

FBC – Revenue Growth Bid 2023/24



Prepared by Lisa Foden

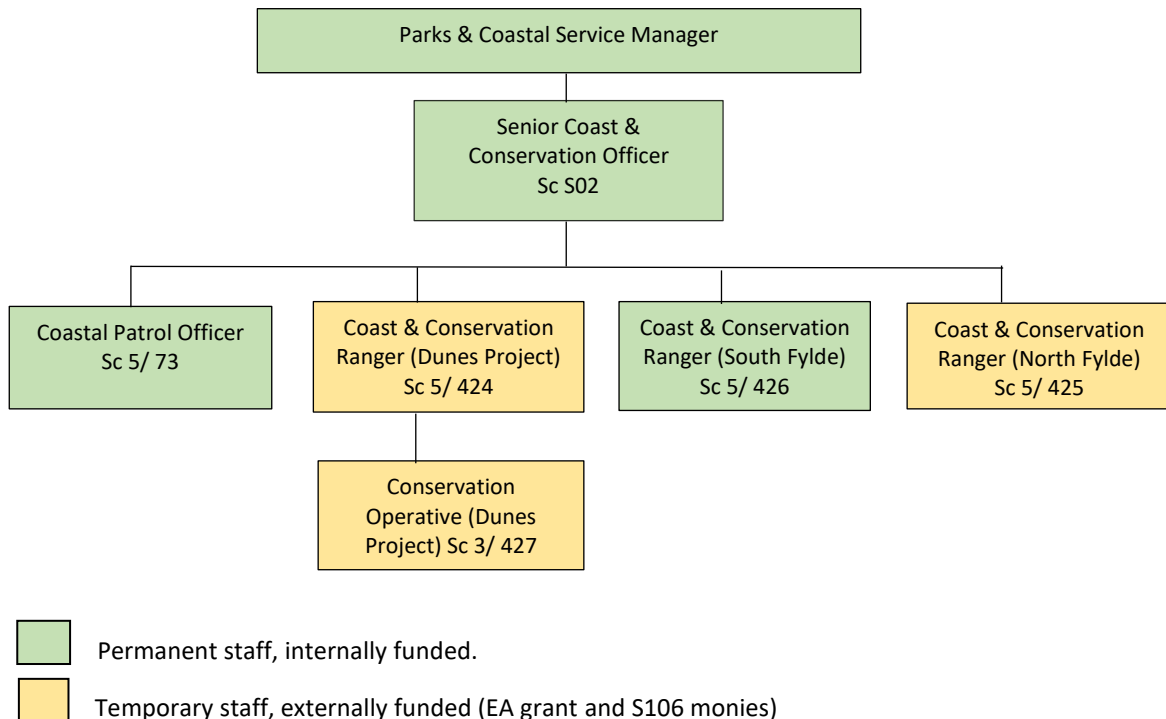
Scheme Title: Coast & Conservation Ranger Post Continuation

Description of Scheme:

1. Background

Fylde Council’s Coast and Conservation Team, which includes the Ranger Service, was formed in 2017 following a departmental operational review. The team sit within the structure of the Parks and Coastal Services Team, within the Department of Place and Culture and have been highly successful in fulfilling a wide range of health and safety, operational and development functions relating to Fylde’s green spaces, ecological sites and coastal areas.

The Coast and Conservation Team structure is shown below, illustrating both internal and externally funded staff.



All three Coast and Conservation Rangers undertake the same duties, but cover different geographical areas, with one post holder being specifically dedicated to the Fylde Sand Dunes Project, which is externally funded by the Environment Agency.

The Coast and Conservation Ranger (North Fylde) post number 425 is a 5 year fixed term contract role that has been funded by Section 106 monies. Funding for the post holder ends on the 31st March 2023, after which time the post will be discontinued unless further funding can be secured.

The loss of this post will have specific impacts within North Fylde and a significant, collective impact on the capacity of the wider Coast and Conservation Team.

Specific impacts are as follows:

- 25% reduction in uniformed patrols, health and safety inspections and emergency response on parks and open spaces, including reduced capacity to deliver the seasonal weekend rota.
- Discontinuation of income generation in relation to the schools Outdoor Education Programme on parks and open spaces.
- Discontinuation of income generating events programme on parks and open spaces.
- 25% reduction on internal and external major event support.
- 25% reduction in practical conservation work on statutory and non-statutory ecological sites.
- 50% reduction in the delivery of Green Flag and In Bloom related environmental initiatives.
- 25% reduction in the delivery of carbon neutral and environmental related projects.
- 50% reduction in park volunteer and friends group support.
- Discontinuation of pending Volunteer Ranger and Junior Ranger programmes.

2. Proposal

It is proposed that additional annual revenue is allocated to secure the permanent role of the Coast and Conservation Ranger (North Fylde) post 425 and that this is considered as part of the 2023/ 2024 budget setting and is a recurring budget for the life of the forecast. The continuation of this role will ensure a sustainable Coast and Conservation Team that will continue to deliver and build on the recent service successes, which are fundamental to maintain a vibrant coastal resort.

3. Outcomes

The permanency of the Coast and Conservation Ranger (North Fylde) post 425 on the Parks and Coast Service staffing establishment, will secure the current and future productivity of the team.

Outcomes include:

- Supporting the delivery of Fylde Council's Beach Management Plan and Park Management Plans.
- Delivering a comprehensive programme of daily patrols and health and safety inspections on beaches, coastal areas, parks and open spaces, proving a sense of uniformed presence.
- Contributing to the council's weekend and emergency on-call rota.
- Leading or supporting partner organisations in emergency response including fly tipping, pollution incidents, lost children, public accidents and incidents of antisocial behaviour.
- Managing and maintaining the council's statutory and non-statutory ecological sites.
- Delivering an income generating annual guided walks and events programme.
- Providing health and safety support at internal and external large-scale public events e.g. 1940's, Kite Festival, Ashton Festival, Children In Need etc - including event stewarding.
- Delivering an income generating Outdoor Education Programme with schools and colleges.
- Supporting Green Flag Award, In Bloom and Seaside Award related improvement schemes and projects, ensuring successful award judging outcomes.
- Delivering carbon neutral or sustainability related projects including rewilding, large-scale tree planting and woodland expansion initiatives.
- Delivering volunteer programmes, supporting friends/ community groups and Community Payback teams on parks and open spaces, bringing a 'gift in kind' contribution to the cleansing and maintenance on the council's public open spaces.

4. Contribution to corporate objectives

Economy

- Explore opportunities for income generation from use of natural assets.

Environment

- Enhance the natural environment.
- Improve coast and countryside accessibility.
- Address antisocial behaviour.
- Provide high quality parks and open spaces.
- Provide safe, clean and accessible coast and countryside facilities.

Efficiency

- Champion and enhance the reputation of the council.
Provide access to council services through all possible means with particular focus on the vulnerable.

Tourism

- Provide high quality leisure, tourism, arts, sports and recreation facilities.
- Deliver and support a diverse programme of events across the Fylde Coast and Countryside.
- Develop and promote unique destination points across the coast and countryside.

5. Summary of revenue costs

The following table shows the estimated costs for the Coast and Conservation Ranger post, including all on-costs:

Financial year	Annual salary
2023/24	£32,287
2024/25	£33,848
2025/26	£35,484
2026/27	£37,193