


Lancashire Adult Learning

Apprenticeships, NVQs and Certificates/Diplomas



see page 5 for more information.

WINTER WEATHER WORK

PAGE 10



COULD YOU BE A FOSTER CARER?

PAGE 11



Lancashire
County Council



visionlancashire

Community news from across YOUR county

www.lancashire.gov.uk / September 2010

NEW HI-TECH FACILITY FOR LANCASHIRE WASTE

invision

New help for local business

A SUCCESSFUL county council finance scheme has relaunched in response to the current economic situation.

■ **Lancashire news - Page four**

Stories from your local area

NEWS about county council services in your local area on our district pages.

■ **Lancashire links - Page five**

How is the council doing?

A SPECIAL two-page Annual Report details how we've spent money on services in the last year and how effective it has been.

■ **Annual Report - Pages six and seven**

A century of girl guides

TAKE a trip into the past with an interesting feature on girl guiding at Gawthorpe Hall.

■ **Living in Lancashire - Page eight**

School pupils make the grade

Another bumper year for Lancashire's GCSE results.

■ **Lancashire news - Page eleven**



A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE

THE revolutionary new waste recovery park in Farington, near Leyland, is officially open. The photograph shows special guests outside the environmental education centre (from left): County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy

leader of the council; Councillor Ian Fowler, deputy leader of Blackpool Council; Steve Browne, the county council's director of waste strategy and policy; and Martin Hopkins, chief executive of Global Renewables Lancashire.

PEOPLE in Lancashire are among the world's greenest following the opening of two revolutionary facilities that will see the vast majority of their household rubbish reused, instead of sent to landfill.

Within five years, recycling and recovery rates are predicted to hit 80%, up from 45% at present.

New waste recovery parks opened this summer at Thornton, near Blackpool; and Farington, near Leyland; featuring a combination of cutting edge technologies currently seen at only one other location worldwide.

On each site, a large fully-enclosed composter will initially treat green garden waste, followed later this year by the addition of food scraps, while a high-tech combination of mechanical and biological processes is used to produce a compost-like material.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy leader, said: "This is nothing short of a revolution in how we treat Lancashire's waste - we're saying goodbye to the practice of sending most of our waste to landfill."

"We've been forward thinking enough to recognise a future in which most of our waste can be reused and recycled without the need for incineration."

Lancashire County Council has teamed up with Blackpool Council, Catalyst Lend Lease and Amec to build the plants, which have created 320 jobs for local people. They will be run by a company called Global Renewables Lancashire.

At Farington, 9,000 pupils a year will visit a state-of-the-art education centre, which features an enclosed walkway extending for almost 1km through the facility.

The facility also features special technology to separate and sort recyclables collected at the kerbside into types and colours, ready for sale to manufacturers.

The plants will take a few months to ramp up to full operation. The compost-like material resulting from the processing of black-bin waste will be used to regenerate former industrial sites and to plant 2.5m trees over the next 25 years.

COUNCIL FINANCES

Tough financial times ahead

MESSAGE from County Councillor Geoff Driver, leader of Lancashire County Council:

We are committed to protecting services to the most vulnerable, which is why, earlier this month, we approved plans to protect more than two and a half million pounds worth of funding for children and family services, as central government seeks to reduce the deficit.

The move follows the central

government announcement in June that it was stopping grant funding specifically targeted at local services. This means that the county council needs to save over £22m from its agreed budget, during 2010-11, in addition to its other savings requirements.

On Thursday 9 September, the Cabinet approved proposals to keep much of the funding in place, while making efficiency savings elsewhere in the coun-

cil across a range of services.

Unlike many councils, we don't intend to simply cut services where we're losing targeted funding, because we believe some of these services are a priority for local communities.

Instead we have asked managers to find ways of protecting them by saving money from non-frontline activities. But there is no escaping the fact Lancashire has to contribute to relieving the huge burden on

public finances nationally.

I am very clear that I will do my absolute utmost to protect services for the most vulnerable in the county. With work we've already started to streamline the council, I am confident that the council will emerge from this as a much leaner and fitter organisation, better able to provide services that residents want, in places where they are needed.



County Hall



Finance help

UNFORTUNATELY at the moment I am going through some financial difficulties.

A friend told me that he contacted Lancashire County Council and got some advice on what he may be entitled to, I'm wondering if I could get some advice too please.

Mr Griffiths
Chorley

GABBY SAYS:

Certainly, our Welfare Rights team will be able to help you with this. The Lancashire Welfare Rights team aims to help the residents of Lancashire by offering information and advice on the whole range of social security and local authority benefits and tax credits. One of the Welfare Rights team's main aims is to make sure that each individual is in receipt of full entitlement to benefit. If you would like to speak to our Welfare Rights team, please contact 0845 053 0013 and a customer service officer will be happy to assist.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

NoW is the time to ride the ferry

MY friend and I will soon be visiting Blackpool for a short break.

We both have NoW-cards, which we hope to use on the local transport whilst we are there.

Could you please tell me if the NoWcard is accepted on the Blackpool trams?

Mrs Gough
Lancaster

GABBY SAYS: Yes, you'll be please to hear that you can use your NoWcard on the trams in Blackpool. The eld-



erly NoWcard has an additional concession added to it which allows free off-peak travel on the Knott End Ferry service and also the trams in Blackpool and Wyre.

Any journeys made before 9:30am will be charged in full. For further information on the NoWcard please do not hesitate to contact the NoWcard Helpline on 0845 058 1096.

Book a badge

I WOULD like to apply for my first Blue Badge and have been informed by local authorities that I can go to my local library to do so, is this correct? If it is, that would be

wonderful as application forms have never been my strong point.

Mr Martin
Bacup

GABBY SAYS: Yes, you are correct. Lancashire County Council has a facility

called TellyTalk in nine libraries across Lancashire and two health centres.

TellyTalk is an innovative way for customers to communicate with customer service officers via a television link, giv-

ing face-to-face contact. By visiting one of our TellyTalk machines our customers can get help and advice on all aspects of the Blue Badge service, including brand new applications and renewals. The TellyTalk machines also have the technology to take a customer's photograph and signature whilst they are there. If you would like more information on the telly talk service and the TellyTalk locations, please do not hesitate to contact the Blue Badge team on 0845 053 0049.

Hot topic

Winter is fast approaching. Last year my gas and electric bills were very high. I am retired and live off my pension, so the rise in bills really affects me. Is there anything that can help me or improve my home to keep the heat in better this year?

Miss Woods
Brierfield

GABBY SAYS: There are a couple of things you can do.

Here are some contact numbers for the Winter Fuel Payments Helpline and also Warm Front, which is a Government-funded initiative, managed by Eaga. It can provide a package of insulation and heating improvements up to the value of £3,500. Winter Fuel Payments Helpline is 0845 915 1515. For Warm Front contact 01772 906 838.

Litter bug

I'M not sure which department to turn to, but I'd like to request that someone comes out to see my road and the litter that's on it.

I live directly opposite a large grass area with a park, and unfortunately the litter that is left on

the park blows over my way and ends up by the kerb and in the drain. Who should I direct this to?

Miss Upton
Gisburn

GABBY SAYS: Road sweeping is a service offered by the district councils. As you live in Gisburn you will need to contact Ribbles Valley Borough Council on 01200 425 111. For further information on district council contact details please visit the Lancashire County Council website: www.lancashire.gov.uk

askgabby

Don't know who to contact about council services? Are you baffled by bureaucracy?

Call 0845 053 0000 or email: enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk



justamin

Bowled over

COUNTY Councillor Ciaran Wells has given £200 to Rushton Street Bowling Club in Great Harwood.

Green fingered

COUNTY Councillor Graham Jones has awarded £300 to Heartworks Allotment 2.

Village life

COUNTY Councillor David Smith has provided a £400 grant to Bashall Eaves Village Hall committee.

Help given

COUNTY Councillor Terry Brown has provided £250 for Friends of Chorley Quad.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Apply for a school place online

■ Sue Becker

LANCASHIRE'S online school admissions system is now live for applications for September 2011 starters.

Last year nearly 10,000 Lancashire parents - more than a third - applied online.

Feedback confirmed that most people completed their application within ten minutes and they'd recommend the system to other people.

It is easy to use, secure and has an automatic email acknowledgement.

Paper application forms are still available and can be obtained from your local Area Education Office. Applicants who apply online don't need to complete a paper application form.

Offer letters will be is-

sued to all applicants during early March 2011 (secondary) and April 2011 (primary). Online applicants will be able to access their school offer slightly earlier on the day on which offer letters are issued.

Lancashire's application process is only for Lancashire residents. Those who live in neighbouring areas must use their home local authority.

Parents must apply for secondary school places commencing in September 2011 by 31 October 2010 and primary school places by 15 January 2011.

Parents with children who have their fifth birthday between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 should still apply for a primary school place -



ONLINE | An easy and convenient way to apply.

even where an elder sibling is already attending their preferred primary school.

Parents with children in year six at primary school in September 2010 should apply for secondary school places for September 2011.

To apply online, visit the website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions

TACKLING UNDERAGE SALES



SHOPS around Hyndburn signed up to tackle the scourge of underage drinking. The photograph shows PC Rachel Pilkington with David Johnnie from Lancashire Trading Standards, who were two of the partners in the project.

City scheme wins award

A £1M initiative to boost cycling, walking and public transport use at the University of Central Lancashire has earned national recognition.

The Civitas Adelphi Quarter scheme in Preston was highly commended in the Walking and Public Realm cate-

gory of the National Transport Awards 2010.

The project, involving a partnership of the county council, the university and Preston City Council; aimed to encourage more people to travel on foot, by bike or by bus.

Following extensive public consultation, a

programme of improvements was carried out, including reduced speed limits, better walking and cycling routes, more seating, improved landscaping; enhanced links to public transport, with real time passenger information; and increased cycle storage facilities.

A full job description
of all vacancies is available
on our website

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

Lancashire
County
Council



justamin

That's the tune

TANHOUSE Morris Dancers in Skelmersdale have received £300 from County Councillor Terry Aldridge.

He also gave £100 to the West Lancashire Big Band.

Silver band

COUNTY Councillor Malcolm Barron gave a grant of £350 to Hesketh Bank Silver Band towards their work.

Grant boost

CHRIST Church Parbold Music Group have received £250 from County Councillor David Westley.

Local funds

COUNTY Councillor Terry Aldridge gave a grant of £200 to Birch Green Community Centre, Skelmersdale.

On track

THE Friends of Nelson Station have received a £110 grant from County Councillor George Adam towards their work.

WORKING TOGETHER

Praise for stronger communities

■ Rob Bywater

LANCASHIRE County Council and its partners have been praised by organisations across the country for their innovative schemes to improve the way people live and work together.

The Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership, which includes the county council, local dis-

trict and unitary councils, and other public and voluntary sector organisations, was presented with a 'Beacon Award' for community cohesion in 2009/10.

Awarded by the Government and the Advisory Panel for the Beacons, the scheme recognises organisations that work together to share ideas on community cohesion and show-

case particularly innovative schemes that are helping to build stronger communities.

County Councillor Mike Calvert, Cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "The county council, together with its partners on Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership, has achieved a great deal in improving services to develop strong

communities whilst respecting differences and has been able to build on this during its year as a Beacon.

"We've taken an innovative approach through projects such as Living Libraries in Lancashire, which encouraged people to find out about those from other backgrounds in a fun and interesting way at their local library."

Plan for new youth centre

■ Andy Swain

PLANS for a new young people's facility in Preston have been unveiled.

Preston Youth Zone Plus, located in the city centre, will provide young people with a place to go and things to do, as well as offering information, advice, guidance and specialist services for young people aged eight to 25.

It is hoped that the new

state-of-the-art facility will open in 2012 as part of the Preston Guild celebrations. It will serve Preston and surrounding districts.

County Councillor Mark Perks, Cabinet member for young people, said: "The combination of sporting and leisure facilities and services will offer opportunities to our young people, making this a

unique resource."

The scheme is based on the success of the Bolton Lads and Girls Club.

Youth Zone will include a sports hall, two multi-purpose activity areas, a kitchen/cafe area, mentor rooms, a recreation area, a multi-use sports pitch and a fitness suite.

It will have a private sector-driven board, with

the backing of Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, the local business community and OnSide NW - a charity developed out of Bolton Lads and Girls Club.

The county council has committed £1m towards the building costs. The remainder will be raised from a variety of sources, including the local business community, trusts and grants.

CLASS ACT



PUPILS at a Silverdale school have received an award for their healthy activities.

The Chairman of Lancashire County Council, Chris Holtom, visited Silverdale St John's Primary School, to officially present pupils with their Chairman's Challenge trophy.

He is pictured with County Councillor Sarah Fishwick (centre) and pupil Jack Bradfield.

Applying for places in Lancashire schools for September 2011

Primary and secondary school applications - September 2011

You must apply on Lancashire's on-line system or paper application if you live in Lancashire (even if a sibling is on roll at the school which you prefer or if you prefer a school in a neighbouring Local Authority).

Primary closing date is 15 January 2011.

Secondary closing date is 31 October 2010.

Late applications may not be considered at the same time as those received by the set closing date.

This applies to all children who will be 4 years old between 01/09/10 and 31/08/11 and all those in their last year of primary school (Year 6)

Hard copy information will be issued to parents via Lancashire primary schools in October 2010 for primary school applications, and September 2010 for secondary school applications. Please contact your Area Pupil Access Team if you do not receive information at the relevant time (see below).

	Primary	Secondary
North Lancashire	01524 581112	01524 581163
South Lancashire	01772 532191	01772 531813/531819
East Lancashire	01254 220742/220709	01254 220718

Important change for September 2011 offer letters

Offers for school places starting in September 2011 will be issued by 2nd class post. Receipt of offers at individual addresses will therefore vary depending on the local postal service. Parents who would like to view their school offer quickly are strongly advised to apply on-line. The on-line system will allow parents to see their school offer on the same day that offer letters are issued.



Apply on line:

- ✓ A quick and easy way of applying on a secure system.
- ✓ Easily accessible and up-to-date information for parents.
- ✓ The opportunity to amend an application right to the deadline date.
- ✓ E-mail acknowledgement of all submitted on-line applications.
- ✓ No risk that a paper application will be lost.
- ✓ No need to deliver an admission application form back to a school/office.
- ✓ Links to other admission information and school websites.
- ✓ The opportunity to access your school offer slightly earlier than the offer letter arriving (after 8.00pm on the date of issue of offer letters).

Voluntary aided (church) and foundation schools have supplementary information forms linked to their own admission criteria. They are in addition to the local authority application process. Please contact individual schools about their form.

Apply on line:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions



justamminute

Young people's top read

JUDGES from schools across the county have chosen Lancashire's prestigious Book of the Year.

Their overall winner 'Bang, Bang, You're Dead!', by Narinder Dhami, is a high-paced, psychological thriller. Narinder visited County Hall to officially receive her award and meet some of her young judges.

Bowland is 'shining beacon'

THE Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has once again received a prestigious international award.



SCENIC | River Hodder

Lancashire County Council and local partners.

The AONB was re-awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, which recognises sustainable tourism development work by

Royal call to business

LANCASHIRE businesses are urged to apply for a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

The Queen's Award recognises outstanding achievement by businesses in innovation, international trade and sustainable development.

Businesses who want to apply need to act quickly. The deadline is 29 October 2010. For further information visit: www.creativelancashire.org

Electric blanket checks

LANCASHIRE County Council's Trading Standards Service has been running free safety checks on electric blankets.

Tests help ensure blankets are in a safe condition as winter approaches. Checks carried out in 2008 found 58% of electric blankets to be unsafe.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business gets a boost from finance scheme

■ **Stephen Axon**

A SUCCESSFUL business finance scheme has re-launched to become more flexible for Lancashire companies.

Lancashire County Council's Rosebud Finance scheme, originally launched in 1985, has been re-launched in response to the current economic situation.

Building on significant success to date, Rosebud has been re-launched with a larger and more flexible finance offering designed to appeal to Lancashire companies seeking growth and expansion.

Finance is provided up to £1million as loans or equity (or a combination of both) on competitive commercial terms.

Ged Fitzgerald, chief executive of Lancashire County Council, said: "We are keen to support local businesses who demonstrate the drive and ambition to grow and develop the wealth of the Lancashire economy."

"Many businesses find it difficult to raise funding from traditional sources, such as the banks. Rosebud can be

offered to most businesses with a business plan demonstrating growth and a Rosebud offer may then unlock other funding sources.

"We have responded to the market needs by increasing the available offer, with both finance and a wide-ranging programme of business support. We are open for business."

The scheme is designed to appeal to all business financing requirements.

It offers finance to start-ups, early stage businesses, and to more mature businesses requiring support for ongoing development or even change of ownership.

For details contact 01772 536600 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/rosebud

There's an app for that...

PEOPLE can now report damage to bus shelters in Lancashire by sending a text message to a dedicated hotline number.

Owners of iPhones can also send a photo of vandalised shelters by downloading a free app.

This Lancashire County Council initiative will help to speed up repairs.

There are 2,180 bus

shelters across the county, with nearly half of them owned by district councils and the rest by the county council, commercial operators and parish councils.

To report a damaged bus shelter, text the message: 'BUS SHELTER', followed by the type of damage and the bus shelter location, to 82070.

HELP FOR NEW BUSINESS



NEW high-specification offices have been created in Rossendale by Lancashire County Developments Limited, in partnership with Rossendale Borough Council and the North West Development Agency. For more details about the Rising Bridge Business and Enterprise Village, contact 01772 533890 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/risingbridge

WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT

Tree-mendous help for woodlands

■ **Jim Smith**

LANDOWNERS and farmers in Lancashire are being offered a helping hand to make the most of their woodlands.

The Lancashire Woodlands Project assists in everything from planning woodland management projects and new planting, to helping with grant applications and advising on how to carry out works.

The county council-run

initiative also supports small businesses to make greater use of local timber, and helps local communities use woodlands for personal development.

Among those helped by the project is Mellor farmer Finlay Hodge, who wanted to plant more than 5,800 trees, covering 5.5 hectares.

He said: "Getting good advice at the beginning is worth its weight in gold to save costly errors and

frustration."

And when farmer Jeff Wilson was replacing LPG fuel with a wood chip boiler to heat his holiday cottages at Tos-side, the project advised him on the types of systems available and where to source local timber.

For more information call 01772 533917, send an email lwp@lancashire.gov.uk or visit the website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/lwp

Lancashire

County
Council



Looking for finance for your business:
We can help

Looking for finance for your clients:
We can help

Looking to start a business:
We can help

Rosebud is not just a loan, it's a complete financial solution offering loans and equity related investments for new and existing business. If you're a financial services professional looking to source finance for your clients then we can help.

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rosebud a complete financial solution

www.lancashire.gov.uk/rosebud

CENSUS day takes place on 27 March 2011. Since the last Census, Lancashire communities will have changed. The census is highly important in moni-

toring any changes and helping to plan public services. To help with the Census work, the Office for National Statistics aims to fill 35,000 roles across England and Wales.

For more information about Census roles and helping your community, visit their website: www.censusjobs.co.uk or contact the recruitment help line on 0845 6044 013.



VISION DISTRICT PAGE

Each edition of Vision includes separate district pages known as **lancashirelinks** on page five.

These include news and information about local services provided by the county council in those areas.

Districts are grouped in pairs as follows:

Burnley and Pendle

Fylde and Wyre

Chorley and West Lancashire

Hyndburn and Rossendale

Lancaster and Ribble Valley

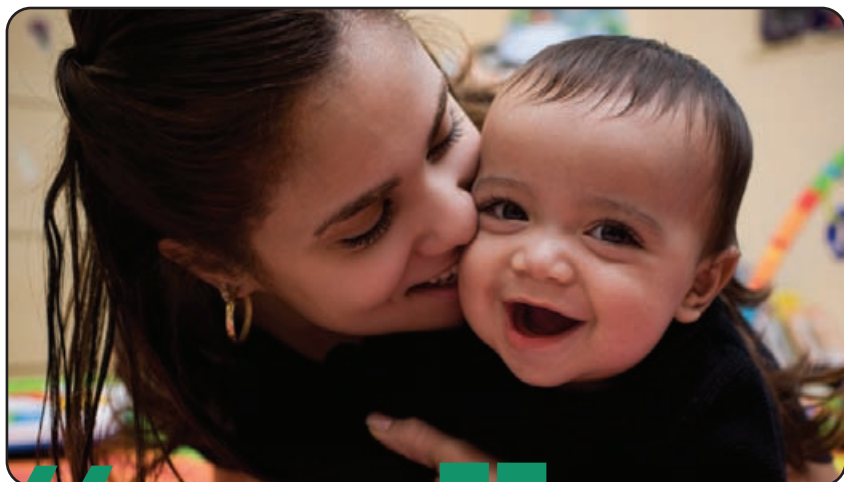
Preston and South Ribble

For copies of these editions in PDF format,
go to **www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision**



Lancashire County Council

Annual Report: 2009/10



Introduction

The annual report describes how we performed over the last 12 months including how we spent the money we received to provide services for Lancashire people.

In the past year there has been increased pressure on county budgets and the council has been looking closely at every area of spending.

Money has been saved though more flexible ways of working, increased efficiency in the procurement of goods and services and staff savings.

The report also contains a summary of the statement of accounts, which gives an overview of the council's financial position for the year to 31 March 2010.

The figures included in the report are pre-audit.

What we spent in 2009/10

	(2008/09) £ million	2009/10 £ million
Spending on Services		
Children & Education Services	1,107	1,111
Adults Social Care	405	458
Cultural, Environment, Regulatory and Planning Services	100	97
Highways & Transport Services	112	110
Other Services	36	74
Net cost of services	1,760	1,850
Other costs and adjustments	(3)	24
Total service cost to be funded	1,757	1,874
Funding		
Specific Government Grants	877	887
Fees and Charges	152	221
Revenue Support Grant	85	111
Business rates	239	234
Council Tax	411	423
Total Funding	1,764	1,876
Net Surplus	7	2

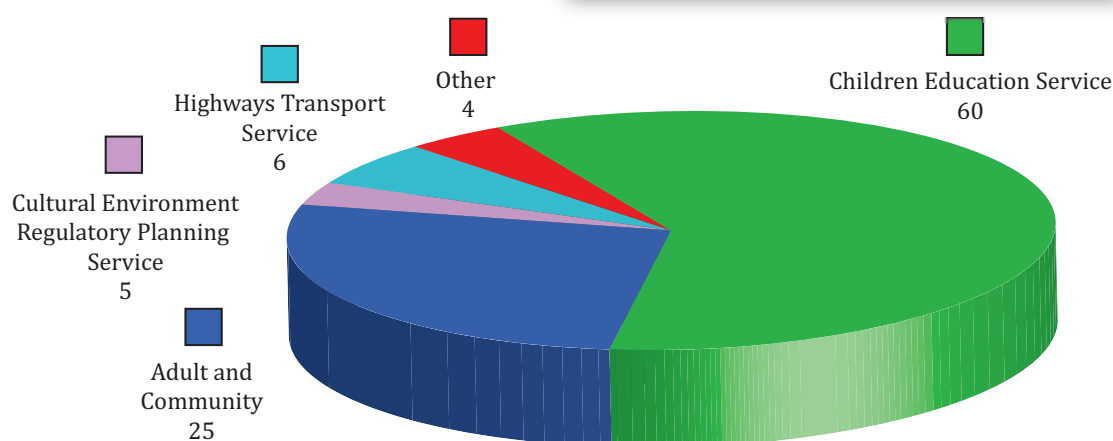
Financial review

In 2009/10 the County Council's total expenditure was £1,874m. Efficiency savings of £32.2m have been made since 2008/09, with a further £21.7m expected in 2010/11 and £36.7m in 2011/12.

In line with the County Council's financial strategy, the County Fund has increased at the end of 2009/10 to a level considered prudent in view of the current economic conditions.

Where the money was spent

This chart below shows county council spending to deliver services across Lancashire, such as adult social care, young people's services, maintaining and improving roads and bridges, libraries, adult education and public protection.



WHAT ARE WE WORTH?

At the end of each financial year, we draw up a balance sheet that represents how much the county council's land and buildings and other assets are worth, what is owed to others, what others owe to us and how much cash we have.

Balance Sheet

	(2008/09) £ million	2009/10 £ million
Assets and Borrowings:		
Fixed assets	1,914	2,216
Stocks	3	3
Cash and investments	268	400
Debtors (money owed to the council)	209	201
Creditors (money owed by the council)	(226)	(378)
Borrowing	(536)	(646)
Long-term Liabilities	(334)	(422)
Pension Liability	(747)	(1,060)
Total assets and borrowings	551	314
Financed by:		
Capital Adjustment Account	565	530
Pension Reserve	(747)	(1,060)
Revaluation reserve	543	646
Earmarked reserves	169	144
County Fund	21	54
Total financed	551	314

Fixed assets are items that we own and will benefit from over several years, for example land, buildings and vehicles.

The pension liability shows the current value of pensions that the County Council will be required to provide for existing and former employees.

Capital adjustment account reflects the difference between the cost of fixed assets consumed and the financing of the fixed assets.

The pension reserve is used to offset the pension liability.

Revaluation reserves reflects the net gains which are outstanding as a result of asset revaluations and consumption.

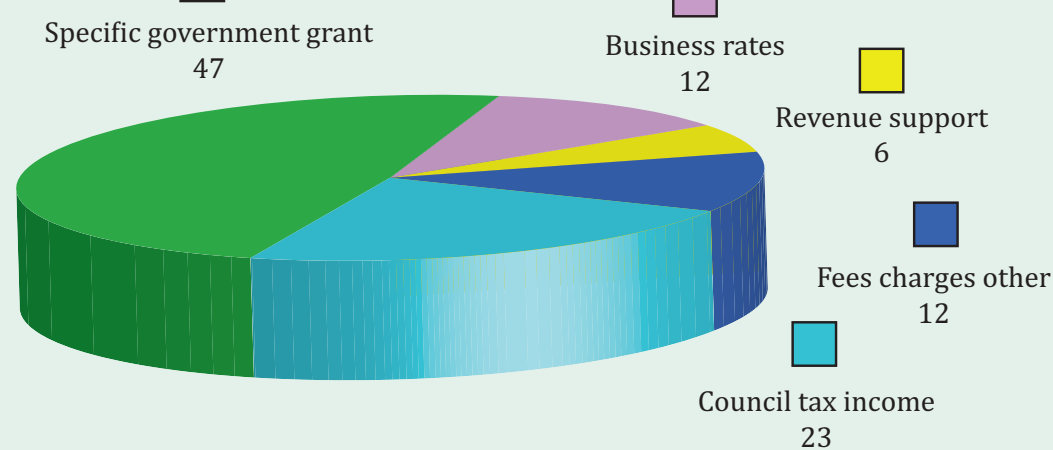
Earmarked reserves are funds set aside for specific purposes in the future. They include unspent school balances (controlled by individual schools, rather than the council).

The County Fund is money set aside to cover unexpected future demands or spending pressures. This helps us to make sure we are always in a secure financial position.

Where the money comes from

In 2009/10 our total income was £1,876m, made up of specific Government grants of £887m, Business rates of £234m, Council Tax of £423m, fees and charges of £221m and Revenue Support Grant plus Area Based Grant of £111m.

Specific grants must be spent on particular services, such as running Lancashire schools.



Capital spending

The county council's spending in 2009/10 was £160m. This reflects investment in assets which give a long-term benefit to the residents of Lancashire such as schools, roads, libraries and social care facilities for adults and children.

- libraries regeneration programme.

The money for this spending comes from several sources, including government grants, borrowing and income from selling other assets.

Projects included:

- continued upgrading of school buildings;
- development of children's centres;
- road and bridge maintenance;
- continued development of waste management and recycling;
- provision of respite care facilities; and

Sources of funding for capital spending

Borrowing	£65m	41%
Government grants	£95m	59%
Total	£160m	100%



Overview of our performance

MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER AND STRONGER

Indicator	2008/09	2009/10	Commentary
"No Cold Calling" Zones to discourage unsolicited doorstep callers.	9	20	Twenty additional "No Cold Calling" Zones established in a partnership with our Trading Standards team, the police and other partners. These clearly marked areas tell rogue traders and doorstep callers that they aren't welcome.
Number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic accidents.	803	702	Lancashire has continued to achieve a reduction in KSI casualties, including those involving children from 200 (1994-1998) to 83. Strategies are being developed which cover road safety education, training, enforcement and engineering scheme to improve performance further.

IMPROVING ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Indicator	2008/09	2009/10	Commentary
% of principal road network where structural maintenance should be considered	3%	3%	The improvement in road network maintenance has been maintained. Severe winter weather added to the deterioration of the road network.
% of dangerous defects to roads and pavements, reported by members of the public, that are repaired within 24 hours	95²⁵%	92⁵⁴%	This also made it more difficult to carry out repairs.

GROWING UP PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

Indicator	2008	2009	Commentary
15 year-olds in council maintained schools achieving five or more GCSEs grades A*-C (including English and maths).	50⁸% (2008)	53⁵% (2009)	Pupils in Lancashire's schools generally performed above the national average in exams. The proportion of young people achieving five or more GCSEs (including English and maths) continued to improve and is comfortably above the national average.
Pupils persistently absent from school	3⁵²%	3⁴%	The proportion of pupils persistently absent from school (i.e. those who miss 20% or more of the school year) also improved.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN NEED

Indicator	2008/09	2009/10	Commentary
Waiting times for assessments: % of people who had their assessment completed within four weeks of initial contact.	85¹%	86⁷%	When vulnerable people need help and contact social services, it is crucial that assessments are completed quickly and efficiently.
Care leavers in education, employment or training.	52%	58⁶%	Children leaving care are at high risk of becoming unemployed. We have sought to increase the opportunities available to these young people.

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

Indicator	2008/09	2009/10	Commentary
Household waste sent for composting and recycling	43⁸²%	45%	Household waste has seen another year of increased performance. Food waste trials were introduced allowing a valuable resource to be taken out of the residual waste stream, turning the resource into compost and new initiatives introduced to help raise public awareness and assist the council in diverting tonnes from landfill.
Use of libraries	51³%	48⁷%	A telephone survey of 3,000 people indicates that 48.7% of Lancashire people use their libraries against a North West average of 47.4%.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Indicator	2008/09	2009/10	Commentary
% of retailers who refuse to sell alcohol to underage young people - measured by test purchase.	84%	78%	Since 2006, an intensive three year programme of enforcement activity was undertaken, resulting in a very high compliance level. Compliance levels are still slightly above the national average.
Childhood obesity (reception-aged children)	9⁵%	9%	Working with schools and other partners, we have reduced childhood obesity. The proportion of children in reception class who were obese fell for the second year running and was better than the national average.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Indicator	2008/09	2009/10	Commentary
New jobs we've helped to create or safeguard.	470	853	Highlights include: • Rosebud, the council's award-winning business investment scheme, created 132 jobs and safeguarded 64 within Lancashire. • 'Business Start Up' projects aimed at providing business guidance to under-represented groups, created 382 jobs. • The Micro Finance scheme providing loans to small sustainable businesses created 62 jobs and safeguarded nine.
Provide council apprenticeships and pre-employment	184	190	As an employer, the council has significantly extended its award-winning Apprenticeship, Future Horizons pre-apprenticeship and WorkStart programmes - all of which are receiving national recognition.

A complete
Statement of
Accounts
2009/10 is
available on the
county council
website:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/your_money



Girl guides' centenary

A MAJOR exhibition is being held to celebrate the centenary of Girl Guiding UK. Vision headed to Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham, to find out more about their new exhibition.

THE Guiding Light exhibition is currently on at Gawthorpe Hall in Padiham, near Burnley.

At the centre of the exhibition will be a celebration of the life and work of Miss Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, who at the age of 30, was appointed North East Lancashire's first County Commissioner for the Girl Guides' Association in 1916.

Rachel was the last member of her family to live at Gawthorpe Hall. She is widely known for her textile collection that is displayed there. She had been interested in the Scout movement, but felt that there was not enough being done for girls.

From her appointment as County Commissioner soon after the Girl Guides' Association was set up in 1910, she took the movement to heart; starting new Girl Guides' companies, finding and training leaders, allowing rallies

and camps to be hosted at the hall and travelling throughout the county to promote the benefits of the organisation.

Her approach, energy and enthusiasm inspired those around her. She is considered one of the pioneers of the movement in Lancashire by Girl Guiding UK today.

Rachel is also well-known in guiding history for her work as the first Heraldry Adviser. She came up with the idea that there should be heraldic-style Standards to represent the guides. As well as advising on design and layout, she also worked on many of them herself. One of the most famous is the North East Lancashire Standard, which includes the Victorian motto from above the front door of Gawthorpe Hall. The Standard will be on display in the exhibition.

Andrea Cottam, East Lancashire's current



COMMISSIONERS' INSPECTION | (from left) Mrs Birley, Miss Kay-Shuttleworth and Miss Anderson.

County Commissioner said: "Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth was a true pioneer of guiding in Lancashire East, then known as The County of North East Lancashire. As our first County

Commissioner she held office for 31 years, through two world wars and in difficult times. Her vision, determination, inspiration and encouragement laid the foundations of what we have today.

Putting the customer first

THE county council has made a new commitment to provide even better services for the people of Lancashire.

Earlier this summer, the council launched its 'Putting the Customer First' campaign and the Customer Charter, to improve services and inform residents of the standards they can expect from the council.

As part of this campaign, the county council is making it even easier for people to contact them, answering more questions first time, and ensuring services are easily accessible

for people with disabilities.

County Councillor David Smith, lead member for customer access, said:

"We're committed to providing the highest standards of service for Lancashire residents. By continuing to improve staff training, installing more TellyTalk facilities in libraries and community venues and basing more county council staff in district council contact points, we're bringing services much closer to the



community. We also want to know what people think and want you to contact us if you have any feedback on our services."

People can contact the county council by visiting www.lancashire.gov.uk, by email: enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk, by calling 0845 053 0000,

by writing to us at Lancashire County Council, County Hall, PO Box 78, Fishergate, Preston, Lancashire PR1 8XJ; or by visiting one of our local offices or access points.



GUIDES | Camping in the grounds of Gawthorpe Hall.

wecanhelp

Q: Where can I find information about local bus services?

A: There's a huge amount of information available to help you plan your journey quickly and easily. As well as traditional ways such as paper timetables, you can also access information via the internet, over the telephone, and even by text message to your mobile.

Lancashire County Council's bus services website is a great way to find out about local bus services. It's a 'one stop shop' for travel and transport information countywide. If you can't find what you're looking for, there are

also links to other sites. Visit www.lancashire.gov.uk, click on B in the A-Z, and then Bus Services.

You can receive personal journey planning by phoning our Lancashire-based Traveline call centre on 0871 200 2233. Traveline is a partnership between Lancashire County

on local bus services.

To plan your own journey online, visit www.traveline.info and use the online journey planner for North West England.

One of our latest developments is providing timetable information via your mobile. If you

Plan your journey quickly and easily

Council, Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire's bus operators. The call centre is open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm, and is part of a national network of call centres providing up-to-date timetable information

have mobile internet on your phone, you can view the next bus times from your stop by visiting www.nextbuses.mobi and follow the instructions. This initiative is part of a national service provided through Traveline.



Andrew has the answer

Public transport expert

Helping you to find out about public transport

Museum

■ Greg Bowen

A MOBILE museum has been travelling around the county encouraging people to tell stories about life in their community.

The Museum of Lancashire is currently closed until 2011, while its galleries undergo extensive family-friendly renovations.

So this summer, the Mobile Museum has been out and about across Lancashire.

Visitors have been getting 'hands on' with his-

toric objects, such as gas masks, Victorian toys and household items and trying on costumes to find out about life in the past.

Over 1,000 people have visited the Mobile Museum since June 2010.

You may have seen it at the Preston Mela, River-sway Festival, Rossendale Mela, children's centres and local schools.

If you're planning a community event or local fun day, you could invite the Mobile Museum.

As well as the Mobile Museum, the Museum of Lancashire is also bring-

85 Libraries and mobile libraries across Lancashire

“ I think the scouts and guides play a vital role in helping young people to become better citizens.
County Councillor Chris Holtom



exhibition

"She always believed that there was not enough youth work being done for girls and was full of admiration for Sir Robert Baden-Powell when he devised the Girl Guide Movement. Miss Rachel became County Commissioner in 1916. She always contemptuously discarded suggestions that Girlguiding was unsuitable for girls, because it may make them too independent or tomboyish. She was dedicated to the idea of equality between the sexes.

"Today we continue to provide a unique 'girl only' space, that allows girls to be comfortable just being themselves.

"We continue to promote diversity and equality, give girls and young women a voice, but more importantly we are still an organisation that remains modern and relevant to the girls of our time."

The exhibition will run until 31 October. On display will be many items not usually seen; such as some of Miss Kay-Shuttle-

worth's hand-drawn designs for banners, county badges, 1923 girl guide sampler, an original guide uniform, photographs and other memorabilia associated with Gawthorpe Hall and the girl guide movement.

These exhibits will tell the story of how the movement developed in Lancashire and show how the first County Commissioner's influence continues today.

The exhibition is open until 31 October from 1pm to 5pm, Tuesday to Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission charges apply.

For more information, contact Gawthorpe hall either by telephone 01282 771 004 or by email to gawthorpehall@lancashire.gov.uk.

To find out more about Girlguiding UK's Centenary celebrations, please visit their website at www.girlguiding100years.org.uk



goes out and about

ing new community-based events to a neighbourhood near you this autumn.

Look out for Museum to You - a series of creative workshops and fun days.

The Museum to You events are kicking off in October 2010 with a series of taster sessions giving people of all ages the chance to learn about local history, while sharing their heritage.

You can also say what you would like to see in the newly renovated museum and make objects

that could go on display in the new Lancashire People gallery.

For Museum to You dates and locations visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums.

For information about activities or to share your story, then please contact Kim Klug, community outreach officer, on 01772 790 832 or email kim.klug@lancashire.gov.uk

HERITAGE Visitors to the Mobile Museum look back to items from yesteryear.



what's on

MUSEUM EVENTS

Worse Things Happen at Sea

Until 31 October 2010

Venue: Fleetwood Museum

Morecambe Bay is an area of outstanding beauty filled with wildlife in and around the sea. But it is also a treacherous place with stormy unpredictable seas, shifting sands and tidal areas. Worse Things Happen at Sea tells the story of this beautiful yet dangerous area.

Celebration: Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail

Until 10 October 2010

Venue: Clitheroe Castle Museum

For more than 15 years artists have been creating artworks along the Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail. The last pieces are now in place and Celebration marks the completion of this grand project. The trail travels through Brungerley Park and Cross Hill Quarry Nature Reserve, along part of the Ribble Way.

Sailors, Surgeons & Settlers

2-31 October 2010

Venue: Lancaster Maritime Museum

400 Years of Black & Asian History in Lancashire
Who are we and where

do we come from? Family history programmes are increasingly popular and are leading many people to investigate their lives and backgrounds. Showing as part of Black History Month 2010 this fascinating exhibition, put together by the Lancashire Record Office, looks across centuries to explore Lancashire's heritage and ancestry.

John Mercer: Lancashire's Curious Chemist

Until 22 November 2010

Venue: Queen Street Mill, Burnley

John Mercer of Great Harwood is one of Lancashire's unsung heroes.

A Victorian man of science, his interests in chemistry and photography, printing and dyeing raised the game for the Lancashire textile industry.

His name is captured in the very production method he invented 'mercerized cotton' and in many of the public buildings of the area - Mercer Hall and Mercer Park to name but two.

Find out more about this amazing man in this family friendly mini-exhibition. This is a partnership project and is part of the Royal Society's 350th Anniversary 'Local Heroes' celebrations.

Inspired: Ribble Valley Open 2010

23 October 2010 - 9 Janu-

ary 2011.

Venue: Clitheroe Castle Museum

Inspired showcases the work of artists living and working in the Ribble Valley, selected from their submissions to the Ribble Valley Open.

Many of the works are for sale and would make wonderful gifts for yourself or for others.

Paintings by Don McKinlay

Date: 09 December 2010

- 9 January 2011

Venue: Rossendale Museum

In his exhibition, Don McKinlay intends to recreate the format of previous one man shows he presented at the Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool.

The work will consist of a range of pieces characteristic of his output, but rarely shown. Drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and constructions are presented together demonstrating his enthusiasm for the diverse, distinctive qualities of different media.

Political events around the world and the reporting of them in the popular press have provided McKinlay with material for a number of years; many of them relate to the human condition and everyday situations.

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS

Discover Clougha Pike

Sunday 3 October

10am to 3.30pm

Birk Bank car park, Rigg Lane, Quernmore, Lancaster, LA2 9EL.

Mines, quarries, sculpture and moorland on one of Lancashire's finest viewpoints.

A bookable event.

The Woodland Experience

Sunday 10 October

11 am to 4pm

Wycoller Country Park, near Colne, BB8 8SY.

Learn about woodland crafts at the Aisled Barn.

Tree Dressing

Wednesday 22 December

11am to 3pm

Beacon Fell Country Park, near Longridge, PR3 2ES

Create your own decorations and then join in with dressing the trees. Trammer users need to book places.



To book places and for more information, please contact the Countryside Service on **01772 534 709**.

Alternatively visit:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside

useful numbers

Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park 01995 640557

Wycoller Country Park 01282 870253

Museums service main office

01772 534061

Museum of Lancashire 01772 534075

Lancaster Maritime Museum 01524 382264

Judges' Lodgings 01524 32808

Lancaster City Museum 01524 64637

Helmshore Textile Museum 01706 226459

Find out more information about events by visiting:

www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk or

www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside



Preparing for cold and dark winter nights

■ Mike Warren

LAST year's harsh winter, unprecedented in recent times, hit parts of Lancashire as hard as anywhere in Britain.

The most difficult period began on 18 December with a snowfall which coated the county for the next four weeks.

Duncan Reeve is the highways manager responsible for the east of the county. He worked for 16 straight days to direct the crews which spent 8,000 working hours gritting roads in the east, most of them clocked up during 32 days of continuous action in December and January.

The task of gritting the 1,504 miles of Lancashire's main routes - those first to be treated when a freeze is forecast - was not made any easier when the unrelenting weather led to national salt supplies running low and being rationed by the government.

It was a mammoth task, but Lancashire's gritting crews succeeded in keeping the county moving. And, as every year, work to improve the winter service - for which £4m is budgeted this year - began as soon as spring arrived.

"One thing we've done this summer is to increase our salt stocks by 50% to make sure we can keep gritting for longer if we're hit with sustained bad weather again," said Duncan.

"We've also been working with the police, transport operators and district and parish councils to identify where problems occurred, and to look at what we can do better."

Changes for this winter include bus station aprons being added to the priority list. District councils have also agreed to provide extra manpower to treat some areas, such as busy pavements, if icy conditions persist. And another gritter has been added to the fleet in east Lancashire - bringing the total for the region to 23.

"But however well-prepared we are," added Duncan, "people need to know there are limits to what can be achieved in the worst weather."

"One of the most common misconceptions is that once the gritter has put salt on the road, all the

ice and snow will melt."

In fact, movement of salt around the road by traffic is essential for salt to take effect and certain circumstances create an impossible situation. Rain falling on a frozen road, for example, will simply wash away the salt before freezing.

And a deep fresh snowfall will need ploughing before spreading salt will have any effect at all - if the road is covered in fresh snow, the level of grip will be low.

Duncan said: "We do our very best, but there are things everyone can do to

“There are limits to what can be achieved in the worst weather”

help.

"The first step is simply to be aware that your routine could be affected when winter weather is forecast. Ask yourself if your journey is essential, and if it is, make allowance for a possible delay."

Grit bins - there are 1,713 stationed strategically around the county - are another county council service to help people cope with winter weather.

Keeping a watch on your local grit bins this year could also help everyone in your neighbourhood be prepared for a cold snap.

Duncan added: "Last year all the bins were full by mid-October, and the first part of the winter was very mild. But when the snow arrived in December we found that many of them had already been emptied."

"The grit is there to make the roads and pavements safer for everyone - if you see it being taken away or used inappropriately, please let us know."

Despite everyone's best efforts, there is no guarantee that roads will always be completely free of ice and snow, so please drive carefully and plan ahead for your journeys this winter. Stay tuned to local radio, keep an eye on the press, and check www.lancashire.gov.uk for gritting updates.

voice of vision



The county council is urgently seeking new foster carers.

Some of our dedicated foster carers gave their thoughts on what it means to them:

Ian says:

"It's only when you start putting the theory into practice, once children are placed with you, that you start to realise what a challenging, emotional and fulfilling role you have taken on."

"It has been hard work but my word, the sense of achievement we feel and the pride we have in the lads we foster cannot be measured."

To us, fostering has been the most wonderful experience and we wouldn't swap places for anything."

Marcia says:

"If you like children, and you like to feel you're doing something that's really useful, then I'd really recommend fostering. It isn't something you rush into, but once you've begun, you'll be really glad you did, and there is plenty of help if you need it."

Sylvia says:

"You have to know what you're going into, but it is very rewarding. Sometimes children or babies are very distressed when they arrive and it's great to see the difference in them."

Liz (a former fostered child) says:

"I have many happy memories of being in foster care. I have been on holidays and always had a good time, and I still go on holiday with my ex-foster mum and my own children."

"I have had loads of happy times. Soon after moving in I felt part of the family and wanted to call her 'mum' because it felt so natural."

If you're interested in finding out whether you might be the person to help a child, call our friendly fostering recruitment team on 0800 195 1183.

A DVD has also been produced for people wanting to find out more about foster care - see page 11 for more details.



Lancashire school pupils power to battery success

■ Jim Smith

GREEN-minded pupils from 12 Lancashire schools have scooped a laptop computer as a reward for their recycling efforts.

Pupils had to collect old batteries as part of the scheme run by Lancashire County Council and Valpak Limited, which provided prizes for the top performing primary schools.

County Councillor Mike France (pictured far left), lead member for communities and partnerships; and Valpak recycling operations manager Damian Perkins (pictured second left); presented a laptop to each winning school.

A total of 360 primary schools across Lancashire took part in the scheme, diverting more than 19 tonnes of used batteries from landfill - the equivalent of about

630,000 batteries.

School rankings were calculated by dividing the total tonnage of batteries collected by the number of pupils in the school - ensuring that pupils' success, rather than the size of the school, was rewarded.

Following the enthusiasm of the pupils and the success of this initiative, the Tune in to Battery Recycling scheme will continue for a further year.



WINNERS | Pupils from St Joseph's Catholic School in Barnoldswick

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DVD to encourage new foster carers

■ Sue Becker

ANYONE who has ever wondered what it's really like to be a foster carer can now find out from the people in the know, at the click of a mouse.

The insight and wisdom of a number of the county's foster carers has been captured by Lancashire County Council's fostering service in a half-hour DVD, which is given to fostering applicants and can also be viewed on the council's website.

Fostering recruitment manager Gill Green, who introduces the film, said: "We know a lot of people think about fostering for a while, before they apply, and often the questions that niggle at them are: what is it really like? Are foster carers ordinary people like us? Now they



CARERS | Could you help a child?

can see for themselves."

The DVD features foster carers talking in simple and moving terms about their experiences of caring for children.

They describe helping withdrawn children to come out of their shell, or over-boisterous children to calm down, and giving the extra help that's needed.

The county council is

urgently seeking new foster carers. If you're interested in finding out whether you might be the person to help a child, call our friendly fostering recruitment team on 0800 195 1183.

Alternatively visit our website, where you can also view our new DVD from the home page: www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering

NEW SCHOOLS

Rosy future for pupils

THE Rose School in Burnley was one of four brand-new schools in the town which threw their doors open to pupils this term.

The school offers specialist teaching for children with behavioural, emotional or social difficulties.

Designed around the pupils' needs, the school features a ground source heat pump, wooden cladding, a vegetable gar-

den and attractive outdoor areas.

Hameldon Community College, Blessed Trinity RC College, and Unity College also welcomed their first students.

Built under the now-cancelled Building Schools for the Future programme, the four schools cost £88m and replace outdated buildings with state-of-the-art learning environments.



NEW LOOK | The exterior of the Rose School

SCHOOL RESULTS

Another great year for county's GCSE students

■ Sue Becker

LANCASHIRE'S school students celebrated yet another bumper year for GCSE results this summer, with grades predicted to be about 5% higher than last year.

But what lies behind the apparently unstoppable rise and rise of Lancashire's pupils, who consistently nudge ahead

of both regional and national averages?

Paul Dyson-Knight, the county council's senior adviser for secondary schools, puts the improvement down to a number of factors.

He said: "First and foremost, it's the sheer hard slog of teachers and pupils. We have some fantastic teachers who bring out the best in them - not

to mention the parents who support them all the way.

"It's also important to acknowledge the leadership of headteachers and governors since they set the agenda for improvement, make sure everyone understands it, and direct school resources to achieve it.

"Second, the schools are ambitious for their

students and set targets which are always challenging, leading to the raising of standards over time.

"Achievement has been improved by schools widening the range of subject choices to reflect pupils' interests, skills and abilities, the development of innovative approaches to teaching and learning which motivate

students to learn, and detailed tracking systems that pinpoint when a student needs extra support. "The county's school advisers also work with schools and local Children's Trusts to close the gaps that exist nationally for boys, pupils facing social or economic disadvantage and for some pupils from minority ethnic groups."

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Joining up services

THE final piece in the jigsaw at the new Building Schools for the Future development in Burnley will be a new integrated health centre, The Fold.

Hameldon Community College, Cherry Fold Primary School and The Rose School all operate from a site off Coal Clough Lane in the town.

The Fold project has been masterminded by Lancashire County Council and NHS East Lancashire, the PCT, who put in an ambitious bid to the government's £200m 'co-location fund' to bring health, education and

children's services together on one site.

The new centre will be built next to Cherry Fold Primary with services for local people including support for mental and sexual health, stopping smoking, help with drug and alcohol problems, parenting and healthy eating.

Lucy Murgatroyd (4), from Cherry Fold Primary, won a competition to name the clinic.

These services, added to the learning, ICT and sports facilities available at the schools, will transform local provision.

SEASON'S SMOOTH START



BARNOLDSWICK Town Football Club received £250 to sharpen the blades on their sit-on lawnmower. The money came from County Councillor Keith Bailey's grant fund. He is pictured (left) with committee member Stephen Chew.

justamminute

Happy birthday Traveline!

PUBLIC transport information service Traveline is celebrating its tenth birthday.

Traveline provides timetable information for Lancashire and has handled more than 1.5 million calls in the past ten years.

For journey planning, call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (8am to 8pm, seven days a week), or plan your own journey online by visiting www.traveline.info



TRAVELINE | Bus advice

Alarm bells ringing

LANCASHIRE Trading Standards and police are warning consumers to be on their guard when alarm companies offer deals which seem too good to be true.

There has been an increase in complaints about firms offering alarm systems for nominal amounts, but tied into an expensive maintenance agreements.

Anyone who thinks they may have been misled and has signed up for a contract that you think is unfair, is urged to contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Quiz for councillors

A GROUP of young people will be asking questions on important issues at their local Cabinet Question Time during Local Democracy Week.

Local Democracy Week runs from 11-17 October and the county council is organising activities that will focus on getting young people more involved with, and more aware of, their local council.



INTEREST | Young people posing questions

Your views on Vision

WE are asking Vision readers to send in their views on our newspaper. Vision covers news and information about county council-related services.

If you have any ideas about how we can improve it, contact 0845 053 0000 or send us an email: corporate.communications@lancashire.gov.uk

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Cheaper 16-18 bus travel

CHEAPER off peak bus travel for 16-18 year-olds is now possible in Chorley, Fylde and Preston.

The Pocketrider scheme, supported by Lancashire County Council and Stagecoach North West, was introduced thanks to the campaigning work of young people from Fylde Youth Transport Action Group and Lancashire Youth Council's Transport Campaign Group.

All 16-18 year-olds, who would normally pay adult fare, can now use a

Pocketrider ID card to pay for child single and day return fares on all Stagecoach services in Lancashire (apart from Stagecoach in Lancaster) after 9:30am and all day at the weekends.

Application forms for the Pocketrider card can be downloaded from the Stagecoach website. Cards can be obtained from Stagecoach Travel Shop on Preston Bus Station, Chorley Bus Station or the Tanzo Travel Shop on Talbot Road, Blackpool.

There is a £10 administration fee for the card.

Blooming well

YOUNG people from South Ribble won a Bronze Medal for the garden they created at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Show at Tatton Park.

The five young people from South Ribble, aged 16 to 18, none of whom is currently in education, employment or training, worked intensively with

professional garden designers to build the prize-winning garden.

This joint project between Lancashire County Council's Young People's Service, and Key, a youth homelessness charity, enabled the young people involved to develop a range of skills.

If you don't know who to ask...ask us!

Raising children can be stressful and it can be difficult to know where to go for information. That's where the Family Information Service (FIS) can help with advice on...

Childcare and things to do:

- Nurseries
- Childminders
- Holiday playschemes
- Family leisure activities
- Preschools/playgroups
- Out of school clubs
- Sport and leisure clubs
- Parent and toddler groups

The Family Information Service can help you find out where to go for information about:

- Parenting
- Health
- Special & additional needs
- Keeping your children safe
- Tax credits and other money matters
- Housing
- Legal issues
- Schools and colleges

Working with children, young people and their families:

- Career options
- Training
- Becoming a childminder or opening a day care setting
- Choosing childcare – things to look for and questions to ask
- Support for children with additional needs and/or special needs
- What to do if you are concerned about childcare
- Employment rights for working parents
- Advertising job vacancies
- Funding

0800 195 0137
lancashire.gov.uk/childcare