



MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 7 March 2023
Venue:	Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Chris Dixon (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Karen Henshaw, Bobby Rigby, Viv Willder (substitute)
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Ian Williamson, Andrew Loynd, Christine Wood
Other Representatives:	Neil Farley, Paul Lomas – Springfields Fuel Ltd/Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel

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 24 January as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Viv Willder substituted for Councillor William Harris

Information Item

4. Presentation –Springfields Fuels Ltd and Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel

Neil Farley and Paul Lomas representatives of Springfields Fuels Ltd and Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel delivered a presentation to the Committee advising of the history/background of the company and of the Clean Energy Technology Park at Springfields which had 75 years' experience and was a centre of excellence of Nuclear Materials Management and was the United Kingdom's only civil nuclear fuel manufacturing facility. The Committee was advised that:

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- Springfields was the UK's nuclear fuel manufacturing centre of excellence, with an ambition to fuel all existing and new reactors, irrespective of technology or vendor.
- Was a centre of excellence for nuclear management, building on existing capabilities to offer an expanded set of services to customers.
- A hub for industry collaboration for development of advanced nuclear technologies for SMR and next generation reactors.
- Skills required for the future of the Springfield's Clean Energy Technology Park were supported by the Apprentice training programme and pipeline. Springfield's had been training apprentices for 71 years.
- With the accelerated closure of the EDF AGR reactor fleet and no new fuel load to replace it, Springfield was addressing its commercial viability by working with Government and Stakeholders to remain capable of supporting future UK reactor fuel requirements and exploring many opportunities for fuel and related nuclear activities.
- Without Springfields, the UK would rely on foreign imports to fuel our reactors.
- Springfield had skills and capabilities to manufacture fuel containing reprocessed Uranium, helping the UK and other countries to reduce their liabilities and 're-use' Uranium.
- Site Stakeholder Group meetings held twice per year.
- Anticipated planning permission submissions to Fylde Borough Council for a range of opportunities.
- Springfields continued role in supporting the UK's Net Zero by 2050 climate change objectives.

Mr Farley and Mr Lomas responded to questions from the Committee in relation to various issues including renewable energy on site and transportation of nuclear materials.

The Chairman thanked Mr Farley and Mr Lomas for the presentation, and it was suggested that a visit to Springfield's Technology Park could be arranged in the near future.

It was RESOLVED to note the presentation.

Information Item

5. Outside Body Final Reports

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

The Chairman advised that in relation to the Community Safety Partnership, there had been a reduction in reported crime in Fylde and there had been an increase in domestic violence. The Chairman also advised BAE had been very helpful and had attended one of the meetings of the Carbon Neutral Working Group.

The Committee was reminded that appointments to Outside Bodies were usually undertaken at the last Council meeting of the municipal year apart from in an election year and that in an election year, appointments must be made at the Annual meeting. The Committee was further reminded that as the Council had operated a Committee system, appointments had been made following nominations by the Programme Committees.

The Committee was advised that from May 2023, the Committee structure would change, and it was proposed that nominations would now be considered at the first available Executive Committee meeting and appointments made at the first available Council meeting following the Annual meeting. Until the changes to the Committee structure were implemented in May 2023, existing appointments would remain in place.

It was RESOLVED to note the report.

Decision Items

6. Working Group Closure Report – Flood and Surface Water Management Group

Ms Tracy Manning, Deputy Chief Executive introduced the report advising the Committee that the current term of office at Fylde Council would end in May 2023 following the Borough elections and the return of a reduced new group (51-37) of elected Members following the recent Boundary Commission Review.

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Ms Manning also advised that following the recent Governance Review, undertaken in response to the reduced Membership of the Council, May 2023 would see the creation of an Executive Policy Committee and scrutiny arrangements that would require different working arrangements.

It was reported that at the final meeting of each Committee for the current term of office, the working groups and Boards that had been established and appointed by the Committee would be formally closed and disbanded where appropriate to create the opportunity for the new Council to review and determine the most appropriate arrangements under the new Governance Structure.

The report reminded that the Committee had established the Flood and Surface Water Management Working Group on 3 November 2022 and had appointed Members to review the flood risk and surface water management and advised that the working group had produced a report on Flood Risk and Surface Water Management with several recommendations which were highlighted within the report.

The report also reminded that an update report had been presented to the Environment, Health and Housing Committee at the meeting held on 24 January 2023. The report advised that the Working Group had fulfilled the remit that had been set by the Committee and Members of the group over the previous two years and thanked Members for their hard work, dedication, and contribution.

The report further advised that Programme Committees including the Environment, Health and Housing Committee would not be part of the new Committee Governance arrangements from May 2023 and recommended that the Flood and Surface Water Management Group be disbanded and that arrangements to review the Council's Strategy and approach to Flood and Surface Water Management under the new Governance arrangements be determined by the new Council.

A discussion took place in which the importance of this ongoing piece of work was recognised due to the issues and areas of responsibilities involved.

The Chairman thanked the Working Group, Committee and Council Officers for the hard work in relation to this issue.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED (as per the report recommendation): -

That the Environmental, Health and Housing Committee disband the Flood and Surface Water Management Working Group and acknowledges that the Members of the Group appointed by the Committee have fulfilled the intended objectives and aims set by the Committee in delivering the budget for the Authority.

7. Working Groups Closure Report – Carbon Neutral Working Group

Ms Manning introduced the report which advised (as in item 6) of the changes to the Committee structure following the Borough elections in May 2023 due to the Boundary Commission Review and Governance review that had been undertaken.

The report recommended that the Carbon Neutral Working Group be disbanded and acknowledged that the Members of the Carbon Neutral Working Group appointed by the Committee had contributed to the delivery of Corporate Plan objectives.

The achievements of the Carbon Neutral Working Group were also highlighted within the report. A copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Group held on 12 January 2023 were attached to the report at Appendix 1 with a request for endorsement by the Committee.

Responding to a question from Councillor Willder, it was confirmed that the Carbon Neutral Working Group meeting scheduled on 22 March 2023 was cancelled.

The Chairman thanked Members of the Committee and Council Officers for their hard work and achievements of the Working Group.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED (as per the report recommendations): -

1. That the Environmental, Health and Housing Committee disband the Carbon Neutral Working Group; and

2. **Acknowledges that the Members of the Group appointed by the Committee have contributed to achieving some of the objectives that were set out within the original Terms of Reference, and within the Corporate Plan;**
3. **Endorses the minutes of the most recent Carbon Neutral Working Group held on Thursday, 12 January 2023.**

8. Public Spaces Protection Orders: Alcohol Consumption

Mr Ian Williamson, Head of Environmental and Housing Services introduced the report which advised that parts of the Borough were currently covered by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which permitted a Police Constable to require a person to stop drinking alcohol and surrender the alcohol to a Constable. Mr Williamson reminded the Committee that the PSPOs, as discussed at the previous meeting on 24 January 2023, were due to lapse on 14 October 2023, could be extended, but only if they remained necessary to prevent nuisance or annoyance to the public, or disorder associated with the consumption of alcohol in the area they covered.

The report requested that the Committee consider whether it was minded to extending all/any of the 10 PSPOs details of which were attached to the report at Appendix 1. The report also proposed that delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental and Housing Services to follow the mandatory processes of consultation, to determine if the matters should be referred back to Members for further consideration, or the Order/Orders confirmed.

Mr Williamson referred to the meeting of the Committee on 24 January 2023 in which the Committee had deferred extending all the Public Space Protection Orders to enable Officers to explore the possibility of having a complete ban on street drinking in town centres.

Mr Williamson reported that whilst there had been recent incidents attributed to a limited number of individuals in St Annes Square, there was limited evidence to support a ban in the town centre, in the view of both Council Officers and the Police. Mr Williamson further reported that a complete ban on alcohol in a location would create an expectation from the public that it would be enforced when reported. Mr Williamson advised that Police resources to respond to such a change would be limited with priority to give to other more serious incidents causing a threat to individuals and/or property and Council resources would be limited to respond specially to cover the periods when drinking in the prohibited areas was most likely e.g., evenings and weekends.

The report recognised that varying the PSPO to authorise Council Enforcement Officers to remove alcohol from the public could be perceived to put Officers of the Council at increased risk as street drinkers had potential to be intoxicated, aggressive and present a risk of violence or abuse to Officers. The report also advised that Council Officers would be instructed not to put themselves at any risk at all as part of the Councils risk assessment, should any persons present as a threat, Council Officers should not approach or engage with them. To ensure clarity in responsibilities, a simple Memorandum of Understanding between the Council, and the Police on dealing with street drinks would be made and agreed as part of any variation of the orders giving Council Officers the same powers as a Constable to require a person to cease drinking and surrender alcohol.

A discussion took place in which Members expressed concern around the risks to council employees whilst noting that this would be mitigated through both risk assessment and a memorandum of understanding to be entered into with the Police. It was requested that this be kept under review to ensure that Council Officers were not placed in compromising situations.

Members also requested that a review of signage and positioning be undertaken.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED (as per the report recommendations): -

1. **That the Committee is minded to extend the ten PSPO's as detailed within the report for a further three-year period, and to vary the orders to allow authorised Council Officers the same powers as a Police Constable, i.e., to require a person to stop drinking and to require the surrender of alcohol. For clarity, it was recommended that the extended PSPOs should specifically refer to the ability of PCSOs to enforce the orders too.**
2. **In relation to each order that the Committee is minded to extend, to delegate authority to the Head of Environmental and Housing Services to carry out the necessary consultation, publicity, and notification and**

then to extend the order, unless he considers that the order ought not to be extended until a response to the consultation or publicity has been considered further by the Committee.

- 3. That a prohibition of drinking alcohol within town centres be not pursued at this stage for the reasons explored within the covering report but should evidence come to light of increased drink related anti-social behaviour at a future date within Fylde the matter be re-considered.**

9. Citizens Advice – Fylde

Ms Manning introduced the report which requested that a one-year Service Level Agreement be entered into with Citizens Advice Fylde for 2023/24.

The Committee was reminded of the key partnership that existed between the Council and Citizens' Advice Fylde and that the Council provided funding to Citizens' Advice to support several programmes which aimed to provide free and impartial advice to Fylde Borough residents.

It was reported that the partnership is predominantly managed through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which was renewed every three years. Fylde Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) was seeking a substantial uplift in its grant provision and that in 2022/23 the level of support to Citizens' Advice Fylde totalled £102,082, and this figure was built into the Council's base budget.

The Committee was advised that for 2023/24 the grant to CAB would continue in line with the base budget, and it was recommended that a one-year Service Level Agreement be entered into for 2023/24. This would then provide the opportunity for a deeper consideration of the funding position of the CAB to take place, and its financing challenges, that had led to its consideration of the funding position of the CAB to take place, and its financing challenges, that had led to its request for an increase in grant provision.

The Committee was further advised that Citizens' Advice Fylde had funding within its reserves to meet any shortfall as a one-off in 2023/24 whilst this piece of analysis was undertaken.

Responding to a question from a Member, Ms Manning advised that post pandemic, there had been a big demand on the services of the CAB, in particular relating to debt advice.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED (as per the report recommendations): -

- 1. That a one-year Service Level Agreement be entered into with Citizens Advice Fylde for 2023/24; and**
- 2. That a further report be brought back to Members in due course on the findings, and recommendations, of the Use of Resources review from MIAA, the Council's Internal Audit service on the level of funding recommended for the three-year period running from 2024/25.**

Information Items

10. Hydration Points Update

Andrew Loynd, Technical Support Manager introduced the report updating on progress to install hydration points across the Borough since the meeting of the Environmental, Health and Housing Committee on 29 March 2022 in which it had been resolved to approve £13,500 of capital expenditure to install six hydration points. Details of the consumption of water at each of the four currently functioning hydration points up until December 2022 were detailed in the report at Table 1. Table 1 also detailed the equivalent number of 500ml water bottles that had been refilled at each location.

Potential locations for additional hydration points were outlined at Table 2 within the report. Table 2 also indicated sufficient ability to draw down funds to implement at chosen locations. Although no definitive figure could be given as to how many single use plastic bottles were not discarded because of the hydration points, it was expected that their presence would have helped reduce the number.

The report advised that the total approved Capital Programme budget for the installation of hydrations points across the Borough and renovation of historic drinking fountains was £60,000.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED: -

To approve up to £31,300 to install up to 9 wall-mounted and 4 free standing hydration points at suitable locations as indicated in table 2 of the report with final locations to be agreed by Fylde Council's Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant committee Chairman.

11. Adult Weight Management Funding

Ms Manning introduced the report updating the Committee on the arrangements of the Adult Weight Management Programme in Fylde following extension of the funding to expand existing services and commission new services.

The report advised that Fylde Council had been further allocated £42,636.00 for a tier 2 Adult Weight Management Programme as part of the Government funding for the Adult Healthier Weight Programme. This was a 1-year extension of the funding to expand existing weight management services and commission new services. Attached to the report was a copy of the Adult Weight Management Programme 2023 grant agreement between Lancashire County Council and Fylde Borough Council.

RESOLVED: - That the Environment, Health, and Housing Committee notes the above Information reports.

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