

Date	Thursday 24 th July 2008
Venue	The Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) Fabian Wilson (Vice Chairman) Brenda Ackers, Louis Rigby, Barbara Pagett, John Singleton
Other Councillors	
Officers	Dave Joy, Eugene Leal, Andrew Shore, Carolyn Whewell, Darren Wrigley
Others	Matthew Connor, Jonathan Croft, Anita Watson

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15th May 2008 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Barbara Pagett for Councillor Elaine Silverwood

4. North Lancashire PCT - Health Care Associated Infections

Anita Watson (Lead Nurse for Infection Control, North Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust) presented a report detailing the preventative measures undertaken to address incidents of MRSA and C-difficile in health care settings across North Lancashire.

Mrs Watson informed the committee that MRSA and C-Difficile were 2 distinctly different types of infection and were spread via different means. MRSA bacteria were usually spread through person-to-person contact with someone who had an MRSA infection, or who was colonised by the bacteria. Hospital patients were more at risk of developing MRSA infections due to a weakened immune system or an entry point for the bacteria to get into their body, such as a surgical wound. It was also possible for MRSA to be contracted from within the community via skin to skin contact with a carrier. All hospital wards had hand wash points and alcohol rub in place to prevent the spread of MRSA.

Mrs Watson reported that C-Difficile is a frequently identified cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhea in healthcare settings. The *Clostridium* family contains bacteria commonly found in the soil and in human and animal intestines. Typically, C. difficile bacteria live harmlessly until a disruption to the intestinal flora occurs, such as repeated, prolonged or inappropriate use of antibiotics, particularly the use of broad spectrum antibiotics. Antibiotics work by killing off the good bacteria in the gut enabling the C-difficile bacteria to spread and flourish. The spread of C-difficile can be prevented through maintaining a clean environment and thoroughly washing hands.

Mrs. Watson further reported that a number of measures were now in place to prevent the spread of both infections which had resulted in big improvements. These included:

- Hospital patients were now screened for MRSA before admittance. This had been a successful move in that only 3 case of MRSA (2 of which were acquired in a community setting) had been detected at Blackpool since April 2008.
- Healthcare staff for infection control meet twice a month to discuss root cause analysis and general preventative measures.
- Staff training on hygiene and dealing with blood culture specimens.
- Hand hygiene audits to check compliance now carried out weekly with the results published on the ward.
- A sustainable programme of cleaning has been introduced to maintain standards after the “superclean with steam” programme earlier this year.

Mrs. Watson further reported that the Strategic Health Authority was responsible for scrutinizing the PCT. The SHA were confident that all measures were being taken to prevent healthcare acquired infections. Since April 2008, Blackpool PCT had reported 3 cases of MRSA (2 acquired within the community) and 89 cases of C-difficile (30 acquired within the community).

There were a number of things that residents of Fylde could do to assist the prevention of healthcare acquired infections from within the community. These were listed as:

- Washing hands thoroughly including fingernails and between the fingers.
- Use the alcohol rub points made available before and after contact with hospital patients.
- Only take antibiotics when necessary.
- Stay at home for at least 48 hours after suffering from an infection.

Following the presentation, members questioned whether nurses were still able to travel to work in uniforms or whether suitable changing facilities were provided. Mrs. Watson reported that contact with uniforms did not cause infections for patients unless it came into contact with an open wound and this was very unlikely. Hospitals were now using plastic aprons for tasks and more changing facilities were being provided.

Members also questioned what measures were in place to address community acquired infections that were detected on entry into the hospital. Mrs. Watson reported that each case is investigated individually and both cases of MRSA at Blackpool which were acquired in a community setting were traced back to nursing homes. The PCT had facilitated some training to educate the staff on preventative measures for the future.

Members sought clarification on what public awareness campaigns had been undertaken. Mrs. Watson reported that the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) was undertaking work to reduce C-Difficile across three streams; restricted use of

antibiotics, General Practitioners and social care homes, and social marketing. A poster and sticker campaign was also in place to inform people to wash their hands.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Watson for the overview of North Lancashire. A number of Fylde residents also use facilities covered by Blackpool Victoria Hospital and members confirmed that they wished to request a meeting with the Director of Infection Control at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Following the discussion, it was RESOLVED:

1. To thank Mrs. Watson for her presentation
2. To make contact with the lead person for infection control at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to meet with Councillor Kiran Mulholland and Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson.

5. Land Drainage Roles and Responsibilities Presentation by the Environment Agency

Matthew Connor and Jonathan Croft (Environment Agency) presented a report detailing the role of the Environment Agency, Fylde Borough Council and riparian owners in the prevention of flooding and maintenance of water course ways in Fylde

Mr Conner and Mr Croft reported that the northern area of the Environment Agency covered the urban areas Preston, Blackpool, Burnley, Kendal, Penrith, and Barrow. It also included the Lake District, the Forest of Bowland, and part of the Yorkshire Dales. The main role of the Environment Agency in terms of flood risk management was to oversee the risk of flood from the major rivers and critical watercourse close to residential areas. . A detailed presentation of the role of each of the agencies is appended to the minutes for reference.

Members were also presented with two maps (appended). Map 1 detailed the flood defences in the Fylde area. Map 2 details the river defence maintenance schedule. The blue lines show those on target and the green line shows those above targets. The two small areas with red lines pinpoint farm crossing points put in by landowners which were not built to Environment Agency standards.

Following the presentation, members questioned who was responsible for surface water flooding on roads following a heavy downpour of rain. Members were advised that surface water was not the responsibility of the Environment Agency but was largely due to poor drainage put in place by United Utilities or the riparian owner. The Environment Agency does have permissive powers to request that work is undertaken on drainage however, they did not have the resources to enforce the owners to do the necessary work.

The Government commissioned Sir Michael Pitt to undertake a review of flood defences following the floods of 2007. The PITT report highlighted that there needed to be a multi agency approach to flood defence and makes recommendations for changes to joint working across agencies in flood situations. The Environment Agency anticipates that improvements will be made following the Pitt review...

Following the debate, it was RESOLVED:

1. To thank Mr Connor and Mr Croft for their presentation.

6. Partnership Working Annual Report 2007/2008

Dave Joy (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the Partnership Working Annual Report for 2007/2008 detailing the performance of all of the council's statutory, formal and informal partnerships.

Mr. Joy reported that the Partnership Working Policy had been reviewed and updated to ensure the issue of equality was appropriately addressed. This was in accordance with the Local Government Equality Standard level 2 which was certified by the council on 2007/08.

Mr Joy stated that there were four types of partnership included in the appendix, the formal and statutory partnerships as well as service coalitions and information networks. Neither service coalitions nor information networks have formal governance arrangements however; there are no resource implications for the council in participating in these partnerships. Members were asked to review the list of partnerships and request further information from specific partnerships at future meetings.

Mr Joy further reported that the 2007/08 review of partnership performance had highlighted two new Formal Partnerships: the South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership and the North West Coastal Group. These partnerships were formally service coalitions but were now defined as Formal partnerships as the council had been asked to make a financial contribution (£720 and £500 respectively). In accordance with the Partnership Working Policy the committee was asked to consider whether these partnerships should undergo a value for money evaluation.

Mr Joy also reported that a number of new information networks had been identified:

- Every Child Matters
- Wyre & Fylde School Sports Partnership
- Lancashire Recycling Forum
- Lancashire Waste Officers Group
- Lancashire Democratic Services Network Group
- Lancashire Electoral Administrators Group

Following the presentation, members questioned about some of the details of the two new formal partnerships and advised that both partnerships should be subject to the value for money evaluation in line with the Partnership Working Policy.

Councillor Louis Rigby requested that a response is sought from Fylde Cricket Development Group regarding the limited number of Fylde Cricket Clubs represented in the group.

Following the debate, it was RESOLVED:

1. To request that Fylde's Cricket Development Group respond to the committee to explain why not all cricket clubs in Fylde are included in the scheme membership.
2. To assign a task & finish group to evaluate the South Fylde Community Rail Partnership and the North West Coastal Group with the following membership
 - Councillor Kiran Mulholland

- Councillor Fabian Wilson
- Councillor John Singleton

7. Scrutiny Review of On Street Traffic Management Issues - Final Report

Carolyn Whewell (Scrutiny and Improvement Officer) presented a report detailing the main findings of the on-street traffic management task and finish group.

Miss Whewell reported that the main aim of the Task and Finish Group was to evaluate the relationship between LCC, FBC and Park wise in relation to traffic management issues. A number of recommendations were made as part of the interim report considered by the committee in July 2007. One of the key successes of the interim recommendations is the establishment of a joint officer traffic liaison group with Lancashire County Council and the police to discuss any traffic issues that arise, and also make others aware of any schemes in the area that may affect the network. The first meeting took place on 25th June and dates have been set for quarterly meetings for the coming year.

Miss Whewell further reported that the last two years had seen a more positive and proactive approach to communication and media activity through the work of the Council and Parkwise. This had resulted in a number of positive achievements:

- All 18 of Fylde's car parks have received the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Parkmark award status
- The development of the "Partnership Plus" service level agreement between the district, LCC, NCP and the Police, whereby Civil Enforcement Officers act as "eyes and ears" for the police and in return offences against the Enforcement Officers are rigorously pursued by the Police. This scheme had a high profile launch by the Chief Inspector of the Police just before Christmas 2007
- Proactive issue of press releases for radio and the local press by Parkwise and the Council

Fylde Borough Council is tied into the Parkwise partnership until September 2009. The task and finish group considered a summary of the options for the service beyond this date. Since the last report, Fylde has also entered into a partnership arrangement with Wyre Borough Council to share the services of a Joint Parking Manager. Officers have also visited Barrow-in-Furness District Council in Cumbria to compare their in-house service with the service provided throughout Lancashire.

There were three options for how this service can progress beyond the term of the current arrangements and which have already been considered by Lancashire County Council. The options were: to continue with the current arrangements with LCC, Fylde Borough Council to enforce off street parking and LCC to enforce on street parking - 'two tier' approach and to externalise the Civil Parking Enforcement service.

Andrew Shore (Technical Services Manager) and Eugene Leal (Parking Operations Manager) reported that Lancashire County Council were in the process of considering these options but had indicated that the enforcement for off street parking would be returned to the districts with Lancashire County Council enforcing on street parking. Officers were concerned that this approach would result in the District Councils having little or no influence over on street parking issues and that it damaged the principal of enhanced

two tier working across authorities. The Parkwise Board had not been included in this recommendation and all of the 12 districts were against the recommendation. The decision was due to be reviewed in September.

Following the debate, it was RESOLVED

1. To thank the task and finish group for the review
2. To endorse the establishment of the Officer Traffic Management Liaison Group
3. To establish a consultation group of members to review the decision made by LCC and to provide comment where necessary. The consultation group will consist of:
 - Councillor Kiran Mulholland
 - Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson
 - Councillor Brenda Ackers
 - Councillor John Singleton
 - Councillor Barbara Pagett.

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