

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	4 NOVEMBER 2021	5
RANGER SERVICE PRESENTATION			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The Ranger Service are to attend the 4th November Tourism and Leisure Committee Meeting to deliver a presentation on their role and responsibilities.

The presentation is designed to raise awareness of the Ranger Service day-to-day activities and highlight the numerous successful environmental schemes delivered during the past 4 years.

The Ranger Service fulfil both operational and development functions relating to coast, environment, community engagement and education. They deliver a number key aims within the Fylde Coastal Strategy, Park Management Plans and the Corporate Plan 20-24 goals linked with the Environment, Economy and Tourism.

A list of the staff team is illustrated in **Table 1.0** below:

Table 1.0

Role	Post duration	Post funding
Area Conservation Ranger (Dunes)	5-year fixed term contract	Externally funded until 31.3.2023
Area Conservation Ranger (North)	5-year fixed term contract	Externally funded until 31.3.2023
Conservation Operative (Dunes)	5-year fixed term contract	Externally funded until 31.3.2023
Area Conservation Ranger (South)	Permanent	Internally funded
Coastal Patrol Officer	Permanent	Internally funded

Two posts including the Area Conservation Ranger (South) and Coastal Patrol Officer, are funded through internal Council revenue and hold permanent contracts.

The remaining posts are externally funded and hold temporary 5-year fixed term contracts ending 31st March 2023. Both the Area Conservation Ranger (Dunes) and Conservation Operative (Dunes) are responsible for the operational delivery of the Fylde Sand Dunes Project in partnership with the Wildlife Trust and Blackpool Council. These posts are funded by a 5-year grant from the Environment Agency ending 31st March 2023 and are required to deliver the agreed strategic outputs for the duration of the project period. The Fylde Sand Dunes project partnership have recently submitted a grant application to the Environment Agency to ensure the continuation of the project and associated staff for a further 5 years. However, funding is not guaranteed.

The Area Conservation Ranger (North) post is funded by Section 106 monies obtained from the Persimmon Homes housing development on Clifton Drive North. The Section 106 agreement set several agreed conservation and education deliverables to mitigate and minimise environmental disturbance from the housing development on Fylde's coastline. Internal revenue funding will need to be found beyond 31st March 2023 to secure this post.

The team's upcoming priorities for 2021 - 2023 will be to develop a Fylde-wide Volunteer Ranger Service, Volunteer Beach Warden Service and to engage with schools from across the region in environmental education, highlighting the value of Fylde's environment.

A future report will be presented to the Tourism and Leisure Committee providing an update on external funding and detailing options around future service provision.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Lisa Foden E: <mailto:lisa.foden@fylde.gov.uk> lisa.foden@fylde.gov.uk

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To provide the Tourism and Leisure Committee information about the Ranger Service.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Lisa Foden - Parks and Coastal Services Manager