

Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 18th March, 2021, 6.00 pm

Accessible via Microsoft Teams and YouTube

Agenda

Important information regarding COVID-19

In response to the current government guidelines surrounding COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually.

Elected members of the Council must take part in the meeting remotely over Microsoft Teams. Only the Chair of the Committee and required officers will be permitted attendance to the Civic Centre.

Any members not on the committee or members of the public who wish to address the Scrutiny Committee should [email Democratic Services FAO Charlotte Lynch](#) before 12 noon on Tuesday 16 March 2021.

All speakers will be required to dial into the meeting remotely.

[The meeting will be streamed live to YouTube and can be accessed by clicking here.](#)

These measures are temporary and will be reviewed as circumstances and the current restrictions improve.

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Minutes of meeting Monday, 8 February 2021 of Scrutiny Committee**

To be signed as a correct record by the Chair.

(Pages 5 - 10)

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to indicate at this stage in the proceedings any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that if the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct) they must leave the room for the whole of that item. If the interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but is such that a member of the public could reasonably regard it as being so significant that it is likely that it would prejudice their judgment of the public interest (as explained in the Code of Conduct) then they may make representations, but then must leave the meeting for the remainder of the item.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Scrutiny Committee Meetings

(Pages 11 - 14)

Report attached.

5 Cabinet Member Update: Health and Wellbeing

(Pages 15 - 32)

Report of the Director of Communities attached.

6 Scrutiny Matters

6a Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities Update

(Verbal Report)

6b Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee Update

(Verbal Report)

6c Meetings and training attended by Scrutiny Committee members

(Verbal Report)

6d Forward Plan

[The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found by clicking here.](#)

6e Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan

(Pages 33 - 34)

Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan attached.

Gary Hall
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Scrutiny Committee Councillors David Howarth (Chair), Michael Green (Vice-Chair), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Matt Campbell, Colin Coulton, Malcolm Donoghue, Susan Jones, Jim Marsh, Colin Sharples, Stephen Thurlbourn, Matthew Trafford and Karen Walton

The minutes of this meeting will be available on the internet at www.southribble.gov.uk

Forthcoming Meetings

6.00 pm Tuesday, 13 July 2021 - Cross Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock,
Leyland, PR25 1DH

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35 Matters Arising from Previous Scrutiny Committee Meetings

The Committee received an update on progress made against matters arising from previous meetings.

Members requested more in-depth updates on recommendations dating back to 2019, particularly around town centre masterplans. Members were asked to identify by email those recommendations that they wanted a detailed update on, and officers would endeavour to provide this for the next meeting.

The update was noted and those actions implemented would be removed from the table.

36 Budget 2021/22 and Summary Position over the Medium Term

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Assets (Councillor Matthew Tomlinson) and the Section 151 Officer (James Thomson) presented a report that set out the Council's proposed Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and forecasts for the two years thereafter.

The report proposed a freeze on council tax rates and members were informed that this would be of some help to residents who had undoubtedly experienced difficulties from the COVID-19 pandemic. A 1.99% increase was proposed for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The report also highlighted the financial impact on the council of issues in the leisure industry, as a result of COVID-19. Members were aware that proposals to bring management of the borough's leisure facilities in-house had recently been approved by Cabinet and Council and the report provided budgeted costs for running the leisure centres. It was predicted that the project would breakeven in the 2024/25 financial year.

Members were assured that the council was in a healthy and robust financial position and the Cabinet Member commended the work of staff during the pandemic.

Consultation on the budget was widely discussed and members were pleased to note that approximately 100 responses had been received online so far. Other stakeholders, such as Lancashire County Council, would be consulted with once the budget was approved by Cabinet and members were encouraged to publicise the consultation to residents in their wards.

In response to a query regarding why consultation was already underway as the report stated it would not begin until after receiving Cabinet's approval, the Cabinet Member advised that he and officers wanted to facilitate as much consultation with the public as possible.

Members queried the projected deficit in business rates income and asked if these could be redistributed from other authorities. In response, it was advised that such practice was subject to government approval but that spreading the deficit over a number of years if income fell short would be permitted.

However, the Section 151 Officer expressed confidence in the income levels of business rates and did not anticipate any major impact from the projected deficit.

Responding to a member query regarding temporary impacts of COVID-19 and Brexit on income through fees and charges, the Cabinet Member expressed confidence that these would not be permanent. An increase in subscriptions to the green waste scheme and in income through planning applications was highlighted as assurance.

Members were also advised that a £346k surplus was anticipated in 2021/22 with deficits forecasted in the years following. The predictions had accounted for worst possible situations.

Members raised the subject of funding for My Neighbourhood Community Hubs. It was advised that each Hub would have financial autonomy as long as spending complied with the council's corporate priorities.

In reference to additional funding to invest in the council's priorities, members queried how value-for-money would be ensured and what return was anticipated. In response members were advised that a return on investment in all corporate priorities was expected and that value-for-money would be assessed in terms of both financial outcomes and social value.

Commitment to including members in the development of the Council's transformation programme was welcomed.

Members were pleased to note that a review of the council's reserves was ongoing and that the community hubs and credit union had been partially funded from reserves.

On the topic of leisure services, members were interested to hear what financial opportunities the in-house management provisions would bring. The Cabinet Member advised that it would support the local economy by keeping money in South Ribble.

Regular progress updates on leisure centre management was requested by the Committee.

The deliverability of the capital programme was raised and the Cabinet Member expressed belief that this was realistic and manageable.

Members asked the Cabinet Member if the Scrutiny Committee had been fair in its questioning and how it could be more robust in scrutinising future budgets. In response, the Cabinet Member welcomed the work and questions of the committee and expressed belief in the value of the committee's role in the decision-making process. Hopes were expressed that the budget could be considered earlier in the year by the Scrutiny Committee going forwards.

The committee thanked the Cabinet Member and the Section 151 Officer for their attendance.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

That the Scrutiny Committee

1. thanks the Cabinet Member and Section 151 Officer for attending and presenting the detailed and clear report;
2. welcomes the commitment to involve Members in developing the transformation strategy;
3. invites the Cabinet Member to provide an update on leisure centre management at regular intervals;
4. notes the Cabinet Member's reassurance that the capital programme is deliverable; and
5. is grateful to the Cabinet Member for suggesting that Scrutiny is involved earlier in the budget process in future years.

37 Worden Hall Progress Update

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Assets (Councillor Matthew Tomlinson) presented an update on the progress of the Worden Hall project to the Committee and responded to members' comments and queries.

Members were informed that the planning application for the project was awaiting an ecology report and was anticipated to be considered by the Planning Committee in March 2021.

Procurement for the enabling works had begun and it was expected that first works would take place on the site by the end of March.

In response to a member query regarding whether the Council had officers with the expertise to manage a project of this scale, the Cabinet Member advised that this was not an expertise area that the council had in-house. A contract for the project management of the project had been awarded to a South Ribble-based company.

Members welcomed the Cabinet Member's assurances that the project was still on schedule to be completed by June 2022.

A site visit was requested once COVID-19 restrictions had been lifted.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of removing progress updates as a standing item from meeting agendas. The Cabinet Member concurred that this was practical, as steady progress was now being made, but some members felt that there was still much to assess.

It was agreed that progress updates would now be provided to alternating meetings.

The Committee thanked the Cabinet Member for his attendance.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

That the Scrutiny Committee

1. thanks the Cabinet Member for his report;

2. welcomes the re-assurance on the timescales involved and project management arrangements in place;
3. undertakes a site visit to Worden Hall at an appropriate time when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted; and
4. receives future updates on the project on an alternate meeting basis unless a more frequent update is necessary.

38 Scrutiny Matters

38a Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities Progress Update

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Health Inequalities, Councillor David Howarth, provided an update on the progress of the review.

The Task Group had scoped the review, started to assess documentation and met with several key stakeholders, including the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to gather evidence.

The Task Group looked forward to presenting their draft report at a future Scrutiny Committee meeting

38 b Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee Update

The Chair, Councillor David Howarth, attended a recent meeting of Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee and provided an update to members.

The meeting reviewed the Shaping Care Together programme which was a partnership of NHS organisations aimed at improving health and care services in West Lancashire, Southport and Formby.

The Health Scrutiny Committee also assessed their work programme.

38c Meetings and training attended by Scrutiny Committee members

Councillor Michael Green informed members that he had attend a recent meeting of the North West Strategic Scrutiny in Practice Network. The meeting had included testimony from the Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council and facilitated discussions into scrutinising Town Deals and authorities' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor Green advised the Committee that he found the meeting interesting and that it was a useful networking opportunity.

Councillor Stephen Thurlbourn had also recently undertaken Scrutiny Leadership training, which focused on action learning and the role and effectiveness of the scrutiny function.

38 d Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan

Members considered the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan, which identified reports and topics due for consideration at future meetings.

A query was raised regarding a review of the Environment portfolio, which was originally scheduled for January 2021 but was postponed due to the portfolio holder stepping down from the Cabinet.

Members were advised that the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing would provide a portfolio update to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting and that this portfolio now included some aspects of the former Environment portfolio.

A further update on the possibility of review housing association providers in the borough was requested. In response, members were informed that officers were currently liaising with the Council's Housing Officers to facilitate this and it was anticipated that a report would be provided to the meeting in June 2021.

In-depth reviews into the management of leisure facilities and mental health provisions in the borough would be included on the work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year.

38e Forward Plan

The Cabinet Forward Plan was noted.

Chair

Date

Update on Recommendations made at previous Scrutiny Meetings

Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
04/07/19 Min 4.3	The report commissioned by the Leader on the Civic Centre commercialisation spending be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.	Leader of the Council	Neil Anderson	yes	No	No	This report was put on hold due to Covid 19 effectively been closed to outside events and key staff been re-deployed to other work. Report to be brought forward later in the year
04/07/19 Min 4.4	The Committee will be provided with updates on the masterplans and rephasing and resourcing them.	Planning, Regeneration and City Deal	Jonathan Noad/Neil Anderson	Yes	Partially	No	<p>The Leyland Masterplan production has been completed and enshrined within the Leyland Town Deal bid. The Leyland Town Deal was successful in securing £25M of funding from Government announced on 3rd March 2021. Next steps are being discussed with the Town Deal Board by the end of March 2021</p> <p>Consultants to undertake the Penwortham Masterplan work will be appointed in early to mid March 2021. 6 tenders were received from the work and a clarification meeting is being held with the two highest scoring consultants. All bids were of an exceptional quality. Following appointment the masterplan will be developed over a 6 month period.</p>

Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
14/11/19 Min 25.8	The Council considers developing a Leisure and Public Health Strategy to take a more holistic, strategic and integrated approach with partners to include mental health, prevention and youth engagement.	Health, Wellbeing and Leisure	Jennifer Mullin	Yes	Working with partners	No	At the moment our Public Health partners are engaged with the COVID – 19 pandemic. Work is ongoing at an Integrated Care Partnership level and we are hopeful this work will lead to a more holistic approach.
13/02/20 Min 43.1	The Scrutiny Committee encourages the council to work towards being a Living Wage employer with its contractors.	Leader of Council	Vicky Willett	Yes	Yes	Yes	The council has adopted Living Wage for staff and the next stage is to apply this to council contracts which will now be done as part of the community wealth building programme.
13/02/20 Min 43.6	The Scrutiny Committee looks forward to receiving an evaluation of the new youth support funding as it progresses.	Health, Leisure and Wellbeing	Jennifer Mullin	Yes	No	No	A scrutiny report is being prepared updating the committee on Cllr Titherington's portfolio Health and Wellbeing. This report will contain an update on the work.
09/07/20 Min 9.5	The Committee welcomes the offer of visiting the extra care facility in Chorley and would like this arranged.	Planning, Regeneration and City Deal	Jonathan Noad	yes	no	No	This can be arranged once COVID measures are relaxed sufficiently.
22/10/20 Min 19.6	The final draft of the Community Wealth Building Action Plan be presented to Full Council following a Member Briefing.	Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building	Chris Sinnott	Yes	No	No	A new post is currently being recruited to support the coordination of the community wealth building programme. The action plan will be finalised and presented to members in the coming months

Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
22/10/20 Min 19.7	More explicit links be made between the Community Wealth Building Action Plan and the Community and Health and Wellbeing Strategies.	Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building	Chris Sinnott	Yes	No	No	As above, this will be undertaken as the community wealth building action plan is finalised.
22/10/20 Min 19.8	Information on the Council's land ownership be provided to a future meeting.	Finance, Property and Assets	Mark Lester	No	N/A	N/A	Further clarification sought on what was requested by the committee. Further update will be provided to a later meeting.
12/01/21 Min 28	A Member Briefing be held on the Climate Change Action Plan prior to consideration at Full Council	Environment/Chair of Climate Emergency Task Group	Jennifer Mullin	Yes	No	No	A commitment has been made that a member's learning hour will take place prior to the submission of the Action Plan to Full Council.
08/02/21 Min 36.2	The Scrutiny Committee welcomes the commitment to involve Members in developing the transformation strategy	Leader of the Council	Gary Hall/Chris Sinnott	Yes	No	No	Work is currently being undertaken on the transformation strategy. This will include engagement with Members.
08/02/21 Min 36.3	The Scrutiny Committee invites the Cabinet Member to provide an update on leisure centre management at regular intervals	Health and Wellbeing	Mark Lester/Neil Anderson	Yes	In progress	no	Work is well underway in transferring management of Leisure Centres from SERCO management to Council management. There are upwards of 50 workstreams been worked on simultaneously to ensure that the service is able to transfer on April 1 2021 with the partial opening of the Leisure Centres to take place on April 12. Work is also underway looking at a plan to set up an internal

Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
							controlled company to run the Leisure Centres in the long-term
08/02/21 Min 37.3	The Scrutiny Committee undertakes a site visit to Worden Hall at an appropriate time when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted	Finance, Property and Assets	Mark Lester	Yes	No	No	This can be arranged once COVID measures are relaxed sufficiently.

Report to	On
Scrutiny Committee	Thursday, 18 March 2021

Title	Report of
Scrutiny Portfolio Update: Health and Wellbeing	Director of Communities

Is this report confidential?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update to Scrutiny Committee on the activities within the last 12 months in the Health and Wellbeing portfolio.

Recommendations

2. The committee to consider the report and make any appropriate recommendations.

Reasons for recommendations

3. A request was made from Scrutiny Committee to bring this report for review.

Other options considered and rejected

4. This report is for noting and there are no options for consideration.

Executive summary

1. The Health and Wellbeing portfolio has a wide remit including some of the key frontline services and projects within the South Ribble Corporate Plan.
2. The key activities and performance within the last twelve months and current work areas are summarised in this report. The services within the Portfolio are as follows:
 - Leisure policy development including Sports development
 - Public Health
 - Community resilience and health inequalities
 - Environmental health
 - Community safety
 - Homelessness
 - Air quality & climate change

3. In the last 12 months, the Portfolio has continued to go from strength to strength and provide excellent services to our residents. Several projects have been implemented that have improved the Health and Wellbeing of our residents.
4. Covid-19 has placed significant demands on the Portfolio as residents turn to the Council for support and the public health role of reducing the spread of the virus has been key. The Portfolio of services and projects has, and continues to, respond well to these and, at the same time, maintain business as usual under difficult circumstances.

Corporate outcomes

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: *(tick all those applicable)*:

An exemplary council	✓	Thriving communities	✓
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	✓

Background to the report

6. Scrutiny Committee have asked for an update covering the Health and Wellbeing portfolio.

Portfolio Update

7. The Health and Wellbeing portfolio covers the following Council service areas:

- Community resilience and health inequalities
- Public health
- Environmental health
- Community safety
- Leisure policy development
- Homelessness
- Green agenda
- Air quality & climate change

8. A summary of the services activities and performance is provided in the sections below:

9. Leisure

10. The year 20/21 has been a very busy one for Leisure Services despite the impact of Covid throughout the period. Key achievements have included the following:

- The adoption of the Council's first Leisure Facilities strategy in October 2020
- The development of an adopted Capital investment plan for Leisure Centres

- Significant progress on developing the playing pitch hub at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre including achieving planning permission
 - The big decision of formally taking Leisure Facilities back in-house for 1 April 2021
 - The shaping of Leisure local which is about developing greater access to sports facilities for all across South Ribble with a focus on School and community sports clubs
- 11.** A key piece of work which has been undertaken during the past year has been the pulling together of a new Leisure Facilities strategy. This has been put together on aspirations that have been in place for a number of years and aspirations recently developed with a framework of planned delivery in the coming two years.
- 12.** The new strategy was formally adopted on 14th October 2020 by the Council's cabinet and received support from across the Council. The objectives of the strategy are as follows:
- Connect promotion of sport and physical activity with increasing Health and Wellbeing and reducing Health inequalities across the Borough
 - The ambition to build a state of art new sport and leisure centre
 - To develop a playing pitch hub at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
 - To take forward a capital investment programme with our existing Leisure Centres
 - To develop a Leisure Local model of operation in targeted areas where traditional sport and leisure centres are not located.
- 13.** Significant work has taken place over the last 9 months in taking forward the development of a new Playing pitch Hub to be located at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre. The project will include two new full size 3G artificial pitches and a new sports pavilion adjacent to the existing Leisure Centre. The project now has planning permission and a bid has been submitted to the Football Foundation for a sum of £966k contribution towards an overall project cost circa £3m. The team are expecting a decision on the bid in April 2021 and a final ratification in May/June 2021 depending when the project goes to the national Football foundation board.
- 14.** The time table for the project is for the new 3G pitched to be operational by the end of this year and the new pavilion to be open at the start of 2022.
- 15.** Taking forward Leisure local is a key aspiration identified in the newly adopted Leisure Facilities strategy highlighted above. The key aspects of Leisure local include the following objectives:
- Develop pathways into a more active lifestyle and related activities working closely with local sports clubs, schools, and community groups contributing to the Council's objectives around, Community wealth building, Health and Wellbeing and reducing Health inequalities
 - Collaborate with partners (including the South Ribble Partnership to reach all communities to increase access into Sport and Physical activity through using Leisure and community facilities alongside accessing our Green links network, local parks and the natural environment.
 - To work locally in partnership with residents, community groups and education and schools to deliver new sessions, develop volunteers and enhance a broader local use of the facilities.

- To market and promote services in appropriate, imaginative ways under a new Leisure Local branding.

16. The above objectives are translating themselves into the following actions:

- Developing greater access to the existing council Leisure Centres with a key pilot in the development of as Sports and physical activity base at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre as part of the playing pitch hub. As part of the wider scheme at Bamber Bridge the team are also developing a bikeability hub at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre.
- Working with key secondary schools in looking to open up their facilities to wider community access and improve facilities. Initial work is underway working with Lostock Academy, Worden High school, Penwortham priory Academy and Walton le Dale High School
- Working with key Community sports clubs with a view to supporting them and widening community access. Early work is underway with Vernon Carus and Gregson lane sports clubs

17. The team are also involved in the process of bringing the Leisure facilities in-house. This follows a decision of full Council on 20 January 2021. The Council decision was taken on the back of considerable work undertaken on different management options and a great deal of financial modelling which was taken to Cabinet and then Council.

18. The bringing back in-house of the Leisure Facilities service is a huge undertaking with upwards of 50 work streams underway in order the that the service transfers smoothly to the Council. A project board is in place with support from Services across the Council. Issues range from IT to uniforms, Marketing to finance, supplies and contracts to name but a few (The full action Tracker is attached as appendix 2).

19. The formal transfer of the service will take place on 1 April 2021, but the Leisure Centres will not open until 12 April in line with government guidelines. The opening will only be partial with some activities allowed but not all. The full opening of Leisure Centres will not happen until late April and finally late May when all activities will be allowed. However social distancing will continue until June 2021.

20. Public Health

21. Since the start of the pandemic, officers have been responding to incoming requests from members of the public and businesses, proactively engaging with and monitoring businesses, and working with partner organisations such as the police and Lancashire County Council.

22. A summary of this work is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| • Requests for advice / complaints about businesses | 671 |
| • Response to workplace outbreaks | 32 |
| • Proactive visits to business premises | 671 |
| • Businesses contacted at least once via sector-specific mailshots | |

- Hospitality sector 192
 - 'Close contact' sector (salons, barbers, tattooists etc.) 222
 - Gyms / leisure facilities 30
 - Faith groups / churches contacted requesting suspension of communal worship 44
 - Businesses invited to Lateral Flow Testing facilities - telephone call 115
 - Businesses invited to LFT facilities via email 1400
 - Prohibition notices served on premises suspected of opening in breach of Regulations 4
 - Test and Trace cases handled (to 18th Feb): 930
 - Test and Trace Support Payments applications processed as of 12th Feb: 537
of which 181 were successful (153 main fund, 28 discretionary payment)
- 23.** The work to stop the spread of the virus has been wide ranging from investigating work place outbreaks to establishing a local test and trace system, establishing lateral flow testing centres and setting up a proactive enforcement team.
- 24.** So far this year the focus of our proactive work has been to visit all supermarkets and convenience stores to check compliance. Officers have also been regularly visiting 'high streets' to ensure that businesses are complying with current restrictions / business closures, particularly 'close contact' services such as barbers and beauty salons.
- 25.** In the first two months of 2021 the team have been working with Lancashire County Council to set up two asymptomatic (lateral flow testing) testing sites. In line with Lancashire policy, officers are targeting the testing at business premises whose employees are unable to work at home (and are therefore more at risk of exposure). The team has have so far invited over 1500 businesses to take part in the testing programme. In addition, the team have signposted several larger employers to Lancashire County Council to develop on-site testing.
- 26.** Upcoming work will include preparing to advise businesses on safely reopening, which will include once again preparing sector-specific guidance and checklists in line with Regulations and guidance. There will then follow a programme of monitoring and inspection to ensure that businesses are complying.
- 27.** The team are also currently exploring the feasibility of a project to recruit 'young Covid ambassadors' to help communicate positive messages about staying safe, including social distancing, vaccination, and testing. Officers will be working in partnership with Chorley Council, Inspire Youth Zone in Chorley, and community centres in South Ribble (e.g. Penwortham, Broadfield, Moss Side, Wade Hall).
- 28.** The Council has taken on parts of the test and trace system from Central Government. This service was initially provided by Gateway staff. A dedicated track and trace team has now been set up so that providing this service does not detract from Gateway's other functions. This service operates into the evenings and over bank holidays to improve the contact rate. Because the Council is able to use other

information on residents the Council already holds and call them on a local number the team have been able to achieve higher contact rates than the national scheme.

- 29.** Because the Council is a local service officers are also able to make physical visits to properties to knock on doors where the team can't contact somebody by phone, an option not available to the national scheme.
- 30.** The Council has now set up two lateral flow testing stations to assist in preventing the spread of Covid within workplaces. The idea of this testing is to try and pick up employees who may be in a workplace and infected with Coronavirus without being aware of it. This will help to reduce the spread of Coronavirus within workplaces (there have been a significant number of outbreaks within workplaces in the Borough).
- 31.** The first of these stations is a joint facility with Chorley Council on Buckshaw Village. The second site is at Bamber Bridge tennis centre. Each facility has the capability of carrying out 200 tests per day.
- 32.** Staff have devoted a large amount of time to making contacts with businesses to offer them the use of these facilities. After a relatively slow start the uptake for these services is now improving.

33. Homelessness

- 34.** The COVID 19 pandemic has added additional pressures to the team following the introduction of the emergency scheme to keep England's rough sleepers off the street. The governments "Everyone In" scheme required that the Council provided emergency shelter to rough sleepers to keep them off the street.
- 35.** This scheme has been hugely successful effectively ending rough sleeping overnight. The team are now concentrating on how they can secure more permanent accommodation for these residents.
- 36.** There has been an increase in single people having to leave short term insecure accommodation as a result of the pandemic – for a variety of reasons – including family members shielding, not observing the coronavirus rules or simply a relationship breakdown. At the beginning of the pandemic there was very little move on accommodation available due to much stricter lockdown rules.
- 37.** To date the Council have accommodated 83 people in hotels, in the main single people, 43 have achieved successful move on and 22 are still accommodated. There are therefore 18 who officers do not know the outcome for but who have not been reported as rough sleeping.
- 38.** The table below summarises the number of presentations to the housing team. These figures are not including customers who were given housing advice in Gateway. The cases that come to Housing have all got a threat of homelessness.

Presentations to Housing Options service 1/4/19 to 24/2/2020	741	Presentations to Housing Options service 1/4/20 to 24/2/2021	672
Preventions / relief of homelessness 1 st April 2019 to 31 st December 2019	276	Preventions / relief of homelessness 1 st April 2020 to 31 st December 2020	285

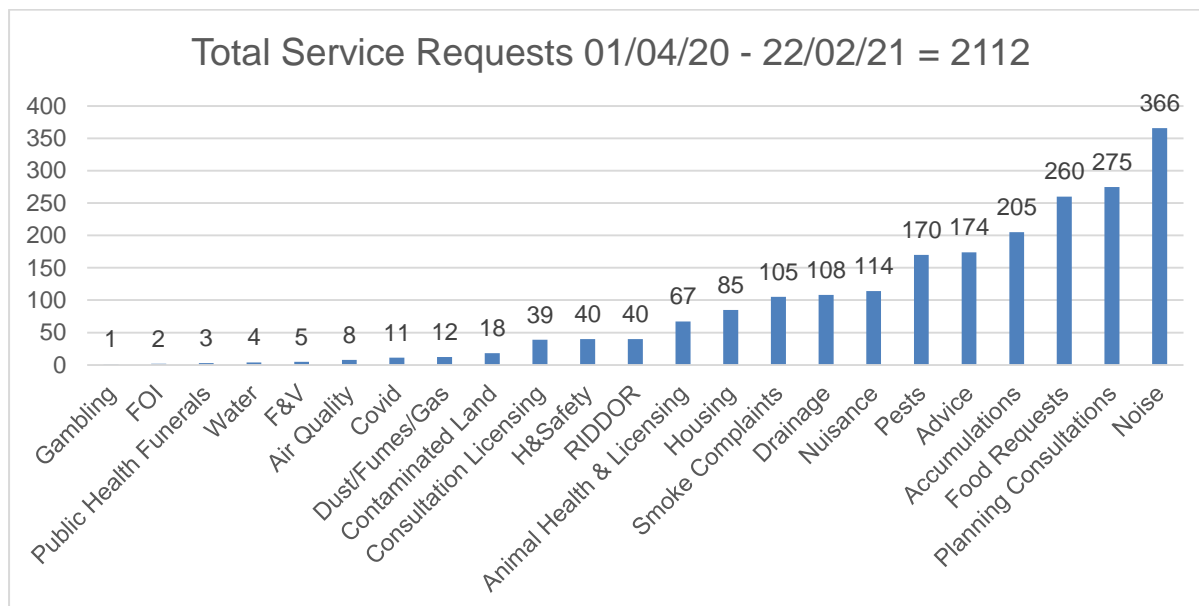
- 39.** The main reasons for approach are family and friends no longer willing to accommodate and relationship breakdown including domestic violence.
- 40.** There has been a ban on evictions during the pandemic but officers have still worked with people to resolve issues to prevent evictions in the longer term. We have had approaches from those in the social and private rented sector but expect this to increase once the ban is lifted – currently due 31st March 2021.
- 41.** At the moment the Council are accommodating anyone rough sleeping or at risk of it due to both the Pandemic and also the cold weather at the moment. Officers continue to attend all reported sightings of rough sleepers.
- 42.** The team are working with Progress Housing to facilitate move on from hotels for those remaining and we are also exploring other options. Officers were also successful in securing funding via the next steps accommodation Programme – this will provide 2 units of accommodation to be managed by Progress Housing – specifically for rough sleepers. Attached to this is 3 years revenue funding for the provision of support. These will be up and running by the end of March 2021.
- 43.** Many of the individuals that have been accommodated have had one or more additional needs, it is very rarely a housing need only. Some have had a range of needs and have had difficulty sustaining accommodation. A positive response to this has been the formation of multi-disciplinary teams to bring together housing, mental and physical health, Lancashire County Council and Probation to address the needs of the most complex and harder to reach individuals. This has been chaired by Preston City Council and has proved to be of real benefit – this work will continue.
- 44.** At the last snapshot there were 1252 active applications on the register for social housing broken down as follows
- 1 Bed-670
 - 2 Bed-394
 - 3 Bed-153
 - 4 Bed-35
- 45.** There are some services that the Council currently commission via homelessness grant and these contracts are due to end in the next few months so officers will be reviewing these and the outcomes achieved with a view to re procuring and commissioning either the same or similar services. These are :

- The Sanctuary Scheme – this provides security measures in the homes of those who have experienced Domestic Abuse
- Drop- in Service for Young People aged 16-25
- Pre tenancy Training – for all ages
- Floating support to promote tenancy sustainment – for all ages.
- In addition, officers are due to submit a bid for rough sleeper initiative funding which, if successful will enable us to offer more intensive support to those who need it

46. Environmental Health

- 47.** In all respects this has been an exceptional period for the service during which our staff rose to the challenge of home working and responding to the coronavirus pandemic before a specific team was created.
- 48.** The coronavirus pandemic has seen unprecedented levels of change in legislation. In a typical year the department might have to train and update staff on one or two changes of legislation. There will usually be several months notice of these changes to allow staff and those affected by the changes to become familiar with them.
- 49.** Since the first piece of coronavirus legislation there have been in the region of sixty changes in legislation. Every single one of these changes has been made at short notice, (typically 45 minutes) and usually around midnight. There have been occasions with up to three changes in one day.
- 50.** Staff must be updated with these changes as quickly as possible in order that they are in a position to be able to answer queries and advise businesses. This has been a very resource intensive challenge. Huge amounts of time have also been allocated to attempting to proactively update businesses with changes in legislation where the officers receive some notice of changes.
- 51.** It has been a particularly busy year. The onset of lockdown in March coincided with a dry spring and with extra time of their hands, many residents had a spring clear out of their homes and gardens only to find that the LCC recycling centres were shut. This led to a spike in complaints of fly tipping and smoke from bonfires as householders struggled to dispose of their waste. The department saw an increase in the service of community protection warning letters and notices to combat this trend during this period.
- 52.** The spread of reactive work is shown in the table below – some of the types of complaints have been summarised under general headings to make the table easy to view. Please note that it is incredibly difficult from the numbers to highlight where the most officer time is spent. Some service requests are resolved by a telephone call and some take numerous visits, letters and notices. The table below highlights the number of reactive enquiries the team have received since the 1st April 2021. The

table does not include queries relating to COVID which is to be reported upon separately but has also involved officers from this service.



53. The service has responded to 260 requests for food related service – including complaints about food premises, foreign bodies in food and allegations of food poisoning.

54. The food intervention plan for 2021 has been changed and the Food Standards Agency have gone before parliament to secure authorisation for a deviation from the intervention frequencies set out by the Food Law Code of Practice. These deviation are permitted until June 30th 2021.

55. Our priorities for the year 20/21 were to complete programmed interventions in all A, B & C rated (the highest risk) premises. The following table shows the current position in the right-hand column:

Category	Intervention Type	Required frequency (months)	Total number of Premises	Remaining Visits
A – high risk	Full hygiene inspection within 28 days of due date	6 months	1	0 High Priority
B – high risk	Full hygiene inspection within 28 days of due date	12 months	27	9 (3 not operating due to COVID) Medium Priority
C- medium risk	Full hygiene inspection within 28 days of due date	18 months	111	33 (some premises are closed due to COVID)

				COVID) Medium/Low Priority
Category D – low risk	Full hygiene inspection	24 months	128	108 Low priority -visits
Category E – very low risk	Alternative Enforcement Strategy	36 months	416	Questionnaires sent Very Low priority Visits
Unrated premises	Full hygiene inspection within 28 days of knowledge of trading	Within 28 days of starting to trade	86	99 (this figure fluctuates throughout the year following registrations)

56. The service will meet the current expectations of the Food Standards Agency in terms of food hygiene interventions.
57. Currently the team are supporting businesses who wish to export food to the EU and NI and where asked providing attestations and supporting documents.
58. There is a significant backlog of premises which are unrated/awaiting inspection. There has been a huge increase in the number of home caterers registered with the authority. The premises considered to be the highest risk are receiving hygiene inspections. However, in order to concentrate resources where they matter most i.e. the high-risk unrated premises will be targeted before the higher risk category D premises.
59. The FSA are currently considering a national policy to enable Local Authorities across the country (South Ribble is not the only LA with a backlog) to tackle the number of uncompleted hygiene interventions.
60. There are a small number of private water supplies (5) within South Ribble but they do include two food manufacturing sites one of which is one of the largest water supplies in the country (in terms of abstraction). The sampling programme was suspended at the outset of lockdown but resumed part way through the year. The sampling schedule was interrupted for 2020 but it is expected that the schedule for 2021 will be completed. The statutory Private Water Supplies Return for 2020 has been submitted to DEFRA.
61. Following the successful request for funding for a new proactive housing enforcement officer to tackle rogue landlords and improve the worst of the rental properties within the borough, the team secured additional external funding to improve the IT system and tackle rogue landlords. The work is now progressing, and proactive measures will begin in earnest in the new financial year. In addition to tackling rogue landlords and known areas of disrepair, this work will concentrate on inspecting and improving identified energy inefficient properties (EPC rating F-G), helping to take many of the most vulnerable residents out of fuel poverty while supporting the Council's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

62. Since April 2020 the team have received 85 housing complaints and this has resulted in seven formal notices being served, identifying that the work undertaken by officer to resolve issues are in the main successful. In addition, eight Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) have been licensed within the borough.



63. Pest Control

64. The impact of the coronavirus on the service has been marked. The service was initially suspended following the start of the first lockdown, moved to treating outdoor pests only and is now treating rodents indoors where it is safe for the officer to do so. Please note it is the officers dynamic risk assessment which determines whether the internal treatment proceeds.

65. The service is currently very busy with domestic complaints re rodents. Again this is a national and regional picture and it is thought this can be attributed to people being at home more as well as more garden bird feeding.

66. Please find below a summary of the visits that have been made by the pest control officers. N.B. As this is the total visits including all revisits the total number of service requests per pest species may be lower especially for rats and mice.

Date created	(All)	▼
Year	2020	▼

Pest Control Visits 01/04/20 - 31/12/20		Month 									
dompesttype		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Grand Total
Rats Treatment		18	267	253	203	127	120	139	164	106	1,397
Wasps/Hornets Treatment		0	0	33	31	68	41	20	0	0	193
		3	16	34	25	12	11	4	16	20	141
Mice Treatment		3	3	2	2	0	7	3	6	20	46
Wasps/Hornets		0	0	2	11	6	6	4	0	0	29
Ants		1	0	4	8	1	0	0	0	0	14
Bees		0	5	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	10
Rats Treatment,Mice Treatment		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Mice Treatment,Rats Treatment		0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
(blank)		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mouse Trap,Mouse Trap,Mouse Trap		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unidentifiable Bug		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Grand Total		25	291	333	280	215	187	170	194	146	1,841

67. Community Safety

68. The Community Safety team attend tasking meetings with local neighbourhood policing team to address:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Repeat Callers
- Identify Police Priorities

69. Over the last twelve months the team has also developed a hate crime plan which commit us to:

- Raise awareness of hate crime internally and externally

- Provide a safe space to report hate crime
- Promote appropriate upstander activity
- Signpost victims to relevant support organisations

70. In addition to this the team also has responsibility for tackling domestic abuse. The team are:

- Currently coordinating four domestic homicide reviews
- Assisted in the development of a county wide domestic abuse campaign as part of the covid response
- Achieved White Ribbon status for the Council as part of our response to domestic abuse over
- Consulting with key stakeholders in readiness of the impending Domestic Abuse Bill and Serious Violence Duty

71. The team are also responsible for duties assigned under the Counter Terrorism Act under the Prevent Agenda. The work in the last 12 months have involved:

- Carried out a local risk assessment and working towards the Lancashire action plan to ensure that the Council are meeting the statutory duty (Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015)
- Provided online prevent awareness training opportunities for staff and partners
- Home Office Q&A sessions made available to relevant members.

72. Community resilience and health inequalities

73. The teams work as detailed in this report have a significant impact on reducing Health Inequalities and tackling the wider determinants of health. The Scrutiny Task Group is undertaking a review of Health Inequalities and the team is looking forward to the recommendations. The following work streams which the team are delivering have huge impacts on the wider determinates:

- Housing
- Environment – Air Quality
- Nutrition
- Exercise / Leisure
- Community Safety

74. The Communities team are also developing projects on Mental Health and are working with the sports development team to look at work in schools and in the community. The project plan has been prepared and will address wide issues such as service provision, mental health first aid and supporting community provision.

75. Good progress has been made with the South Ribble Dementia Action Alliance, including:

- Completion of the annual assessment for South Ribble's Dementia Friendly Community status.
- All members invited to attend a virtual Dementia Friends session / become a Dementia Friend.
- Further improving our relationship with the Alzheimers Society, including work on an offer to make all members Dementia Champions.

- Completion of the new dementia friendly garden outside the back of the Civic Centre. Planting has been done by Leyland In Bloom members, Members, and supported by Neighbourhoods.
- Preparations for a joint SR and Chorley DAA Dementia Friends session, to be held 9 March, virtually, for partners, with the plans to do more and advertise for Dementia Action Week in May
- Great new links with Chorley's Dementia Action Alliance, with scope for shared work going forward.
- Submitted 2 nominations for awards in the annual Alzheimers Society Dementia Awards – one is SRBC and one an individual volunteer.
- First Dementia Friends session with Police scheduled for early March.
- Inclusion of the views from the 'People Living With Dementia Panel' on projects such as Leyland Town Planning and Digital Inclusion.

76. Community Hub Chairs have all agreed to a joint task group to look at tackling social isolation; taking a broader outlook on how it affects different people. Taking a borough-wide approach, there is scope to develop a varied and inclusive action plan with a wider reach.

77. The Holiday Hunger Programme has continued through 2020/21, with delivery models amended to accommodate COVID restrictions. In February 2020, 35 of South Ribble's schools were included in the scheme – by April 2020, all 53 schools were included. The table below shows the number of food parcels and equivalent meals provided (each parcel contains 5 meals):

Period	No. of food parcels distributed	No. of equivalent meals
Easter 2020 (2 weeks)	906	4530
May Half Term 2020 (1 week)	352	1760
Summer Holidays 2020 (6 weeks)	1500	7500
October Half Term 2020 (1 week)	949	4745
Christmas 2020 (2 weeks)	2188	10940
February Half Term 2021 (1 week)	1164	5820
Total	7059	35,295

78. The team continue to work with LCC's schools liaison team to ensure that the most vulnerable children are provided for. The School Uniform Bank was established to

re-cycle good quality uniform for households on a limited income; this was well received and has been used by families across the borough.

79. Through the South Ribble Together Community Hub, partnership working with agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Progress Housing has enabled people to access support. From help with pathways to clinical services, to foodbank referrals, to energy and debt advice, there is a clear focus on supporting vulnerable people to regain control of their lives.

80. The service works with partners to promote more physical activity contributing towards not only physical wellbeing but helping to improve Mental Health and connecting and strengthening communities and contributing to the local economy. The team is actively involved in the Community Wealth building action plan to support the deliver of the agreed actions.

81. Sports Development Team

82. Three themed areas of work have been established Active Schools, Active Communities and Active Health.

83. Active Schools: From the start of this academic year in the first term (September - December) Q3, The Team delivered 143 courses for young people in a school setting. These courses cover a wide range of after school sports clubs and support to primary school teachers delivering PE lessons. The team provided places for 5274 young people.

84. Active Communities: The focus has been on holiday activities, outreach services and active travel. Intervention work 'Active Streets and Parks' has been delivered on local streets and green spaces in targeted wards. Whilst the Active Travel service is working towards establishing a bike recycle programme, community, workplace and school bike fix sessions, adult and family learn to ride programmes and schools bikeability cycle training.

85. From the start of this academic year (September -December) Q3 the team have delivered 39 schools Active Travel programmes and 27 Community Courses, providing places for 1371 people. 97 Active Streets and Parks courses were also delivered providing places for 1335 people.

86. Active Health: Work has been taking place on relationship building with our health partners and the upskilling our workforce to be able to deliver more weight management and lifestyle courses. 63 wellbeing and Targeted interventions courses aimed at improving children's movement skills in early years, Yoga therapy, mindfulness, first aid and healthy eating have also been delivered providing places for 2430 young people.

87. Sports Developments performance data is collected termly based on the academic year. In Quarter 3 July – Dec. The team have not yet compiled our Q4 data 4th Jan - 9th April.

Q3 July -14th Dec	Total number of curriculum courses delivered
Total number of curriculum courses delivered	67

Total number of curriculum places provided	4050
Total number of extra curricular courses delivered	76
Total number of Extra curricular places provided	1224
Total number of curriculum school active travel courses run	39
Total number of curriculum school active travel places provided	1105
Total number of community active travel courses run	27
Total number of community active travel places provided	266
Total number of health and wellbeing curriculum courses delivered	63
Total number of health and wellbeing curriculum places provided	2430
Total number of community courses delivered	97
Total number of community places provided	1335
Total number of young people's physical activity courses delivered	369
Total number of young people's physical activity places provided	10410

88. Air Quality

89. The Annual Status Report (ASR) was submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and has been accepted. The ASR is submitted every year to provide an overview and update on air quality across the borough. The borough still has five declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Three of these are significantly under objective value, being Penwortham, Walton-le-Dale, Bamber Bridge, while Lostock Hall and Leyland were just below the objective value.

90. The agreed Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has progressed slightly, with the Covid pandemic hindering many of the actions including the anti-Idling campaign, promotion of public transport, car pooling schemes, and the educational & informing programs along with partnership working with the schools. There is still some resistance from County Highways to full support the identified and agreed (with LCC) measures, with alternative options being considered and worked upon.

91. A number of bids were made for grant funding. The team were successful in being awarded £106,000 as part of a combined 6 authority bid for electric vehicle charging points. Four rapid chargers are currently being installed at sites in Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Penwortham. We are awaiting the outcome of an additional bid for further resources to push the air quality agenda within schools and the wider population.

92. Climate Emergency

93. Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency, formation of the Climate Emergency Task Group and adoption of the Climate Emergency Strategy work has progressed to produce a detailed Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) identifying the measures the Council will undertake to achieve its goal of net carbon neutral by 2030.

94. A full public consultation has been held to assist with the development of the CEAP and the draft is due to be present to the Scrutiny Group in June 2021 and full Council in July 2021.

- 95.** The task group has met monthly over the year to progress actions and has produced an interim action plan covering the development of the CEAP, a staff and citizens group, seeking funding opportunities etc. The chair of the group and lead officer have also reported back to the Scrutiny group on the actions and progress so far and are due to provide an update to full council at the July meeting along with a revision of the Climate Emergency Strategy.
- 96.** Substantial work was undertaken towards the end of November 2020 and into December and January to apply for and obtain grant funding to carry out works to decarbonise the Council's estate. Due to significant time restrictions, oversubscription and delays by the body administering the grant bid we were only able to apply for funding to improve the civic centre. However, confirmation of £140,000 funding has been received to enable additional solar panels to be installed on the roof, provide LED lighting throughout the building and install a building management system, to enable greater control and monitoring of energy usage across the site. As part of these works we shall also be producing a full heat decarbonisation plan for the Civic Centre, road mapping its continuing future reliance on carbon fuel.
- 97.** The grant bid has delayed the installation of solar panels and LED lighting however the costs of these have now been met from external funding saving the council an initial estimate £140,000, plus the on-going energy savings.
- 98.** The project will also help to reduce our carbon footprint towards the ultimate goal of being net carbon neutral by 2030.

99. Green Agenda

- 100.** In December 2020 the Councils formed a new corporate program 'a program covering the Green Agenda' – identifying 12 separate projects to be included under this umbrella project, some already ongoing while others being brand new. Work on these has now started and the projects include:
- Installation of additional solar panels to the civic centre– this project was delayed due to the above Climate Emergency grant bid and has now begun with tender documents being sent out shortly in line with the requirements of the grant award.
 - Planting of 27,000 trees due for completion at the end of the financial year
 - Install of 5Km of cycle paths, work has commenced with contractors being chosen.
 - Improvements to 8Km of cycle and foot paths, work has commenced with contractors being chosen.
 - The installation of 4 rapid charging points - see above Air quality grant award
 - An internal paper audit – work is underway to record paper usage across the council, and recommend areas for further reduction
 - Internal energy audit – work is underway to record the energy usage across the council
 - Corporate Travel audit – work has started to obtain the data required for this audit
 - Provision of secure cycle storage at Moss Side Depot – this work is due to be completed in May 2021.
 - An external waste campaign looking at reducing, reusing and recycling waste – this project is ongoing with officers identifying and visiting households across the borough

- Hosting an event for World Environment Day – work has commenced on planning this event.

Risk

- 101.** Each service area mentioned in this plan has a service risk assessment and Business Plan risk assessments and for Corporate Projects a project risk assessment.

Equality and diversity

- 102.** Much of the Directorates key services have a focus on equality and diversity and key decisions made in those services are subject to separate equality and diversity assessment.

Air quality implications

- 103.** The Air Quality implications are addressed in the body of the report.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

- 104.** Throughout many of the areas identified within the report there has been significant financial challenges in the 2020/21 financial year. Work has been supported by additional Covid funding and the details of this have been reported via the Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

- 105.** The report is essentially for noting. There are no specific issues that need to be highlighted from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

LT Member's Name: Jennifer Mullin
Job Title Director of Communities

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Forward Plan

Date	Item	Lead Member	Lead Officer
18 March 2021	Portfolio Update: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing	Councillor Mick Titherington	Jennifer Mullin
13 July 2021	Community Safety Partnership	Councillor Paul Foster	Heather Corson
	Worden Hall Progress Update	Councillor Matthew Tomlinson	Jonathan Noad

Notes:

- Registered Providers report in summer 2021 – will take place as part of a special-focus meeting
- Leisure Facilities Strategy report TBC at a date suitable post-COVID pandemic
- Civic Centre Commercialisation report TBC once works have resumed
- Response to COVID-19 pandemic TBC at a date suitable post-COVID pandemic

Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel

Date	Item	Lead Member	Lead Officer
22 March 2021	Q3 Performance Monitoring Report	Councillor Paul Foster	Howard Anthony
	Q3 Budget Monitoring Report	Councillor Matthew Tomlinson	James Thomson

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