



MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 5 January 2021
Venue:	Remote meeting via Zoom
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Jayne Nixon (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Mark Bamforth, Paula Brearley, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Karen Henshaw JP, Michelle Morris, Bobby Rigby.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Paul Walker, Ian Curtis, Kathy Winstanley, Kirstine Riding, Jerry Friel, Tom Birtwistle, Katharine McDonnell.

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 3 November 2020 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitution was reported under Council procedure rule 23(c):

Councillor Mark Bamforth for Councillor Roger Lloyd.

Decision Items

4. Update Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025

Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager, introduced a report which provided an update on the operation of the homelessness and housing advice service at Fylde, the progress towards meeting priorities in Fylde's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 and recommended proposals for re-allocated of funding detailed within the report from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSO) and Homeless Reduction Act; new burdens funding (HRA) to meet service priorities.

Miss Riding provided an overview of the legislative framework regarding the duties of local authorities in preventing and relieving homelessness. She also provided an overview of the numbers of households, under the Prevention Duty, Relief Duty and Main Duty, the Housing Services Team had accepted to the end of quarter 2

Ms Riding advised that the report recommended the FHSG and HRA funding for 2019/20 be re-allocated and funding for 2020/21 be allocated to continue the funding of the Rapid Rehousing Officer post from 2022 to 2026 in line with MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy to 2027; be used to fund the Customer Services Housing Specialist Role for 12 months from the 1 April 2021; with the remainder to be used to continue to support clients facing homelessness.

In conclusion Miss Riding advised of amendments to recommendations two to four inclusive, that the committee recommend approval of the fully funded budget increase to Finance and Democracy Committee.

In response to questions Miss Riding advised that the Fylde Coast Covid Homeless Response Cell was working in partnership to find the most appropriate way of ensuring that the homeless were vaccinated against COVID.

The Chairman, and members of the committee, thanked the team for their work.

Without further debate, it was therefore RESOLVED to;

1. Note the contents of the report that provides an update on the operation of the homelessness and housing advice service at Fylde and progress towards meeting Fylde's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025. The report also recommends proposals for re-allocated of funding to projects from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG) and Homeless Reduction Act; new burdens funding (HRA);

2. Recommended to Finance and Democracy Committee to approve fully funded revenue budget increases in the sums of £26,274 in 2022/23, £27,524 in 2023/24, £28,058 in 2024/25 and £28,604 in 2025/26 to continue the Rapid Rehousing Officer project to be met from a revision to the FHSG and HRA funding received in 2019/20, (approved by this Committee in February 2020 totalling £70,921) and in addition to this, funding received for 2020/21 of £69,421 under the FHSG and HRA. Totalling £140,343;

3. Recommended to Finance and Democracy Committee to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £13,201 in 2021/22 to continue the Customer Services Housing Specialist role within Customer Services for a further 12 months from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 to be met from the remaining FHSG and HRA funding for 2020/21; and

4. Recommended to Finance and Democracy Committee to approve a fully funded budget increase for 2021/22 for the housing services team such that the remainder of the funding in the sum of £16,682 from the FHSG and HRA funding may be used to support the work of the housing service to provide continued support for clients facing homelessness in 2021/22.

5. Review of Flood Risk/Surface Water Management in Fylde

Paul Walker, Director of Development Services reminded committee that at a previous meeting, it had been agreed for a member working group be established to review flood risk and surface water management. The first meeting of that group had taken place and the purpose of the report was for members to agree the proposed objectives, methodology and work plan of the working group.

Mr Walker provided an overview of the proposed workplan.

Following a brief debate, where the work of the working group was welcomed and supported by the committee, it was RESOLVED to agree to the terms of reference, methodology and work plan of the flood risk and surface water management working group, as detailed in the report.

6. Supporting Vulnerable People (COVID-19)

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Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, introduced a report providing an update on the distribution of the Supporting Vulnerable People grant, agreed at Council on 19 October 2020. She also provided an update on the work of Fylde Community Hub.

Mrs Manning advised that one of the guiding principles of the Emergency Assistance Grant Funding was to meet the immediate need of those struggling to afford food. As such the food banks in Fylde had been approached in the first instance to offer assistance. The food banks had confirmed their ability to meet current demand and accept additional referrals. Mrs Manning advised that if that situation changed in the future, financial aid would be granted to the food banks. Support had been provided to the food banks, in terms of providing delivery of food parcels to those in rural areas, who struggled to access the food banks.

In distributing the funding to support the local community, Mrs Manning advised that working within the established partnership between Fylde Council, Wyre Council and the Council for Voluntary Services, grants had been awarded through a series of funding rounds. Mrs Manning reported that £40,000 of funding had been provided to CVS to distribute to successful voluntary and community based organisations.

Mrs Manning provided an overview of the successful awards made thus far and advised that it was anticipated that the full allocation would be awarded by the end of the financial year.

It was advised that just under £10,000 of funding had been passported to the Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau to assist their clients suffering with fuel poverty and provide debt support.

An overview of the work to date of the Community Hub was also provided. It was advised that through direct contact and via letter over 3000 clinically extremely vulnerable residents had been contacted and supported through the pandemic. The Community Hub had built on existing partnerships to provide volunteer support to these residents. Mrs Manning advised that during the second national lockdown these residents had been contacted again, via letter, to advise them of the range of support on offer and available to them. As a third national lockdown had been announced, these residents would be contacted directly by the Government advising them, once again, to shield.

Following a brief debate, it was RESOLVED to

1. Note the report;
2. Record thanks to the Council for Voluntary Services and Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau for their support in ensuring that vulnerable people have been supported as a result of government funding;
3. Record thanks to the Fylde Foodbanks who have been unstinting in their support of vulnerable people throughout the pandemic; and
4. Record thanks to all agencies and volunteers who have supported the work of the Fylde Community Hub throughout the pandemic.

7. Town Centre CCTV, Mobile Vehicle Replacement and Request from Town and Parish Councils for CCTV

Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, provided an overview to members of the current CCTV provision across the borough. She advised that of the three town centre monitored systems – Lytham, St Annes and Kirkham - the St Annes and Kirkham cameras were the oldest, installed circa 2008, whereas the Lytham cameras were installed more recently. As such the footage from the St Annes and Kirkham cameras was only available in black and white and was not as clear.

She reported a request had been received from St Annes Town Council to upgrade the cameras in the town centre. She advised that any decision to upgrade these cameras would also include the Kirkham cameras. Mrs Manning also advised that the mobile CCTV vehicle currently in use was also nearly at the end of its operational life.

However, before consideration of an upgrade could be considered an assessment would need to be carried out to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioners 12 Guiding Principles. Mrs Manning explained that since the borough's cameras were installed a regulatory framework was now in place, where a 'clear and pressing need' must be evidenced before equipment was replaced.

She also advised members of two requests for support with the provision of CCTV in Town and Parish Council areas and sought initial views on these proposals. These were stand-alone cameras which would not form part of the monitored system but would record footage at all times which could be reviewed if necessary.

Mrs Manning outlined the need for an assessment process for future applications for support of this nature, for example one which would include a requirement for a legitimate aim for the use of the cameras in terms of a pressing need to be established prior to any applications, and where this had been demonstrated and a request for funding made, that this is on the basis of match funding being provided by the council concerned.

In concluding Mrs Manning advised that the Budget Working Group was broadly supportive of an upgrade to the town centre cameras and replacement CCTV vehicle and she outlined the provisional work already undertaken to support assessment process. The Budget Working Group were also seeking the views of the Committee regarding the stand-alone cameras.

Following a brief debate, where the committee intimated its support for the proposals, it was RESOLVED

1. To note the position with respect to the town centre CCTV and mobile vehicle replacement initiative
2. To offer the support of the Committee to the Budget Working Group for the funding sought by both Kirkham Town Council and Newton-with-Clifton Parish Council for CCTV within their respective localities subject to both councils being able to demonstrate a pressing need for each camera and providing a copy of an associated data impact assessment; and
3. That a further report be brought back to the committee on guidance to be proffered to the Budget Working Group against which to consider future bids for funding for CCTV from other Town and Parish Councils.

8. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2021/22

It was advised that each year, as part of the budget-setting process, the schedule of fees and charges for the coming year (for each of the services that the Council provides) was reviewed by budget-holders prior to that schedule being considered by the relevant Programme Committee and finally being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

Each Programme Committee was required to recommend to the Council for approval a schedule of fees and charges for those activities within the remit of the Committee.

The report requested that Members consider the proposed schedule of fees and charges for those services within the remit of the committee as detailed at Appendix A to the report and provide a recommendation to Council.

It was RESOLVED that

1. To recommend to Council a proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2021/22; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2021/22 will be approved by the Budget Council in March 2021.

Information Items

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

9. Budget Setting – Revenue Budget 2021/22 – First Draft

The committee were advised that the first draft of the Revenue Budget was now available for members perusal.

10. Disabled Facilities Grant and Private Sector Assistance Policy Update 2019/20 and Current Position up to Qtr 2 2020/21

The committee received an update on the Disabled Facilities Grant delivery including the impact of the pandemic on the delivery, the awarding of a contract to Stannah for the provision of lifting equipment, and additional funding contribution from Progress Housing. The committee requested that their thanks be passed on to Progress Housing for the additional funding.

11. Community Safety Partnership

The committee received an updated draft of the Community Safety Partnership's terms of reference, providing a timely reminder of the purpose of the Community Safety Partnership. It was advised that an Annual Review of its work would be presented to the committee at a future meeting. The committee expressed thanks to the Police Crime Commissioners Office for its continued funding support for the Partnership.

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