



# MINUTES

## Environment, Health and Housing Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 3 September 2019
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Ben Aitken (Chairman) Councillor Viv Willder (Vice Chairman)  Councillors Frank Andrews, Paula Brearley, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Karen Henshaw JP, Angela Jacques, Roger Lloyd, Michelle Morris, Bobby Rigby.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Paul Walker, Kathy Winstanley, Kirstine Riding, Jerry Friel, Coral Afzal and Katharine McDonnell
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	David Rigby, Local Sector Manager North West Ambulance Service and one member of the public

### 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. No interests were declared on this occasion.

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 11 June 2019 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

#### 3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Angela Jacques substituted for Councillor Gavin Harrison.

Councillor Sue Fazackerley MBE substituted for Councillor Will Harris.

### Decision Items

#### 4. Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024

Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager presented a report regarding the Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024. She explained there was a legal requirement for local authorities to have a five year homelessness and rough sleeping strategy that set out information about the scale and causes of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough; how the local authority would prevent and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping; and the national and local context.

The Fylde Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 had three main priorities focussed on improving homelessness services within Fylde based on the Making Every Contact Count – Gold Standard 10 'local challenges' set out by the

National Practitioner Support Services (NPSS). The introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 and changes to service delivery in 2018/19 had delayed the publication of the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024 for consultation.

The report presented a draft for consultation of Fylde Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024. The new Strategy continued the work of the service to meet the NPSS 10 local challenges. The Strategy covered an overview of homelessness legislation since The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 to current day and the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2018. Additionally it also provided a picture of homelessness in the borough, and information on the make-up and needs of clients accessing the service; achievements under the 2013-18 Strategy; and funding programmes the service had accessed to develop, in order to manage service changes under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018.

The new Strategy had three strategic priorities that were focussed on continuing to develop a service focussed on prevention and relief of homelessness, and continued working in partnership with agencies in Fylde to achieve the vision and values for homelessness services. These values would ensure all clients facing homelessness had access to expertise needed to enable them to engage with a range of support service to resolve their housing situation and clients were empowered with the confidence to access and maintain tenancies with the skills required to ensure their home was affordable, settled and if they were facing difficulties who to approach for help.

In response to questions committee members were directed to use StreetLink, if they or their constituents had concerns over someone in their ward who may be living rough.

Ms Riding explained that Fylde did see a number of recurring presentations, this usually indicated that people who had difficult or chaotic lifestyles needed a higher level of support to maintain their tenancies.

In response to a question regarding the substantial increase of homelessness figures for Fylde, Ms Riding explained that the increase to the figures was in relation to the recording of the new prevention and relief duties.

With no further questions, it was RESOLVED to;

1. Note the contents of the report;
2. Approve the attached draft for consultation with partner organisation, with a final report to come back to the Committee for final approval in November 2019.

##### 5. The Introduction of Fixed Penalty Notice for Household Waste Duty of Care

Kathy Winstanley, Head of Health and Environment, informed the committee of the new fixed penalty notice (FPN) powers relating to the household waste duty of care that had come into force under The Environmental Protection (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 (the Regulations), which amended section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

She advised that Section 34 of the 1990 Act required householders to take reasonable steps to ensure that household waste was transferred to a licensed carrier or deposited at a licensed waste handling site, such as a household waste tip. Where this was found not to have occurred the only course of prosecution was through the courts. This was both costly and time consuming.

The 2018 regulations amended Section 34, to authorise enforcement officers to issue FPNs to persons whom the officer had reason to believe had committed a breach of household waste duty of care. She advised it was more reasonable and proportionate for the council and the householder to take this course of action.

The report sought the committee's approval to use the legal maximum FPN charge level of £400 for all breaches of household waste duty of care and to give a discount of £240 (i.e. discounted fine payment level of £160) for early payment provided payment was made within 10 days of the date the FPN was issued.

Any income arising from the FPNs would be for functions relating to waste, enforcement and cleansing, in accordance with the legislation, not as an additional income stream for the council.

In response to questions Mrs Winstanley advised that a publicity campaign would be undertaken to ensure that householders were aware of the changes and to publicise the Bulky Waste service. She advised this would be the subject of a report to the next meeting of the Operational Management Committee.

It was RESOLVED to;

1. Adopt the legal maximum FPN level of £400 for all of breaches of household waste duty of care offences and to give discount for early payment of £240 (i.e. discounted fine payment level of £160) provided payment is made within 10 days of the date the FPN was issued;
2. Delegate authority to the Head of Health and Environment to introduce the new fixed penalties for household waste duty of care offences;
3. Authorise the Council's enforcement officers to issue these FPNs in accordance with section 34ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and
4. To inform householders regarding the introduction of the FPNs and to raise awareness of the Bulky Waste service.

6. Appointment to Outside Bodies – Police Crime Commissioner's Panel

The report sought nominations to appoint a representative (and named substitute) to the Police Crime Commissioner's Panel.

In May 2019, Council asked that the programme committees made recommendations from within their respective memberships for those outside bodies relating to the brief for the committee.

At the meeting of the committee on 11 June, nominations to the various outside bodies (within the remit of the committee) were made for the forthcoming municipal year for consideration by Full Council. Councillors Aitken and Oades were nominated to the Panel with Councillor Willder and a member of the opposition to be nominated as named substitutes.

Following that committee meeting, information came from Blackburn Council, who administer the Crime Commissioner's Panel, that the May local elections had resulted in changes to the political balance of the Panel. As a result Fylde were required to only nominate one Conservative representative and one named Conservative substitute.

As a result the proposed nominations did not go forward to Council at its meeting on 15 July, but the matter was returned to committee to consider nominations.

It was RESOLVED

1. To propose Councillor Ben Aitken as the Conservative nominee (and Councillor Viv Willder as the Conservative substitute) to represent the Council on the Police Crime Commissioner's Panel; and
2. To recommend the nominations to Council.

Information Items

The following information items were received and noted by the committee.

7. Representation from North West Ambulance Service

David Rigby, Local Sector Manager North West Ambulance Service, provided the Committee with an overview of the service provision for Fylde. He spoke in detail of the triage process and allocation of ambulances, how areas of challenge were being addressed, and concluded by inviting the committee to visit to the control centre. Once a date has been agreed the committee will be advised and invited to attend.

8. Age UK Lancashire– Annual Report

As part of its Service Level Agreement, Age UK had provided an annual update summarising their performance over the previous year.

9. Addressing Loneliness, Social Isolation and Health Inequalities

The committee received an update regarding work to date undertaken across the across the borough to improve the general health and wellbeing of local residents, including tackling loneliness and social isolation.

10. Update My Home Choice Fylde Coast

The committee received an update on the operation of the MyHomeChoice Choice Based Lettings system in Fylde following the implementation of changes to improve how the system operated in January 2019.

11. HECA Update Report 2019

The committee received an update regarding the latest information in relation to energy conservation measures for residential properties. As required by the HECA reporting arrangements, the details submitted were signed off by the Director for Development Services.

Concerns were raised that information regarding energy conservation was not reaching residents and the Council did not appear to have a Fuel Poverty Strategy. Coral Afzal from the Housing Team explained work had been done to identify households in fuel poverty in Fylde. The results showed a sporadic spread across Fylde which informed a media campaign. There was minimum contact from households in fuel poverty as a result of this publicity. Kirstine Riding agreed to find out more information and contact the concerned member direct. She further advised that Care and Repair have a role in identifying households in fuel poverty and an evaluation of their work in Fylde over the last 5 years would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

12. Update on the Lancashire Syrian Resettlement Programme in Fylde 2019

The committee received an update on the Lancashire Syrian Resettlement Programme.

13. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2019/20 - Position as at 31st July 2019

The information report provided an update of the Council's General Fund (GF) Revenue Budget as at 31st July 2019 and specifically for those areas under the Committee's remit.

14. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2019/20 – Position as at 31st July 2019

This information report provided an update of the Council's approved Capital Programme as at 31st July 2019 with specific reference to those schemes under the Committee's remit.

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