

Agenda



Community Focus Scrutiny Committee

Date	Thursday, 29 November 2012 at 6:15 pm
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	<p>Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Vice-Chairman)</p> <p>Councillors Tim Armit, Julie Brickles, Susanne Cunningham, Tony Ford JP, Gail Goodman JP, Nigel Goodrich, Peter Hardy, Kathleen Harper, Paul Hodgson, Barbara Nash, Linda Nulty, Dawn Prestwich, John Singleton JP, Vivienne Miller Willder</p>

Public Platform To hear representations from members of the public

Item		Page
1	Declarations of Interest: Any member needing advice on Declarations of Interest should contact the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.	1
2	Confirmation of Minutes: To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 October 2012 as a correct record. As attached at the end of the agenda.	1
3	Substitute Members: Details of any substitute members notified in accordance with council procedure rule 24.3.	1
4	Review of the 2020 Vision	3 - 8
5	Fylde Coast Bathing Waters	9 - 25

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REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
STRATEGIC PLANNING SERVICES	COMMUNITY FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	29 NOVEMBER 2012	4

REVIEW OF THE 2020 VISION

Public Item

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

Summary

The 2020 Vision document was approved in 2009 to support a potential funding bid to the Northwest Development Agency to support the hosting of the Open and in doing so further the regeneration of St. Annes Town Centre and other specific locations. Government spending cuts resulted in the anticipated funding not materialising. However, the document was and has been used to attract funding from other sources to a relatively high level. The funding delivered alongside the specific projects is set out in this report and its appendix.

In this regard many of the objectives of the document have been achieved although there remains much to be done in the context of regeneration.

There is an obvious tie in between the 2020 Vision and the approved Regeneration Framework as explained within the body of the report. The report, conclusion and recommendations identify how these two documents might now be amalgamated and outlines the reasons for doing so.

Recommendations

1. That Committee notes the achievements and progress made since the introduction of the 2020 Vision document.
2. That Committee supports the preparation of an amalgamated document incorporating the present 2020 Vision and Regeneration Framework to provide a borough-wide composite regeneration/public realm strategy. This document should be presented to the appropriate Committee for consideration in due course.
3. That in the meantime and until the adoption of the new document referred to in Recommendation 2, the 2020 Vision document remains in use for the purpose of

attracting commuted payments where appropriate, in the context of the granting of planning permissions and in support of the Council's adopted Regeneration Framework.

4. That for the time being the 2020 Vision document is used to support the development of public realm proposals for the locations identified within it based on the concepts and principles contained within it.

Reasons for recommendations

The original purpose of the drawing together of the 2020 Vision has in part been implemented although much of what it contains remains relevant to the development of regeneration initiatives. The recommendation will support the retention of its use until such a time as it is amalgamated with a refreshed, up to date Regeneration Framework.

Cabinet Portfolio

The item falls within the following Cabinet portfolio: Planning and Development
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Dr. Trevor Fiddler

Report

1. This report presents an update on the Councils approved document - Lytham St. Annes 2020 Vision.
2. The announcement (2008) that the 'Open' was to be held at Royal Lytham and St. Annes in 2012 was known to present major economic benefits and place the area in the national and international spotlight. As Committee will be aware, the Council has been successful in attracting significant public sector support for its regeneration initiatives, particularly in St. Anne's town centre, which was witnessing significant economic decline since the late 1990's. The funding attracted has included contributions from English Heritage, The (former) Northwest Development Agency (NWDA), the Tourist Board, Heritage Lottery, Fylde Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, the Local Strategic Partnership and St. Annes Town Council. The town centre has seen significant private sector investment to compliment that provided through public grant subsidies, which has been the main objective.
3. In planning for the Open, it was considered essential that the locality presented itself in the best possible light as it would have a high public profile. St. Anne's town centre would be a hub for the Open in view of its accommodation, retail and restaurant offer. Whilst many of the town centre streets of St. Annes had been the subject of refurbishment through the regeneration programme, by 2009, there remained high profile locations that were considered to require concerted improvement to improve their quality.
4. In this regard, discussions took place with the Northwest Development Agency in a bid to attract a further round of grant funding. Officers were discussing an 'ask' of around £700,000. The NWDA indicated its potential support for further grant aid but pointed out that a full justification would be required. It suggested that as well as using the Open as a justification in itself, it would be helpful if a broader case could be demonstrated by looking more strategically at the role of

Lytham and St. Annes as a potential high quality resort destination within the context of the Northwest region, which could help to establish it as a regional asset.

5. The 2020 Vision was the result of this suggestion by the NWDA and sets out in a visionary way a series of initiatives for developing the visitor economy (VE). It identifies the economic value of the present VE but also the potential to tap into new market segments thereby potentially increasing the value of visitor spend. The Document identifies the present and potential role of the coast of the Borough, potential growth within the visitor economy, the development of the classic resort concept, the establishment of the Ribble Coast Regional Park and of course the impact of hosting the Open. Within this strategic context it included specific justification for grant aid to support the hosting of the Open including a series of 'public realm' proposals for St. Annes and also Lytham complete with an urban design guide. The projects as set out were then prioritised in order to identify how the potential grant aid would best be spent.
6. The document was approved by this Council and well received by the NWDA.
7. Unfortunately, soon after its adoption, the incoming Government (following the last General Election) severely cut the budgets of the development agencies resulting in a number of projects, which were supported in principle, being shelved. The proposal for the Open, which was to be subject of a specific funding bid and contained within the 2020 Vision was one such project.
8. Whilst these circumstances were extremely unfortunate, the 2020 Vision was subsequently used as a means of seeking to draw together funding support from other potential sources in an attempt to complete some of the projects contained within the potential bid to the NWDA.

The Regeneration Framework

9. The Council's adopted Interim Housing Policy contains policies for attracting commuted payments in connection with the development of housing sites granted planning permission. These 'contributions' include payments to provide affordable housing, public realm and public open spaces; the latter usually defined as public parks. In respect of public realm contributions, these can be requested where they would be directed to a scheme that is relevant to the development granted planning permission. Importantly, the particular scheme has to be recognised within the approved Councils 'Regeneration Framework (RF)'. This document, approved in 2010 lists the schemes over the whole of the Borough and identifies public realm schemes approved within towns and villages. To date, the document has attracted funding through Section 106 payments that will help to deliver particular schemes. The 2020 document contains some of the projects contained within the RF in considerable detail (in so far as St. Annes and Lytham are concerned) and so there is an obvious link between the two documents.

Progress on the 2020 Vision

10. In so far as the 2020 Vision document is concerned, the proposals under discussion with the NWDA primarily related to improvements to St. Annes Town centre. Following the decision of the NWDA to confirm to the Council that it was

unable to offer grant aid to support the Open, officers opened discussions with a number of other potential partners. As a result of these discussions and negotiations an action plan was compiled for St. Annes based on - and supported by - the 2020 Vision proposals. The extent of improvements was a little smaller than originally envisaged but nonetheless significant in scope. The funding partners included Lancashire County Council, Fylde Borough Council, The Local Strategic Partnership; Section 106 negotiated payments and smaller contributions from St. Annes Town Council. One scheme in Lytham was funded through Section 106 commuted payments.

11. The table at Appendix 1 sets out the schemes that were completed for the Open with the funding secured.
12. Many of the schemes contained within the 2020 Vision remain relevant and are used as a basis for seeking to justify and attract funding. Recent examples include the securing of Section 106 contributions to public realm schemes in Lytham, St. Annes as well as smaller rural settlements. To this end there is an obvious tie in with the approved Regeneration Framework; the 2020 Vision being more detailed.
13. Some of the other initiatives contained within the 2020 Vision include the development of the Fairhaven Master Plan, development of the Classic Resort concept, specific infrastructure projects and the development of specific development sites. Since the publication of the 2020 Vision document the Council has approved a new Economic Development Strategy, which encompasses some of the projects contained within the 2020 document. In addition the Local Plan is progressing, which will address some of the key infrastructure issues.
14. It would seem appropriate at this point to merge the two strategies (2020 Vision and Regeneration Framework) into a composite document that sets out the Council's regeneration and public realm ambitions for the Borough as a whole. This would be used as a basis for future funding bid opportunities, negotiating Section 106 contributions and inputting these projects into the Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS) as it develops alongside the Local Plan. The CIS Strategy will identify levies (CIL) to be applied to development to support future community infrastructure requirements. It is envisaged that regeneration projects/public realm improvements will be identified within the CIS/CIL.
15. If Committee accept the recommendation that the 2020 Vision and the Regeneration Framework be combined into one document then a full report outlining the process and outcomes will be brought forward for consideration in due course.

Conclusion

The 2020 Vision document was produced as part of a proposal to attract funding from the Regional Development Agency to support the hosting of the Open and in doing so support the on going regeneration of St. Annes Town Centre and other locations. Whilst the funding did not materialise for the reasons set out in the report, the document has nonetheless been very valuable as a means of achieving funding support through other means. The complimentary Regeneration Framework presents a borough-wide approach to regeneration through public realm improvements and is used to secure development

based commuted payments to help achieve regeneration objectives. The achievements of the 2020 Vision in terms of achieving funding to secure the implementation of particular projects is set out in the appendix to this report. It would now seem appropriate to amalgamate the 2020 Vision and the Regeneration Framework into a more detailed Regeneration strategy for the Borough.

Risk Assessment

This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. Therefore there are no risks to address

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
Paul Drinnan	(01253) 658434	5 November 2012	

List of Background Papers		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
2020 Vision Document Regeneration Framework	November 2009 2010	Town Hall, St. Annes

Attached documents

Appendix 1 : Table of projects identified within the 2020 Vision and delivered for the Open held in July 2012.

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

Open Golf 2012 Related Capital Works (including all contributions)

Project Title	Description	Delivery	Fylde Borough Council ¹	Lancashire County Council (est.) ²	Local Strategic Partnership (Fylde Vision)	St Annes Town Council	Lytham Business Partnership	South Fylde Community Rail Partnership	s106 & s278 Funding	Total
Orchard Road Public Realm Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of Orchard Road, St Annes. This includes hard and soft landscaping, carriageway and footway improvements and new street furniture.	June – September 2011	£50,250	£99,750	-	-	-	-	-	£150,000
Clifton Drive Public Realm Improvement Project – ‘Boulevard of Nations’	Improvements to the public realm of Clifton Drive, St Annes. This includes hard and soft landscaping, footway improvements, new street lighting and street furniture.	September 2011 – July 2012	£27,295	£39,705	-	-	-	-	£61,000	£128,000
The Pier & Promenade Public Realm Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of the Pier Forecourt and Promenade areas of St Annes. This includes hard landscaping, new street furniture, lighting features and new street lighting.	January 2012 – June 2012	£70,000 ³	£55,000	£55,000	-	-	-	-	£180,000
St Annes Station Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of St Annes Train Station and surrounding areas of St Annes. This includes hard and soft landscaping and street furniture.	June 2012 – July 2012	£15,000	£18,772	£15,000	£5,000	-	-	-	£53,772
Lytham Station Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of Lytham Train Station and surrounding areas of Lytham. This includes hard and soft landscaping, street furniture and the partial restoration of a heritage asset.	January 2012 – July 2012	£17,500	£12,500	£15,000	-	-	£5,000	-	£50,000
Ansdell & Fairhaven Station Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of Ansdell Train Station focusing only on soft landscaping.	February 2011 – June 2012	£10,000	£2,500	£10,000	-	-	-	-	£22,500
Station Road Public Realm Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of Station Road, Lytham. This includes hard and soft landscaping, carriageway improvements, new street lighting and street furniture.	June 2011 – September 2011	£20,000 ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	£92,000	£112,000
Pristine Place	Improvements to the public realm throughout the urban area of Lytham and St Annes.	January 2012 – July 2012	£14,938	-	-	-	-	-	-	£14,938
Arterial Routes and Signage Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm and signage of the key arterial routes into Lytham and St Annes as well as pedestrian and highway signage within the urban areas.	November 2011 – July 2012	£13,000 ⁵	£79,115	-	£12,500	£2,800 ⁶	-	-	£107,415
Wood Street Public Realm Improvement Project	Improvements to the public realm of Wood Street, St Annes. This includes hard and soft landscaping, footway improvements, street furniture and parking area improvements.	January 2012 – July 2012	£179,080	-	-	-	-	-	-	£179,080
		Total	£417,063⁷	£307,342	£95,000	£17,500	£2,800	£5,000	£153,000	£997,705

¹ These figures include ‘legacy’ funding from previous schemes and years in the Capital Programme totalling £150,000

² These figures are estimates only as final confirmation from Lancashire County Council has not yet been obtained

³ This figure includes previously absorbed external funding from the Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board (approx. £50,000)

⁴ This figure is s278 funding not utilised by Lancashire County Council which was ‘recycled’ through Fylde Borough Council’s Capital Programme with the consent of the developer to fund this project

⁵ This figure includes £4,000 towards pedestrian signage in Lytham and £9,000 towards highway signage throughout Lytham and St Annes

⁶ This funding was sourced from the ‘Open for All’ grant scheme managed by Lancashire County Council

⁷ Of this figure £200,000 is either legacy ‘regeneration funding’ or previously absorbed external grant funding

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	COMMUNITY FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	29 NOVEMBER 2012	5

FYLDE COAST BATHING WATERS

Public Item

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

Summary

The report updates members on issues raised at the previous meeting.

Recommendation

That members note the responses to the points raised at the previous meeting and consider making any comments or recommendations.

Cabinet Portfolio

The item falls within the following Cabinet portfolio:-

Environment and Partnerships:

Councillor Tommy Threlfall

Leisure and Culture

Councillor Sue Fazackerley

Report

1. Committee considered a report and a series of presentations at its meeting on 4th October on a review of Fylde Coast Bathing Waters. This followed a conference held on the 17th September entitled 'Turning tides' which was attended by a number of members and officers.
2. The Committee resolved to note the work underway to improve Fylde bathing waters and to recommend to Cabinet that a further report on the matter be presented to the next meeting of the committee detailing the following:
 1. Formal response to the questions raised by Councillor Oades
 2. Clarity on the 10 actions proposed to address the quality of bathing waters

3. Clarity on the undertaking of the bathing water regulations and dates signs may be required.
 4. Clarity on what has been done on the DNA tracking on Fylde coast bathing waters
 5. An assessment on the appropriateness of undertaking a joint scrutiny review with Blackpool Council on the matter.
3. This report follows the above five points and gives an update on the latest results recently published.
- 3.1. Formal responses to the questions raised by Councillor Oades are attached at appendix 1. They have been completed by both the Environment Agency and United Utilities.
 - 3.2. The Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group is finalising its action plan. Attached at appendix 2 is the high level top ten actions which the group is about to adopt. Each action identifies which organisation(s) is taking the lead. There is a significant amount of detailed sub-actions which flow from each of the ten top level actions. All partner organisations on the group are currently considering the resource implications of each detailed action. A further meeting of the group is due to take place before the date of the Scrutiny meeting and therefore an update will be given to members at the meeting.

Meanwhile the Environment Agency has published its list of 'asks' to help improve bathing water quality which is attached at appendix 3. This supplements the top ten action plan above and sets out how the council could assist in improving bathing water quality on the Fylde peninsular.
 - 3.3. Signs needed to be erected at all designated bathing waters prior to the 2012 bathing water season, i.e. end of April 2012. Defra have provided guidance to beach operators regarding what is required on these signs, it can be found here:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/bathing/documents/bathing-water-controllers.pdf>

If after the first revised bathing water directive classification, following the 2015 bathing water season, a bathing water is classified as Poor a sign must be displayed at the bathing water advising against bathing with a description of the reason this is the case based on water quality. However, this is not a ban on bathing.

Following five consecutive 'poor' classifications permanent advice against bathing must be displayed at the bathing water. At this point the Environment Agency will stop sampling the bathing water and the bathing water will no longer be designated. Information and investigations relating to why the bathing water has continued to fail the directive's standards will be displayed on the sign at the bathing water. The first instance this will happen is prior to the 2020 bathing water season.
 - 3.4. DNA tracing has been developed by the Environment Agency over a number of years and we are now able to analyse bathing water samples for presence of cow/sheep, human, bird and dog faecal matter in order to try

and understand where the faecal contamination has come from. This is an expensive analysis technique and so is not carried out on every sample and also cannot be used solely to drive expenditure for improvements but used instead as an indication of the predominant source of contamination. Information attached at appendix 4 summarises the results the EA has gathered to date.

The Environment Agency continue to use DNA tracing as a tool to understand the sources of faecal contamination within bathing water samples, especially on heavily contaminated samples.

- 3.5. Blackpool Council has established a Scrutiny Panel to look at the issue of bathing water quality. Discussions are taking place to ascertain the appetite to undertake a joint scrutiny exercise with Fylde and this will be reported to members at the meeting.
4. Results have recently been published for the 2012 season (see below links). It shows both St Annes beaches passed the current bathing waters directive standards (in 2011 both failed). Meanwhile up the coast beaches at Blackpool South, Blackpool North and Cleveleys have failed this year. However no beaches on the Fylde coast have passed the much tougher revised bathing waters directive. In the North West 82 per cent of bathing waters met the current bathing waters standard while only 12 per cent attained the higher revised bathing waters standard.
 - St Annes North <http://environment.data.gov.uk/lab/bwq-info.html?site=ukd4303-41900>
 - St Annes <http://environment.data.gov.uk/lab/bwq-info.html?site=ukd4303-41800>
5. One key proposal announced at the recent Turning Tides event was the establishment of a regional steering group to oversee work in improving bathing water quality. The group includes key bodies and organisations involved. Blackpool Council Chief Executive is the sole local authority representative for all the LA's in the North West. An update will be given to members at the meeting on any outcomes from the initial meeting of the group.

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
Paul Walker	(01253) 658431	13 th November 2012	

List of Background Papers		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Report to CFSC	4 th October 2012	http://www.fylde.gov.uk/meetings/details/995

Attached documents

- Appendix 1 - Response to the questions raised by Councillor Oades
Appendix 2 – Draft Ten top level actions to improve bathing water quality on the Fylde Peninsula
Appendix 3 - Environment Agency ‘asks’ to help improve bathing water quality
Appendix 4 - Results of DNA testing on St Annes beaches

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising directly from the report.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from the report.

**Response to Councillor Oades questions following
Community Focus Scrutiny Committee 4th October 2012**

St Paul's Road (Fairhaven) Pumping station – Does the station operate at low tide? During periods of heavy rain is rainwater pumped out irrespective of the position of the tide? Is raw sewage being pumped out at the same time?

Response from United Utilities

The pumping station at Fairhaven is a critical asset on the sewer system serving the St Annes, Fairhaven area from Blackpool Airport to the north to Lytham Centre to the south. In dry weather, all flows are pumped forward to a separate large pumping station some 3 kilometres to the east of Lytham, and then on to Preston Wastewater Treatment works at Clifton Marsh. During wetter weather, when the pumped capacity of 700 litres /second is beaten, flows to the Fairhaven site are stored in some 18,000 cubic metres of storm storage tanks located on that site. Subsequently this stored flow is pumped forward for treatment after the storm.

During extreme wet weather, the pumping station will continue to pass forward the consented flow rate, but the storm storage tank will then spill storm water down the long sea outfall into the main river flows within the Ribble Estuary (whilst this has a marker on the outfall, which is visible, the actual outfall pipe is always submerged in the river). In these conditions, the pumping stations primary focus becomes one of flood alleviation as the continued operation of the station is essential to avoid widespread flooding to property within the St Annes catchment. Without the consented overflow relief, flooding would occur.

The discharges to the estuary are very much stormwater caused by the run-off of rainwater on the catchment. The pumping station itself is able to pump forward for treatment a multiple of the dry weather flows generated by the local population and it is very much the intense rainfall event which causes the stormwater discharge. Unfortunately, the sewer system adopted from the Local Authorities back in 1990, is a combined sewer system, which does mean there is an element of contamination of the stormwater discharges that occur.

In respect of the original question about storm discharges at low tide, you will see that the need for the pumping station to discharge during heavy rainfall and avoid flooding cannot be dependent on tidal conditions and there remains a statistical chance that some storm discharges into the Ribble estuary will occur at low tide.

The Spartina grass is spreading and it harbours mud and bacteria. Does Spartina grass have an impact on water quality?

Response from Environment Agency

Saltmarshes are dynamic environments which do naturally change in size, dominating vegetation etc over a number of years. Spartina grass is an invasive species and is known to dominate *pioneer zones* of saltmarsh, the zone closest to the sea. Due to land management on saltmarshes, sheep, cattle and birds are encouraged to graze and roost in the vegetation which increases the faecal loading on these marshes which can get washed off and into the sea during high tides and this is known to impact the overall concentration of faecal indicator organisms (FIOs) at the two St Annes bathing waters. It is recognised that there is a difficult balance between actively managing the saltmarsh vegetation using livestock and removing these livestock for the benefit of the water quality at our designated bathing waters.

The contribution of bacteria from saltmarshes to the overall loading of FIOs at St Annes bathing waters will be relatively small in comparison to FIOs from diffuse agricultural pollution, treated

sewage effluent and storm sewage water from emergency CSOs (combined surface water overflows).

Why are no members appointed to the Fylde Peninsula water Management Group?

This was answered at the meeting on 4th October.

What has this group done about St Annes since it was formed?

This was answered at the meeting on 4th October.

United Utilities seem to be trying to diversity and deflect criticism from them towards birds, farmers and dogs.

Response from United Utilities

As can be seen from the presentation given on United Utilities investment from 1994 onwards, at the scrutiny meeting, there has been significant improvements to the Fylde Coast water quality from those days of raw discharge of sewage on a daily basis from pumping stations both within Fylde and Blackpool areas. Working with the Environment Agency over the last 20 years, the prioritisation of work has focussed on investment in providing significant sewer and treatment assets along the coastline, which has brought major improvement to water quality such that the original Bathing Water Quality of “Mandatory standard” has been achieved for most of the Fylde Bathing Water sites between 2000 and 2010.

These assets have significantly reduced the periods of spill to the Ribble Estuary, Irish Sea from virtually every rainfall to an occasional discharge. In addition, the provision of UV treatment of all final effluent from our large treatment works, provides further bacteria kill of the water we put back into the environment.

Within this Asset Management Plan period (AMP5) our work is now focussed on assets which are some distance away from the Bathing Water locations and hence are likely to have a somewhat lesser influence of water quality.

The definition of our Capital Programme is developed in discussion with the Environment Agency, who identify that these works continue to have some impact upon water quality around Blackpool , St Annes. Currently there is work ongoing on Preston overflows, Walton Le Dale, Croston, Blackburn and Garstang Wastewater Treatment Works, at a cost of over £200million.

Whilst the United Utilities investment will help make a difference to the water quality, it is unclear the whether these works will lead to a “sufficient” standard being achieved as there remains other sources of pollution. Further diffused pollution from marshlands along the coast, from farming, from animal waste, from dog walking on beaches, donkeys or the bird population all have the potential of a direct impact upon the beaches leading to adverse water quality being identified.

Additionally, there remain several villages within the Fylde area that still do not have any public sewer system and these, together with the contamination of surface water systems, could also be having an impact upon water quality. There have been sample failures across the whole coast line which could not be attributable to UU asset operation.

This is not a United Utilities viewpoint. All the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group recognise that whilst United Utilities investment has moved water quality forward a long way there is the need to get to the “sufficient” standard under the new Directive, which is at least twice as onerous as Mandatory Standard, there is a challenge which requires an assessment from all the group into the potential sources of pollution.

How many discharges of raw sewage have there been onto the beach from the Fairhaven overflow in the last 12 months and further, over the last 2 – 3 year.

Response from the Environment Agency

Environment Agency can confirm spills from this asset are reported to us in line with the requirements of the discharge consent, issued by ourselves, and the number of spills are assessed with respect to the permit.

Response from United Utilities

As identified at the meeting, the frequency of operation of the overflow varies dependent on the wet weather experienced in any one year or bathing season. My own knowledge identified that spills can vary between 3 – 11 during Bathing Seasons. We do have spill information, which is required to be sent to the Environment Agency on a Quarterly basis. The latest information that I have received from our Operational colleagues is that the overflow has operated about 7 times over the 2012 Bathing Season, however, this spill data has still to be verified.

How long did each discharge take place when they happened and what volume of sewage went into the beach?

Response from United Utilities

The length of duration of spill is very much determined by the rainfall that occurs and the run-off generated from the roof and paved areas of storm water. Every storm event is different with the end result that some events do not lead to spill, others more prolonged events, do cause spills despite the storm tanks being fully utilised.

The volume of spill discharges can be calculated from the duration of the spill event, however I would confirm that all storm discharges were made through the long sea outfall.

Do you have reliable information and if not, why not?

Response from United Utilities

Yes we have reliable information – and we provide spill data to the EA.

What percentage of the pollution is from overflows?

We use bacteriological loading for all inputs into the Ribble Estuary to quantify the contribution of different sources to poor water quality at our bathing waters at Lytham. These assessments were originally based on a 44 day detailed survey period in 2002. This work was conducted by the Centre for Research into Environment and Health (CREH). The information was used during the public inquiry held at Southport in Winter 2007 which concluded that the United Utilities Preston sewerage work was needed to improve bathing and shellfish water quality.

The original input loadings have been adjusted using more recent data and evidence to reflect improvements made to discharges and river inputs between 2002 and 2010.

Current Situation - Ribble Estuary Budgets 2010

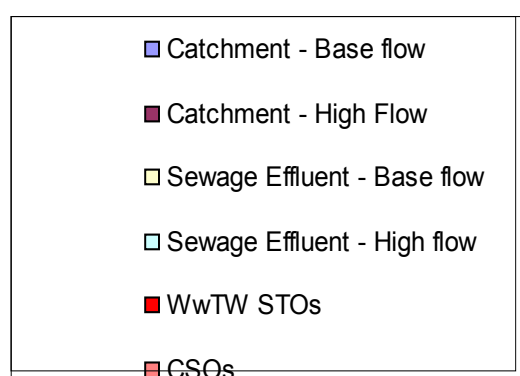
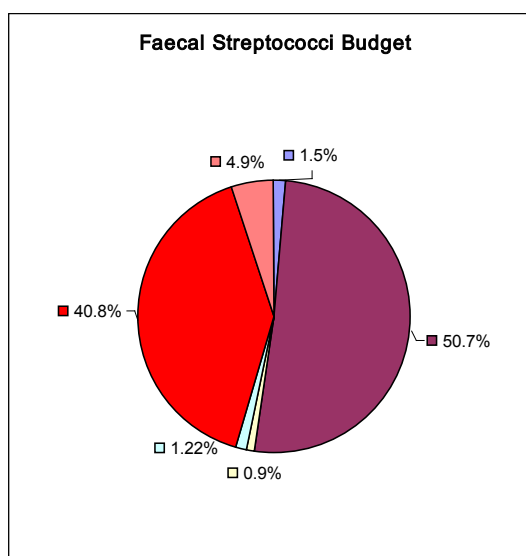
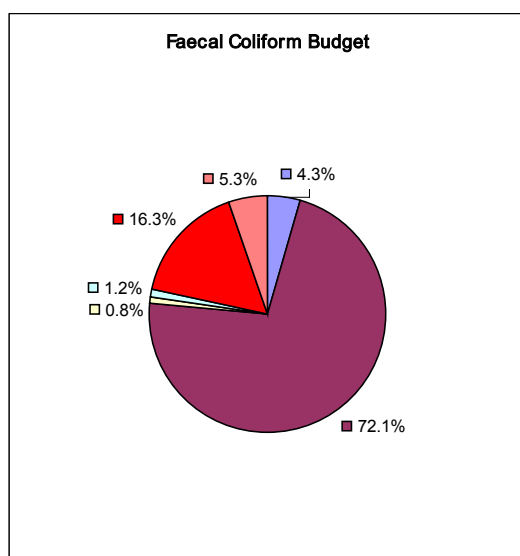
The table below summarises the total loads of organisms entering the Ribble Estuary for the following sources:

- Upstream river catchments
- Wastewater Treatment Works
- Storm Overflows at Wastewater Treatment Works
- Combined storm Overflows

	Faecal Coliform Load (no. of Organisms)	Faecal Streptococci Load (no. of Organisms)	Faecal Coliform Load (no. of Organisms)	Faecal Streptococci Load (no. of Organisms)	Faecal Coliform Load (no. of Organisms)	Faecal Streptococci Load (no. of Organisms)
	Base Flow	High Flow	Total Flow	Base Flow	High Flow	Total Flow
Rivers / catchment	1.03×10^{16}	1.72×10^{17}	1.82×10^{17}	5.91×10^{14}	1.99×10^{16}	2.05×10^{16}
WwTWs	2.00×10^{15}	2.84×10^{15}	4.84×10^{15}	3.35×10^{14}	4.78×10^{14}	8.13×10^{14}
STs	—	3.87×10^{16}	3.87×10^{16}	—	1.60×10^{16}	1.60×10^{16}
CSOs	—	1.99×10^{16}	1.99×10^{16}	—	3.03×10^{15}	3.03×10^{15}
	1.23×10^{16}	2.33×10^{17}	2.45×10^{17}	9.26×10^{14}	3.94×10^{16}	4.04×10^{16}

The pie charts below show that storm overflows contribute between **21.6 %** (Faecal Coliforms) and **45.7 %** (Faecal Streptococci) to the poor water quality in the Ribble Estuary and therefore at Lytham St Annes.

The discharges from Fairhaven pumping station contribute around 3% to the total amount of faecal indicator organisms to the total amount in the Ribble Estuary. Fairhaven pumping station was improved in the late 1990s and following the improvements it should spill, on average, no more than 3 times a bathing season. Any discharges operating on average no more than 3 times a bathing season do not pose a significant risk to bathing water compliance



The charts above show that the majority of the faecal loading in the Ribble Estuary comes from the upstream catchment in times of high flow. The second largest contributor is from Waste Water Treatment Work Storm Tank Overflows (WwTW STOs), this is the flow from WwTWs during times of very high rainfall, the additional storm water is diverted to storm tanks on site to be treated once the flow has reduced but on occasion the flow exceeds the storage capacity on site and has to spill to the receiving watercourse in an emergency.

It should be noted that by the end of AMP5, 2015, the following improvements will have been delivered:

- UV treatment and a reduction in storm tanks spills at the sewage treatment works at Croston, Walton le Dale and Blackburn;
- Completion of the Preston sewerage improvements;
- Improvements to diffuse pollution in the high risk catchments like the South Fylde drains.

It is estimated that the bacteriological load into the Ribble Estuary will be reduced by almost 40% as a result of this work.

Draft ten top level actions to improve bathing water quality on the Fylde Coast

1. Reduce the number of spills and reduce the flood risk within the sewer network. LEAD: United Utilities
2. Reduce the impact of polluted surface water outfalls. Target a reduction in average Faecal Indicator Organisms discharge concentration from Surface Water Outlets'. A reduction of at least 50% within 10 years is suggested. LEAD: Environment Agency
3. Target and deliver retrofitted Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the Fylde within 10 years. LEAD: Blackpool Council
4. Prioritise the delivery of new development on Brownfield land to limit the contribution of new foul discharges and to maximise the opportunity to reduce surface water flood risk and associated unconsented discharges to watercourses and bathing waters. LEAD: TBC
5. Ensure that the management of surface water from all new developments within the Fylde meets current best-practice standards by utilising SuDS where ground conditions allow, by restricting runoff to existing peak rates (as a minimum) for all events and by providing attenuation within the site for runoff above that rate. LEAD: Blackpool Council, Wyre Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council
6. Secure the incorporation of best-practice water efficiency measures in new developments, support the retrofitting of water efficient fixtures and fittings and support United Utilities with implementation of demand management initiatives across the peninsula. LEAD: UNITED UTILITIES
7. Ensure that peninsula wide beach management measures are implemented and monitored. LEAD: Bathing Water Controllers (Blackpool Council, Wyre Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council)
8. Work with and support the tourist industry with publicising and communicating the issues around bathing water and promoting the role that visitors play and the impact that positive actions can make to improving bathing water quality. LEAD: Keep Britain Tidy or MERLIN?
9. Continue to promote Fylde Beach Care and use this as a platform to develop and support community and business initiatives that foster ownership of bathing beaches. LEAD: Keep Britain Tidy
10. Improve land management practice to reduce the impact from rural/agricultural land on bathing water quality across the peninsula. LEAD: Environment Agency.

Environment Agency ‘asks’ to help improve bathing water quality

- A. Suggested areas where the Council could support the Environment Agency’s bathing water programme to improve bathing water quality at St Annes Pier and St Annes North designated bathing waters.**
1. Support and deliver actions that arise from the Beach Management Toolkit currently being developed by EA. This would involve Bathing Water Controller in Fylde Borough Council using the new toolkit to identify appropriate management actions such as enforcement of dog exclusion zones or dog bans.
 2. Support a proposal by the Fylde LSP on water efficiency measure – the installation of water butts. Delivery of this project would help improve water management. The Environment Agency would be to support and assist on this.
 3. The Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group (FPWMG) Action Plan is currently in draft form. Once finalised the FPWMG would like sign off and commitment from all partners including Fylde Borough Council to deliver actions. Scrutiny on delivery will be undertaken by the FPWMG.
 4. Promote sustainable drainage across the Borough.
 5. Fylde Borough Council have an opportunity when improvements are delivered at their council offices to implement an exemplar sustainable drainage system.
 6. Support the work Keep Britain Tidy are delivering through Fylde BeachCare which is working with local communities and businesses to improve the beaches.
 7. Get involved in the Tidal Ribble Evidence & Measures Project – lots of actions have been identified here that Fylde could definitely help deliver and benefit from in different ways by working with partners like LWT and the RSPB (eco tourism, cycle recreation etc).
 8. Participate in the Ribble Life Stakeholder Exchange Group (forum at which actions are agreed / signed up to / delivered through).
 9. Participate in our social media (e.g. follow / retweet us @RibbleLife).
 10. Provide access to any Council Volunteer Groups.
 11. Consider signing up to a Supplementary Planning Document which would give additional regard to the water environment when assessing planning applications. This approach is currently being trialled in the Pendle, Craven and Ribble Valley Council areas. Fylde could consider giving additional regards to bathing waters.

B. Environment Agency Bathing Water Quality Improvement Actions and Partnership Projects: Fylde Borough Council

Ref	Action	Action description	Progress
1	Inlet Overflow performance	Proactive Environment Agency inspections on United Utilities' assets with potential to impact bathing water quality. Particular focus on United Utilities assets where storm sewage spill is greater than the bathing water design standard for the asset. Sites: Cattle Market Combined Sewer Overflow; Fairhaven Pumping Station; Hesketh Bank Waste Water Treatment Works; Lytham Pumping Station	Environment Agency officers are working with United Utilities on this issue that covers a number of water company assets across the North West. We are currently investigating the reasons behind these issues. Following these investigations we will take any appropriate action required as directed by our enforcement guidance which would be proportionate and transparent.
2a	Preston 7 Combined Sewer Overflows and Preston Tunnels	United Utilities AMP5 scheme to improve the assets to meet bathing water design standard to improve bathing water quality at Southport, St Annes, St Annes Pier and Blackpool South.	Late delivery will result in continued poor bathing water quality until late 2012 at earliest. Action Plan being put in place to mitigate for delay.
2b	Preston 32 Combined Sewer Overflows		Good progress. 9 bathing water schemes delivered.
3	Blackburn Wastewater Treatment Works	United Utilities AMP5 scheme to provide ultra-violet disinfection to the secondary treated effluent from Blackburn Waste Water Treatment Works.	Delivery expected December 2012 slightly earlier than agreed National Environment Programme date.
4	PR14 Planning	The next investment programme by United utilities which will run from 2015 to 2020 is currently being prepared. This will include improvements to assets impacting bathing water quality.	The bathing water programme is currently being developed by the Environment Agency in conjunction with United Utilities. The final programme will be determined in late 2014.
5	Provision of improved event monitoring	Deliver programme of improved event monitoring across the North West to ensure storm sewage spill data is provided quickly and in an improved data format to the Environment Agency (and other partners).	Programme will be delivered through United Utilities' National Environment Programme for 2015 to 2020 (see above).

6	Bathing Water Catchment Walkovers	Investigations resulting from the bathing water catchment walkovers carried out in the River Ribble catchment and the Fylde coastal area. Issues cover a range of actions from caravan parks to misconnections to cattle/sheep poaching issues on farmland.	The Environment Agency's Bathing Water Delivery Team leads on the follow-up of the catchment walkovers - Simon Bennett covers the north coastal Ribble and Fylde catchments; Lee Quibell covers the south coastal Ribble catchment. The most serious inputs are being prioritised first.
7	Beach Management	Bathing water controllers to review their beach management e.g. dog control orders; dog bans; signage; beach cleaning. To ensure local inputs of reduced water quality are reduced.	Beach management workshop hosted by the Environment Agency on 2nd October to launch a beach management toolkit. Two officers from Fylde Borough Council attended. Future meetings planned to bring the North West bathing water controllers together.
8	Caravan Park Investigation	Undertake an investigation into the sewerage provisions for the static and touring caravan sites close to bathing waters.	Plans to carry out a review of sewerage provision at caravan sites across the Fylde catchment.
9	Agricultural modelling project	Develop the Catchment Sensitive Farming computer model to assess impact on bathing water quality of different scenarios of agricultural mitigation measures.	Project is being undertaken in-house within the Environment Agency and will provide us with information on the most effective agricultural mitigation measures that can be delivered within the Ribble catchment and therefore impacting the Fylde bathing waters.
10	Salt marsh grazing	Investigate findings of the Duddon Estuary Bathing Water Project and implications for the Ribble Estuary grazed areas.	To be carried out by the Environment Agency linking with partners e.g. Natural England, RSPB where applicable.
11	Springfields Site	Investigate whether there is a high faecal load associated with the discharge from the Springfields site.	To be undertaken by Environment Agency officer.
12	RSPCA site	Septic receives kennel washings containing biocides which 'knock out' septic tank	It is understood that the site is planned to close and RSPCA will move to a new site in Stalmine. Site currently still open.

Partnership Projects			
13	'Keeping Rivers Cool'	Keeping Rivers Cool, an Environment Agency led climate change adaptation project, is focused on using trees to keep rivers cool. There are secondary benefits to the planting of trees adjacent to rivers, including providing a buffer zone between livestock or slurry spreading which reduces the amount of faecal matter entering the watercourse. On the Ribble, our delivery partner is the Ribble Rivers Trust who will work with farmers and landowners to plant the trees in key locations.	The project will run from 2012 to 2016. Further information can be found at: http://www.restorerivers.eu/NewsEvents/Newsupdates/tabid/2622/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/3002/Keeping-rivers-cool--creating-riparian-shade.aspx
14	Catchment Sensitive Farming	This is Defra initiative working alongside the Environment Agency and Natural England. The initiative seeks to work with farmers across the River Ribble catchment to provide advice and education through voluntary uptake to reduce diffuse pollution. The work in the Ribble catchment is targeted to improve bathing water quality and is working around the lower stretches of the river.	The project, which has been in place on the Ribble since 2006, was re-targeted in 20011 to focus on bathing water quality issues. A Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer works full time delivering advice to farmers.
15	'River Ranger'	The Environment Agency is piloting a project with United Utilities to walk river banks to look for pollution from their assets (e.g. Contaminated Surface Waters). In some cases, it may be possible to rectify pollution sources quickly. In others, it will be necessary to build the solution into the next United Utilities Environment Programme.	The project is currently progressing.
16	DEFRA Evidence & Measures Project	The project, covering the catchment area between Lytham and Longridge, seeks to bring together data, evidence and experience to develop an action plan pointing to the priority actions in order to deliver Water Framework Directive objectives. In most cases, delivering these actions will result in a direct improvement of bathing water quality, as well as river quality (e.g. reducing the amount of sewage and agricultural pollution entering watercourses).	The project, which is being delivered by a number of organisations (including Environment Agency, Defra, United Utilities, Ribble Rivers Trust) is nearing completion and will be used to inform the second cycle of river basin planning for the water bodies covered. Further information can be found at: http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=2&ProjectID=17914

17	Cloud 2 Coast	<p>Cloud to Coast, is a research project funded by NERC. It seeks to develop a new integrated model to predict the exposure to and the health impact assessment of pathogen risks, as indexed by faecal indicator organisms, in near-shore coastal waters. This will support decisions made to improve bathing water quality. It is being undertaken at the Universities of Sheffield, Aberystwyth and Cardiff. The academic partners are supported by a Scientific and Technical Management Board including representatives from United Utilities, the Environment Agency, Halcrow, University of Lancaster, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Defra and the National Farmers Union.</p>	<p>The project, which is due to complete around 2015, is progressing well. Further information can be found at: http://www.shef.ac.uk/c2c/index</p>
18	Fylde BeachCare	<p>Objectives are around securing bathing water quality improvements; securing future funding and driving through tourism led bathing water focused initiatives. A partnership between the Environment Agency; Keep Britain Tidy; United Utilities; Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre Local Authorities; and Merlin Entertainments. Beach cleans are co-ordinated by a full time project officer employed by Keep Britain Tidy. The beach cleans serve as a hook to empower communities; spread education messages; and to help change perceptions and behaviour. Can be used to secure business buy in through running 'environmental leave' days to meet their Corporate Social Responsibility targets.</p>	<p>Fylde BeachCare has been raising awareness at recent events including the 'Sand Sea and Spray Urban Art Festival'; Civic Awareness events; and the 'Blackpool Schools Sustainability Conference'. At the latter event - there were 30 participating primary schools totalling over 200 delegates. A Fylde BeachCare presentation was given at the UK Beach Managers Forum AGM and at SUSTAIN - a European conference held in Southport. There was interest from potential European partners in adopting the Fylde BeachCare model. A network of Bathing Water Ambassadors is being formed - made up of Youth Ambassadors, Community Ambassadors and Business Ambassadors. The Business Ambassadors met recently with the Blackpool Business Leaders Group and wish to become more engaged with bathing waters issues. This is to be duplicated across Fylde. Pleasure Beach Blackpool are keen to investigate opportunities for onsite SUDS, plus ways they can get more involved with Fylde BeachCare. Future work is planned including a bathing water focused Yellow Fish campaign in November. An Eco-schools module is being developed and new programme of school visits finalised.</p>

Results of DNA testing on St Annes beaches

2009

St Annes Pier – 3 samples analysed

- 3 samples showed human DNA present, 1 of which had very high counts
- 3 samples showed cows/sheep DNA present, 2 of which had very high counts
- 2 samples showed dog DNA present
- 3 samples showed bird DNA present

St Annes North – 7 samples analysed

- 7 samples showed human DNA present, 1 of which had very high counts
- 7 samples showed cows/sheep DNA present, 6 of which had very high counts
- 6 samples showed dog DNA present
- 7 samples showed bird DNA present

2010

St Annes Pier – 3 samples analysed

- 3 samples showed human DNA present
- 3 samples showed cows/sheep DNA present, 2 of which had very high counts
- 1 samples showed dog DNA present
- 2 samples showed bird DNA present

St Annes North – 2 samples analysed

- 2 samples showed human DNA present
- 2 samples showed cows/sheep DNA present, 1 of which had very high counts
- 0 samples showed dog DNA present
- 2 samples showed bird DNA present

2011

St Annes Pier – 3 samples analysed

- 3 samples showed human DNA present, 3 of which had very high counts
- 3 samples showed cows/sheep DNA present, 3 of which had very high counts
- 0 samples showed dog DNA present
- 0 samples showed bird DNA present

St Annes North – 3 samples analysed

- 3 samples showed human DNA present, 2 of which had very high counts
- 3 samples showed cows/sheep DNA present, 3 of which had very high counts
- 0 samples showed dog DNA present
- 0 samples showed bird DNA present

2012

St Annes Pier – 1 sample analysed

1 sample showed human DNA present

1 sample showed cows/sheep DNA present, neither human or cow/sheep
markers were dominant in number

0 samples showed dog DNA present

0 samples showed bird DNA present

St Annes North – 3 samples analysed

1 sample showed human DNA present

1 sample showed cows/sheep DNA present, neither human or cow/sheep
markers were dominant in number

0 samples showed dog DNA present

0 samples showed bird DNA present

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday, 4 October 2012
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members:	<p>Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Chairman)</p> <p>Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Vice-Chairman)</p> <p>Councillors Tim Armit, Susanne Cunningham, Fabian Craig- Wilson, Tony Ford JP, Gail Goodman JP, Nigel Goodrich, Kathleen Harper, Paul Hodgson, Linda Nulty, Dawn Prestwich, John Singleton JP, Vivienne Miller-Willder</p>
Officers:	Paul Walker, Lyndsey Lacey, Phil Dent, Darren Bell, Andrew Dickson, Stephen Ball
Other members:	<p>Susan Fazackerley (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture)</p> <p>Councillor Elizabeth Oades</p>
Other Representatives:	<p>Clare Nolan-Barnes (Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group)</p> <p>Steve Molyneux, Rachel Haigh (Environment Agency)</p> <p>Rob Tidswell (United Utilities)</p> <p>Rick Hayton (Lancashire County Council)</p> <p>Anne Heslop (Fylde Beach Care)</p>
Members of the public:	One member of the public was present.

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and that any other interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 6 September 2012 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman subject to Councillor Craig-Wilson's name be added to the list of members in attendance.

3. Substitute members

The following substitution was reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson for Councillor Barbara Nash

4. Fylde Coast Bathing Waters

Paul Walker (Director of Development Services) introduced the report and in doing so, provided the committee with an overview and purpose of the report.

Members were advised that the Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) considered a request at its meeting in June for a scrutiny review to be undertaken on Fylde coast bathing waters.

Mr Walker indicated that in response to the above, representatives from each of the main partner organisations involved were invited to attend the meeting to give an overview of their work and take questions.

The report circulated provided an overview of the work underway to improve the quality of the bathing waters in light of the revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD). Members were advised that the report also supplemented the recent bathing waters 'turning tides' summit (at which all members of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee were invited) on 17 September.

The Chairman invited Councillor Elizabeth Oades to the table as originator of the request for scrutiny to ask questions on the subject.

Councillor Oades asked the following questions:

St Paul's Road (Fairhaven) Pumping Station - Does the station operate at low tide? During periods of heavy rain is rainwater pumped out irrespective of the position of the tide? Is raw sewage being pumped out at the same time?

The spartina grass is spreading and it harbours mud and bacteria. Does this have an impact on water quality?

Why are no members appointed to the Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group? What has this group done about St Annes since it was formed? United Utilities seem to be trying to diversify and deflect criticism from them towards birds, farmers and dogs.

How many discharges of raw sewage have there been onto the beach from the Fairhaven overflow in the last 12 months and further, over the last 2 - 3 years.

How long did each discharge take place when they happened and what volume of sewage went into the beach? Do you have reliable information and if not, why not?

What percentage of the pollution is from overflows?

The Chairman indicated that it was intended to address some of the questions Councillor Oades had raised during the course of the debate but in any event, a request for full response would be referred to the appropriate organisations.

The Chairman then invited Clare Nolan-Barnes (Head of Capital Projects and Regeneration) at Blackpool Council and representative the Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group to address the committee.

Ms Nolan-Barnes commenced the presentation by clarifying the makeup and Vision of the Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group. She explained that the Group was set up in 2011 as a partnership between the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre councils, Lancashire County Council and Keep Britain Tidy to look at key aspects of water management. She added that the Partnership provided the opportunity to utilise a collective resource, share expertise, skills and resources, avoid duplication and deliver more efficiently. Additionally, it helped deliver the priorities of individual organisations while, at the same time, speaking as one voice.

Ms Nolan-Barnes then went on to further address the committee on the following areas:

- Partnership Priorities and challenges
- Current and revised Bathing Waters Directive
- Beach designations/issues to be tackled
- Flooding- Lead Flood Authority Duties: investment/planned schemes
- Coast Defence issues/ investment
- Surface Water management/ sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- Possible joint (Fylde and Blackpool) Scrutiny Review
- Future Actions (including top 10 actions re bathing waters)

The Chairman then went on to invite Steve Molyneux and Rachel Haigh (representatives of the Environment Agency) to address the committee.

In summary, the presentation covered the Environment Agency's (EA) role under the current and revised EU Directive and the associated implications for Fylde. It also provided an overview of what is considered to be causing the bathing waters problem, sources of pollution and what the EA considered needed to be done.

It was suggested that the possible causes of the pollution related to: agricultural and urban run-off, treated sewage, storm sewage, dogs, birds, horse, donkeys and the fact that it had been the second wettest summer on record in England which had contributed to saturated ground and draining and treatment systems being overwhelmed.

In terms of the key challenges for Fylde, Ms Haigh advised that under the revised Directive, 'sufficient' classification must be achieved by 2015 and that poor sites must advise against bathing. She further advised that where bathing waters have been designated poor over 5 consecutive years, appropriate notices would need to be erected advising against bathing or prohibiting bathing. Some examples of signage were made available at the meeting.

Mr Rob Tidswell (Wastewater Catchment Manager for United Utilities) was then invited to address the committee. In doing so, he provided a detailed explanation of United Utilities role in helping to improve the quality of bathing waters including all the actions undertaken since the original Bathing Water legislation came into being in 1976 including:

(1990- 95) AMP1: Privatisation of Water Industry and Sea Change Programme

(1995-2000) AMP2: Further investigations and Bathing Waters 2 Programme

(2000- 2005) AMP3: Bathing Water performance and overflow alleviation

Recent years work and current programme AMP4 / 5: Future Bathing Water Investment

Finally, Rick Hayton (representative of Lancashire County Council) then addressed the committee.

Mr Hayton advised the committee that Lancashire County Council is designated as one of the lead local flood authorities responsible for the delivery of new duties (under Flood and Water Management Act). He added that this was based on effective partnership between lead local flood authorities and other risk management authorities including the EA and UU.

Mr Hayton explained that the new duties require the lead local flood authorities to develop, maintain, apply, monitor and consult on a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for its area, such risk includes surface runoff, groundwater/quality of water on highway gulleys, and ordinary watercourses. In addition, the lead local flood authority will act as a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) Approval Body, to work in tandem with the planning system/authorities. In this capacity, the lead local flood authority will have to approve or otherwise sustainable drainage proposals associated with any construction work for buildings, or any structure that covers land and will affect water absorption.

During the course of the presentations, a variety of questions were raised with the key organisations about matters associated with the quality of bathing waters and these related to: the makeup and remit of the various bathing water groups; clarity on the 10 actions proposed to address the bathing water quality; education/promotion/awareness of the Directives' requirements; commercial/business community input; enforcement/prosecution arrangements; infrastructure requirements; wording for the proposed signage; number of overflows/discharges of sewage; monitoring arrangements; DNA tracking technique; storm overflows capacity and implications of future housing developments.

Following detailed discussion it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the work underway to improve Fylde bathing waters and to recommend to Cabinet that a further report on the matter be presented to the next meeting of the committee detailing the following:

- Formal response to the questions raised by Councillor Oades
- Clarity on the 10 actions proposed to address the quality of bathing waters
- Clarity on the undertaking of the bathing water regulations and dates signs may be required.
- Clarity on what has been done on the DNA tracking on Fylde coast bathing waters
- As assessment on the appropriateness of undertaking a joint scrutiny review with Blackpool Council on the matter.

2. To thank the representatives of the various bodes for their attendance and input at the meeting.

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