

**Extract from Lancashire County Council Sustainable Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes held on Wednesday 15 July 2009 at 10.30am at County Hall, Preston**

**Present:**

**County Councillors**

K Iddon (Chair)

T Aldridge*	P McCann
F De Molfetta	P Mullineaux
M Devaney	E Oades
S Fishwick	M Otter
M Iqbal	D Westley

The Chair welcomed to the meeting newly appointed members who were attending the meeting for the first time. He also welcomed County Councillor Keith Young, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and officers from the Environment Directorate, namely:

- Jo Turton - Executive Director for Environment
- Bob Barron - Highway Consultancy (roads)
- Steve Browne - Director Waste and Natural Resources Management
- Andrew Mullaney - Head of Environment and Communities

County Councillor Malcolm Barron attended the meeting under Procedural Standing  
**Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chairs**

**An Overview of the Work of the Environment Directorate**

The presentations were introduced by County Councillor Keith Young, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, and presented by officers from the Environment Directorate (listed above).

Members were provided with handouts to supplement the presentations and were encouraged to retain these for future reference. Copies of the handouts are contained in the minute book and can be viewed alongside the minutes on the County Council's web site. They include information about:

- The Environment Directorate Business Plan 2009/10
- The Environment Directorate Budget
- Performance 2008/09
- Waste and Natural Resource Management\*
- Strategic Planning and Transport\*
- Highways and Environmental Management\*
- Place Survey Results for all issues that the Environment Directorate has an impact on.

The handouts marked \* provided an overview of what each section delivers, key successes, previous areas that Scrutiny has looked at and suggested areas for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny in the future.

Members took this opportunity to raise matters of interest and concern with the Cabinet Member and officers; the main points of the discussion are summarised below:

- The Cabinet Member had referred to a sum of £9million which had been added to the budget for 2009/10 to deal as quickly as possible with potholes and for 'mopping up' small schemes, such as the installation of controlled crossings to support school travel plans. In response to questions about how this money would be shared, County Councillor Young referred to specific promises that were made in the Conservative Group's budget proposals; these were currently being costed and a decision would then be taken about the allocation of funding. He hoped to be able to provide further information by mid August.
- There was concern about central Government under-funding of the concessionary travel scheme which had been more successful than first predicted in terms of passenger usage. Also that there was potential for some bus companies to profit excessively from the scheme if charging for actual journey distance was not applied. It was acknowledged that there was a mixed picture and there were 'winners' and 'losers' from the scheme with some bus companies doing well and others de-registering. It was reported that concessionary transport would fall under the control of the County Council from 2012.
- There was concern about an apparent deterioration in the bus service since Stage Coach had taken over Preston Bus, including the use of buses that were not easily accessible to disabled passengers. It was reported that the takeover of Preston Bus had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Members were advised to make representations to the Commission and encourage any local residents unhappy with the situation to do the same.
- Members emphasised the need to look at issues around public transport in rural areas and provide integrated transport links, otherwise cars would continue to be regarded as a necessity rather than a luxury.
- Members referred to examples of inadequate arrangements for grass cutting and suggested that this was a service area in need of improvement. The Cabinet Member referred to the Highways Trees and Verges Task Group, which was to be discussed later on the agenda, and to which a full response would be provided in November. He said it was his personal view that decision making about grass cutting was best made as locally as possible. One Member asked that consideration be given to the Districts being given responsibility for grass cutting.
- One Member noted that the Environment Agency had recently changed its policy regarding the disposal of low level radioactive waste. She suggested that reducing levels of waste going to landfill meant that companies such as SITA (a recycling and waste management company) were perhaps looking for alternative types of waste for disposal and she mentioned that SITA was planning to apply to the Environment Agency for disposal authorisation of low level radioactive waste at the Clifton Marsh landfill site. She urged the Development Control Committee to look very carefully at the relevant planning application. It was explained to the Committee that the site had been accepting low level waste for a number of years, primarily from Springfields. Current planning permission for the site was subject to the condition that it should close in 2012. The County Council's policy was to encourage self-sufficiency and to minimise landfill and the Development Control Committee would consider any application on its merits and within that context.
- In response to concern about traffic queuing at the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Farrington, it was reported that this was the busiest HWRC site in Lancashire. Design work was currently underway to find a solution and proposals

would be submitted in due course for consideration initially by the South Ribble Lancashire Local.

- In response to Members' concerns that more gully cleaning be undertaken to minimise flooding potential, the Cabinet Member confirmed that an extra £250, 000 was to be provided for gully cleaning. He urged Members to report any concerns to the relevant officers. He added that flooding generally was a difficult and costly matter, with little, if any Government funding being provided to support the recommendations of the Pitt Report. It was clear, however, that partners had to come together and work hard to ensure that previous problems should not be repeated.
- Regarding the Heysham – M6 Link, the Cabinet Member confirmed that there was no change in policy following the change in administration, he was in favour of the link, and whilst the £140million needed was not yet guaranteed there was confidence that the scheme would proceed.
- In response to a question about the review of parking enforcement arrangements, it was reported that the County Council had received views from most Districts, but was still awaiting a response from West Lancashire Borough Council who was to put a report to its Cabinet in September. A report would then be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for a decision.

### **Interim Response to the Highways Trees and Verges Task Group**

The Committee had considered the report of the Highways Trees and Verges Task Group at its meeting on 8 April 2009. A copy of the final report was presented at Appendix A to the report.

An interim response to the Task Group's recommendations from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport was presented at Appendix B. It stated that the Cabinet Member intended to consider each of the Task Group's nine recommendations in detail and provide a full response to the November meeting.

One Member urged the Cabinet Member to look at Districts taking over responsibility for cutting their own grass verges.

## **Sustainable Development Overview and Scrutiny Meeting 15 July 2009 Presentation by Jo Turton, Executive Director of Environment**

### **Environment Directorate Business Plan Summary 2009/10**

This year the plan has focussed service improvements that will be delivered during 2009-10. This includes both externally delivered services and the way we support service delivery internally. We are committed to maintaining our core services to a high standard.

#### **Service improvements**

##### **Improving Waste Management**

- Thornton Waste Technology Park, completion and monitoring
- Opening three transfer stations
- Waste education and voluntary sector engagement (bulky matters)

##### **Road Safety**

- More/improved child pedestrian and cycling training in schools and young people's training and educational support
- Pilot the Lancashire Intelligent Speed Adaptation project (in car speed monitoring)
- Child safety audit, enforcement activity and casualty reduction schemes
- Improved cross directorate working

##### **Developing the transport network**

- Heysham M6 link, advertise legal orders, appoint a contractor
- Develop Lancashire's green infrastructure, complete strategy with partners, make £2 million bid for EU funding, develop the Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park
- Investing in our transport network, start 3 quality bus schemes and complete another 1, develop Accrington and Rawtenstall bus stations and Accrington 'eco' rail Station and the Fylde Coast Tramway Upgrade

##### **Environmental Issues**

- Biodiversity
- Climate change,
  - Leading the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy, allocating Lancashire Locals Climate Change Fund, help restore Lancashire's peat-lands
  - Reducing carbon emissions from LCC's own operations, by 21% (14,751 tonnes) over five years through street lighting, buildings, vehicles and IT
  - Adapting to climate change, assess the vulnerability of our services to climate change and identify actions, develop a strategy to reduce the risk of flooding following the Pitt review

##### **Social Inclusion and Accessibility**

- Prioritise and coordinate transport schemes in Lancashire and the region through the rail prioritisation scheme, integrated regional strategy
- Review of accessible transport in Lancashire to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction
- Encouraging independent travel, establishing a unit to give people with learning difficulties confidence to use public transport

- Progressing the Pennine Reach project with partners to develop transport in Accrington- Blackburn – Darwen

### Helping Lancashire through the recession

- Central Lancashire and Blackpool Growth Point with the partners develop a programme to deliver £5.5 million in capital projects to stimulate, housing, employment and improved transport
- Financial Inclusion, recruit financial inclusion champions to work with partners to improve information and advice to those most at risk of financial exclusion

### Locality working

- Provide a more responsive highways service for customers through the locality plan streetscene pilot, highways review and business improvement project
- Working effectively with local people at local level through 12 district parish and community events to develop local projects
- Developing the economy in rural Lancashire through Developing and delivering the West Pennine Moors Management Plan
- Work with partners to coordinate and integrate spatial planning, transport, skills and the economy, through the infrastructure study, Integrated Lancashire Strategy and LTP3
- Work with partners to coordinate enforcement services through the Regional Coordination Pilot and South Ribble Locality Pilot Enforcement Services Project
- Strengthening co-operation and joint working with District and Parish Councils

## Service Support Priorities

### Customer focus

- Review complaints procedures
- Roll out corporate customer focus activities
- Customer Experience Projects
- Equality and Diversity

### Efficiency agenda

- Directorate efficiency savings
- Business Improvement Board

### Communications

- Communication as part of project and business planning
- Media training for senior managers
- Media management and evaluation
- Internal Communication channels

### Organisational Development

- Work Force Development Plan
- Structural Communications review
- Data quality and data sharing
- Review Business planning and performance management processes

## The Environment Directorate

The Environment Directorate is responsible for a total budget of over £218 million. This is made up of:

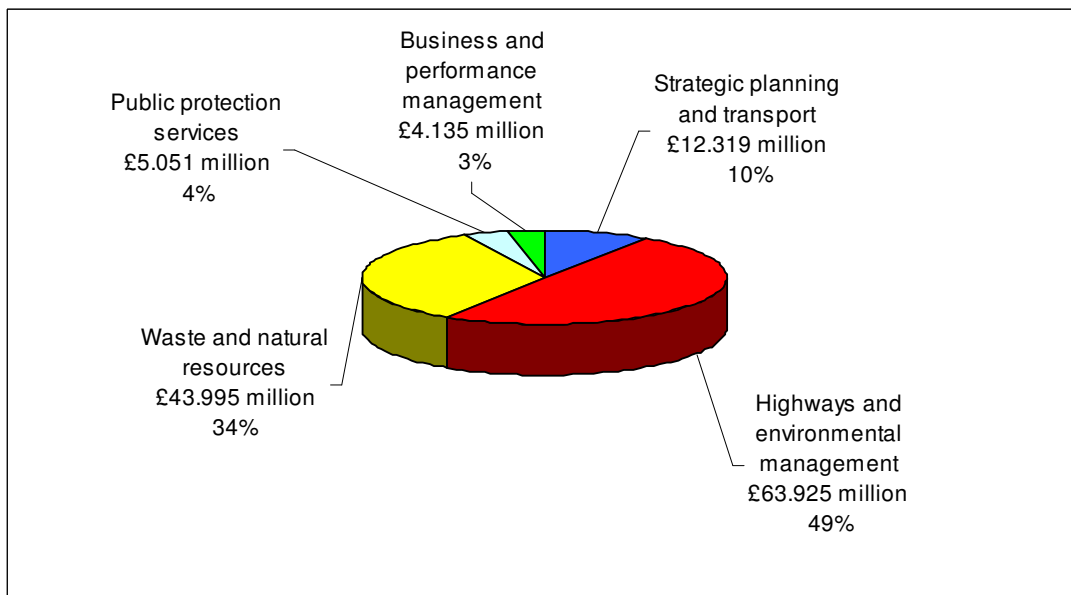
- Revenue spend of £144.348 million; and
- Capital programme of £73.936 million.

With this budget the directorate provides a range of services across the county, including:

- maintaining and improving roads, street lighting and bridges;
- co-ordinating public transport;
- waste management; and
- public protection.

The table on the next page breaks the revenue budget down over service areas.

The chart below demonstrates the size of each area.



## Devolved Financial Management (DFM) Schemes

The following table shows the Environment Directorates 2009/10 revenue budget is managed in devolved financial management schemes

Overall the budget is the responsibility of Jo Turton, the executive director, but each scheme has an accountable officer.

2008/09 budget net spend £ million	Scheme	2009/10 budget £ million		
		Gross spend	Income	Net Spend
10.56	<b>Strategic planning and transport</b> Includes procuring public, social care and school transport services, providing community transport, forming policy and planning and promoting public transport. Accountable officer: Mike Kirby.	18.728	6.409	12.319
60.178	<b>Highways and environmental management</b> Includes maintaining roads, bridges and street lighting, private works and damages, traffic and safety projects and implementation and the Countryside Service. Accountable officer: Rob Clifford.	75.795	11.870	63.925
40.882	<b>Waste and natural resources</b> Services provided include waste management, waste and minerals policy and waste procurement. Accountable officers: Steve Browne.	57.711	13.716	43.995
5.002	<b>Public protection services</b> Trading Standards and County Analysts Accountable officer: Jo Turton.	6.243	1.192	5.051
2.812	<b>Business and performance management</b> Provides support to the directorate, including finance, cabinet member support, business planning and performance management and administration. Accountable officer: Dave Roscoe.	4.197	0.062	4.135
119.434	<b>Total of DFM schemes</b>	162.674	33.249	129.425
0.026	<b>Add non-DFM items:</b> Building repairs and maintenance – corporate DFM	0.027	0.000	0.027
119.46	<b>Directorate budget</b>	162.701	33.249	129.452
4.916	Recharges of central directorates' costs	5.293	0.000	5.293
7.696	Depreciation	7.696	0.000	7.696
1.251	FRS17 pension costs	1.907	0.000	1.907
133.323	<b>Directorate total budget</b>	177.597	33.249	144.348

Summary of the 2009/10 budget for the Environment Directorate

2008/09 budget net spend £ million	Scheme	2009/10 budget £ million		
		Gross spend	Income	Net spend
	<b>Strategic planning and transport</b>			
	Subsidy to operators:			
4.563	Public transport	9.578	4.616	4.962
20.006	School transport	20.184	-	20.184
6.508	Adult & Community transport	7.150	-	7.150
0.968	Community transport	1.059	-	1.059
1.434	Other transport	2.026	1.793	0.233
	<b>Highways and environmental management</b>			
24.429	Road and bridge maintenance - county roads	27.856	0.271	27.585
13.54	Road lighting - maintenance and energy	14.266	-	14.266
5.435	<b>Public liability insurances</b>	5.542	-	5.542
2.269	<b>Rechargeable works</b>	8.601	6.425	2.176
0.274	<b>Policy, development and sustainability</b>	0.277	0.026	0.251
0.373	<b>Countryside services</b>	0.544	0.060	0.484
	<b>Waste and natural resources</b>			
39.371	Waste disposal operations	56.045	13.790	42.255
0.609	Site maintenance	0.662	-	0.662
	<b>Miscellaneous services</b>			
1.640	School crossing patrols	1.580	-	1.580
0.090	Road safety education	4.274	1.663	2.611
	<b>Support services</b>			
26.108	Operational and administrative staff	32.472	2.482	29.990
3.973	Other administrative costs	7.117	2.710	4.407
4.916	Central administration	5.293	-	5.293
0.041	Internal loans fund	0.003	-	0.003
7.696	Depreciation	7.696	-	7.696
	<b>Less recharges to:</b>			
-21.327	Directorate for Children and Young People	-	20.630	-20.630
-6.851	Adult and Community Services Directorate	-	7.137	-7.137
-7.138	Capital and other directorates	-	10.996	-10.996
	<b>Other Services</b>			
3.056	Trading standards	3.663	0.570	3.093
1.340	County analyst	2.251	0.622	1.629
<b>133.323</b>		<b>218.139</b>	<b>73.791</b>	<b>144.348</b>



<b>What the Budget Provides</b>	
<b>Highways and environmental management (budget £63.925 million)</b>	
6,960	km roads maintained
165,976	streetlights maintained
1,768	bridges maintained
355	school crossing patrols
	Practical pedestrian training to 16,000 children aged 5 to 7.
	Maintaining and improving 5,546km of public rights of way.
	Management and development of 2 country parks and 27 smaller recreation sites, 57 Forestry & Reclamation sites.
<b>Strategic planning and transport (budget £12.319 million)</b>	
242	Bus routes provided
<b>Waste and natural resources (budget £43.995 million)</b>	
638,025	tonnes of municipal waste managed
41%	of waste recycled or re-used
23	household waste recycling centres
<b>Public protection services (Budget £5.051 million)</b>	
<b>County analyst and scientific adviser service</b>	
23,605	food quality checks
1,800	food labels assessed
18,617	checks for environmental pollutants
<b>Trading standards</b>	
11,478	visits to premises
14,480	trader and consumer enquires

## Highways and Environmental Management

The accountable officer responsible for the Highways and Environmental Management Section is the Director of Highways and Environmental Management, Rob Clifford.

### Highways and Environmental Management (HEM) covers:

- Statutory duties as Highway Authority and as Traffic Manager, including signals and control systems, inspections and condition/geotechnical investigations.
- Highways, Bridges, Lighting and Traffic Policy
- Local (Area) management of highways, lighting, traffic and development control, and support for Lancashire Locals.
- Countryside Services including Public Rights of Way.
- Project Management, design and construction management for roads, bridges and traffic management schemes, including major schemes such as Heysham to M6 Link.
- Road Safety Engineering, Education and the enforcement partnership, Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.
- Management of off street parking arrangements, and the back office for Parkwise (until September 2009).
- Delivery of derelict land reclamation under the REMADE programme.
- Environmental Projects.
- Environmental Advisory Services.

### Success Stories:

- Delivery of a range of complex programmes and projects including the Eaves Green Link Road Chorley, which received awards for regional Transportation Project of the Year from the Institution of Civil Engineers, together with national Considerate Constructors, Green Apple and CEEQUAL awards.
- Innovative Road Safety initiatives and training, including a number of award winning campaigns, including Prince Michael Awards.
- Customer focussed, with Chartermark accreditation, Countryside and Environment Projects services, including the successful 'Tramper' schemes providing increased access to the countryside and the well-regarded Backyard project in Accrington, featured on BBC's Springwatch on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009.
- Securing Programme Entry for the £140 Million Heysham to M6 Link Road, providing government endorsement for the scheme's business case, following early planning permission.

### Areas which might not be performing well:

- Customers place highways and traffic matters very highly in their priorities for what is most important about the County Council's services and also rate their level of dissatisfaction with these services relatively highly. The services face conflict between strategic objectives and statutory duties with the need to be responsive to customer needs at a local level. Policies are often viewed as serving the objectives around safety and congestion, and not other quality of life issues, nor district council objectives to provide a higher quality streetscene.
- Internally a number of different departments (Commissioning, design, operations, construction, etc) are involved in the delivery of highway and traffic schemes, and the

processes and interfaces between those departments can often create barriers to responsive delivery and communication.

### **Recent Overview and Scrutiny involvement:**

Overview and Scrutiny have recently given consideration to a range of Highways and Environmental Management service matters. Of note are:

- Child Road Traffic Casualties,
- Highway Verges and Trees (both ongoing),
- Parkwise parking enforcement arrangements and successor arrangements (contract in place, and implementation ongoing),
- Pitt Review (strategy development and response to government legislative consultation underway) and,
- innovative construction contracting (recommendations implemented).

### **Possible Future O&S Involvement:**

This will depend on a number of strategic reviews which are underway. O&S may have some involvement with the Flood and Water Management Strategies, as set out in the Pitt Review recommendations.

A number of areas within the services covered within HEM could warrant overview or scrutiny and these include:

- Highway Trees and Verges – response to recommendations in November 2009.
- Co-ordination of Roadworks.
- The Traffic Management Act.
- Parking Management, following the ending of the Parkwise arrangements and the introduction of new contracts.
- The Highway Maintenance Plan.
- Highways Winter Maintenance.
- Bridge Maintenance - review of the policy to address the new code of practice "Well Maintained Bridges"
- Traffic Regulation Orders.
- Residential Parking - review of the policy relating to prioritisation.
- Pedestrian Priority Programme, as requested by a Lancashire Local Committee.
- The 'Manual for Streets' and its impact on highway and street design.
- Post – REMADE reclamation and emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Prioritisation of Inspection and Maintenance for Public Rights of Way.

There will also continue to be overlapping issues with other sections, such as the Local Transport Plan and Climate Change.

## Directorate Performance during 2008/09

The Directorate reports a wide and diverse range of performance measures. The PERFORM system is used to collate, analyse and present this information.

The majority of the Directorate's measures are reported quarterly to the Environment Directorate Management Team (EDMT) where any performance issues are discussed and corrective action agreed with senior managers.

Full details of all individual performance indicators/measures are available on the interactive Briefing Books at the Performance Indicators Website  
<http://lccintranet2/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=3314&pageid=8784&e=e>

### Performance against Target

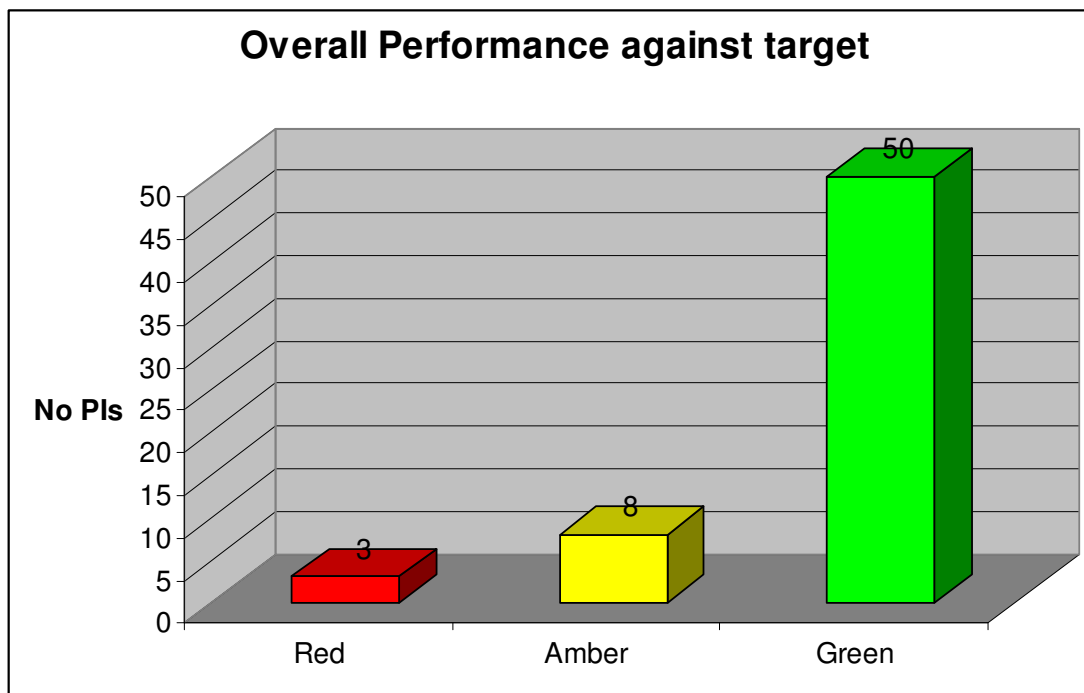
Performance indicators/measures are monitored using the Traffic Light system:

Green = Performance on or above Target

Amber = Slightly below target but within 'tolerance' (usually 10%)

Red = Below target (beyond tolerance level)

The graph below shows the number of red, amber and green measures for the Directorate. Of the measures with a target, 61 were submitted.



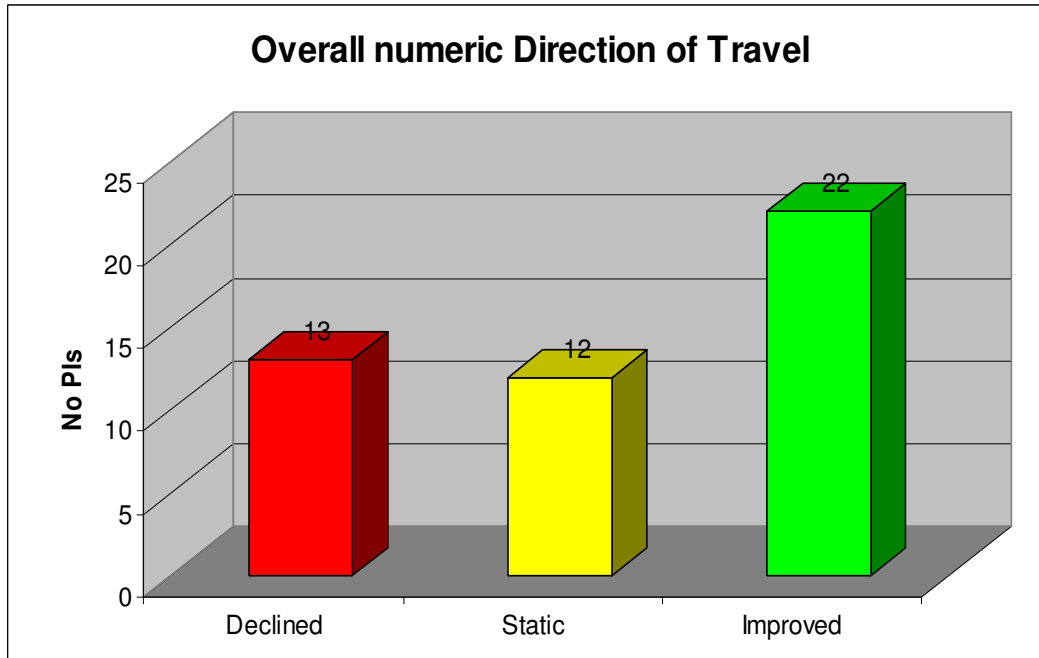
In percentage terms this equates to:

- (50) 82% Green (last year 73%)
- (8) 13% Amber (last year 11%)
- (3) 5% Red (last year 17%)

## Direction of Travel (All measures)

### i) Numerical Change

The graph below shows the number of measures that have improved, declined or stayed the same in numerical terms (regardless of traffic light colour) from end of year 2007/08. 47 measures were comparable.



In percentage terms this equates to:

- (13) 28% Declined
- (12) 26% Same
- (22) 47% Improved

Thus a strong 'estimated' net improvement in overall performance from 2007/08 has been achieved. This is partially explained by the withdrawal of some BVPIs and most NIs not being comparable this year.

### ii) Traffic Light Position Change

Of the Performance Indicators that showed a drop in performance

- 7 stayed the same traffic light colour
- 4 dropped from Green to Amber
- 2 dropped from Green to Red (LAA H08a Counterfeit Tobacco, LNPL 014 Derelict Land)

Of the improving measures:

- 4 improved from Red to Green (3 Street Lighting PIs, Radiation Report)
- 18 maintained 'traffic light' position

Of the static measures:

- 11 maintained 'traffic light' position
- 1 moved from Red to Green due to new target (LNSL098a Street Lighting)

# Place Survey – Environment Services

## Countywide Analysis

Respondents were asked to answer the following questions:

"Thinking generally, which of the things below would you say are most important in making somewhere a good place to live? (Please tick up to five boxes)"

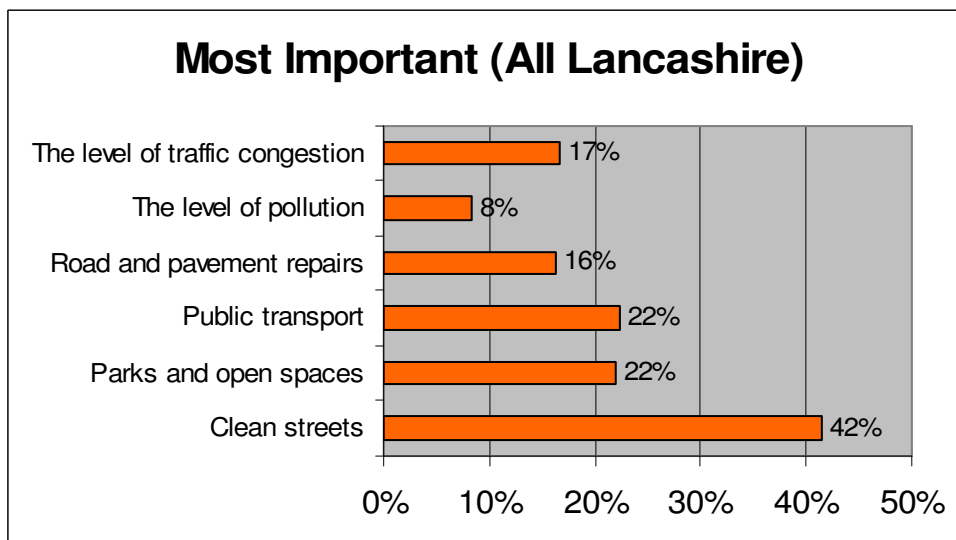
and

"And thinking about this local area, which of the things below, if any, do you think most need improving?"

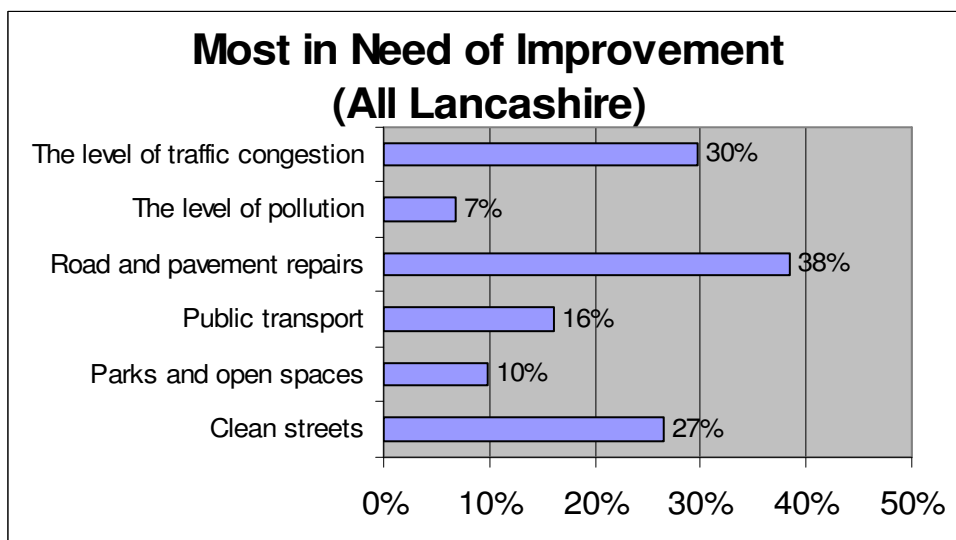
The graphs presented below shows the results for all issues, which the Environment Directorate has an impact on.

It is also to be noted that percentages do not add up to 100% as the scores show the percentage of people who put each issue in their top 5.

A summary table is also presented showing the percentage of people satisfied with their local area and the delivery of Environmental services.



The chart shows that Clean Streets were clearly the most important issue for Lancashire residents who took part in the survey, Parks and open spaces and Public Transport were also felt to be relatively important.



Road and pavement repairs and the level of traffic congestion were the issues most frequently stated as being in need of improvement. Clean streets were also felt to be a high priority for improvement.

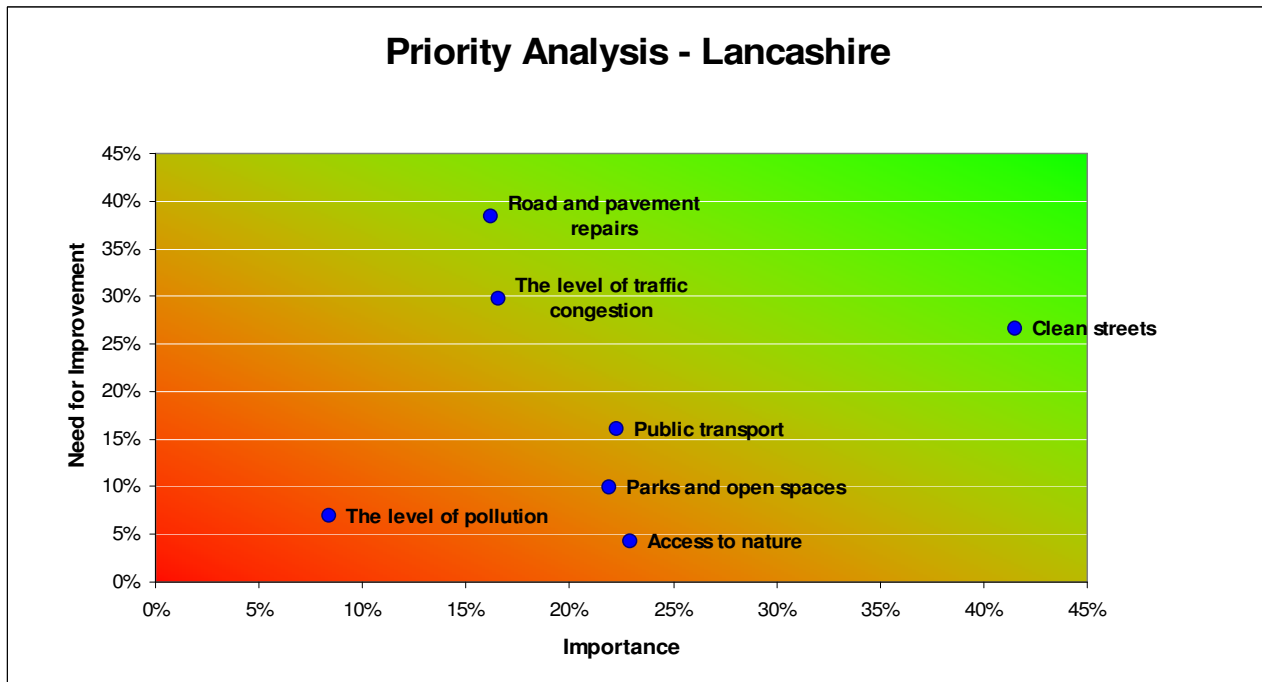
### Overall Satisfaction / Satisfaction with Services

The table below shows overall how satisfied respondents in Lancashire are with their local area and public services

Overall satisfaction with local area as place to live	Satisfied	79%
	Dissatisfied	10%
Local public services are working to make the area cleaner and greener	Great deal / some extent	67%
	Not very much / at all	33%
Keeping public land clear of litter and refuse	Satisfied	53%
	Dissatisfied	29%
Refuse collection	Satisfied	69%
	Dissatisfied	20%
Doorstep recycling	Satisfied	70%
	Dissatisfied	17%
Local tip satisfaction (Users)	Satisfied	82%
	Dissatisfied	7%
Local transport information (Users)	Satisfied	56%
	Dissatisfied	16%
Local Bus services (Users)	Satisfied	65%
	Dissatisfied	17%
Parks and open spaces (Users)	Satisfied	69%
	Dissatisfied	14%

## Priority Analysis

The graph below shows the relative position of each Environment priority when considering each issue's score for 'importance' and 'improvement'. The further each issue is into the green area the higher relative importance.



It is evident from this analysis that clean streets are the top priority. Road and pavement repairs and traffic congestion are also relatively important.



The 2 following tables show the rank order of each issue for each district in terms of 'importance' and 'improvement'

Thinking generally, which of the things below would you say are most important in making somewhere a good place to live?													
Rank	Lancashire	Burnley	Chorley	Fylde	Hyndburn	Lancaster	Pendle	Preston	Ribble Valley	Rosendale	South Ribble	West Lancs	Wyre
1	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets	Clean streets
2	Access to nature	Public transport	Access to nature	Parks and open spaces	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Public transport	Access to nature	Access to nature	Public transport	Public transport	Public transport
3	Public transport	Access to nature	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Access to nature	Parks and open spaces
4	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Road and pavement repairs	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	The level of traffic congestion	Parks and open spaces	Road and pavement repairs	Access to nature	Parks and open spaces	Access to nature
5	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	Access to nature	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	Access to nature	The level of traffic congestion	Public transport	The level of traffic congestion	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs
6	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion
7	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution

**Most important factors in making somewhere a good place to live against the factors that most need improving locally**

Rank	Lancashire	Burnley	Chorley	Fylde	Hyndburn	Lancaster	Pendle	Preston	Ribble Valley	Rossendale	South Ribble	West Lancs	Wyre
1	Road and pavement repairs	Clean streets	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Clean streets	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs	Road and pavement repairs
2	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	The level of traffic congestion	The level of traffic congestion	Clean streets	The level of traffic congestion	Clean streets	The level of traffic congestion	The level of traffic congestion	Clean streets	The level of traffic congestion	The level of traffic congestion	The level of traffic congestion
3	Clean streets	The level of traffic congestion	Clean streets	Clean streets	The level of traffic congestion	Clean streets	The level of traffic congestion	Road and pavement repairs	Public transport	The level of traffic congestion	Clean streets	Public transport	Clean streets
4	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Public transport	Public transport	Clean streets	Public transport	Public transport	Clean streets	Public transport
5	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Public transport	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	The level of pollution	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces	Parks and open spaces
6	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	Parks and open spaces	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution	The level of pollution
7	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature	Access to nature

# Strategic Planning and Transport

## Overview of what the section delivers

Core purpose of the Strategic Planning and Transport Section is:

"To promote social, environmental and economic well-being for the people of Lancashire through the development of sustainable environment, regeneration planning and transport solutions"

Mike Kirby, Director of Strategic Planning and Transport, manages the section which consists of 4 groups:

**Environment and Communities:** This group develops policy options and implements projects to deliver sustainable environment, regeneration (especially rural) and transport solutions. Its services include Environmental Policies and Projects, Rural Policy and Projects and Accessibility Planning (includes social Inclusion).

**Strategic Planning:** This group delivers the Council's statutory functions relating to spatial planning and development control. The group also prepare the Local Transport Plan, assist in the development of travel plans and provide guidance to councils on their emerging development plans and proposals, including major planning applications.

**Passenger Transport:** This group develops and implements passenger transport policies and the management of passenger transport services. It also manages the provision of mainstream education, Special Educational Needs and Adult Transport Services.

**Business Services:** This group provides budget management support; manages Passenger Transport Service Contracts and Concessionary travel arrangements.

## Key Successes

- Beacon Award - Improving Accessibility - beacon status over last year.
- Implementation of commercially viable bus service changes through Chorley Pathfinder project.
- Implemented new English National Concessionary Travel Scheme together with a pooling scheme for the 12 Lancashire authorities plus the two unitaries.
- Led the production of the Lancashire Climate Change strategy, and internal Carbon Management Programme.
- Successfully coordinating delivery of six environment LAA targets.
- Delivering a number of projects to cut energy costs and save carbon (eg home energy monitors, low energy light bulbs, schools education, peatland restoration to prevent flooding, etc).
- Continuing high performance in relation to planning application determination.

- Part of Central Lancashire and Blackpool growth point partnership -project received approval from central government - £5.5m additional funding already awarded.
- 74% of schools now have approved travel plans - we are on target to achieve plans for all schools by 2010.
- Successful Community Infrastructure fund bid for Development of Buckshaw Station £3.3m - Stage 1 of process a success - detailed business case submitted for consideration under stage 2.
- Civitas success project in Preston has delivered projects such as Adelphi Street quiet zone and city centre clear zone in Preston and town centre improvements in Leyland.
- Mid term Local Transport Plan progress report submitted. Good progress noted in response to the Chief Executive.
- Over £100m funding obtained for Blackpool/Fylde Coast Tramway upgrade.
- Preferred route for Norcross/M55 link road identified.
- Major improvements and changes in Safer Travel Unit e.g. award winning Trojan Project.
- UK bus awards - -innovation Award for NoWCard.
- Opened Nelson Bus and Rail Interchange.
- Completed Major Scheme bid relating to Pennine Reach.

Performance across the section is good - there are no areas which are under-performing.

**Previous O&S reviews include:**

- Bus shelters
- Environmental Management
- Accessibility Planning

**Possible options for future consideration:**

- Social inclusion through enhanced accessibility
- Policy on Support Buses
- Local Transport Plan Review

## **Waste and Natural Resources Management**

The accountable officer responsible for the Waste and Natural Resources Management Section is the Director of Waste and Natural Resources Management, Steve Browne.

The Section delivers its services through four Groups (Waste and Minerals Policy, Waste Management, Waste Service Procurement and Support Services).

### **Overview of what the section delivers**

The Waste and Natural Resources Management Section provides two key functions of the County Council:

- The statutory Waste Disposal Authority Function (WDA)
- The Statutory Local Planning Authority function for Minerals and Waste Development

These services are directed at delivering the following Objectives of the Environment Directorate:

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve the quality of life for the people of Lancashire and the quality of Lancashire's environment</li><li>• Plan a better and sustainable future for Lancashire</li></ul> |
|--|

This is done by:

1. Providing high quality services in a way that safeguards the well being of staff and public.
2. Minimising waste and utilising waste as a resource.
3. Planning facilities for effectively and safely managing waste.
4. Facilitating the sustainable use of mineral resources.
5. Providing effective waste management services that maximise kerbside recycling and composting.
6. Adoption of Core Strategy in February 2009 for Lancashire's Minerals and Waste Development Framework, the successor to the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Only the third Minerals and Waste Core Strategy to be adopted nationwide and the second of 41 North West authorities to publish its Core Strategy.

7. Continuing partnership working with constituent Lancashire Districts and unitary neighbours through the Lancashire Waste Partnership to agree a review of Lancashire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy in March 2009

### **Success stories from within the section**

#### Waste and Minerals Policy Group

- Adoption of Core Strategy in February 2009 for Lancashire's Minerals and Waste Development Framework, the successor to the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Only the third Minerals and Waste Core Strategy to be adopted nationwide and the second of 41 North West authorities to publish its Core Strategy.
- Continuing partnership working with constituent Lancashire Districts and unitary neighbours through the Lancashire Waste Partnership to agree a review of Lancashire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy in March 2009

#### Waste Management Group

- Implementation of PFI Soft Services – Community Sector Development; Environmental Education; Local Market Development; and Waste Minimisation.
- Continued Charter Mark for Household Waste Recycling.
- Successful transfer of Helpline service over to The Hub.
- Delivery of food waste collection services to an additional 15,000 properties across three Districts, in partnership with Preston City Council, Chorley Borough Council and South Ribble Borough Council.

### **Some key areas that O&S has scrutinised and that have been of benefit to the Directorate**

Over the past two years O&S has scrutinised:

- Core Strategy proposals for future minerals extraction and waste management activities;
- Proposed actions for future waste collection and disposal activities as part of Municipal Waste Strategy review;
- Future service provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

O&S also considered the waste PFI project and sought clarification on a number of issues.

A Commercial Waste and Packaging Task Group was also formed which led to the prioritisation of internal recycling for Lancashire County Council. This issue is on going and may need to be reported back on in the future to show progress that has been made.