

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	4 JUNE 2020	4
<b>COVID 19 IMPACT ASSESSMENT &amp; RECOVERY</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

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

### SUMMARY

This is an initial report that provides an overview of the known and potential impact of the COVID 19 lockdown measures on the services and functions within the remit of the Tourism and Leisure Committee. At this stage the information is based on the data available and government policy in place at the time of drafting the report, plans are being made across the council to revise budget forecasts and business plans in response to the changes brought about by the COVID 19 measures. Further reports will be published for the committee over the coming months to provide updates on the impact of COVID 19 measures as the nation moves out of lockdown through a phased approach.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the impact of the COVID 19 measures on functions within remit of the Tourism and Leisure committee are noted and members provide any feedback to support the recovery programme.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	✓
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

### REPORT

1. The Coronavirus (COVID 19) world pandemic has had an impact on society never experienced before. The necessary measures put in place through national legislation have had a direct impact on every individual and it is expected that the process of returning to some sort of normality, albeit in a different world, will take months if not longer as the world comes to terms with the changes. It is in this context that officers have collated the known and estimated financial and operational impact of the COVID 19 measures on the services within the remit of the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

2. The information included in this report represents the current knowledge based on known factors, such as loss of income to date or operational changes, as well as forecasts from scenario planning. As society moves further away from the lockdown period towards a new norm updates on the impact outlined in this report will be provided along with details of additional impacts yet unknown.

### 3. PARKS & COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The lockdown measures have had an impact on the Parks and Coastal Services. With the Government regulations only allowing people to go out for exercise once a day, the destination of choice for many people has been their local green space or beach. A reduced workforce of gardeners and rangers have been continuing with green space and coastal inspections and maintenance, to ensure open spaces are kept safe, clean and presentable. Operating practices have been adjusted to accommodate social distancing, including cessation of some work, vehicle and depot sharing and group based horticultural tasks. Staff resource has been diverted towards litter control, bin emptying, grass cutting and sports turf management. Floral displays on parks and within civic areas have been significantly reduced as it is not currently viable to take delivery of plants and plant the floral displays. National 'In bloom' and Green Flag Award schemes have been cancelled by the programme administrator. Some operational staff from the parks and coastal services have been temporarily redeployed to assist in delivering essential front line services such as Bereavement Services and Waste Management.

### 4. CHILDRENS PLAY AREAS

Fylde Council has kept all green spaces and beaches open and accessible to the public, except children's play areas, sporting and recreational facilities on Government instruction. These areas were locked on the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> March, and remain closed at the writing of this report. Closures were undertaken in partnership with Town and Parish Councils, advertised on social media and through on-site signage. The new 'Splash' play facility on the Promenade has also remained closed, but the Splash water system has been regularly operated to avoid system failures on reopening.

### 5. PATROLS AND INSPECTIONS

The service has seen a distinct increase in crime and antisocial behaviour on green spaces. CSP Security who have primarily been commissioned to undertake the BBQ PSPO enforcement, have received a broader remit and have worked alongside the police and coast guard to undertake daily patrols and security checks, educate members of the public on social distancing and preventing unauthorised use of closed facilities.

### 6. EXTERNAL CONTRACTS

Notable pressures for the Parks Service have included the continuation and safe delivery of large scale grounds maintenance contracts and the need for renegotiation of priorities with clients, in line with government guidance. Officers are working with clients to minimise any financial impact on contract delivery, working to the '*Force Majeure*' clause in the larger contracts.

### 7. FURTHER OPERATIONAL MOBILISATION

Starting with the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, there has been a renewed emphasis on employers making changes necessary to allow workers who cannot work from home to return safely to their place of work. At the time of writing this report, the parks and coastal services management team are actively working with staff and unions to get all operational staff back to work safely and promptly however, the service will still be impacted as a result of social distancing measures for the remainder of the 20/21 financial year and possibly even longer. There have been no additional costs highlighted for the parks and coastal services at this time, but the potential loss of income associated with external contracts has still to be established.

### 8. FAIRHAVEN NLHF PROJECT

At the time of writing this report, officers are not aware of any additional costs that have been incurred on the Fairhaven NLHF project. The project is near completion of the re-design and costing phase, which has been undertaken remotely by the appointed consultant team. There has been a slippage of approximately 3 weeks to the project timetable, due to remote working productivity of the design team; however, this should not cause a 'critical path' delay to the project as there is the available 'float' within the

project programme to accommodate this slight delay. Looking ahead to the proposed tendering and construction phases, it is difficult to predict whether the pandemic will impact on tender prices. There may be cost data available to give opportunity to quantify any additional costs.

#### 9. FAIRHAVEN PLAY AREA PROJECT

The Adventure Play Area was due to be completed by the end of March 2020. Construction material shortages caused a delay to progress and one sub-contractor furloughed most of their workforce which has caused a delay in the laying of the safety surfacing. At the time of writing this report the project has not been completed, inspected and practical completion certificate issued. Given the latest government guidelines issued on 10th May 2020, it is expected that the facility will now be completed at the end of May. However, the play area will remain closed to the public dependant on Government guidelines relating to temporary closure of childrens play facilities.

#### 10. FAIRHAVEN ADVENTURE GOLF PROJECT

The construction of the Adventure Golf course was due to start on site on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, however a mutual decision was taken between the appointed contractor (Greenspan Projects) and Fylde Council to defer a start on site indefinitely and in accordance with the lockdown measures imposed by the Government. The contract is on a fixed price basis and officers are currently not aware of any potential variation costs associated with the decision to defer site possession to the contractor. The project retains a healthy contingency pot to deal with any minor unforeseen costs which could arise from COVID 19 impacts on the project. The only highlighted project risk identified at this point is the potential of a second wave of Covid19. At the time of writing this report Greenspan plan to start on site on Tuesday 26th May 2020. The likely completion for the golf course will be early September 2020. This will cause an estimated net loss of around £20,000 - £30,000 of income.

#### 11. EVENTS

Government restrictions on public mass gatherings and fears over safety have seen the 2020 events schedule for Fylde decimated. To date, there have been 21 notified event cancellations, including the Lytham Festival and all Club / Gala / Carnival days. Bunting will not be required this year saving the Council £10,000. The income to the Council from Lytham Festival calculated by a formula on tickets sold, was estimated to be in the region of £60,000. The eleventh annual Lytham 1940s Wartime Weekend due to take place 15/16 August has been cancelled with a net saving of £17,000 and the William Rainford Golf event scheduled for July has been cancelled after discussions with the four participating golf clubs. The expenditure for this event is covered by the income, therefore giving a net nil financial impact. The events programme at Fairhaven Lake is subject to ongoing review with the cancellation of all 2020 events to date. At the time of writing this report, the St Anne's International Kite Festival is scheduled to take place in mid September, but will be subject to a forthcoming review based on latest government guidance. If it is deemed safe to proceed it will likely be a scaled down event.

#### 12. EVENT VENUES

Lowther Pavilion has closed to the public leading to the cessation of the scheduled event programme including live entertainment and the cinema programme, although the venue is now advertising newly programmed entertainment for October 2020. The on-site café has closed. Lytham Hall has closed to the public with no access to the grounds, the Hall and café. The events programme has been cancelled, although the 'Lytham Proms' event in partnership with Cuffe and Taylor for August 29<sup>th</sup> is still scheduled with tickets on sale. The Lytham Heritage Centre and Lytham Windmill are both closed to the public. The Tourist Information desk at Lytham Windmill, the service at the Town Hall and the seasonal mobile information unit are all closed.

#### 13. TOURISM SECTOR

The Tourism sector has been hard hit with the forced closure of tourist accommodation across Fylde, plus the food and drink sector and tourist attractions. The government message; 'Stay at Home, Save Lives and Protect the NHS' has meant that busy tourist destinations are quiet with mostly residents taking scheduled daily exercise. Many businesses from the sector who are mainly SME's, have applied for business support grants. Direct feedback from businesses and Marketing Lancashire (the county's Destination Marketing

Organisation) cite cashflow issues, given the seasonal nature of the industry. Some food and drink businesses have diversified into offering online ordering and take away service as a temporary measure. It remains to be seen how many will survive this unprecedented challenge.

#### 14. SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

The YMCA have closed their facilities across the Fylde coast (both in Wyre and Fylde), including Kirkham and St Anne's Pools which the Council support financially, through an annual grant/contract payment respectively. The YMCA have asked for additional financial assistance from Fylde Council to enable service sustainability. A separate report to the Tourism and Leisure Committee outlines the details of this request. Leisure facilities including the St Anne's Mini Links have closed (£2,800 per month income loss), bowling (£1,000 per month pro rata income loss). The Fairhaven boat service and tennis courts have been closed with an estimated loss of revenue of £10,000 per month during the April to September period. The football pitches at Blackpool Road North and Park View, as well as the Hewitt Lecture Rooms in Lytham are closed.

#### 15. ARTS SERVICE

The work towards accreditation for the Art Collection with Arts Council England (ACE) continues despite COVID 19 restrictions with the ongoing preparation of the suite of documents for an initial submission in the summer. However, it has not been possible to hold tours of the Collection at the Town Hall which were planned to be introduced following the T&L Committee meeting in March 2020 but the weekly condition checks of the collection have been taking place by the Collections Officer including the storage facilities to ensure all management criteria are being met. The preparation work towards the application for funding for Coastal Explorers to the Big Lottery carries on although delays with this funding body could push the project back a year. Further arts driven events through 'Spot On' Lancashire have been put on hold for the present time.

16. Social distancing measures implemented as part of phased return to work is expected to have an impact on operations across the council for the remainder of the 20/21 financial year and possibly even longer. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and service delivery plans will be reviewed to take account of the financial and operational impact of COVID 19. The first revision of the MTFS will be published in September.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report provides an initial estimate of the financial impact to the Council of the Covid-19 lockdown measures. The figures included in this report are initial estimates based on the budget for the current year, previous known income and confirmed costs. These estimates are subject to change as the situation develops. In due course an updated Financial Forecast will provide a more accurate assessment of income loss and additional costs.
Legal	In common with all service areas, services within the remit of the committee have sought to comply with all applicable government guidance and advice as well as mandatory legislative requirements.
Community Safety	Social distancing measures will be in place for the foreseeable period and have impact on service delivery
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

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
COVID 19 Lockdown Measures	March – May 2020	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIlKCymb-f6QIVNoBQBh0WqQCIEAAYASAAEgIbR_D_BwE">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIlKCymb-f6QIVNoBQBh0WqQCIEAAYASAAEgIbR_D_BwE</a>