over the winter. The County Council were prioritising issues and investing more money into highways maintenance.

Issues were raised around speeding and road safety with neither the County Council nor Lancashire Police taking any ownership of these issues for our communities.

Members asked around how performance is monitored and measured in the Highways service and also whether highways conditions were monitored and checked for compliance.

**ACTION: County Councillor Rigby to take back to the County Council.**

A discussion took place on school places and contributions from developers for new schools. Reference was also made to the number of children's homes being built around the county and the impact this has on local communities.

The Chair thanked County Councillor Rigby for attending, his contribution and agreeing to take the comments of the meeting back to the County Council.

#### **5. LALC Finance and Management Committee**

No issues to update.

#### **6. NALC Matters**

Councillor Neal, LALC's representative at NALC, updated on the work of the association nationally and his significant work as a member of its Finance and Scrutiny Committee. A copy of the last Finance and Scrutiny Committee agenda had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Neal had championed holding more of the national meetings via Zoom/Teams to save money, be more accessible and include more members around the country.

The Chair asked if there had been any progress on the review of the future of the sector by NALC, CALCs and SLCC. Councillor Neal reported that he wasn't aware of any progress being made.

**ACTION: Councillor Neal to ask for an update on the Future of the Sector review. Councillor Orme to ask for the issue to be added to the next meeting of the Northern Federation agenda.**

The Chair thanked Councillor Neal for his work representing us at NALC.

## **7. LCC Service Level Agreement Update**

The meeting considered a report of the County Officer on the Lancashire County Council service level agreement.

A discussion took place on the County Council's parish/town council charter which was due to be refreshed prior to the County Conference in November with representatives of the sector. The importance of the County Council complying with the charter and being more specific. A survey of all parish/town councils was being planned and a working group created. The importance of the charter having measures of effectiveness was stressed with more targets and performance monitoring being put forward to strengthen the document.

It was noted that the County Council had invited LALC's County Officer to a meeting, which had also included the County Council's Cabinet Member, County Councillor Peter Buckley. However, the LALC Chair had not been invited or notified.

**ACTION: In future the LALC Chair to be included in councillor conversations and meetings with the County Council.**

The meeting discussed PIALC Internal Auditor training and supported subsidising the training to strengthen the number of internal auditors across the LALC area. Members noted the financial position with the Area Committee Support Officer role.

## **8. Area Committee Update and Proposal on Area Secretaries**

Members welcomed the progress made on regenerating LALC's Area Committee network and congratulated Debra and John for their work.

The meeting deferred discussion on the Area Committee Secretaries proposal until the next meeting with the County Officer was in attendance to provide greater context.

**ACTION: Discuss Area Committee Secretaries proposal at the next meeting.**

The following updates were provided:

(a) Preston

The last meeting had been useful with goal setting and future planning. Discussions had taken place on trying to engage the new Police and Crime Commissioner without success. The Central Lancashire Local Plan was a hot topic at the moment.

(b) Fylde

A secretary was now in place. Lancashire County Council's Partnerships Team had been helpful. An Energy Working Group has been created to promote the benefits and mitigate the negative impacts of electricity transmission from the coast and across Fylde and beyond.

(c) Wyre

The area committee met last in April when National Highways had attended to respond to issues around the closure of the M6. The area committee are still trying to get the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend and were concerned at his lack of engagement.

**9. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

CPRE

Councillor Martin updated on the work of CPRE and encouraged councils to join CPRE and realise the benefits that could assist them in planning and the future development of their area.

**10. Regional Matters**

No issues to raised.

**11. Any Other Business**

Planning Condition Compliance

Gordon Smith asked the meeting what their district councils do with regards monitoring and ensuring that planning approval conditions are met. Monitoring appeared to be limited which was an area for considerable concern.

It was agreed to undertake a survey of members at the LALC Conference to gain a picture of the whole county.

**ACTION: Gordon to draft a questionnaire for Debra to circulate at the LALC Conference.**

## **12. Future Meetings**

- Finance & Management: Monday, 28 October 2024 at 4pm, Zoom
- AGM (after LCC Conference): Saturday, 2 November 2024 at 2.15pm, County Hall

**Darren Cranshaw  
Executive member**