



MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 8 January 2019
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Ben Aitken (Chairman) Councillor Viv Willder (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Maxine Chew, Gail Goodman JP, John Kirkham, Roger Lloyd, Graeme Neale, Louis Rigby.
Other Members in Attendance:	Councillor Mark Bamforth (via video link).
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Darren Bell, Kirstine Riding, Phil Dent, Simon Stott and Tara Walsh.
Other Attendees:	Andrew Turpin, Blackpool Council, Steven Wong, United Utilities. One member of the public was also in attendance.

Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. There were no declarations on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 6 November 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitutions on this occasion.

Variation of Business

At this juncture, the Chairman varied the order of the business on the agenda as set out below.

11. St Annes Bathing Waters 2018

Mr. Steven Wong, Representative from United Utilities, provided the committee with an overview, by way of a presentation, on the latest information relating to: ongoing work regarding water quality, improvement works, and the scale and scope of United Utilities operation in the Fylde area.

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Following his presentation, Mr. Wong invited members of the committee to visit the Freckleton Water Treatment Plant for a tour of the site. The Chairman thanked Mr. Wong for his generous offer and asked that officers make arrangements for this to take place.

A further presentation was provided by Darren Bell, Head of Technical Services, regarding the quality of the St Annes Bathing Water. A number of questions were asked by the committee and answered by the officers and representatives present.

The Chairman requested that there be a report on bathing water quality presented annually to the Environment Health and Housing Committee and that this detail the bathing water quality results undertaken by the Environment Agency. It was suggested that the report should also include as much information as possible on the overall health of the main dyke river and estuary.

Decision Items

4. The Introduction of Fixed Penalty for Littering from Vehicles

Phil Dent, Principle Environmental Health Officer, presented the report. In doing so, he made reference to new legislation that had recently been introduced which granted new powers to local authorities to issue civil penalty notices to the keeper of a vehicle from which there has been a littering offence. The report detailed the recent changes to the legislation and advised on the level of charge for the Fixed Penalty Notices.

Mr. Dent informed members that the penalty notice would be issued to and payable by the keeper of the vehicle regardless of whether the litter was thrown by them or if they were present in the vehicle at the time.

Various questions were raised by members in relation to this matter and particular reference was made to enforcement and surveillance arrangements. These were addressed in turn by Mr Dent.

Following a full discussion, it was AGREED to:

1. Note the new powers under the Littering from Vehicles outside London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations and that the amount of the fixed penalty under the regulations is by default the same amount as for leaving litter under section 88(6A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
2. Make provision for the purposes of regulation 6(6) for treating the penalty as having been paid in full if £50 has been paid within 14 days of issue.
3. Delegate to the Director of Resources the power under regulation 10 to authorise persons to perform the functions conferred by regulation 4 (penalty notices).

5. Council Tax Premium 2019/20

The Chairman invited Andrew Turpin, Blackpool Council Officer, to present the report.

Mr. Turpin explained that in November 2018, Government had introduced new legislation which granted local authorities the discretion to charge increased Council Tax Premium to the owners of properties left empty for over two years. These powers extended the 50% premium that had been introduced in April 2014.

Members were informed that under the new powers, local authorities had the discretion to increase the premium to 100% and this would mean owners of properties empty for more than two years would be charge 200% of the normal Council Tax.

In presenting his report, Mr Turpin provided an overview of the various national exemptions relevant under the current legislation.

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In reaching its decision, the committee considered the details set out in the report before it and RESOLVED to recommend that Council approve the introduction of a new Council Tax Premium level of 100% payable in respect of properties that have remained empty for more than two years, and that this be effective from 1st April 2019.

6. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2019/20

The proposed schedule of fees and charges for those services within the remit of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee were put before members for consideration.

As some errors had been identified in the originally printed report, members were referred to the corrected report which had been circulated, and re-published on the website, prior to the meeting.

The committee considered the proposed schedule, noting that some fees were set at a prescribed level, and some services were statutorily required.

Following a full discussion, it was RESOLVED to:

1. Recommend to Council the proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2019/20; and
2. Note that the final fees and charges for 2019/20 would be approved by the Budget Council in March 2019.

Information Items

The following information items were received by the committee.

7. Budget Setting - Revenue Budget 2019/20 - First Draft

The Committee were advised that the first draft of the Revenue Budget for 2019/20 was now available for members to view. Committee members were encouraged to contact the Chief Financial Officer, Senior Officers or budget holders with any specific questions.

8. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19 – Position as at 30th November 2018

The Committee were provided with an up to date position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30th November 2018.

9. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2018/19 – Position as at 30th November 2018

The Committee were provided with an up to date position of the Capital Programme as at 30th November 2018, with particular regard to those projects within the remit of the committee.

Members requested that clarification be sought and provided in regards to the contributions figures for the Lytham Regeneration Scheme as detailed on page 43 of the report.

10. Mid-Year Performance 2018/19

Details of the key performance outcomes for April 2018 to September 2018 were provided to the Committee.

12. Care and Repair Annual Report (2017-18)

The Committee received the annual report on the operation of the Fylde and Wyre Care and Repair service covering the period between 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. A copy of the Annual Report was attached to the agenda circulated.

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Members were informed that 2019/2020 would be the final year of the agreement, during which an evaluation of the project will be undertaken.

Various questions were asked on the matter including: who can access the service, the figures for unsuccessful claims and value for money.

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