



Agenda

Council

Date:	Monday, 6 February 2023 at 7:00 pm
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes, FY8 1LW
	<p>Mayor: Councillor Ben Aitken Deputy Mayor: Councillor Alan Clayton</p> <p>Leader: Councillor Karen Buckley Deputy Leader: Councillor Roger Small</p> <p>Councillors Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Armit, Mark Bamforth, Brenda Blackshaw, Julie Brickles, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Matthew Lee, Cheryl Little, Roger Lloyd, Michelle Morris, Ed Nash, Sally Nash-Walker, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Bobby Rigby, Michael Sayward, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Heather Speak, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.</p>

	PROCEDURAL ITEMS:	PAGE
1	Declarations of Interest: Declarations of interest, and the responsibility for declaring the same, are matters for elected members. Members are able to obtain advice, in writing, in advance of meetings. This should only be sought via the Council's Monitoring Officer. However, it should be noted that no advice on interests sought less than one working day prior to any meeting will be provided.	1
2	Confirmation of Minutes: To confirm the minutes, as previously circulated, of the meeting held on 5 December 2022 as a correct record.	1
	ANNOUNCEMENTS:	
3	Mayor's Announcements	1
4	Chief Executive's Communications	1
	REPRESENTATIONS:	
5	Questions from Members of the Council	3
6	Questions from Members of the Public For procedure to ask a question at a Council meeting see Public Speaking at Council Meetings .	4

	DECISION ITEMS:	
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8	Council Tax Premiums 2024/25	To follow
9	Constitution	20 - 23
10	Section 106 Agreements – Proposed Transfer of Funds to Lancashire County Council	24 - 26
11	In Year Budget Increase - St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements Scheme	27 - 32
12	Fully Funded In Year Budget Increase – UK Shared Prosperity Fund	33 - 69
13	Declaration of Vacancy – Kirkham North Ward	70 - 71
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14	Decision Notice – Standards Hearing, Audit And Standards Committee	72 - 76

Contact: Sharon Wadsworth - Telephone: (01253) 658546 – Email: democracy@fylde.gov.uk

The code of conduct for members can be found in the council's constitution at
<http://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/DocumentsandInformation/PublicDocumentsandInformation.aspx>

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REPRESENTATIONS

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	5
QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

No questions have been received from Members of the Council before the requisite deadline, as outlined in Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committees of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, and before the statutory deadline for publication of the agenda.

If any further questions are received before the constitutional deadline, as outlined above, they will be circulated prior to the meeting for members' information, under separate cover.

Any questions will be heard during the Council meeting on 6 February 2023 and a response will be given by the Leader of the Council or any other member nominated by her.

REPRESENTATIONS

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	6

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

As outlined in Article 15 – Public Speaking at meetings of the Council and its Committees any resident of the Councils district may, subject to various provisions of the article, ask a question at an ordinary meeting of the council.

No questions have been received from members of the public before the requisite deadline, as outlined in Article 15, before the statutory deadline for publication of the agenda.

If any questions are received before the constitutional deadline, which is, for the purpose of this meeting, 4.30pm on Tuesday, 31 January 2023, they will be circulated prior to the meeting for members' information, under separate cover.

Any question(s) will be heard during the Council meeting on 6 February 2023 and a response will be given by the Leader of the Council or any other member nominated by her.

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	7
FINANCIAL FORECAST UPDATE 2022/23 TO 2026/27			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

This report provides Members with an update of the financial forecast for the council for the five years 2022/23 to 2026/27. The main purpose of this iteration of the forecast is to reflect the impact of the provisional 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement, details of which were announced on 19th December 2022. The assumptions set out in this forecast are the latest best estimates and will be updated as and when further information is made available. This report was considered at Finance and Democracy Committee on 30th January 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended:

1. To note the implications of this updated financial forecast; and
2. To note that following the confirmation of the amount of New Homes Bonus grant to be received for 2023/24, allocations of a proportion of this grant to town and parish councils have been calculated in the total sum of £25,805 in accordance with the decision of the Finance and Democracy Committee on this matter at the meeting of 21st November 2022.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Council set its budget for 2022/23 at the meeting of 3rd March 2022. This report provides Members with a further update to the Council's financial forecast following the position that was considered by Council in December 2022.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE FINANCIAL FORECAST UPDATE

- 1.1 This report updates the financial forecast which was considered by Council in December 2022. Attached at Appendix A is the financial forecast position reported to Members at Budget Council in March 2022. Appendix B shows the general assumptions underpinning the base forecast, whilst Appendix C sets out the latest changes and Appendix D sets out the supporting narrative to the latest changes. **Appendix E details the latest updated forecast position.**
- 1.2 The forecast has been updated to reflect the estimated impact of the 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement, announced on 19th December 2022.
- 1.3 This latest financial forecast update is designed to:
 - Present an updated five-year financial forecast for revenue and capital spending following the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2022;
 - Review and update the currently identified risks and opportunities;
 - Alert Members to any new specific risks and opportunities;
 - Inform Members of any changes required to budgets due to external factors outside the Council's control; and,
 - Provide a basis on which Members can begin to make future spending decisions.

2. THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The in-year position on the Capital Programme, along with the associated financial risks, was reported at both the November and January cycle of programme committee meetings.
- 2.2 Any future capital financing issues facing the Council will be addressed as part of the Council's budget proposals for 2023/24 which will be published in mid-February 2023.

3. KEY CHANGES TO THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FORECAST

- 3.1 All of the financial risks as set out in the Financial Forecast update considered by Council in December 2022 remain.
- 3.2 The changes to the General Fund Revenue Forecast are those arising from the Local Government Finance Settlement, together with some further in-year revenue budget changes. These are detailed below:

The 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement

On 19 December 2022, the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, released a written statement to Parliament on the provisional local government finance settlement 2023-24. The papers can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

This followed a policy statement on the future of Local Government Finance published on 12th December, covering 2023/24 and 2024/25, which are the remaining years of the 2021 Spending Review period. The policy statement can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-finance-policy-statement-2023-24-to-2024-25>

This in turn was hard on the heels of the Autumn Statement on 17 November, which set the overall level of available resources across all government departments.

POLICY STATEMENT – SUMMARY

The provisional settlement is once again a holding position, designed for short-term stability and certainty for planning purposes and to promote financial sustainability within available resources - this time based on proposed detailed allocations for 2023/24 and a fairly full set of policy principles for 2024/25. The broad approach is based on a uniform roll-over of the core elements of the settlement; additional resources for priority services (in particular social care); balancing service pressures with taxpayer concerns through council tax referendum principles; and a fallback, by way of a minimum funding guarantee, for outlying councils. Finance reform is deferred, once again, at least until 2025/26 and possibly even later.

OVERALL APPROACH

As far as the overall policy approach is concerned ministers came down on the side of short-term stability and certainty, aiding councils in financial planning for the next two years. The policy statement gave councils a week's extra notice of the broad proposals for 2023/24. But it gives a good indication of Ministers' intentions in terms of the principles they will follow when they come to lay the annual settlement for 2024/25 before Parliament in Autumn 2023. Although there are no indicative allocations for councils for 2024/25, the outlining of principles is helpful, and represents more information than has been provided in recent years.

Detailed numbers are only available however for 2023/24 and there remain significant uncertainties for 2024/25, particularly for district councils. These include the future of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme, which is now simply a one-year retrospective payment. To set the way forward, decisions need to be taken on the 2021 NHB consultation exercise, which was a very open exercise with limited indication of the favoured policy proposals and no strong view on the efficacy of the NHB incentive effect; decisions on all this are promised before next year's provisional settlement. There is also uncertainty around the future position of areas with 100% business rates retention; and on the approach to social care reform. All of these will inhibit detailed budget planning beyond the short-term.

FURTHER DELAYS TO FINANCE REFORM

The policy statement confirmed that the planned Review of Relative Needs and Resources (the 'Fair Funding Review') and the planned reset to business rates growth will not be implemented in the next two years.

The recent history of proposed reform goes back some years. In 2012, before the introduction of business rates retention, the Government promised a reset of accumulated business rates growth in 2020. In 2016, they promised a review of the needs assessment formula which would be used in re-allocating the accumulated growth between councils. In 2018, they published major consultation documents on all this, for implementation in 2020/21. Since then, implementation has been successively delayed. At the earliest, implementation will not now be until 2025/26 or realistically, depending on the timing of the General Election and the appetite of the new government for reform, until perhaps 2026/27.

The key points arising from the **Provisional Finance Settlement** for Fylde Council in respect of **2023/24** are:

a) Confirmation of acceptance of the bid by Lancashire authorities to continue to operate Business Rate Pooling arrangements for 2023/24

The continuation of a Lancashire-wide Business Rates Pool was confirmed for 2023/24, subject to no single member of the pool exercising their right to withdraw from the pool within 28 days of the Finance Settlement announcement (as per the terms of the pooling arrangement) which would cause the pool to end. It is not expected that any member of the Lancashire Business Rates pool will exercise this option for 2023/24. The latest in-year monitoring and future modelling suggest that continued participation in a Lancashire Business Rate Pool for 2023/24 will be of financial benefit to Fylde Council, as it has been since participation in the pool commenced.

b) Confirmation of a single year New Homes Bonus allocation in 2023/24 and an ongoing review of the scheme

The provisional settlement confirms that the review of the New Homes Bonus scheme is ongoing and indicates that the outcome will be announced during 2023. The allocation for 2023/24 is for one year only in the sum of £516k rather than an annual allocation for a four year period as has been the case for earlier years.

Given that New Homes Bonus is a major source of funding for the Council this represents a significant risk to the overall level of future central government funding.

The forecast of New Homes Bonus income for 2023/24 has been updated in line with the provisional allocation announced in the settlement. In respect of all other years, due to the uncertainty surrounding future funding levels, the estimated amounts for 2024/25 onwards are in line with the allocation for 2023/24 and are subject to change depending on the outcome of the consultation exercise.

c) Changes to Other Government Grants for 2023/24

Other grant changes were also announced in respect of 2023/24 as part of the provisional settlement which for Fylde Council were as follows:

- Lower Tier Services Grant – this grant has been abolished;
- Services Grant - an allocation for Fylde of £75k in 2023/24 (reduced from £133k in 2022/23); and
- The introduction of a new “one-off” Funding Guarantee Grant for “2023/24 only” – with an allocation for Fylde of £871k in 2023/24. The Funding Guarantee grant aims to ensure all local authorities receive a minimum 3% “Core Spending Power” increase from 2022/23, excluding any funding from increases to 2022/23 council tax levels. Core Spending Power is a measure used by the government of the resources available to local authorities to fund service delivery. It sets out the money that has been made available through the Local Government Finance Settlement. The calculations made by the government to assess Core Spending Power assume that business rate income is receivable at the baseline level, whereas actual business rate income is subject to variation from the baseline level.

These updated grant allocations for 2023/24 have been reflected in the summary at Appendix E to this report.

d) Confirmation of the 2023/24 General Council Tax Referendum Principles

The council tax referendum limit for 2023/24 will be 2.99% for local authorities, with an additional 2% social care precept allowed for social care authorities (not Fylde). The 2.99% figure is an increase of 1% on that allowable for 2022/23 to allow councils additional flexibility to increase spending power in light of the continuing high levels of pay and price inflation currently being experienced. Appendix E of this report assumes an increase in council tax of 1.99% per annum which is consistent with increases applied in recent years.

3.3 Estimates of Government Funding Beyond 2023/24

- 3.4 Estimating the level of funding for local authorities beyond 2023/24 is problematic in light of short-term settlements, national pressures on public finances as a whole and continuing delays to the reform of local government funding mechanisms. That said, the focus by DLUCH on Spending Power as a key measure for local authority funding and the introduction of the Funding Guarantee Grant, albeit as a "one-off", do give some comfort that government are mindful of providing some stability, at least in the short term.
- 3.5 Accordingly, the estimates of government funding contained in the financial forecast at Appendix E of this report have been calculated on a continuation basis and to assume an overall protection of the council's "Core Spending Power" for 2024/25 onwards. This is considered to be the best estimate available given the various uncertainties as outlined in the report.

4. Other Financial Forecast Changes and Risks

- 4.1 The Financial Forecast has also been updated to reflect the following changes:

a) Employee Costs

Pay award: The employee pay award for the current year has recently been agreed at a £1,925 flat rate increase on each spinal column point on the pay scale, which equates to approximately 6.5% on the pay bill, including oncosts. This is significantly in excess of the budget provision for 2.75% for the current year. The forecast has been updated to reflect the agreed settlement. In light of the current year settlement and the continuing high level of inflation (10.5% as at December 2022, down slightly from 10.7% in November), the budget provision for pay award for 2023/24 has been updated to an estimated 4%, with 2.75% estimated pay award included each subsequent year throughout the life of the forecast.

b) New Homes Bonus Distribution to Town and Parish Councils

The Finance and Democracy Committee meeting in November 2022 approved the provisional continuation of the scheme for the distribution of a portion of the New Homes Bonus Grant income to town and parish Councils, dependent upon confirmation of the level of New Homes Bonus grant to be received by Fylde Council for 2023/24. Following the confirmation of the amount of New Homes Bonus grant as part of the 2023/24 financial settlement, allocations of

a proportion of this grant to town and parish councils have been calculated in the total sum of £25,805 in line with the recommendation from the committee. The financial consequence of this decision is contained within the summary Financial Forecast at **Appendix E** to this report and individual allocations to Town and Parish Councils are shown at **Appendix F**.

c) Other budget adjustments

A number of further budget adjustments have been made to this updated financial forecast in light of the most recent budget monitoring reported to programme committees and a further budget-rightsizing review undertaken since the forecast was last updated. These are included within the variance analysis at **Appendix C** to this report and an explanation of each is provided at Appendix D. Council Tax income projections have also been updated from the November financial forecast to reflect the actual Council Tax base information for 2023/24 which was finalised in December 2022.

4.2 Other Continuing Financial Risks

All of the financial risks that were detailed within the previous Financial Forecast Update that was presented to the last Finance and Democracy Committee meeting in November and Council in December 2022 remain. These are:

- **Future Central Government Funding Reductions**
- **Announcement of a 'Fair Funding Review'**
- **Retained Business Rates**
- **Price Inflation**
- **Employee Costs – Pay Award**
- **Borrowing Costs Assumptions**
- **Reduction in Housing Benefit Administration Grant**
- **Universal Credit**
- **Grounds Maintenance (External Contracts)**
- **The Living Wage**

Full details of each of these can be found within the November 2022 Financial Forecast report via the following link: [November 2022 MTFS Update](#)

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The provisional 2023/24 Local Government Financial Settlement has not fundamentally changed the general financial standing of Fylde Council. The additional grants detailed in paragraph 3.1 (c), in particular the “one-off” 2023/24 Funding Guarantee Grant, are to be welcomed as they improve the financial position of the Council in the short term. Based on the assumptions and estimates as detailed in the report there is a projected surplus of resources for 2022/23 and 2023/24 followed by a period of uncertainty as the base costs of the council increase and national framework for the financing of local government is subject to review.
- 5.2 The confirmation of the continuation of a Business Rates Pool amongst Lancashire authorities is welcomed. Developments with regard to future proposals (the implementation of a ‘Fair Funding Review’ encompassing a possible re-assessment of relative need within local government generally) will be followed closely and any implications reported within future Financial Forecast updates when known.
- 5.3 Estimations of central government funding beyond 2023/24 are extremely difficult to make until the outcome of the funding reviews are known. The Financial Forecast will be updated

for 2023/24 onwards as and when there is greater clarity regarding the central government funding regime.

- 5.4 In order to maintain the current financial position and be able to deliver the Corporate Plan priorities the Council needs to continue with the approach to delivering savings and efficiencies and maximising income which have helped deliver balanced budgets over recent years. Ongoing modernisation work and business improvement will continue to make Council services more efficient, save money and maintain frontline services to customers. This work has yielded ongoing savings to help improve the Council's overall financial position over that period.
- 5.5 Although it is clear that further uncertainty lies ahead, **the finances of the Council remain robust, and the reserves and balances are at healthy levels as compared to earlier periods.** Furthermore, the Council has a past record of taking actions in order to meet and overcome financial challenges as they arise. The Council will continue to seek opportunities to maintain a robust financial position in the face of a changing financial environment. This approach will ensure that the Council continues to achieve and sustain a balanced budget position on an ongoing basis and is able to deliver the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.
- 5.6 The assumptions set out in this forecast are the latest best estimates and will be updated as and when further information becomes available.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul O'Donoghue Chief Financial Officer	01253 658566	January 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update, Including General Fund, Capital Programme and Treasury Management for 2021/22 – 2025/26	Budget Council meeting 3 rd March 2022	www.fylde.gov.uk
MTFS – Outturn Position For 2021/22 (Including General Fund, Capital Programme & Treasury Management)	Finance and Democracy Committee meeting 23 rd June 2022	www.fylde.gov.uk

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 – to 30 th November 2022	Programme Committees – January 2023	www.fylde.gov.uk
Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2022/23 – to 30 th November 2022	Programme Committees – January 2023	www.fylde.gov.uk

Attached documents

1. Appendix A - Forecast approved at Budget Council in March 2022
2. Appendix B - Schedule of general assumptions underpinning the financial forecast
3. Appendix C - Schedule of changes to the forecast
4. Appendix D - Explanation of changes to the forecast
5. Appendix E - Updated latest forecast position
6. Appendix F - New Homes Bonus Grant Allocations to Town & Parish Councils 2023/24

General Fund Budget Forecast 2021/22 to 2025/26 - Approved at Budget Council March 2022

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Adverse / Favourable
Forecast approved at Council on 4th March 2021	10,934	11,000	11,697	11,909	11,909	Adverse Adverse
Forecast Changes - per Appendix C of March 2022 MTFS report to Budget Council	219	308	172	218	525	
Revenue Budget Growth Items - Appendix F of March 2022 MTFS report		121	82	85	88	
Forecast Budget Requirement	11,153	11,429	11,951	12,212	12,522	
Financed by:						
Council Tax Funding:						
Council Tax - Precept	6,656	6,881	7,096	7,317	7,544	
Sub Total - Council Tax Income	6,656	6,881	7,096	7,317	7,544	
Business Rates Funding:						
Retained Rates (including pooling benefit & pilot impact 2019/20)	4,501	3,580	2,800	2,800	2,800	
Sub Total - Business Rates Income	4,501	3,580	2,800	2,800	2,800	Adverse Adverse
Other Funding:						
Lower Tier Services Grant	379	89				
2022/23 Services Grant		133				
New Homes Bonus (NHB)	1,161	1,236	1,136	1,136	1,136	
Less - NHB distribution to Town & Parish Councils	- 58	- 62				
	1,482	1,396	1,136	1,136	1,136	
Forecast Financing	12,639	11,857	11,032	11,253	11,480	
Forecast surplus(-)/deficit for year	- 1,486	- 428	919	959	1,042	
Reserves						
Forecast surplus/deficit (-) for year from above:	1,486	428	- 919	- 959	- 1,042	
Less: Proposed Transfer to Capital Investment Reserve	- 1,486	- 428				
Balance of surplus/deficit(-) remaining:			- 919	- 959	- 1,042	
Balance of General Fund Reserves b/f	4,571	4,571	4,571	3,652	2,693	Adverse Adverse
Less transfer to/from(-) General Fund Reserves in year			- 919	- 959	- 1,042	
Forecast Reserves at Year End	4,571	4,571	3,652	2,693	1,651	
Band D Council Tax (Excl Parish Precepts)	£214.91	£219.19	£223.56	£228.01	£232.55	
Band D Average Council Tax Increase	£4.20	£4.28	£4.37	£4.45	£4.54	
Band D Average Council Tax Increase	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	

General Base Budget Assumptions

The forecast has been prepared on the basis of the following assumptions:

- General Prices Inflation – a freeze or cash-limiting of all general revenue expenditure budgets with the exception of payroll budgets and where contractual commitments require increases;
- Slippage – approved underspend items from 2021/22 agreed by the Finance and Democracy Committee in June 2022 have been slipped into 2022/23;
- Pay award – the impact of the agreed 2022/23 pay award of £1,925pa for each pay point has been reflected in the updated forecast, with future pay awards estimated to be 4% for 2023/24 and 2.75% per annum for each year thereafter;
- Employers Pension Contributions – the Council's contributions to the Lancashire pension fund scheme are set in accordance with the indicative outcome of the 2022 Triennial Pension Review which is currently being carried out by the scheme actuaries, Mercer. The draft figures provided by the pension fund indicate contributions at 19.2% per annum, reduced by scheme surplus payments of 4% per annum for the period from 2023/24 to 2025/26; with future years estimates provided on a continuation basis. The forecast has been updated accordingly;
- Employer's National Insurance contributions – the forecast reflects the statutory contribution rates currently in place, including a reduced contribution rate as a result of the Council being part of the pension scheme;
- Council tax increases – assumed at 1.99% increase per annum from 2023/24 onwards;
- Fees and Charges – The forecast takes account of the revised fee levels as approved by Budget Council in March 2022. For future years budget-holders have reviewed fee levels as appropriate and any proposed changes to fees & charges will be considered at the Budget Council in March 2023 following consideration by the appropriate programme committee;
- Vacancy Savings – the forecast assumes vacancy savings of £300k per annum from 2022/23 onwards;
- Localisation of Council Tax Benefit Scheme – the forecast assumes a fully funded scheme with no additional cost to the Council from 2022/23 onwards;
- New Homes Bonus Grant – the forecast for 2023/24 onwards is based on the confirmed allocation for 2023/24 as set out in the report; and
- Other Government Funding - the estimates of government funding contained in the financial forecast at Appendix E of this report have been calculated on a continuation basis and to assume an overall protection of the council's "Core Spending Power" for 2024/25 onwards. This is considered to be the best estimate available given the various funding uncertainties as outlined in the report.

Appendix C

General forecast changes since Council December 2022

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	<u>ADVERSE /</u> <u>FAVOURABLE /</u> <u>NEUTRAL</u>
1 CHANGES AS A RESULT OF MEMBER APPROVALS:						
Homes for Ukraine Scheme - 3385 Income (F&D 28/10/22)	-155	0	0	0	0	FAVOURABLE
Homes for Ukraine Scheme - 3385 Expenditure (F&D 28/10/22)	155	0	0	0	0	ADVERSE
S106 Contribution - Education - 3607 Income (Council 12/10/22)	-303	0	0	0	0	FAVOURABLE
S106 Contribution - Education - 3607 Expenditure (Council 12/10/22)	303	0	0	0	0	ADVERSE
S106 Contribution - Transport Improvements - 4410 Income (Council 12/10/22)	-48	0	0	0	0	FAVOURABLE
S106 Contribution - Transport Improvements - 4410 Expenditure (Council 12/10/22)	48	0	0	0	0	ADVERSE
Homeless Prevention Grant - 5270 Income (Council 12/10/22)	-107	-107	-107	-107	-107	FAVOURABLE
Homeless Prevention Grant - 5270 Expenditure (Council 12/10/22)	107	107	107	107	107	ADVERSE
Affordable Warmth Grant - Housing - Income - (E,H&H 15/11/22)	-60	0	0	0	0	FAVOURABLE
Affordable Warmth Grant - Housing - Expenditure - (E,H&H 15/11/22)	60	0	0	0	0	ADVERSE
2 BUDGET RIGHTSIZING EXERCISE:						
Revenue impact of budget right-sizing across all budget areas of the Council	-17	-3	-3	-3	-3	FAVOURABLE
3 STAFFING/SHARED SERVICE COSTS:						
Updated estimate of pay award for 2023/24 only - from 2.75% to 4%	0	125	125	125	125	ADVERSE
2022/23 Pay Award Blackpool Revenues and Benefits - Shared Service Contract	43	43	43	43	43	ADVERSE
4 UPDATED ESTIMATES OF INCOME BUDGETS:						
Planning Applications - estimated reduction in fee income	150	100	100	100	100	ADVERSE
Homelessness - additional B&B accommodation costs	79	0	0	0	0	ADVERSE
Homelessness - additional housing benefit contribution towards B&B accommodation costs	-25	0	0	0	0	FAVOURABLE
Trade Waste - additional income from increased useage of the service	-32	0	0	0	0	FAVOURABLE
5 OTHER FORECAST CHANGES						
Re-phasing of St Annes Square Maintenance - (Charlie/Regen matched funding)	-25	25	0	0	0	NEUTRAL
Re-phasing of Fairhaven equipment acquisition - purchased in advance to avoid price increases	10	-10	0	0	0	NEUTRAL
IT - Development budget rephase	-15	15	0	0	0	NEUTRAL
TOTAL	168	295	265	265	265	ADVERSE

Explanations of Forecast Changes set out in Appendix C

Appendix D

The following notes relate to specific adjustments made to the Forecast set out in Appendix C

(1) Changes as a Result of Member Approvals

The forecast that was approved at the Council meeting in March 2022 has been updated to reflect the financial impact of Member decisions made since then. The significant decisions in terms of their financial effect are detailed within the body of the report.

(2) Impact of budget-right-sizing exercise across all budget areas of the Council

Each year officers carry-out a budget right-sizing exercise focussing on a review of underspends across all budget areas and these have been updated and reflected through the forecast.

(3) Staffing Costs/Shared Service Costs

The impact of the agreed 2022/23 pay award of £1,925pa for each pay point has been reflected in the updated forecast, with future pay awards estimated to be 4% for 2023/24 and 2.75% per annum for each year thereafter.

(4) Updated Estimates of Income Budgets have been reflected in the forecast, including:

- Planning Application fee income
- Trade Waste income

(5) Other Forecast Changes:

A number of other changes have been made to the forecast as itemised in the appendix, including additional homelessness costs and the re-phasing of revenue expenditure between years.

Latest General Fund Budget Forecast 2022/23 to 2026/27 - as at January 2023

Appendix E

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Adverse / Favourable
Forecast approved at Council on 3rd March 2022	11,429	11,951	12,212	12,522	12,522	
Forecast Changes approved at Council December 2022	- 140	- 277	- 238	- 77	571	
Forecast Changes - Appendix C (this report)	168	295	265	265	265	
Forecast Budget Requirement: TOTAL	11,457	11,969	12,239	12,710	13,358	
Financed by:						
Council Tax Funding:						
Council Tax - Precept	6,881	7,151	7,385	7,625	7,872	
Sub Total - Council Tax Income	6,881	7,151	7,385	7,625	7,872	
Business Rates Funding:						
Retained Business Rates	3,580	3,580	3,401	3,231	3,069	
Sub Total - Business Rates Income	3,580	3,580	3,401	3,231	3,069	
Other Funding:						
Lower Tier Services Grant	89					
Services Grant	133	75	75	75	75	
New Homes Bonus (NHB)	1,236	516	516	516	516	
Less - NHB distribution to Town & Parish Councils	- 62	- 26	- 26	- 26	- 26	
Funding Guarantee Grant - one-off 2023/24 only		871				
Assumed "other" government funding to maintain "Core Spending Power"			816	746	661	
Sub Total - Other Income	1,396	1,436	1,381	1,311	1,226	
Forecast Financing: TOTAL	11,857	12,167	12,167	12,167	12,167	
Forecast surplus (-) / deficit for year	- 400	- 198	72	543	1,191	
Reserves						
Forecast surplus/deficit (-) for year from above:	400	198	- 72	- 543	- 1,191	
Less: Proposed Transfer to Capital Investment Reserve	- 400	- 198				
Balance of surplus/deficit(-) remaining:			- 72	- 543	- 1,191	
Balance of General Fund Reserves b/f	5,056	4,571	4,571	4,499	3,956	
Less in year transfer to fund slippage from 2021/22	- 485					
Less estimated transfer from (-) General Fund Reserves in year			- 72	- 543	- 1,191	
Forecast Reserves at Year End	4,571	4,571	4,499	3,956	2,765	
Band D Council Tax (Excl Parish Precepts)	£219.19	£223.56	£228.01	£232.55	£237.18	
Indicative Band D Average Council Tax Increase	£4.28	£4.37	£4.45	£4.54	£4.63	
Band D Average Council Tax Increase	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	

**New Homes Bonus - allocations to Town & Parish Councils
2023/24**

	NHB Allocation 2023/24 - £
Bryning-with-Warton	10,819
St.Annes	3,793
Westby-with-Plumpton	3,607
Newton-with-Clifton	3,482
Elswick	2,052
Ribby-with Wrea	1,741
Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	249
Weeton-with-Preese	62
Total Allocation 2023.24	25,805
Freckleton	Nil growth in excess of baseline
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	Nil growth in excess of baseline
Kirkham	Nil growth in excess of baseline
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	Nil growth in excess of baseline
Medlar-with-Wesham	Nil growth in excess of baseline
Singleton	Nil growth in excess of baseline
Staining	Nil growth in excess of baseline

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF REVENUES AND BENEFITS SHARED SERVICE	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	8
COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS 2024/25			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

Please note that the Council Tax Premiums 2024/25 report is TO FOLLOW.

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF GOVERNANCE	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	9
CONSTITUTION			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

At its meeting on January 19 2023, the Audit and Standards Committee considered a report from the Head of Governance on the recommendations of the Constitution Working Group on proposed changes to the Constitution from May 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend that the council adopts the documents referred to in paragraph 4 of the report (together with any updated members' allowances scheme) as the council's constitution with effect from 9 May 2023

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Audit and Standards Committee 17 March 2022](#)

Established a cross-party Working Group comprising Councillors Buckley, Small, Oades¹, Lee, Gaunt and Nash, to undertake a time-bound piece of work to review the constitution, proposing any changes to the Committee for its agreement, prior to the council being invited to endorse any changes prior to the May 2023 local election.

[Audit and Standards Committee 19 January 2023](#)

Following a show of hands it was RESOLVED to recommend that the council adopts the documents referred to in paragraph 4 of the report (together with any updated members' allowances scheme), including the addition to the proposed changes to the order of business at council, as the council's constitution with effect from 9 May 2023.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

¹ Councillor Peter Collins replaced Councillor Oades as a member of the working group on becoming leader of the Independent group.

REPORT

CONTEXT

1. Following the review of the council's electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the number of councillors making up the council will reduce from 51 to 37. This will have effect from when councillors elected at the elections on May 4 take office.
2. Members have expressed an intention to move to a different decision-making structure from the municipal year 2023-4, while remaining within the parameters of a committee governance model. The new structure would replace the four programme committees with one Executive Committee, which would also have responsibility for planning policy. Two scrutiny committees (one primarily externally focussed and one primarily internally focussed) would be established. Finally, ethical standards would fall under the remit of a standalone Standards Committee, instead of being the responsibility of the Audit and Standards Committee.
3. The constitution needs to be amended to take account of the changes outlined above. The committee established a working group to consider and make recommendations on the changes. The draft revised constitution which should be read with this report incorporates the amendments recommended by the working group, together with minor consequential and drafting alterations.

THE DRAFT REVISED CONSTITUTION

4. The draft revised constitution, which the committee is asked to recommend for adoption by the council, can be accessed through the following link: [\[Council 6 Feb Meeting\]](#). Recommended amendments are generally shown as tracked changes.
5. The draft revision does not include the members' allowances scheme, as the scheme to apply for 2023-4 will be the subject of a separate report and recommendation to the council.
6. Councillors will want to peruse the documents that comprise the draft revised constitution themselves. However, the paragraphs below provide a guide to and summary of the amendments that are recommended.

AMENDMENTS THAT RESULT FROM THE CHANGES TO COUNCIL SIZE AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

7. In Part 2: Articles of the Constitution:

Article 2.01 now refers to 37 councillors instead of 51.

In article 2.03, councillors can require local crime and disorder matters to be placed on the agenda of the scrutiny committee, instead of the EHH Committee (n.b. reference now updated to refer specifically to the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee).

Article 8 is rewritten. It now relates to the new Audit and Governance Committee, and incorporates the full "mission statement" for the committee, which was previously set out in part 3 of the constitution "responsibility for functions". The text was incongruous there, because that section is intended to set out delegated responsibilities for decision-making. Placing the "mission statement" in the articles of the constitution is both more logical and gives the material more prominence. The "mission statement" itself has been updated in line with recognized best practice and advice from internal audit.

8. In Part 3: Responsibility for functions

Paragraph three of the introductory material now refers to the new committee structure.

In section 2, the functions of the Planning Committee that relate to planning policy are removed (and fall instead within the remit of the Executive Committee). The section relating to the Audit and Standards Committee is removed and split between Audit and Governance Committee (placed in article 8 in part 2) and Standards Committee (below).

Section 3 now relates to the Executive Committee instead of the programme committees. It includes terms of reference discussed at the working group the effect of which is that everything that does not fall somewhere else falls within the remit of the Executive Committee, and introduces lead members.

Section 4 describes the functions and role of the two scrutiny committees and is new.

Section 6 describes the functions and role of the standalone Standards Committee and is extracted from the existing material for the Audit and Standards Committee.

The referral and recovery rules now in section 7 have been revised as follows, as required by the legislation governing scrutiny committees:

- (i) to allow a recovery request to be made by a scrutiny committee; and
 - (ii) to allow a recovery request to ask for the decision to be either reconsidered by the committee who made it (which is presently not possible), or to be referred to the council
9. In part 6: Financial Procedure Rules, budgetary approvals presently within the power of the Finance and Democracy Committee would be given instead by the Executive Committee. Similarly consultations presently required to be with the chairman of the Finance and Democracy Committee chairman would now be with chairman of the Executive Committee . Fees and charges would be recommended by the Executive Committee instead of programme committees.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

10. In part 2: Articles of the Constitution:

Article 15 is amended to:

- (i) provide a filter to exclude “questions” from members of the public which are not questions;
- (ii) have the question read out by an officer rather than the member of the public who submitted it; and
- (iii) remove the right to a supplementary question.

(This is not shown as a tracked change in the linked document).

11. In part 5: Officer Employment Procedure Rules, amendments are made to avoid potential confusion caused by the statutory definition of “chief officer” only applying to the heads of service who report to the Chief Executive and not those who report to the Deputy Chief Executive. The change is to use the term “Designated Officer” instead and apply it to those who would sensibly be regarded as chief officers, that is the Deputy Chief Executive and heads of service. The Chief Officers Employment Committee can appoint to all those positions.
12. Part 5c: Protocol on Member/Officer Relations is replaced in its entirety by a new protocol.
13. In Part 5f: Protocol for Members on Outside Bodies, amendments are made so that reporting forms completed by members representing the council on outside bodies would be considered by scrutiny committees instead of being sent to all councillors. Members failing to complete a form would be notified to scrutiny chairmen instead of to programme committee chairmen.

MINOR, CONSEQUENTIAL AND FORMATTING AMENDMENTS

14. A number of minor amendments have also been made to correct formatting and numbering errors, make amendments consequential on the structural changes and on the changes made to the management structure in 2021 and to standardise pronouns to “they/their”, in line with modern drafting practice.
15. In Part 4: Ordinary Meetings it was proposed to change the order of business at ordinary meetings of the Council by receiving questions from members of the public before any questions from members of the council.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No implications
Legal	The council is required to maintain a constitution by section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000
Community Safety	No direct implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No direct implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No direct implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No direct implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Ian Curtis	ian.curtis@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658506	26 January 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

Linked documents

The amended part of the constitution, with tracked changes, can be viewed on CMIS [here](#)

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PLANNING	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	10
SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS - PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

On 10 November 2022, the Audit and Standards Committee considered a [progress report](#) prepared by the Council's internal auditors, MIAA, that included a review of the Council's Section 106 Agreement processes, which contained 8 recommendations.

On 18 January 2023, Planning Committee considered a report that included a recommendation to transfer the funds that are currently held by Fylde Council and secured in order to increase the number of primary school places in the borough to Lancashire County Council, subject to entering into an agreement to indemnify this Council against any claims from a developer that the funds have been spent for purposes outside those for which they were originally secured.

This report seeks Council's authority to increase the revenue budget and transfer the funds to Lancashire County Council in line with the recommendation of the Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, subject to Lancashire County Council entering into a satisfactory agreement to indemnify Fylde Council against any claim relating to the spending of Section 106 funds for purposes other than those for which they have been secured or the spending of those funds beyond a repayment date set out in a Section 106 agreement, that Council approve a revenue budget increase of £310,455.80, fully funded from Section 106 monies held by the council, and to authorise the contributions towards the provision of additional primary and secondary school places currently held by Fylde Council in the sum of £310,455.80 be transferred to Lancashire County Council.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On 18 January 2023, Planning Committee RESOLVED:

1. That, in future, all Section 106 contributions related to the delivery of community infrastructure that is solely the responsibility of Lancashire County Council will be secured through a covenant in the Section 106 agreement between the developer and the county planning authority.
2. That, subject to Lancashire County Council entering into a satisfactory agreement to indemnify Fylde Council against any claim relating to the spending of Section 106 funds for purposes other than those for which they have been secured or the spending of those funds beyond a repayment date set out in a Section 106 agreement, that Council be recommended to approve a revenue budget increase of £310,455.80, fully funded from Section

106 monies held by the Council, and to authorise the contributions towards the provision of additional primary and secondary school places currently held by Fylde Council in the sum of £310,455.80 be transferred to Lancashire County Council.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

Background

- On 10 November 2022, the Audit and Standards Committee considered a [progress report](#) prepared by the council's internal auditors, MIAA, that included a review of the council's Section 106 Agreements. The S106 audit, which sought: *"To evaluate the controls in place to manage key risks which would affect the effective operation of the organisation's system for the management of Section 106 (s106) agreements, and obligations which are entered into are enforced and met"*.
- In addressing this recommendation, on 18 January 2023, Planning Committee resolved that, in future, developers will be required to covenant directly with Lancashire County Council with regard to any proposed payments to increase the number of school places. The Planning Committee also resolved to request Council authorise the transfer of those funds already collected to increase the number of primary school places to Lancashire County Council.
- Fylde Council currently holds developer contributions collected over recent years, details of which are provided in table 1 below.

Table 1 – Funds to provide additional school places currently held by Fylde Council.

Application Number	Application Site	Amount	Date to be spent	Restrictions/ Area to be spent
12/0717	Cropper Road	£218,206.74	25/06/2024	To be used towards funding of additional primary school place to serve the needs of the development.
19/0140	Moss Farm, Cropper Road	£32,101.06	05/07/2029	Intended to be used to provide additional primary school places at Weeton St Michaels CE primary school (Or subsequent name or designation by which it is known).
14/0161	Land Ballam Road (Ballam Oaks)	£60,148.00	08/01/2031	To provide additional pupil places at Lytham CE Primary School
	TOTAL	£310,455.80		

- Fylde Council currently holds £310,455.80 to be used to increase the number of primary school places across the borough. It is recommended that, subject to the matters outlined below, these funds be transferred to Lancashire County Council en bloc.

5. In relation to each of the agreements in the table above, Fylde Council is under a direct obligation to return contributions to the developer if they have not been used for the purposes set out in the agreement on the expiry of the period set out in the agreement (typically ten years from the date of the agreement). Transferring the contributions to the county council would not discharge that obligation. This means that if the county council did not spend contributions transferred to them in the time allowed in an individual agreement, Fylde Council would be at risk of having to repay the amount of the contributions to the developer, even though it no longer holds the funds. So, it is crucial that the county council indemnifies Fylde Council against the value of any repayment. Lancashire County Council supports the transfer of the funds to themselves and have indicated that they agree, in principle, to entering into an agreement to return the funds to Fylde Council if they are not spent by the deadline set out in the relevant agreement.
6. Of course, the county council would need to ensure that the funds are spent in line with the purposes for which they are secured as set in the individual agreements. This process could be monitored by the scrutiny committee that is proposed to be set up in the coming municipal year to allow Fylde Council to consider the activities of organisations external to the council.
7. Accordingly, Council is recommended to approve a revenue budget increase of £310,455.80, fully funded from Section 106 monies held by the council, and that the £310,455.80 currently held by this council towards the increase in school places be transferred to Lancashire County Council, subject to a satisfactory indemnity agreement being in place

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	<p>This report recommends that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full Council approves a revenue budget increase of £310,455.80, fully funded from Sn 106 monies held by the council, and that this sum be transferred to Lancashire County Council towards the increase in school places.
Legal	All legal matters are addressed in the body of the report.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Mark Evans	mark.evans@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658460	January 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Planning permissions 12/0717, 19/0140 & 14/0161	Various	Please use the search facility at: Planning – Fylde Council

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PROJECTS AND REGENERATION	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	11
IN YEAR BUDGET INCREASE – ST ANNES PADDLING POOL: WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

On the 12 January 2023, the Tourism and Leisure Committee considered a report that detailed the scheme for the installation of recirculatory plant and equipment, designed to improve water quality for the Paddling Pool facility in St Annes. The plant and equipment would contain a dosing element to maintain sufficient chemical levels within the water body to meet paddling pool water quality standards.

The scheme would be split into 2 main work packages, a specialist leisure pool maintenance company to install the recirculatory equipment, and a groundworks package to facilitate the required electrical connections to power the equipment.

The total project cost is estimated at £53,400 with a breakdown included in the main body of the report.

The works will be delivered out of season to ensure the facility is operational ahead of the main visitor season in April 2023 and therefore Council are requested to approve an in-year funded budget increase to deliver the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Council is asked to approve a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.
2. Council is asked to approve an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
3. To note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to a future Tourism and Leisure committee meeting to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Tourism and Leisure Committee – 12 January 2023

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.

2. To recommend to Council the approval of an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
3. Subject to approval by Council as above, the Tourism and Leisure noted that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report would be brought to a future committee to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the report.

Finance and Democracy Committee – 24th January 2022

It was RESOLVED: To approve of a new fully funded addition to the Council's Capital Programme in 2021/22 in the sum of £60,000 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool (boating pool) - health and safety improvements' scheme, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve

Tourism and Leisure Committee - 6 January 2022

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a new fully funded addition to the Council's Capital Programme in 2021/22 in the sum of £60,000 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool (boating pool) health and safety improvements' scheme, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

BACKGROUND

1. St Annes Paddling Pool (as referred to in the report title) is a former boating pool which encloses the octagonal cast-iron bandstand (c1900, Grade II listed) and was constructed in 1912. Despite its original purpose, the facility now serves as a public paddling pool, and enhancements were undertaken in 2022 to improve access and safeguard users.
2. The Paddling Pool is an extremely popular family attraction and is open to the public between April and September.
3. Improvement work was carried out to the paddling pool in 2022 and were designed to improve surfacing safety and access to the facility. The management of the pool includes frequent manual discharge and filling (approximately 3 times a week) with a cleaning regime to support.
4. Following the improvement works, the Parks and Coastal team started to monitor the water quality of the pool through weekly testing. In August 2022, the Environmental Health team advised that the facility should be closed due to the unacceptable level of Enterococci. The sampling was carried out against The Bathing Water (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2016 (as amended), following advice from microbiologists. Given the paddling pool is often used by vulnerable groups, i.e., children under 5 years old it was advised that the pool should be treated to meet desired standards. It must be borne in mind that the paddling pool is an open body of water, and is easily contaminated from a number of sources, e.g. birds, dogs, children and associated faeces.
5. The Parks and Coastal team immediately obtained support from specialists in leisure pool management to understand what options were available to address the water quality issue. Officers have been advised that the preferred option is to install a small recirculatory pool plant system to ensure the water is filtered, chlorinated, and recirculated. The preferred option will also bring added environmental benefit in significantly reducing water usage, consistent with corporate objectives on climate change.

SCOPE OF WORKS

6. The specification for the recirculatory system has been designed by Crystal Leisure Ltd, a local company who specialise in the installation and maintenance of leisure pools.
7. The recirculatory system will require an electricity supply and plant room to house specific controls; the outline design for which has been prepared by Mulholland Building Services Ltd.
8. The electricity supply will be taken from the adjacent Monument Toilet Block, which is maintained by Danfo. The Toilet Block will also contain the small plant room kiosk and access will be granted to the Parks and Coastal Services team for monitoring and maintenance.

COST OF PROPOSALS

9. The total project costs are estimated at £53,400 and can be broken down as follows:

Project Element	Cost
Specialist recirculation equipment and plant installation	£25,000
Groundworks and electrical	£14,000
Safety surfacing Contractor visit (sealing works)	£2,000
Further engineer and design fees through construction phase	£2,500
Risk allowance for permits and statutory fees	£1,000
Subtotal	£44,500
Contingency @20%	£8,900
Project Cost	£53,400

RISK MANGEMENT

10. The below table contains the main risks which could impact the objectives of the project and details the mitigation actions either already undertaken or planned, to reduce the impact of the risk should it occur.

Project Risks (outline any risks to delivery of the project and how these will be mitigated)

Risk	Impact	Mitigating Action
Environmental factors outside of the Council's control could impact water quality	Temporary shutdown of facility	Constant monitoring of facilities chemical levels, regular environmental health team checks, maintaining relationships with supplier for ad-hoc ongoing specialist advice
Permission to drain down pool into main sewer once project is complete	Bespoke license required, potential delays to the completion date	Specialist advice sought from supplier and Senior User. Water will be de-chlorinated to trace levels ahead of any planned drain down. This mirrors the approach taken at Splash where license to discharge is not required.

Permission to connect new plant and equipment to the Danfo electricity supply in adjacent Toilet Block	New connection/supply point will be required – potential delays to works and additional costs.	Initial principle of connections to Danfo electricity have been agreed. Further detailed discussions ongoing regarding details of cable routes and containment through the toilet block into the small plant room housing for Recirculation system. Technical Services engineering team support to coordinate works contracts and monitor works.
Council staff unavailable and/or lack of management resource to coordinate on site works and administrate contracts/tender process	Potential delays to project and additional costs	Engineering team to monitor works and be 'on-hand' to inspect excavations and provide direction to the contractor to manage change. Existing statutory utilities mapping is available.
Unexpected abnormalities are found in the ground during excavation works	Potential delays and additional costs	Appoint experienced contractor with experience in groundworks. Healthy contingency included within capital cost breakdown
Availability of materials/supplies/subcontractors	Delays to works, additional costs	Early contractor engagement to ensure no long lead items. Re-open engagement through the tender process to understand if this has changed in the intervening period.
Inclement weather during the works	Delay to works, additional costs	Works undertaken during milder months. Allowance of float within contractors' programme.
Resilience of existing surface against the introduction of chlorine		Budget is available within the existing team to carry out patch repairs. The Council are advised that

Additional maintenance costs,
potential for capital
replacement costs in the future

the introduction of chlorine will
accelerate the degradation of the
surface and reduce the design life
from 6-7 years to 3-4 years.

PROCUREMENT PATHWAY

11. The works are proposed to be delivered via two separate works contracts.
12. The first contract will be awarded to the specialist pool company via the Council's Informal Qualified Procedure which can be used for contracts with a value of less than £25,000. This is due to the bespoke nature of the procurement and that the requirements have been developed with the companies input. The Council do not have the expertise in-house to specify the requirements of the recirculatory system.
13. The second contract will be procured via the Council's Repairs and Maintenance Framework and will be for the groundworks and electricals element of the project. The two contracts will be coordinated and monitored on site by the Council's Engineering team.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

14. It is proposed that the new paddling pool plant system will be managed and maintained jointly with the Splash facility by the Council's Parks and Coastal Service. Running both pool plant systems jointly, will provide operational economy of scale benefits and service flexibility. The SPLASH facility is open 7 days per week during the summer period.
15. The current SPLASH facility is managed by 2 qualified seasonal attendants, reporting directly to the Senior Coast and Conservation Officer, throughout the summer period. Duties include opening and closing the facility, managing the booking system, checking the chlorine levels, undertaking safety inspections, providing customer care and general supervision of the facility, to ensure safe usage.
16. To allow the same level of service to the new Paddling Pool facility, it is proposed to increase the number of seasonal attendants to three, to allow the safe management of both facilities 7 days per week during the summer period, under the same management systems and processes. Although SPLASH requires full time monitoring, due to the booking system, it must be noted that the Paddling Pool facility will not have a booking system and therefore will not require full time monitoring. This facility will be monitored by regular visits by a SPLASH attendant throughout the day, who will be covered by a colleague.
17. Both facilities may occasionally require temporary, ad hoc closures to undertake necessary repairs, emergency cleansing operations or if inclement weather conditions prevent use. Social media updates will be provided in these instances.
18. The ongoing maintenance requirements for both facilities will be similar and include seasonal commission and decommission; pool plant switch on and facility opening; chemical administration and checks; frequent back washes; system failure and breakdown response; facility infrastructure inspections and cleansing; monitoring of public use, dealing with any issues of antisocial behaviour; reacting to hygiene incidents; and undertaking emergency closures when required.
19. There will be additional revenue costs for the operation of the new paddling pool plant system, which are estimated below: It is envisaged that there will be a saving on the use of water, due to the new recirculatory system, but this will not be known until the system is functional.

Revenue Item	Cost	Notes
1 x staff attendant	£10,500	Additional seasonal staff will be required to operate the new pool plant system and undertake pool maintenance duties from April - September.
Chemicals	£700	This is an estimated figure.
Commission/ decommission	£1,500	This is an estimated figure.
Electricity	£1,000	This is an estimated figure.
TOTAL	£13,700	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Council is requested to approve a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve, and subject to approval by Council, is requested to note that a retrospective item containing a drawdown expenditure report will be brought to a future meeting of the committee. Council is also requested to approve an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
Legal	None arising directly from this report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The installation of the recirculatory system will significantly reduce current water usage.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Charlie Richards	charlie.richards@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658520	January 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PROJECTS AND REGENERATION	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	12

FULLY FUNDED IN YEAR BUDGET INCREASE – UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

In April 2022 the Government announced a new £2.6billion investment programme titled UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to replace old EU structural funding. As part of the funding allocation process, the Council prepared and submitted an Investment Plan in August 2022 which was then approved by Government in December 2022.

Fylde's allocation of UKSPF monies amounts to £2.6m, to be defrayed over 3 financial years until the end of 2024/2025. The Investment Plan details where the funding will be concentrated across the 3 investment themes as set out the Government's UKSPF guidance documents. The Investment Plan has been approved by the UKSPF Partnership Group, which brings together a cross section of key stakeholders including representatives from businesses, elected members, education and skills, and the community sectors.

On the 30 January 2023, the Finance and Democracy Committee will consider the report that provides an overview of the scheme and recommends Council approve an in-year increase to the capital programme for 2022/2023 of £82,500 and in-year increase to the revenue base budget for 2022/2023 of £258,288, both of which are fully funded via the UKSPF allocation.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is requested to:

1. Approve a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £82,500 to the 'UK Shared Prosperity Funding' scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
2. Approve a fully funded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £258,288 for 2022/2023, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
3. To note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to a future Finance and Democracy Committee meeting to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the Investment Plan.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On 30 January 2023, Finance & Democracy Committee are requested to recommend:

1. to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £82,500 to the 'UK Shared Prosperity Funding' scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
2. to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £258,288 for 2022/2023, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

3. Subject to approval by Council as above, the Finance and Democracy Committee is requested to note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to future Committees to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the Investment Plan.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was launched by the Government on 13th April 2022. The fund replaces old EU structural funding which was administered by unitary authorities to provide economic development and regeneration initiatives.
2. The government describes the fund as “a central pillar of the UK government’s ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support”.
3. The objectives of the fund are to.
 - Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
4. To access the funding allocation, lead local authorities were required to complete an Investment Plan setting out how the funding would be used. As part of the preparation of the Investment Plan, a local partnership group was formed to define Fylde’s priorities and to establish the principles of the application.
5. There are 3 main investment themes contained within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, under each of these themes several projects have been developed to ensure the Council achieves the outcomes and outputs expected over the lifetime of the Fund, these include:
 - **Communities and Place**
 - **Supporting Local Business**
 - **People and Skills**
6. Projects being developed will see physical improvements in town centres, as well as events and campaigns to support the visitor economy and increase the number of volunteering engagements through community-related projects. There are a range of projects that have been identified to assist the growth of ambitious businesses and to support their sustainability and resilience, reduce their carbon footprint, apprenticeship opportunities and training, and specialist expertise to support Fylde’s aerospace, automotive and advanced engineering, and manufacturing sectors.
7. In addition, the commissioning of feasibility and baseline studies will enable the Council to better understand Fylde’s rural economy to target and prioritise future funding opportunities, and to enable a better understanding of the value and capacity of the community, voluntary, faith and social enterprise sectors who operate across the borough supporting individuals and groups.

8. The programme has also identified projects dedicated to supporting those who are currently unemployed, including young people who are disengaged, through a range of mentoring and training opportunities with the aim of getting ready for work and/or educational opportunities.
9. The partnership group met on the 25th July to discuss the proposed Investment Plan and the membership includes:
 - Mark Menzies MP
 - Cllr Karen Buckley – Council Leader and Chairman of Finance and Democracy Committee
 - Councillor Roger Small – Deputy Leader and Chairman of Operational Management Committee
 - Councillor Richard Redcliffe – Chairman of the Town Centre Working Group and Vice Chairman of Planning Committee
 - Neil Farley – Economic Prosperity Board representative for Fylde
 - Veli Kirk – St Anne’s Enterprise Partnership
 - Suzanne Taylor – Lytham Business Partnership
 - Heidi Hopkinson – Kirkham Business Group
 - Julie Casson – Job Centre/DWP
 - Janet Doolan – Growth Lancashire
 - Graham Oatridge - YMCA
 - Hannah Swindell – BAE Systems
 - Alastair Mulvey – Blackpool and Fylde College
 - Allan Oldfield – Chief Executive - Fylde Council
 - Charlie Richards – Head of Projects and Regeneration - Fylde Council
 - Paula Huber – Economic Development and Regeneration Manager – Fylde Council
 - Tamar Reay – Reay Associates
 - Steph Shone – Planning Policy Officer – Fylde Council
 - Mike Harris – Press Officer – Fylde Council
10. Following consultation with the local partnership group, the Investment Plan was submitted to Government on 29th July 2022. On the 5th December 2022 it was announced that the Investment Plan had been approved and that the first year allocation of £340,788 would be transferred to the Council upon receipt of a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The signed MOU was issued to Government on 15th December 2022 and a payment of £340,788 was credited to the council’s bank account on 30th December 2022.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	<p>The Committee is asked to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £82,500 to the ‘UK Shared Prosperity Funding’ scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £258,288 for 2022/2023, to be met from external funding</p>

	<p>provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>Subject to approval by Council as above, the Finance and Democracy Committee is requested to note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to future Committees to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the Investment Plan.</p>
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Charlie Richards	Charlie.richards@fylde.gov.uk 01253 658520	30/01/2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
UKSPF Investment Plan	29 th July 2022	Appendix A

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

Name: Stephanie Shone

Email address: stephanie.shone@fylde.gov.uk

Phone number: 01253 658694

Organisation name: Fylde Borough Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Fylde is situated on the Lancashire coast in NW England. Its immediate neighbours are Blackpool, Wyre and Preston. Fylde has a population of 81,400 (**Lancashire Insight, Census 2021**) and is a mixture of larger urban settlements and smaller rural ones. The nature of Fylde's location along the coast makes it an attractive place to live but also to visit. Tourism and the hospitality and retail sectors are therefore an important part of its economy. Other strengths of the borough are its heritage and cultural assets, including several historical buildings, for example, Lytham Windmill, Lytham Institute and Fylde Council Town Hall in St Annes, and the presence of significant employers in the aerospace and manufacturing sectors, which means that Fylde's resident population are highly skilled and have higher than the UK average wages. However, Fylde also has a number of challenges, which are outlined below:

Challenge: How to increase footfall and visitor numbers to the Fylde coast.

Fylde has experienced a dual reduction in work trips and visitor numbers since 2019. The reduction in work trips is primarily due to Covid and the rise in remote working. Between June 2019 and June 2020, there was a reduction in just over 400,000 work trips into (and within) the borough of Fylde from the wider Lancashire region. Whilst this figure will have reduced as returning to the office has increased, numbers will remain significant which in turn influences the economies of the towns within Fylde. (**Source: Lancashire Independent Economic Review – Economic Geography and the Future of Towns 2021, p16**)

Pre-pandemic, Lancashire was attracting over 67m visitors a year, generating £4.41bn in economic impact, however, the tourism industry has seen a 70% reduction since the start of the pandemic. This equates to a loss of 47.37m visits, 53.33m visitor days and £2.8bn in economic value. In 2018, there were 3.3m visitors to the Fylde Coast with an economic value of £263.5m. In 2020, this figure dropped to 1.2m, with a consequent drop in economic value to £111.9m (**Source: Marketing Lancashire**)

annual tourism report - STEAM 2020). These figures demonstrate the importance of the visitor economy to Fylde but also the challenge it faces in encouraging visitors (both day and staying) not only to return, but also in attracting new ones, as well as differentiating its offer from its immediate neighbour, Blackpool.

Challenge: How to increase the attractiveness of its town centres so that people want to visit and stay.

Investment in public realm has significantly reduced over the last decade due to the lack of available funding. The last major investment in St Annes town centre, for example, was approximately 20 years ago, and several stores, including JR Taylor (a longstanding retail anchor), have closed over the years. The increase in online shopping and the impact of Covid has also had a significant effect both on the retail and hospitality sectors (**Source: emerging St Annes Masterplan June 2022**)

One of Fylde's strengths is its heritage and conservation assets, some of which have fallen out of use over the years. However, there is little understanding regarding the viability of bringing them back into economic use / improving them due to a lack of funding to explore this issue. If these were to be brought back into use, they could increase the attractiveness of the town centres.

Challenge: how to meet the differing needs of its resident population to reduce churn and improve quality of life

Although prosperous, the borough has a lower than average economically active population (71.7% compared with 76.5% in the NW, and 78.4% in GB) and a higher than average economically inactive population (28.3%, compared with 23.5% in the NW and 28.1% in GB. (**Source: Fylde NOMIS Labour Market Report, June 2022**). In part this is due to the Fylde's attractiveness as a place to retire to, 27.9% of its population are aged 65+ (**Source: Lancashire Insight, Census 2021**). Health and wellbeing issues, such as loneliness and social isolation due to poor transport connectivity or lack of family close by, can impact this age group, along with a greater reliance on public services.

At the other end of the spectrum, are those aged 15-24 who may not be in education, employment, or training (NEET) or are at risk of being NEET who account for 8.5% of the population (**Source: Lancashire Insight, Census 2021**). This group are also most likely to be found where there are concentrations of disadvantage, for example in St Annes, where one of the neighbourhoods in the town centre is amongst the 10 most deprived places in England (**Source: Fylde's Levelling Up Fund bid, July 2022**). As with the older population, health and wellbeing issues and a greater reliance on public services can impact this age group, but also the lack of economic opportunities, lack of skills (including life skills) and lack of facilities / attractions have an impact too.

Those aged between 25 and 64, equating to 45.4% of Fylde's population (**Source – Lancashire Insight, 2021 Census**), show the most churn as this age group move in and out of the Fylde at various points in time, due to changing jobs, family commitments and now also the cost of living. The challenge is how to encourage this cohort to stay rather than move in and out of the borough.

Challenge: a lack of knowledge of how best to support the third sector

As in other places, due to reducing local authority budgets there has been a growing reliance over the last decade on the voluntary, community and faith sectors to step in and deliver services to communities. Whilst Fylde has a strong voluntary, community, and faith sector, with well-established networks and relationships with partners across the public and private sectors, the challenge is to understand fully what services they already provide, and whether there are capacity issues and / or gaps (including skills) which require support

Challenge: how to make the transition to net zero

Climate change is here, and all places must reduce their carbon emissions by 2050. Fylde Council, as the local authority wants to lead by example but first it must understand its own position before it can share lessons learned and best practice. Funding is required in order to better understand Fylde Council's own carbon footprint and to develop and deliver an action plan that will embed positive changes around the carbon neutral agenda.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Local opportunities which Fylde intends to support include the following:

- to undertake much needed feasibility / baseline studies:
 - a) to gain an understanding of the true and full picture of the positive impact the community, voluntary and faith sector has on the Fylde economy and how best it can be supported to continue its important and vital work in Fylde's communities
 - b) to explore the costs and implications of bringing heritage and conservation assets, back into economic use, with a view to bringing forward a project proposition; and
 - c) to support Fylde Council to understand its carbon footprint, and lead by example in reducing its carbon emissions, to be in a better position to support its residents, communities and businesses to do the same
- to work with partners in town centres to increase shopping footfall and the retail offer; and encourage activity after 6pm for both residents and visitors alike
- to support the regeneration of Fylde's towns and villages through developing a Town Centre Programme, including the next phase of St Anne's regeneration (which specifically supports Levelling Up Fund project), which will increase pride in place
- to engage with partners on health & wellbeing issues in the community and assist residents with accessing support (*environment*)
- to deliver an events' programme that covers the coast and countryside (which will also improve access to these places), including investigating new opportunities and marketing and promoting events for both residents and day and staying visitors alike and which creates a complementary yet unique offer to its immediate neighbouring authority of Blackpool

There are opportunities for links between this Communities and Place investment priority and the People and Skills investment priority, through the potential to connect voluntary, community, and faith sector organisations with those who are economically inactive. There are also opportunities for links between the Communities and Place priority and the Supporting Local Business investment priority which may result from the economic opportunities offered.

These opportunities will contribute to the delivery of Fylde's economic, environment and tourism priorities in its **Corporate Plan 2020/24** as well as the following themes from its **Economic Development Strategy 2012-2030**:

Theme 2 - investing in the long-term vitality and viability of its town centres

Theme 3 - supporting and increasing the value of the visitor economy, through marketing and promoting the attractions of Fylde nationally and internationally and developing key sites, such as "The Island" in St Annes

Theme 10 - supporting the development of Fylde's rural and urban environments and to be places where people desire to live, work and visit, and ensure an improving quality of life for all of its citizens

Theme 11 - working together with partners to ensure that the economic opportunities created by Government energy policy (now Net Zero and Heat and Buildings strategies) are maximised in the Fylde

They will also contribute to the achievement of **Fylde Council Coastal Strategy 2015 – 2032's vision** - "To create a unique, high quality visitor destination for residents and visitors, which is based on the conservation and enhancement of the natural landscape and heritage assets of the coastal area of the Borough of Fylde".

The opportunities also link to the following regional and national strategies:

Lancashire Independent Economic Review – Economic Geography and the Future of Towns 2021. This report recognises that some places (such as the Fylde) provide an offer that attracts day visitors, overnight stays and holidaymakers (p50) and sees an opportunity for such places to attract people who a) would otherwise go to cities b) would otherwise go abroad, by extending the seasonal offer and targeting the weekend breaks market (p52)

25 Year Environmental Plan - “A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment”:

- using and managing land sustainably (p32) by exploring ways in which the design of public realm activities can contribute to environmental improvements, leading to better places in which to live and work and a reduced environmental footprint (action, p34)
- enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment (Goal 6, p28); by making sure that there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas, and encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing (action, p28)

Net Zero Strategy – Build Back Greener

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas, and improving air quality, making them a more attractive space to spend time in
- public sector decarbonisation fund – to support local authorities to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint

Levelling Up White Paper

These opportunities clearly link to the Government’s levelling up objective: to restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places which they have been lost; the UKSPF overarching objective to build pride in place and increase life chances; and the following Levelling Up White Paper (Feb 2022) Missions:

Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing

Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?**(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible**

Fylde’s economy is made up of a number of important sectors, including tourism, retail and hospitality (highlighted in the Communities and Place priority), aerospace and advanced manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical activities and rural sector (see challenge below for further detail on this sector).

The importance of manufacturing to Fylde cannot be overstated. Manufacturing employs 10,000 people (almost 25% of Fylde’s 40,650 strong workforce) in 175 businesses (5.1% of the business base) and contributed £787m GVA in 2020, one third of Fylde’s total. However, it is also a sector which has suffered significantly due to the Covid pandemic – with a loss of £189m from 2019 figures (£976m or 36.03% of Fylde’s total GVA).

Likewise, GVA in the accommodation and food services sector, which employs 3,500 people (just over 8.5% of the workforce) in 245 businesses (7.4% of the business base), has almost halved as a result of the pandemic from £88m (3.25% of Fylde’s total GVA) in 2019 to £47m (1.93%) in 2020.

There was, however, an increase in GVA in the professional, scientific and technical sector, which employs 7,000 people (just over 17% of Fylde’s total workforce) in 550 businesses (16.6% of the business base) from £200m (7.38%) in 2019 to £220m (9.04%) in 2020.

Overall Fylde’s total GVA has reduced from £2,708m in 2019 to £2,433m in 2020. Its GVA per filled job, however, is high - £62,101 (in 2020) - compared with Lancashire’s GVA per filled job - £48,950.

Per GVA hour worked this equates to £38.62, compared with that for the whole of Lancashire which is £30.80. This reflects the nature of high skilled, high value-added employment within Fylde (**Lancashire Skills Hub Evidence Base, Microsoft Power BI, July 2022**).

It should also be noted that whilst agriculture by itself seems quite a small sector, forming only 1.7% of its GVA, the rural economy as a whole, when other sectors such as accommodation and food services, and also retail are also included, plays a significant part in Fylde's economy.

There were 3,325 active enterprises in the Fylde in 2021, the majority of whom are either micro businesses (88.9%), employing between 0 and 9 people, or small enterprises (9%) employing between 10 and 49 people (**Fylde NOMIS Labour Market Report, June 2022**). This represented an increase of 25 businesses since 2019.

In terms of Travel to Work, Fylde draws its workforce predominantly from the Fylde, and its immediate neighbours - Blackpool, Wyre and, to a lesser extent, Preston.

Fylde has a higher job density (ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64) than average (0.92) compared with 0.82 in the North West and 0.84 in GB, due partly to the presence of major employers such as British Aerospace and Toshiba Westinghouse and also because the proportion of the workforce is smaller than previously. This in itself can be a challenge because it shows the tightness of the labour market, with 119 vacancies being posted in May 2022, compared with 92 in December 2019 (**Lancashire Skills Hub Evidence Base, Microsoft Power BI, July 2022**). Employers are also struggling to recruit the right people because there is a lack of people with suitable skills and a mismatch between those sectors needing staff and sectors where people want to work.

Fylde's workforce is highly skilled (39% are qualified to NVQ4 and above, compared with the NW average of 38.5% but lower than the GB average of 43.5%) and high earning (gross weekly pay was £612 compared with £578 in the NW and £613 in GB) (**Source: Fylde NOMIS Labour Market Report, June 2022**), again due to the presence of major employers in the aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors.

However, there are a number of challenges Fylde faces in relation to its businesses. These include:

Challenge: How to improve targeted support to the local business base and identify where there is the greatest need / opportunity to develop or diversify the economic offer. To identify and engage with the pool of entrepreneurs that have developed and migrated to Fylde who are major investors, developers and employers in the SME sector.

To date there has been limited engagement with business support provision mostly delivered regionally or nationally. Only 6% (83) of 1380 Lancashire businesses supported by Boost Business Lancashire between 2019 and March 2022, were from Fylde, of which 59.7% (of the 6%) were related to business growth and start up support (**Boost Business Lancashire presentation, June 2022**).

The Covid pandemic provided an opportunity for local councils, including Fylde to administer business support grants to businesses which has created understanding, knowledge and direct engagement that UKSPF will help to build on, further enabling more pro-active and productive relationships.

Challenge: To gain a greater understanding of the rural economy, the business base, skills development needs and skills growth opportunities (i.e. green skills) in order to target interventions to enable the rural economy to prosper and grow.

This is due to the fact that Fylde's rural economy has not necessarily had the benefit of accessing mainstream or EU funding in the past. The focus for many local authorities has been on town centres, due to the decline of traditional shopping methods and the changing economic environment, however the rural economy has a great deal to offer the wider economy but also has its own unique challenges. This links directly to several corporate priorities.

Challenge: how to improve productivity as a result of lower-than-average number of economically active, those aged 16+ (71.7, December 2020 – December 2021) compared with NW region (76.5%) and Great Britain (78.4%) (**Fylde NOMIS Labour Market Profile, June 2022**).

This is due to the mixture of age profile, the percentage of the population aged 65+, the impact of Covid on employment, particularly in retail and hospitality, and businesses experiencing skills' gaps. It is also a result of developer preference to build residential rather than commercial, and a significant reliance on a handful of major employers that attract employees from outside of the Borough.

Challenge: How to narrow the gender pay gap between men and women in Fylde (also links to challenge re productivity) and to better understand what provision is currently available to women and girls to encourage access to STEM related subjects and career opportunities.

There are significant disparities in both weekly and hourly pay between men and women. The gross weekly pay for male full-time workers in the Fylde in 2021 was £661.40 (compared with £615.80 in the NW and £655.5 in GB), whereas for female full-time workers, gross weekly pay was £542.50 (compared with £529 in the NW and £558.1 in GB). Hourly pay for male full-time workers in the Fylde was £17.02 (compared with £15.33 in the NW and £16.26 in GB), compared with £15.38 for female full-time workers. This compares with £14.02 in the NW and £14.86 in GB. (**Source: Fylde NOMIS Labour Market Profile, June 2022**).

There is a significant lack of information available regarding career aspirations and opportunities in local STEM businesses which results in fewer women being engaged in STEM related employment and in turn contributes to the gender pay gap.

Challenge: how to combat declining employment and reducing value in its manufacturing base.

The Fylde is identified along with Pendle and Ribble Valley as having a manufacturing base that is characterised as "high volume, high value, high specialisation". This means it has a significant volume of employment concentrated within a small number of very large firms. However the challenge is that this employment is in specialised industries and the overall employment group footprint is declining overall (-2%). A further challenge is that whilst it is high value in terms of GVA, jobs and productivity, there are starting to be some indications of reducing value.

Challenge: how to support businesses to transition to net zero and decarbonisation

This is due to the scale of the challenge, and cost of implementing the changes needed to get to net zero; alongside a lack of understanding by businesses of technologies / products available.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

UKSPF provides the following opportunities:

- greater engagement with businesses and regional business support, e.g. Boost Lancashire, to ensure a more targeted approach to Fylde's business sectors, including town centre businesses, to help them plan for the future, grow their businesses, identify skills' needs / gaps and to tackle the gender pay gap, and recruitment issues
- to further build on strong firm formation rates in the manufacturing sector which suggest a more positive outlook for start-ups and small business growth (**Lancashire Independent Economic Review – Future of Manufacturing 2021, p46**) through more targeted and tailored support for this sector, in order to improve their supply chains and productivity
- to support businesses to begin or increase the transition to net zero and decarbonisation, creating and safeguarding jobs, developing green skills, reducing their energy consumption and enter new markets

- to undertake a feasibility study to develop a greater understanding of the rural economy and its needs, with a view to being able to provide more tailored support going forward, including around the transition to net zero. This is particularly important as the National Farmers Union has set the agricultural industry a challenging target of becoming net zero by 2040 through improving farming's productive efficiency; improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon; and boosting renewable energy and the wider bioeconomy, whilst at the same time not reducing its capacity to feed UK consumers with high quality, affordable British food. It also says that the UK must not achieve its climate change ambitions by exporting UK production, or agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions, to other countries (**Achieving Net Zero, Farming 2040, NFU, September 2019**)
- to develop more partnership arrangements with major employers as well as local entrepreneurs that shape a lot of the economic activity in the Borough and remove the hesitation of engaging with the local authority
- to support and develop local business partnerships, networks and existing structures to lead on economic development initiatives

There are clear links between this objective and the People and Skills objective, particularly around the identification of skills' needs by businesses, and investment in skills and training.

The opportunities outlined above, and activities undertaken through Fylde's Investment Plan will contribute to the delivery of the following economic and environmental priorities of Fylde's **Corporate Plan 2020 / 2024** and the relevant themes of its **Economic Development Strategy 2012 - 2030**

- working with partners to attract new employment and create vibrant economic communities (*economic, Themes 8 and 9*)
- developing the Enterprise Zone through the Fylde Coast partnership attracting employment and new industry (*economic*)
- working with partners to implement carbon reduction policies and ensure that the economic opportunities created by Government's energy policy (now Net Zero and Heat and Buildings strategies) are maximised in the Fylde (*environment, Theme 11*)

The opportunities also link to the following regional and national strategies:

Lancashire Independent Economic Review - Stronger & Greener: The future of manufacturing in Lancashire 2021

- the maintenance of high value industry, managing declining volumes through additional job creation
- the maintenance of positive start-up rates, enabling greater job creation in smaller firms to increase high value activity outside of the larger businesses
- the continuation of driving frontier R&D related to globally significant specialisms while strengthening local and regional links
- enabling the re-skilling and transition to new career paths, while sharing best practice with wider industry
- deepening the local supply chain by articulating market requirements to local businesses (p46)
- reducing emissions in the manufacturing sector to achieve Net Zero. This will require fundamental changes in how manufacturing will operate in the future, driven either by sustainability targets or by competition as likeminded businesses adopt faster, smarter ways of working, including adopting a more circular economy (p48).

25 Year Environmental Plan - "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment:

- using and managing land sustainably (p32), by encouraging businesses and farmers to use resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- boosting productivity, by enhancing our natural capital (p18)

Government's Net Zero Strategy – Building Back Greener

- encouraging resource efficiency (p130) by supporting the development of the circular economy, keeping products and materials in circulation longer and retaining and creating new value at a much reduced environmental impact
- supporting the take up of energy efficiency measures (p131)
- supporting farmers to reduce emissions, for example, from livestock, agricultural soils and farm machinery and to deliver a range of environmental outcomes (p171)

Levelling Up White Paper

These opportunities clearly link to the Government's levelling up objective: to restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places which they have been lost; the UKSPF overarching objective to build pride in place and increase life chances; and the following Levelling Up White Paper (Feb 2022) Missions:

Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing

Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

In 2021, there were 12,000 people identified as economically inactive which equates to about 28% of Fylde's working age population, those aged 16-64. This compares with 6,400 in 2019, or about 14% of the working age population (**Fylde NOMIS Labour Market Report, June 2022**). Of these, 9,800 of are identified as not wanting a job and this reflects the fact that there is a high percentage of (early) retired people as well as those who are financially secure that do not require employment but this leaves a further 2,200 who are wanting a job but are currently not in employment. 1,330 of these (the number of those claiming benefits in May 2022) will likely be involved in DWP programmes, meaning that 870 people are likely not engaged with government programmes and are therefore further from the labour market, and need support to find employment. It also does not take into account those within the "do not want a job" cohort, who may actually be seeking jobs to supplement their income in retirement.

As stated previously in the Supporting Local Business objective, Fylde's workforce is highly skilled (39% are qualified to NVQ4 and above, compared with the NW average of 38.5% but lower than the GB average of 43.5%).

Employers are already struggling to recruit to vacancies because of a mismatch between the people with the right skills and the sectors they want to work in. The need for higher level skills is expected to experience the biggest growth in Fylde's Travel-To-Work Area in NVQ3+ by 0.76% and NVQ4+ by 0.94% between 2018 and 2028 (**Lancashire Skills Hub, Skills Evidence Base, Microsoft Power BI, July 2022**). A shortage of qualified individuals was identified as a challenge in the **Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan, March 2022 (p4)**

Challenge: How to prevent or reverse the "youth drain"

This is due to the population profile along with limited opportunity for the 16 to 18 age group to have an alternative to further education such as apprenticeships, trades or on the job learning / education. The area is desirable because of the good educational institutions from the age of 3 or 4 but offers nothing from 16 onwards, the 'youth drain' starts at this age.

Challenge: how to identify and support those who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) or at risk of becoming NEET

On the surface, the number of those who are known as NEET in Fylde – 26, for 2020/21, compared with 18 in 2018/19 and 28 in 2019/20 (**Young People NEET 2021, Lancashire County Council, January 2022**). This issue with the figures in the presentation is that they relate solely to 16–17-year-olds, and only those who were known to the County Council as the education authority. Those who were not known to the County Council, or those aged 18–24 who are also classed as NEET. Instead, the 18–24-year-olds are counted within the economically inactive numbers, which as noted above forms a high percentage of the population. The number of NEETs is known to be increasing particularly from the pockets of deprivation that exist in Fylde, which is due to a lack of access to additional support and funding which is often based on the indices of deprivation and does not pick up the specific geographic pockets of deprivation that exist in Fylde. Increased number of NEETs is linked to post pandemic workplace and opportunities the impact is being felt particularly in coastal, tourism and rural economies. Therefore, it is important to be able to identify those who are NEET, or are at risk of becoming NEET, and to provide relevant and tailored support to enable them to access long term and sustainable employment.

Challenge: how to support those who are economically inactive and, or, hard to reach, and / or with more complex needs

There are several areas with a considerable proportion of less affluent individuals who find it more challenging to get structured support because there are fewer people in similar circumstances. These people often have significant health (physical or mental) issues, and lack confidence or the skills to access employment, or training. Often, they require tailored one-to-one support for some time to get them back on the employment ladder, which is not readily available.

Challenge: how to encourage the take up of vocational (including green) skills.

The good education available across the Fylde is predominantly or even exclusively in more traditional academic or non-vocational subjects. Trade or apprenticeships in modern vocational skills needs to be developed including in green skills.

This is due to the track record of successful non-vocational subjects across educational institutions in Fylde, the loss of youth / younger generation and limited non-vocational opportunities, and the limited engagement to date with businesses in Fylde to discuss the potential for investing in these types of skills for the future.

Challenge: lack of state funded education provision for 16-18-year olds in Fylde

There is currently no state funded educational provision for those aged 16 to 18 in Fylde. This means that students have to travel to neighbouring Blackpool or Preston to study for A-levels.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

UKSPF offers the following opportunities:

- to continue to work with those who are economically inactive, particularly the NEET / at risk of NEET cohort, to support them into paid work
- to bridge the gender pay gap (as outlined in Supporting Local Business section) through employment support, and skills' progression
- to work with businesses to identify skills' needs (through business engagement under the Supporting Local Business objective) and subsequently supporting them to access skills' support via the most appropriate route (including training opportunities under this priority in 2024/25)

- to increase the level of training, particularly vocational training (including apprenticeships), taken up by businesses to support their workforce to develop new skills or refresh existing ones
- to work with partners to facilitate the development of a business case for sixth form state funded educational provision in Fylde

The opportunities outlined above, and activities undertaken through Fylde's Investment Plan will contribute to the delivery of the following economic and environmental priorities of Fylde's **Corporate Plan 2020 / 2024** and the relevant themes of its **Economic Development Strategy 2012 - 2030**

- working with partners to attract new employment and create vibrant economic communities (*economic*) and providing opportunities for Fylde's workforce to improve and enhance their skill levels to meet the demands and needs of a changing economy which is fit for the 21st century (*Theme 8*)
- engaging with partners on health & wellbeing issues in the community and assisting residents with accessing support (*environment*)

The opportunities also link to the following regional and national strategies through:

Lancashire Independent Economic Review – A New Prosperity 2021

- encouraging investment in skills, which is arguably one of the most important priorities for the country in order to level up - creating places attractive to higher productivity businesses and increasing social mobility and individual opportunity for residents (p26).
- stimulating demand by employers for a more highly qualified – and productive – workforce. Whilst businesses may lack access to skilled workers, they may also not have business models which effectively utilise a skilled workforce (p27).

Lancashire Independent Economic Review - Stronger & Greener: The future of manufacturing in Lancashire 2021

- enabling the re-skilling and transition to new career paths, while sharing best practice with wider industry

Government's Net Zero Strategy – Building Back Greener

- encouraging investment in green skills, and green job creation

Levelling Up White Paper

These opportunities clearly link to the Government's levelling up objective: to restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places which they have been lost; the UKSPF overarching objective to build pride in place and increase life chances; and the following Levelling Up White Paper (Feb 2022) Missions:

Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.	
Outcome (links to interventions in brackets for information)	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	
Jobs safeguarded	
Increased footfall (E1, E6 and E8)	√
Increased visitor numbers (E1, E6 and E8)	√
Reduced vacancy rates (Links to E1)	
Greenhouse gas reductions (Links to E1)	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	
Increased use of cycleways or paths	
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	
Improved perception of safety	
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	
Improved engagement numbers (E9 only)	√
Improved perception of events	
Increased number of web searches for a place	
Volunteering numbers as a result of support (E9)	√
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (E14)	√
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.
Intervention
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>
E1 - Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.

E8 - Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
E9 - Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places
E14 – Relevant feasibility studies

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

N/A

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

**Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).**

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

N/A

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Levelling Up Fund (LUF) project.

The Levelling Up Fund proposal is a major project for Fylde Borough Council which will kickstart delivery of the St Anne's-on-the-Sea Masterplan by transforming public realm and connectivity from the station gateway to the Promenade, integrating the town centre and seafront and providing a continuous, high-quality experience for residents and visitors alike.

Alongside £12m investment in the sea wall, the bid provides the foundations for the renewal of St Anne's offer as a high-quality family seaside resort and Fylde Coast's 'retreat', by encouraging new investment in the refreshed town centre, and the opportunity to create an extended family offer at the Island site and along the seafront.

The request for funding forms one part of the proposal and will act as match funding to support the capital works and delivery of the events' programme for St Annes Square.

It falls under the Communities and Place investment priority because of its focus on public realm and town centre regeneration (E1) which in turn will increase footfall and greater visitor numbers and improve perception of amenities and accessibility of the area.

The project will be located in St Annes, one of Fylde borough's larger towns.

Community Projects Scheme Enhancement

The council has a well-established and successful Community Projects Fund that was created by Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The fund has been operated by Fylde Council since the LSP was disbanded after second homes funding was no longer available to finance all the possible projects / interventions. The fund has always been significantly short of monies to deliver community projects delivered by community groups since the LSP was disbanded.

There are established governance arrangements for the Community Projects Fund with input from local partners. Potential grants have had to be limited because of the funding restriction – only Fylde Council provides an allocated budget each year. The Community Projects Fund has delivered or contributed to, a vast array of community projects that have objectives and delivered outcomes consistent with those in the UKSPF. The fund represents an ideal vehicle for quick delivery of UKSPF outcomes through community partners. It is proposed to expand the fund for each year of the UKSPF after a review of the criteria, evaluation and application limits.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

The allocation would be used to enhance and improve public open space and the public realm and as such it could not cause a distortion in or harm to competition, trade or investment. It will not be used to fund any commercial or business enterprises,

The improvement results will benefit all users of the areas concerned and neighbouring areas, including economic actors, but that benefit will not be in terms of an improved environment and will not favour certain economic actors over others.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome (links to interventions in brackets for information)	Tick if applicable
Jobs created (E30)	✓
Jobs safeguarded (E29)	✓
Increased footfall	
Increased visitor numbers	
Reduced vacancy rates	

Greenhouse gas reductions	
Number of new businesses created (E23)	√
Improved perception of markets	
Increased business sustainability	
Increased number of businesses supported (E30)	√
Increased amount of investment	
Improved perception of attractions	
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes (E29)	√
Number of new to market products	
Number of R&D active businesses	
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	
Increased number of innovation plans developed	
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	
Number of businesses with improved productivity	√
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (E31)	√
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E23 - Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.

E30 - Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.

E31 – Support relevant feasibility studies

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

<p>Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.</p>	
Yes	No
<p>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</p>	
<p>As above</p>	

<p>HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?</p>	
<p>Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.</p>	
<p>The Partnership Group established for the UKSPF at Fylde have been considering a range of existing projects aimed at local business investment, development and growth. Most of the projects under consideration are regional or sub-regional initiatives funded in part (or whole) through European grants that have, or are planned to be, withdrawn / ceased. The Partnership Group is in the process of carrying out a full assessment of all the initiatives to understand what impact they have had in Fylde, future proposals, the fit with locally identified priorities and to agree outcomes for Fylde. It is expected that the process will be completed by September 2022, and it is evident that the UKSPF will not be sufficient in any of the three years to meet all the 'asks'. Therefore, it is important that the Partnership Group has full information on which to make important decisions that will shape the future of the organisation. The option of employing apprentices for a minimum two-year period, hosted by one or more of the partner organisations, that will deliver the stated UKSPF outcomes is under consideration as well for example, Business Support Advisory; Digital & Tech Trainers etc.</p>	
<p>Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.</p>	
Yes	No
<p>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</p>	
<p>N/A – as above</p>	

<p>WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.</p>	
Outcome (link to interventions in brackets for information)	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support (E33)	✓

Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills (E33)	√
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL) (E33)	√
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services (E33)	√
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services (E33)	√
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support (E33)	√
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (E33)	√
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months (E33)	√
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training (E38)	√
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training (E38)	√
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E33 - Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people

not in education, employment or training and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence).

*via Multiply.

E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that are not being met through other provision.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A – as above

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

Not applicable

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

No (but might be yes, depends on how the online application works)

Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

No specific projects, however, it is expected that skills needs will be identified through engagement with businesses under the Supporting Local Business priority, and some funding has therefore provisionally been allocated for this in 2024/25.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Yes

No

(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.

Pan-Lancashire project recommended to proceed to deliver UKSPF Interventions, subject to agreement by Fylde's UKSPF Local Partnership Group.

Selnet / Active Lancashire:

The projects funded under the European and Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) programme will cease operational activity at the end of March 2023 for the Selnet projects and September 2023 for the Active Lancashire projects. The projects will formally conclude in December 2023 at the end of the ESIF national programme. As a result, the provision at risk includes:

- intensive support and mentoring activity that focuses on the individual needs and aspirations of beneficiaries with some of the highest levels of needs and complexities
- twelve VCSE organisations funded to create packages of support for beneficiaries
- enabling disadvantaged people to make positive steps to access help to provide their basic needs, improve wellbeing and progress on a route to employment
- resources invested in local VCSE partners to delivery support tackling the root causes of poverty, promoting social inclusion, and driving local jobs and growth.

Active Lancashire and Selnet, who currently run these projects have no further resources to support to their beneficiaries. There is the opportunity to continue the provision described above through the Step Change project (outline below), albeit at a smaller scale due to reduced funding availability.

Selnet / Lancashire Colleges

The two projects are currently funded until 31 March 2023 only, with the last date for new participants (so that there is time to support them before end March) being December 2022. The projects provide personalised and intensive support for young people who are NEET/at risk of becoming NEET from aged 15 to 19 (24 for those with an EHCP) with referrals coming from schools, LAs, JCP and others who work with young people in the Lancashire area.

The provision is additional to that which is available through mainstream funding, and therefore adds significant value for the young people involved.

Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.

Selnet / Active Lancashire

Project Name	Project outline reference	Project ID	Project outline
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Age of opportunity	Lanc / 1 / 1	10281630	Working with People 50+ with Low or No Skills
Changing Futures	Lanc / 2 / 3	10292821	Disadvantaged Groups
Project Name	Project outline reference	Project ID	Project outline
More Positive Together	1	2021/1	Working with people furthest from the labour market
MPT Steps	3	2021/3	Support individuals to access or re access the job market as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Selnet / Lancashire Colleges

ESFA-15056 / ESF 5079 "Supporting NEETs – Lancashire LEP

MOU reference is 19S17C01879 'Working with Younger People (NEETS)'

What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.

2022-2023

2023-2024

2024-2025

Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Subject to agreement by Fylde's UKSPF Local Partnership Group.

Step Change (Selnet / Active Lancashire):

The project will address the challenges of economic inactivity (young people and older adults); tackling the root causes of poverty; long term and generational unemployment; exclusion for the most socially excluded residents with multiple and complex needs by providing tailored one to one mentoring and support (via an agreed progression plan) to move individuals towards economic activity, e.g. getting a job, starting a business; starting training. The support can last from 3-12 months plus, including during the first month of their employment if required.

The beneficiaries include those with physical and mental health conditions; low or no skills and qualifications; a need to re-skill due to changing career path; circumstances compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic; those recently made redundant; carers looking to return to work; not finished formal education; experienced exclusion due to inequalities; long term unemployed; ex-offenders and those suffering domestic violence.

The project will be located in Fylde, however, the project may also operate across different boroughs in Lancashire, as this is the appropriate spatial level and provides better value for money.

The project will link with Multiply where appropriate and relevant.

Supporting young people who are NEET / at risk (Selnet / Lancashire Colleges)

The project will provide tailored and personalised support to young people who are NEET or identified as being at risk of becoming NEET aged 15-19 (24 for young people with an EHCP Plan), who have either multiple and complex needs requiring greater support or more specific barriers which need only short-term support.

Actions will range from key worker support and mentoring, confidence building, mental health, and wellbeing support to employability and transferable skills support, and will be delivered by a well-

established partnership of different organisations, including for example AFC Fylde and Blackpool and the Fylde College.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

The recipients of this support are those who are economically inactive, have complex barriers to employment and are considered the furthest from the labour market, including NEETs (or at risk of becoming NEET). Therefore, it is not considered that any of the interventions provided to potential recipients will be considered a subsidy.

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Yes

No

Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT		
Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.		
Public sector organisations	Private sector organisations	Civil society organisations
Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.		
<p>Fylde Borough Council has engaged with each of these stakeholders to invite them to be part of the Local Partnership Body. Initial engagement was via email / telephone and the Partnership held its first meeting on 21st July 2022. The aim was to bring together a balanced and broad spread of organisations / stakeholders who could provide advice and guidance on strategic fit and deliverability of the Investment Plan.</p> <p>Public Sector:</p> <p>Leader & Deputy Leader Fylde Borough Council Chairman of the Town Centre Working Groups (Fylde Councillor) Jobcentre / DWP Public Health Police Blackpool & Fylde College</p> <p>Growth Lancashire</p> <p>Private Sector:</p> <p>Economic Prosperity Board for Fylde St Annes Enterprise Partnership Lytham Business Partnership Kirkham Business Group Federation of Small Businesses BAE Fox's Biscuits</p> <p>Civil Society:</p> <p>VCFSE Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre YMCA AFC Fylde</p> <p>In addition to engaging with the Local Partnership Group members detailed above, individual discussions have also taken place with providers on a local level, i.e. JCP and DWP, and internal colleagues within Fylde Borough Council involved in local partnership activities.</p>		
Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up		
<p>Fylde Council has embedded strong financial procedures which support service and programme delivery across the council. In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Council. In discharging this duty, the S151 Officer has due regard to the relevant legislation and regulations including the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and those Accounts and Audit Regulations as are in force at the time. In addition, the Local Government Act 2003 sets out the requirements for local authorities to monitor their budgets, both for revenue and capital.</p> <p>To discharge these functions the S151 Officer places reliance upon the Financial Procedure Rules within the council's constitution which set out the requirements of budget holders and senior</p>		

managers across the council in this regard. The five-year Capital Programme (comprising several individual schemes) is part of the Budget and Policy Framework of the Council and is approved annually and at appropriate intervals as necessary in the year. Budget holder must monitor and report capital expenditure and income for all schemes within the approved capital programme and identify any variations against the approved level of expenditure. Monitoring and reporting are undertaken at intervals as specified by the S151 Officer. All budgets within the Council are owned by a named officer who is responsible for ensuring that budgeted levels of income and expenditure are accurate, and that any expected variances against budgeted levels are highlighted and reported.

To supplement ongoing day-to-day budget monitoring activities carried out by budget holders, Capital Programme monitoring reports are prepared monthly during the year. These reports are considered first by Management Team and are subsequently presented for information to each of the Council's programme committees of the council during the year.

The council is fully compliant with the requirements of the CIPFA Financial Management Code which provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities.

With specific reference to the UKSPF monies, finance officers will directly support the nominated scheme managers in line with the above procedures to understand in detail scheme expenditure against the approved budget, to support reporting and to ensure proper financial governance of schemes within this funding stream. Monthly meetings will take place to discuss any issues that arise. All budget monitoring requirements will be met, there are adequate assurance systems in place which will ensure proper financial governance of these schemes and all governance and transparency matters will be properly addressed in line with any grant conditions.

Local Partnership Group

It is anticipated this Group will meet bi-annually to provide oversight to the processes being undertaken and to receive monitoring reports on progress against interventions and outcomes. Membership of this group includes representation from across the public, private and VCFSE sectors:

Leader of Fylde Council
 Deputy Leader of the Council
 Chairman of the Town Centre Working Groups
 MP for Fylde
 Economic Prosperity Board Representative for Fylde Council
 Chair of St Annes Enterprise Partnership
 Chair of Lytham Business Partnership
 Chair of Kirkham Business Group
 Community Sector (VCFSE)
 Federation of Small Businesses
 Job Centre/DWP representative
 CCG/Public Health Representative for Fylde Council
 Lancashire Police
 Growth Lancashire
 YMCA
 Private sector representative from BAE
 Private sector representative from Foxes Biscuits
 Blackpool and Fylde College

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.

Yes	No
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Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?

Yes	No
-----	----

(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.

--

PROJECT SELECTION

Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?

Yes	No
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(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.

Projects will not be selected on a financial basis alone, there will be a thorough assessment of how each existing project will, and can, deliver against Fylde's UKSPF stated interventions and outcomes to ensure the successful delivery of Fylde's Investment Plan 2022-2025.

A pan-Lancashire approach has been made to Fylde Council, facilitated by Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire LEP's Lancashire Skills Hub from sixteen pan-Lancashire projects currently receiving financial support through European funding that will cease.

Fylde Council's Corporate Priorities 2020-2024 are aligned to several of the pan-Lancashire projects, which Elected Members have recommended in principle to take forward based on outline proposals of how they will deliver the Interventions within the Investment Plan. After approval by the Local Partnership Group, each of these pan-Lancashire projects is now required to provide further, detailed, and robust information before any project is commissioned.

In addition to the pan-Lancashire proposals, several local providers have expressed interest in working with the Partnership Group to support the delivery of the Investment Plan. To ensure these providers also have an opportunity to submit a project, each provider will need to demonstrate how their projects will deliver the interventions and outcomes in the Investment Plan through a robust application process to support effective decision-making. Local providers have applied to the established Fylde Community Projects Fund that will be a mechanism to consider, approve and monitor projects aligned to the UKSPF Investment Plan (pending Local Partnership Group agreement).

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.	
E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps. This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people not in education, employment or training and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence).*via Multiply.	
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
Not applicable	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
Selnet and Active Lancashire, and Lancashire Colleges, enables projects at risk under People and Skills to deliver greater value for money through working in partnership with a number of local authorities.	

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY
How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?
<p>Yes. Fylde Council recognises that as part of The Equality Act 2010, it must have due regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED). Fylde's Investment Plan has had due regard to the three main aims of the public sector equality duty (PSED):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need to eliminate discrimination, • advance equality of opportunity and • foster good relations between different people.

Fylde's Investment Plan has been designed to covers all geographical areas across the borough and incorporates priorities that will have benefit and impact across all sectors of the community. In particular those living and working in Fylde, those visiting for work, shopping or visiting the attractions, as well as the older population and, potentially, more vulnerable, and those who are the furthest from the workplace. The variety and scope of priorities included within the Investment Plan would address Fylde's PSED:

- Public realm improvements and enhancements
- Town centre marketing and promotional activities
- Business engagement, collaboration and support
- Supporting the rural economy
- Engaging and understanding the community, voluntary and faith sectors and social enterprises operating within Fylde to target interventions
- Building capacity and skills of volunteers
- Supporting and engaging those individuals who are considered hard to reach, economically inactive and/or NEET (or at risk of becoming)
- Investigating ways to address the gender pay gap

How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

Providers who wish to submit a project to support the delivery of the Investment Plan, will be reminded of the PSED specified within The Equality Act 2010 and they will be asked to demonstrate how they have considered The Equality Act 2010 in their submissions. This may be in the form of an Equality Impact Assessment or similar, which identifies what measures they have in place to ensure protected individuals (who have protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010) are also able to access their services/support/provision without discrimination (i.e. digital considerations, accessibility, etc).

RISKS

Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?

Yes	No
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(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

The following risks and mitigation measures have been identified:

- **Risk:** That the Investment Plan is not signed off first time.
Mitigation measure: work with Government to resubmit
- **Risk:** Projects do not come forward or are not able to deliver as agreed.
Mitigation measure: ensure sufficient checks and balances are undertaken at the outset, engaging with colleagues as required (legal, finance, etc.), followed by regular monitoring of the position and developing a pipeline of projects which can begin if needed; continue to work closely with the Levelling Up Department for support and guidance when required.
- **Risk:** Ongoing management and delivery of the Investment Plan is more significant than foreseen:
Mitigation measure: utilise the 4% to ensure sufficient resources are available to support the management and monitoring.
- **Risk:** Staff leave before the end of the programme and knowledge is lost.
Mitigation measure: Ensure all team members are appropriately trained and understand how the UKSPF funding works and how the Investment Plan is

<p>proceeding. Ensure adequate systems are in place in terms of reporting, monitoring and recording of information.</p> <p>-</p> <p>Risks and any mitigation required will be monitored throughout the lifetime of the Investment Plan, through their inclusion in the Council's risk register.</p>	
<p>Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?</p>	
<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.</p>	
<p>This risk would be in relation to any of the project providers not delivering against interventions and outcomes. Before any contract is entered into with project providers or any payments are made, due diligence will be undertaken on each project and project provider. Fylde Council's monitoring and reporting processes will identify any projects that are at risk of defaulting on their agreement, not achieving their objectives or appear to be involved in fraudulent activities and/or not using the funding if not used for the purposes for which it was intended. Clawback of funding will be a condition of the offer letter which all project applicants will sign.</p>	

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE	
<p>How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?</p>	
<p>Circa 2 FTE (this would be with 50% funded from the permitted 4% administration allowance for dedicated resource working alongside several Fylde employees).</p>	
<p>Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.</p>	
<p>The Fylde Council Projects and Regeneration Service are an experienced multi-disciplinary service area, which includes officers with capital and revenue programme and project experience of delivery and management. In addition, there is knowledge and experience of European and domestic funding, heritage and conservation, place, employment and skills, private sector and business support interventions.</p> <p>The wider Fylde Council team have a wealth of experience on programme and project management, including legal, accountancy, procurement and marketing.</p> <p>A number of these individuals have been identified below. However, the allocation of the 4% for project administration/monitoring, additional resources will need to be secured to ensure sufficient capacity to deliver the UKSPF.</p> <p>Head of Service: overall oversight and direction of the programme (<u>PRINCE2 qualified</u>, experienced in programme and project management in public & private sectors)</p> <p>Economic Development & Regeneration Manager: overall management of the programme (<u>PRINCE2</u>, previous EU and domestic funding experience at programme & project level in both public & not-for-profit sectors and previous business-owner)</p> <p>Finance Officers & Section 151 - financial support in relation to funding submissions, reporting and monitoring to ensure outcomes are delivered</p>	

Governance & Legal – support regarding the legal requirements of the UKSPF, e.g. subsidy control, developing contracts and service level agreements with project sponsors and procurement advice, and decisions required through council and committee.

Procurement Officer – Advice and support when required.

Communications Officers: promoting Fylde's UKSPF Investment Plan and projects, using all social communication channels – championing success.

Chief Executive – visible leadership, support and promotion of the difference partners will make through the UKSPF, dedicated time set aside to support the process.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?

Very experienced	Some experience	No previous experience
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How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
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How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
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How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
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How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
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COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?

Yes	No
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How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
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Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

N/A

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Without the 4% administration allowance it would provide the organisation with some capacity challenges in order to manage this new funding programme and interventions, although the knowledge and capability is available in-house, additional resource is required to enhance capacity and therefore support delivery as this is a new funding programme and new regime for Fylde Council.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A		

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
N/A		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Without the 4% administration allowance it would provide the organisation with limited capacity challenges in order to manage this new funding programme and interventions, although the knowledge and capability is available in-house, additional resource is required to support delivery as this is a new funding programme and new regime for Fylde Council. Fylde Council has a demonstrable track record of delivering funding to support businesses and the local economy, with covid-recovery funding being a recent example.		

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.
The 4% administration allowance does allow Fylde Council to bring in the additional resources in required to address the challenges identified.

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
N/A		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Without the 4% administration allowance it would provide the organisation with capacity challenges in order to manage this new funding programme and interventions, although the knowledge and capability is available in-house, additional resource is required to support delivery as this is a new funding programme and new regime for Fylde Council.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
The 4% administration allowance does allow Fylde Council to bring in the additional resources it requires to address the challenges identified. To support the procurement and management of local project applications, it would be beneficial to have additional resource in the form of support and expertise to assist in devising and developing robust application processes, as although this capability and skills set is available within Fylde Council, capacity is the challenge.		

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF

All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?

Yes

No

(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.

N/A

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- ☐ **Yes**
- ☐ No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- ☐ **Yes**
- ☐ No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- ☐ **Yes**
- ☐ No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:

Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- ☐ **Yes**
- ☐ No

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF GOVERNANCE	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	13
DECLARATION OF VACANCY – KIRKHAM NORTH WARD			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Under the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Paula Brearley has automatically ceased to be a councillor because of non-attendance of meetings. The council is required to declare her office to be vacant.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That as required by section 86 of the Local Government Act 1972, the office of Councillor in Kirkham North ward previously held by Councillor Paula Brearley be declared to be vacant.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

1. Councillor Paula Brearley, Kirkham North ward, has not attended any meetings of the Borough Council, Committee or Sub-Committee nor any other meeting as a representative of the Borough Council since 21 July 2022.
2. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a member fails to attend any such meeting for a period of six months, they cease to be a member of the authority unless a reason for non-attendance has been approved by the Council before the expiry of the period. The Council must then declare the seat to be vacant. The six months expired on 21 January 2023.
3. No reason for non-attendance was approved by the council. The Borough Council is therefore asked to declare the seat to be vacant. Because the vacancy falls less than six months before the scheduled council elections, no by-election is required to or can be held.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None from this report
Legal	None from this report
Community Safety	None from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Ian Curtis	ian.curtis@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658506	23 January 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	14
DECISION NOTICE – STANDARDS HEARING AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Under the council's arrangements for dealing with complaints about the conduct of members, when the matter is determined by the Audit and Standards Committee, and there is a failure of a member to comply with the Code on the part of the elected member concerned, the committee determines the appropriate action. It also publishes on-line a decision notice, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the committee and any sanction applied.

The Committee also resolved on this occasion to bring the Decision Notice to the attention of the council for information. As a result the Decision Notice is attached.

Members should note that the decision notice includes only anonymised references to the individual with whom the subject member was found to have had a close association. This is in line with legal advice on the council's data protection obligations. The person concerned is not a councillor and the investigation did not concern any allegation of wrongdoing on their part. Disclosing their name would therefore be likely to breach the council's data protection obligations in relation to their personal information. In turn, councillors must not do anything that would cause them to breach the Data Protection Act 2018 as outlined within paragraph 4.2 of the council's Code of Conduct.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Monitoring Officer

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

The Committee resolved to bring the Decision Notice to the attention of the council for information.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Tracy Manning, Monitoring Officer. Tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – WRITTEN DECISION NOTICE OF HEARING
IN RELATION TO A POSSIBLE FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Case reference number:	01/222
Subject member, who the allegation has been made about:	Councillor Cheryl Little
Subject member representative:	Councillor Susan Fazackerley MBE
Investigating officer(s):	Mark Towers
Date and place of hearing:	Wednesday 25 th January, Town Hall, St Annes
Chair of the standards committee hearing:	Councillor Eleanor Gaunt
Other Standards committee members attending the hearing:	Councillors Ed Nash (Vice-Chairman), Brenda Blackshaw (substitute member), Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison (substitute member), Elaine Silverwood (substitute member)
Independent member who was consulted regarding the referral for investigation:	Peter Clements
Monitoring Officer/ Monitoring Officer representative to the Committee:	Tracy Manning (Monitoring Officer) Ian Curtis (Council's Solicitor, and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Clerk for the hearing:	Sharon Wadsworth
Summary of the allegation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allegation was that Councillor Little had failed to declare a personal interest at the council meeting held on March 3, 2022, in relation to a proposed catering facility within her ward. The alleged personal interest arose because Councillor Little had a close association with Mx X, who was to have been the operator of the facility. Councillor Little was alleged <i>"to have closer personal ties when they stood together in the same</i>

	<p><i>Ward</i>". Councillor Little was also alleged to have invited Mx X "<i>as her personal guest to a Mayoral event</i>".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was therefore alleged, a personal interest should have been declared by Councillor Little at the Budget Council meeting held on 3rd March 2022, when a discussion relating to the proposed catering facility, in which Mx X had an interest, arose.
Relevant paragraphs of the Code of conduct:	A personal interest arises where a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position of a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association.
Observations of the independent person (the same person who was consulted by the Monitoring Officer prior to the matter being referred for investigation) :	As an independent person, Mr Clements, outlined it was reasonable to assume from the perspective of the ordinary person on the street that a personal interest did arise on the part of Councillor Little. He had carefully considered the investigation report, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, and concurred with its findings.
Summary of the evidence considered:	<p>The committee considered the report of the Investigating Officer and questioned him further, together with the Monitoring Officer, on various aspects of the report. The verbal observations of the Independent Person were also considered. The Committee also considered a submission from Councillor Fazackerley MBE on behalf of Councillor Little. The committee also put further questions to Councillor Fazackerley MBE on her submission.</p> <p>The facts as found by the Investigating officer were not contested. The issue was whether the relationship between Councillor Little and Mx X amounted to a close association. The Investigating Officer considered that the question of a close association fell to be decided in line with how the matter would be perceived by a reasonable member of the public. On that basis, he found that Councillor Little did have a close association with Mx X.</p>
Representations of the Subject member:	It was outlined that Councillor Little had a rapport, and came into contact, with a wide range of hoteliers, voluntary workers, and other prominent/visible members of the community, and particularly with her Fairhaven ward residents. Councillor Little's easy-going, friendly manner attracted people to her. Given this many people could be described as 'associates' because of the warmth of their interactions with Councillor Little. It would be wrong to draw the category of 'close associates' so widely as to include all members of the local community with whom an

	<p>active and conscientious councillor has established a rapport.</p> <p>Referring to Mx X being a personal guest at the inauguration of Councillor Little as deputy mayor in July 2021, it was outlined by Councillor Fazackerley MBE that Councillor Little had been able to invite 40 guests. This large allocation meant that as well as close friends and family, Councillor Little's guests also comprised people to whom she was not close, but who would enjoy the occasion and were invited on this basis. In terms of mayoral fund-raising events in general, one tried to sell tickets to such events to a wide audience to raise money for the charities. This was why Mx X was a paying guest at a subsequent mayoral event, not because of any particular relationship.</p> <p>In terms of political campaigning it was outlined that there are a variety of people one can expect support from including political associates which does not imply a close association.</p>
Findings of fact:	<p>The committee agreed with the investigating officer that the question of a close association fell to be decided in line with how the matter would be perceived by a reasonable member of the public. The committee accepted the findings of fact as made by the investigating officer.</p>
Findings as to whether or not the member failed to follow the Code of Conduct including the reasons for that finding:	<p>The committee reached the conclusion that there was a breach of the Code of Conduct in that Councillor Little failed to declare a personal interest at the council meeting on March 3, 2022, in relation to an item of business concerning a proposed catering facility based on the evidence considered.</p> <p>The Committee noted that Councillor Little felt that she did not have a close association with Mx X, but the Committee agreed with the investigator that the question of a close association fell to be decided in line with how the matter would be perceived by a reasonable member of the public. On that basis the Committee found that there was a close association.</p> <p>The Committee noted that Councillor Little did not intend to breach the code, and that the breach therefore was down to some measure of carelessness, rather than deliberate calculation. Against this, the committee also noted that Councillor Little was a very experienced councillor who had served in leading council positions such as chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, under whose remit the proposed development fell, cabinet member and deputy mayor.</p> <p>Where there is a personal interest, there is also the possibility that a prejudicial interest could arise. The complaint that the committee considered did not allege the</p>

	existence of a prejudicial interest, so the committee did not need to reach a definitive view on that possibility. Therefore the Committee confined itself to the observation that by failing to declare a personal interest, Councillor Little closed off the possibility of any consideration of whether there was also a prejudicial interest, which would have necessitated her leaving the meeting while the item was discussed.
Actions to be taken/ sanctions to be imposed:	<p>The Committee determined it would not be appropriate to impose no sanction. In the circumstances, it was decided to recommend that Councillor Little's political group remove her as a member of the Tourism and Leisure Committee until that committee is discontinued in the new municipal year. This would emphasise that the Audit and Standards Committee takes seriously the duty of councillors to uphold the Code, while allowing Councillor Little to return to such roles as are allocated to her as a councillor within a reasonable time.</p> <p>The Committee also determined that its formal decision notice should be drawn to the attention of the council as an information item.</p>
Recommendations to the authority:	To note the decision reached.
Right to appeal:	There is no right of appeal from this decision which is final.

Signed:

Councillor Eleanor Gaunt

Dated:

Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee
27 January 2023