

MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 12th January 2026

Present: Councillor Samara Barnes (Chair), Councillor Ashworth, Driver, McMahon Harrison, S Smith, Bauld and Co-opted member J Heaton

In attendance: Inspector Plummer, Lancashire Constabulary
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Jackie Flynn, Community Projects and Partnerships Officer
Hannah Callan, Executive and Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Councillor Lythgoe

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting on 10th November 2025 be approved as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

4. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

5. Question Time

There were no public questions.

6. Chair's Update

6.1 At the previous meeting, an amendment was proposed to the Debt Management Policy for Sundry Debt. This amendment was made by the Officer and the report will go to Cabinet in February.

Prior to this meeting, the annual update from Citizens Advice has been circulated with members of the Committee.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Annual Update from Lancashire Constabulary

7.1 The committee is asked to note the information provided by Inspector Plummer.

7.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- Police-Education (Pol-Ed) is an educational resource that has been commissioned by Lancashire Constabulary to support some of the preventative education that takes place within schools. Across Rossendale there have been a mix of police led and teacher sessions delivered, with around 4,900 children.
- In relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), there has been a gap in responses for women and girls aged between 16-30, with the best response rate being for those aged 50 and above.

- In relation to the temporary market in Rawtenstall, there is a plan in place for the over the opening period whereby officers will be visible for the first few weekends of trading.
- The police would be in support of a campaign to tackle road safety in Rossendale, however, the Police work on enforcement and not prevention. There are issues with data collection as police can only respond/deploy resource to areas where the data illustrates that there is an issue.
- Going forward, for 2-3 days per month officers will be deployed to tackle speeding in 'hot stop' areas using the handheld guns. To also address obstructive parking during school, drop off and pick up times, officers will be present during those periods to address this issue.
- Residents can take part in the community road watch, whereby they volunteer to assist officers using the hand-held gun to catch drivers that are exceeding the speed limit. If residents wish to do this, they should email their neighbourhood police officer or PCOS, alternatively, they can contact councillors and they can pass on their details.
- In relation to road safety, the police deal with enforcement of things such as; speeding, anti-social use of vehicles, driving without due care and attention, obstructing vehicles etc. Lancashire County Council deal with speed cameras, speed bumps, yellow lines etc.
- Residents can send in videos of speeding, obstructive parking etc to the police and via the online form and an officer will review and take any required action.
- In relation to parking for example, who decides if it is deemed 'dangerous' is done on a case-by-case basis and could be assessed by a different officer.
- Training is currently ongoing within the police in relation to e-bikes. Officers will be deployed on bikes to tackle the issue of illegal bikes.
- There is no policy to state that an individual cannot be pursued if they are not wearing a helmet. The officer will determine whether it is safe to do so depending on the circumstances.
- The offence is the same for both a car and a e-bike.
- It was confirmed that over 1,000 illegal e-bikes have been seized by the police.
- Illegal e-bikes should be reported via the polices online report form. If you use keywords such as 'e-bike' or 'off road bike', data can be retrieved from the online forms using keywords to highlight hot stops and problem areas.
- It was confirmed that all vacancies within the Rossendale division are now full.
- It was highlighted that residents can look online to see where their local police officer or PCSO will be over the next two weeks so they can speak to them face to face and raise any concerns.
- Stay in The Know is the free messaging service provided by Lancashire Police supported by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and Lancashire County Council where residents can find out what is happening in their area - receive regular crime updates, information on road closures, information about fires and other emergencies and learn about what your local neighbourhood policing team is doing.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the information provided.

8. The Better Lives Strategy

8.1 The committee is asked to note and make recommendations in relation to the strategy and action plan.

8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- There is currently no capacity within the team to be able to deliver workshops with people who have 'lived in' experience. Other organisations have done similar and

they have been successful, particularly in relation to debt and income maximisation. However, within year two of the strategy we hope to be able to have a 'Better Lives Lived in Group'.

- 'Safe and secure housing' does not necessarily mean to get a house. It is keeping the people within their homes safe and secure for as long as possible. This includes the Affordable Warmth Scheme, Memory Matters and roofing repairs for example.
- The Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) has recently been rolled out and is a partnership between the Council and Policy in Practice. LIFT provide a dashboard using data gathered from HMRC and DWP etc, that will inform us who is not claiming support that they may be entitled too so we can write to them and inform them.
- The support will be advertised in various different places such as GPs and libraries so that people who do not have access to the internet can access the service.
- Funding has been different across the years; a third less was received this year compared to last year, the last two years we received the same, the year before those a half was received.
- A training session will be held for members so that they all know what support is available for residents and how it can be accessed.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted The Better Lives Strategy.

11. Forward Plan

11.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members were encouraged to submit their questions in advance in relation to items on the next agenda.

Resolved:

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8:20pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date