



MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 15 November 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Chris Dixon (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Noreen Griffiths, Will Harris, Karen Henshaw JP, Sally Nash- Walker, Bobby Rigby.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Viv Willder.
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Ian Williamson, Kirstine Riding, Joanne Adams, Cheryl Bennett, Edyta Paxton, Lyndsey Lacey-Simone.
Other Representatives:	Dr Sakthi Karunanithi - Director of Public Health

Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

Procedural Items

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. There were no interests on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members on this occasion.

Information Item

4. Presentation from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi

The Director of Public Health at Lancashire County Council, Dr Sakthi Karunanithi attended the meeting to update the Committee on public health related matters in Fylde.

In his report, Dr Karunanithi referred to the key priorities/a wide variety of actions currently being carried out to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and in doing so, highlighted the importance attached to collaborative working.

The Committee was made aware of the availability of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) interactive health index tool ([here](#)) which explores how health has changed in each local authority area across England between 2015 and 2020. Amongst other areas, the health index covered the health and well-being of children; access to GP surgeries; air quality; crime; the impact of individual behaviours; impact on the economy/local economy; sense of life satisfaction/wellbeing and workplace health matters. A discussion also took place about access to Primary Care Networks.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. These related to the following areas: recent national cases relating to poor housing conditions/links and 'The Decent Homes Standard' and the importance of inspections/collaborative working. In addition, matters associated with vulnerable adults/children/safeguarding issues; misuse of drugs in the borough/partnership working and post Covid access issues were also highlighted. Dr Karunanithi addressed each point in turn.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Dr Karunanithi for his report and attendance at the meeting.

Decision Items

5. Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase - Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The Chairman invited Edyta Paxton (Health & Wellbeing Officer) to introduce the report which sought to update the Committee on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Members were advised that funding had been made available via Lancashire County Council to deliver community integration events and financial provisions if Ukrainian guests become homeless. In addition, approval was sought regarding the appointment of a housing officer and administrative staff to help administer the Homes for Ukraine scheme on a temporary basis fully funded from the grant made available.

In summary, the report recommended to Council approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £320,000 over the three financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25, to deliver the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as detailed within the report with the funding provided via Lancashire County Council for this purpose.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £320,000 over the three financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25, delivering the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as detailed within the report with the funding provided via Lancashire County Council for this purpose.
2. To approve the appointment of a housing officer and administrative staff to help administer the Homes for Ukraine scheme on a temporary basis fully funded from the grant as set out in the report.

6. Affordable Warmth Grant

Cheryl Bennett (Principal Housing Services Officer) was invited to present the report. The report provided details of an allocation of £59,856 by Lancashire County Council to Fylde Council for the delivery of an Affordable Warmth Scheme during 2022/23. Members were advised that the scheme is to provide capital measures for home energy improvements to vulnerable residents where an affordability issue has also been identified. Details regarding this matter were set out in the report.

Included as an appendix were details of Interventions submitted to Lancashire County Council for approval.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. Clarification was sought on the following areas: the inclusion of park homes in the scheme; repair arrangements; follow up arrangements and publicity proposals for the scheme. Ms Bennett addressed each point in turn.

During the course of the discussion, the Chairman suggested that it would be helpful for the Committee to be provided with a follow up report in due course. Ms Bennett undertook to do this.

Following questions, it was RESOLVED:

1. To approve the Affordable Warmth Scheme described in the report.

2. To recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme, 'Affordable Warmth Grant 22/23' for £59,856 to be spent in 2022/23 to be met from grant funding received from Lancashire County Council for Affordable Warmth initiatives.

7. Empty Homes Position Statement and Fylde Empty Homes Strategy

The Chairman invited Kirstine Riding (Housing Services Manager) to present the report which sought to provide members with an update on the number of long-term empty properties in the Borough and to introduce the Draft Fylde Council Empty Homes Strategy.

Members were reminded that the most recent report on long term empty properties was considered by Committee at the 4th January 2022 meeting. In recent years, several changes had been made to the council tax scheme in relation to empty residential property and because of this, members asked for regular updates to monitor the effect of those changes.

Ms Riding advised that the Empty Homes Strategy proposes an approach to targeting empty units that have been empty for two years or more and working with Registered Providers to bring the units into the affordable housing stock within the borough.

Included as appendices were (i) Draft Fylde Empty Homes Strategy (ii) Process flowchart and (iii) an Assessment and scoring sheet.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To approve the formal adoption of Fylde Council Empty Homes Strategy, with regular updates included with the annual Empty Homes Position Statement.

Information Items

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

8. Age UK Lancashire - Mid-Year Report

In accordance with the Service Level Agreement in place with Age UK Lancashire to provide an information and advice service in Fylde, the Committee received the mid-year report for the period covering 1st April to 30th September 2022. A copy of the full report was included as appendix to the report.

Clarification was sought about the availability of home visits. This was addressed by Ms Paxton.

9. Carbon Neutral Working Group Update

The report provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Carbon Neutral Working Group. The notes of the last meeting of the Group held on 13 July 2022 were attached to the report for this purpose.

By way of an update, Ms Manning stated that since the last meeting of the Working Group, progress had been made in terms of work that had been developed. This included the scoping out/development of a tree planting programme and the associated comms to coincide with 'Tree Planting Week'. In addition, reference was made to the work undertaken to develop an Action Plan to chronicle all that the council was doing with respect to this agenda. This work was being led by the Heads of Service Group, in consultation with the Leadership Board, and the Action Plan would be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group by the Head of Environmental Health and Housing.

Further to the above, the Chairman highlighted the ongoing collaborative working arrangements/involvement with BAE systems on the carbon neutral agenda.

10. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Position as at 30th September 2022.

The Committee received an updated report on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30th September 2022 with specific reference to those areas under the remit of the Committee.

11. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Position as at 30th September 2022.

The Committee received an updated report on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30th September 2022 with specific reference to those schemes under the remit of the Committee

12. Reports of Outside Bodies.

The reports (where appropriate) from members appointed to the various Outside Bodies within the remit of the committee were included as appendices to the covering report.

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