



Agenda

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 2 November 2021 at 6:30 pm
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes, FY8 1LW
Committee members:	<p>Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Chris Dixon (Vice-Chairman)</p> <p>Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Paula Brearley, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Karen Henshaw JP, Roger Lloyd, Sally Nash-Walker, Bobby Rigby.</p>

Public Platform

To hear representations from members of the public in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution.

To register to speak under Public Platform: see [Public Speaking at Council Meetings](#).

	PROCEDURAL ITEMS:	PAGE
1	Declarations of Interest: Declarations of interest, and the responsibility for declaring the same, are matters for elected members. Members are able to obtain advice, in writing, in advance of meetings. This should only be sought via the Council's Monitoring Officer. However, it should be noted that no advice on interests sought less than one working day prior to any meeting will be provided.	1
2	Confirmation of Minutes: To confirm the minutes, as previously circulated, of the meeting held on 14 October 2021 as a correct record.	1
3	Substitute Members: Details of any substitute members notified in accordance with council procedure rule 23(c).	1
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DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	4
GRANTS SCHEME TO RESIDENTS AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC EVALUATION			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

Members will recall a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £74,155 was approved at Council at its meeting on 19 October 2020 to fund a scheme through the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) to support local vulnerable residents as a result of the pandemic. The funding from this initiative was a result of funding from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) passported via Lancashire County Council (LCC). The grant was to be used to support people who were struggling to afford food or essentials, or required other support, as a result of the pandemic.

This scheme successfully ran through 2020/21 and as a result, a further funding allocation was made within the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) allocation. The CVS has indicated its willingness to continue with this initiative in the latter part of 2021/22, subject to satisfactory independent evaluation being undertaken of the initial programme, to consider the need for a further bidding round/rounds, together with evaluating the work undertaken thus far.

This report provides an overview of the project evaluation undertaken by Trueman Change. A full copy of the evaluation is attached as an appendix. Sarah Geatrell from Trueman will be attending the committee remotely to present an executive summary of the report and a summary of the Fylde case studies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the success of the community grants scheme and the allocation of a further sum of funding from the Contain Management Outbreak Fund, up to £20,000 which has been agreed by the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, in accordance with the decision of the Committee made on 15 June 2021.
2. That thanks be passed to the Council for Voluntary Services for its partnership working with the council to deliver projects to support vulnerable residents as a result of the pandemic.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council - 19 October 2020 - fully funded budget increase approved to fund a scheme with the Council for Voluntary Services to support residents due to the pandemic.

Environment, Health and Housing Committee - 15 June 2021 - noted that there was an independent evaluation of the 2020/21 grants scheme run on behalf of the Council by the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) underway with the outcome to be considered by the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of the

Committee, prior to embarking on a further round of grants to be administered by the CVS in 2021/22.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

EMERGENCY FUNDING AWARD

1. Members will recall a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £74,155 was approved at Council at its meeting on 19 October 2020 to fund a grants scheme to be administered through the CVS to support local vulnerable residents as a result of the pandemic. The funding for this initiative was a result of funding from DEFRA, passported via LCC.
2. This scheme successfully ran in 2020/21, and as a result, a further funding allocation was made within the COMF. The CVS has indicated its willingness to continue with this initiative in the latter part of 2021/22, subject to satisfactory independent evaluation being undertaken of the initial programme, to consider the need for a further bidding round/rounds together with evaluating the work undertaken thus far.
3. This report provides an independent evaluation of the project, undertaken on behalf on the council, by Trueman Change.

GRANT SCHEME OVERVIEW

4. The grant scheme was run in partnership with:
 - Fylde Borough Council (Fylde Council)
 - Wyre Borough Council (Wyre Council)
 - Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council of Voluntary Services (CVS)
 - NHS Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS CCG)
5. The grant scheme allowed local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFS) organisations to bid for funds to support vulnerable residents. An amount of £60,000 was provided by this council and was matched by Wyre Council. In later bidding rounds, both the Fylde and Wyre CCG together with the Blackpool CCG also contributed funds.
6. VCFS organisations were invited to bid for funds from a minimum of £300, up to a maximum of £5,000 for projects that:
 - *Met the immediate need of residents who were struggling to afford food and essentials due to Covid-19;*
 - *Provided advice and information to residents affected by Covid-19 to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits, debt advice or employment support;*
 - *Provided emotional and mental health support;*
 - *Helped address social isolation; and*
 - *Demonstrated how significant numbers of residents most affected by Covid-19 would benefit from the funds, and which geographical areas and issues were being addressed.*

7. The grant scheme was run over four bidding rounds, where applications from VCFS organisations were evaluated by a panel of representatives from Fylde and Wyre Councils, Blackpool CVS, and NHS Blackpool CCG.

GRANT SCHEME OVERVIEW

8. Trueman Change undertook the project evaluation on behalf of the partners. The evaluation focused on four key themes as follows:



Following these themes, the key findings of the review are set out below.

IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



9. It was found that the grant scheme met its own aims, successfully delivering support to vulnerable residents in the Fylde and Wyre and wider areas in a timely way through the channel of local VCFS organisations.
10. Groups who received money from the grant scheme reported that the scheme was pivotal in keeping recipient VCFS groups running during the pandemic.
11. The grant funding made a timely, direct impact in the community through supply of provisions, equipment and support to those who needed it most. It allowed these groups to move people in the community away to hunger, isolation and fear towards social belonging, connection and optimism for the future.
12. The funding also made a timely, direct impact on the VCFS groups themselves, allowing them to begin to generate 'volunteer capital'. Groups were able to set up new infrastructure and equipment, build the strength of their volunteer teams and, in some cases, evolve the reach and scope of their service delivery in the pandemic period, enabling them to become more sustainable in the longer term.

WORKING WITH OTHERS



13. Fylde and Wyre Councils, Blackpool CVS and NHS Blackpool CCG worked effectively in partnership with each other to deliver the scheme's aims.
14. Effective partnership working allowed the scheme to deliver its aims successfully, injecting funds at speed into high-need parts of the local community.
15. The VCFS network has grown in strength because of the grant scheme funding, as groups have started to make new connections with each other. Councils and partners can benefit in the long term from the strength of the network.

AWARDS AND PROCESS



16. Fylde and Wyre Councils and NHS Blackpool CCG collectively spent £176,723.08 on 58 awards in the local area during the scheme.
17. Fylde Council spent £49,069.24 on 25 grant awards across 4 bidding rounds.

18. The grant scheme was delivered with a quick, 'on-the-ground' process that was simple, clear, and fit for purpose.
19. Groups awarded funding were very positive about their experiences with the scheme and felt that it has been a fundamental catalyst in the delivery of support in the community during times of highest need in the Covid-19 pandemic.

FUTURE WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS



20. VCFS groups report that the Covid-19 recovery period is just beginning - there is more to do.
21. Groups and grant scheme panel members identified a timely opportunity to help groups develop sustainability for the longer term of the pandemic recovery.
22. Future grant scheme funding should be given, where possible, in a further grant scheme bidding round.
23. This further bidding round should focus on helping VCFS groups to support themselves in the longer term, drawing on their resources and networks, and further developing volunteer capital.
24. The grant scheme panel should be adapted to include representation from social prescribing teams and GP surgeries for their on-the-ground local knowledge and connections.
25. It was noted that beyond a further round of grant scheme funding, the Community Fund Project at Fylde Council will be able to provide some continued support to VCFS groups in the longer term and the support of this from the CVS in promoting the Community Projects Fund will be helpful.

CONCLUSION

26. At the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting, held on 15 June 2021, it was noted that there was an independent evaluation of the 2020/21 grant scheme underway, to consider the need for a future bidding round. This evaluation has concluded that the grants scheme was a success and that there should be a final bidding round. This bidding round should focus on helping VCFS groups to support themselves in the longer term, drawing on their resources and networks, and further developing volunteer capital.
27. Having had the opportunity to consider the evaluation report, the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, has allocated £20,000 to be funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund budget. This amount of funding will be added to a remaining £10,000 from the previous bidding rounds already banked with the CVS, making a total final bidding round allocation of up to £30,000. Wyre Council has indicated its willingness to also enter a final bidding round.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report allocated £20k from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund 2020/21 utilising the support for vulnerable allocation a Community Grants Scheme. It adds to £10k already banked with the CVS which was underspent in previous biddings rounds. This will provide a total funding package of up to £30k. The COMF award for 2020/21 has previously been added to the revenue and capital budgets, in line with the decision made by the Chief Executive using emergency powers.
Legal	The council needs to put in place accountable and transparent arrangements in relation to its decisions on how the fund is used.
Community Safety	There are no implications.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications.

Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

Attached documents

Appendix 1 - Trueman Change - Fylde Borough Council Grant Scheme Evaluation

Fylde Borough Council Grant Scheme Evaluation

Date	28/09/21
Version	Final 1.3
Owner	Sarah Geatrell
Author	Sarah Geatrell

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1.0 Introduction

Fylde Borough Council commissioned Trueman Change to evaluate a grant scheme that was set up to support vulnerable residents in the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. This grant scheme was run in partnership with:

- Fylde Borough Council (Fylde Council)
- Wyre Borough Council (Wyre Council)
- Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council of Voluntary Services (CVS)
- NHS Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS CCG)

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the delivery of the grant scheme, examining whether it met its aims and objectives.

1.1 Context

In response to the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic, Fylde Council set up a Community Hub supported by volunteer groups to provide essentials and assistance to those on the shielding list and other vulnerable residents.

Through setting up this Hub, relationships strengthened between Fylde Council, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CVS, Wyre Council and NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG, leading to the creation of a strong partnership. This partnership group identified a specific need in the community and set up a grant scheme where local VCFS (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) organisations could bid for funds to support vulnerable local residents. Fylde Council agreed to release up to £60,000 in funding grants, which was matched by Wyre Council. Later in the bidding rounds, both the Fylde and Wyre CCG together with the Blackpool CCG also contributed funds.

VCFS organisations were invited to bid for funds from a minimum of £300 up to a maximum of £5,000 for projects that:

- met the immediate need of residents who were struggling to afford food and essentials due to Covid-19
- provided advice and information to residents affected by Covid-19 to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits, debt advice or employment support
- provided emotional and mental health support
- helped address social isolation

- demonstrated how significant numbers of residents most affected by Covid-19 would benefit from the funds, and which geographical areas and issues were being addressed

The grant scheme was run over four bidding rounds, where applications from VCFS organisations were evaluated by a panel of representatives from Fylde and Wyre Councils, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CVS and NHS Blackpool CCG.

This report evaluates the delivery of the scheme in more detail.

2.0 Executive Summary

Our evaluation identifies four key themes as follows:



Impact in the community



Working with others



Awards and Process



Future work

Following these themes, here are our key findings:

2.1 Impact in the community



- We confirm that the grant scheme met its own aims, successfully delivering support to vulnerable residents in the Fylde and Wyre and wider areas in a timely way through the channel of local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFS) organisations
- Groups who received money from the grant scheme reported that the scheme was pivotal in keeping recipient VCFS groups running during the pandemic

- The grant funding made a timely, direct impact in the community through supply of provisions, equipment and support to those who needed it most. It allowed these groups to move people in the community away from hunger, isolation and fear towards social belonging, connection and optimism for the future
- The funding also made a timely, direct impact on the VCFS groups themselves, allowing them to begin to generate 'volunteer capital'. Groups were able to set up new infrastructure and equipment, build the strength of their volunteer teams and, in some cases, evolve the reach and scope of their service delivery in the pandemic period, enabling them to become more sustainable in the longer term

2.2 Working with others

- Fylde and Wyre Councils, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CVS and NHS Blackpool CCG worked effectively in partnership with each other to deliver the grant scheme's aims
- Effective partnership working allowed the scheme to deliver its aims successfully, injecting funds at speed into high-need parts of the local community
- The VCFS network has grown in strength as a result of the grant scheme funding, as groups have started to make new connections with each other. Councils and partners can benefit in the long term from the strength of this network

2.3 Awards and Process

- Fylde and Wyre Councils and NHS Blackpool CCG collectively spent £176,723.08 on 58 awards in the local area during the course of the scheme
- Fylde Council spent £49,069.24 on 25 grant awards across 4 bidding rounds
- The grant scheme was delivered with a quick 'on-the-ground' process that was simple, clear, and fit for purpose

- Groups awarded funding were very positive about their experiences with the scheme and felt that it has been a fundamental catalyst in the delivery of support in the community during times of highest need in the Covid-19 pandemic

2.4 Future work



- VCFS groups report that the Covid-19 recovery period is just beginning – there is more to do
- Groups and grant scheme panel members have identified a timely opportunity to help groups develop sustainability for the longer term of the pandemic recovery
- Future grant scheme funding should be given, where possible, in a further grant scheme bidding round
- This further bidding round should focus on helping VCFS groups to support themselves in the longer term, drawing on their resources and networks, and further developing volunteer capital
- The grant scheme panel should be adapted to include representation from social prescribing teams and GP surgeries for their on-the-ground local knowledge and connections
- Beyond a further round of grant scheme funding, the Community Project Fund at Fylde Council will be able to provide some continued support to VCFS groups in the longer term and the support of this from the CVS in promoting this will be helpful

3.0 Methodology and Data Collection

Trueman Change collected a range of data as evidence to evaluate the grant scheme. We gathered these data from a range of sources:

- ✓ Existing data sources such as output reports, grant bids, organisational reporting
- ✓ Online survey to all grant bidders
- ✓ Interviews and discussions with the five grant recipients used as case studies, plus an extra case study
- ✓ Interviews with key stakeholders such as Tracy Hopkins at CVS, Mark Broadhurst at Wyre Council and Fylde Council Community Hub Team reps Tracy Manning, Edyta Paxton and Joanne Collins, and input from Pete Smith at NHS CCG

Additionally, we ran a group meeting with Tracy Manning, Edyta Paxton and Joanne Collins (all from Fylde BC) to consider the future of the grant scheme, and how VCFS organisations can be supported in the Fylde and wider area in the Covid-19 recovery phase. We included views on this from Tracy Hopkins at the CVS and Pete Smith from the CCG.

We were originally commissioned to provide five case studies of organisations who were awarded funds to assess the impact of the funding in the community. Our evaluation includes an extra case study, as one of the nominated groups had not yet spent the funds awarded.

4.0 Detailed Findings

We present detailed findings in four thematic areas as follows:





4.1 Impact In the Community

Our evaluation found that groups used their grant scheme awards to tackle social issues at grass roots level. As a direct result of the scheme, vulnerable residents in Fylde, Wyre and wider areas received support in many forms, including:

- tangible things like food, essential provisions, technology, equipment (such as utensils, trolleys), doorstep parcels, toiletries, bedding and furniture
- intangible things like social and emotional support, remote phone calls, technological support, provision of remote activities, befriending and virtual networks
- covering costs such as costs of premises, hire costs for equipment and volunteer mileage

In using their funding in these ways, groups were responding directly to a range of urgent needs in the community as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our findings reflected that the funding has been a catalyst in addressing some of the deep social problems felt in the Covid-19 pandemic. Groups said:

“Many of our LGBTQ+ group members are victims of digital poverty and struggled to engage with peers through the lockdowns due to a lack of technology awareness and physical digital tools”

“The grant enabled us to purchase additional digital equipment i.e. tablets and mobile Wi-Fi units for those unable to afford their own”

“We run soup kitchens and drop-ins for the homeless and socially isolated. The scheme has been a boost as demand for food and toiletries etc. has increased significantly in the last 18 months”

Groups report that the provision of goods and support through the funding they received has led to positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of the residents they supported during the pandemic. Our research showed that the funding directly helped to address some of the short-term issues brought about by Covid-19, helping to respond to local needs, mobilise assets, purchase equipment and cover core costs. In our survey people said:

“The scheme has enabled money to get to those in need quickly and efficiently”

“It provided help just when we needed it most”

“The funding brought us through a difficult period with more stability”

“[The funding] made a massive, massive difference to people’s lives”

Without the funding, groups felt they wouldn’t have been able to deliver essentials, equipment and support to the same volume or timeframes, or in some cases at all. People said:

“The funding has been instrumental in us remaining operational throughout the pandemic”

“Those who were already struggling with life have found it even harder since Covid. The funding has enabled us to provide a service to them when nobody else would or could help”

“People’s lives have improved. Smartening up their appearance, starting to use exercise to improve their mental wellbeing, being able to have the support there each week and have the support there to their next desired pathway”

“We would have tried our best without the money but more people would have been isolated”

Comments also reflected that the funding offered support to groups who may otherwise have remained unsupported during the Covid-19 pandemic. People said for example:

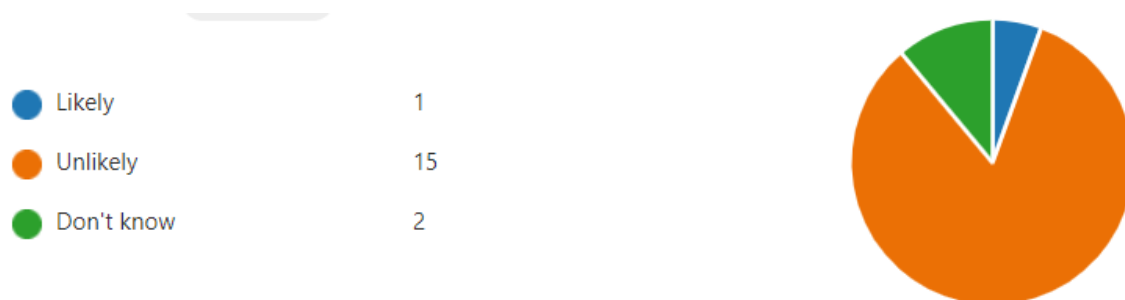
“We would not have been able to provide equipment and corresponding support to individuals living in this area as we had no alternative funding available”

“Many of our people would have been isolated, alone, desperate and with low self-esteem and no company”

“We would have struggled immensely to provide essentials to those most at need”

We found that most groups felt it was unlikely that they would have received similar funding from elsewhere. The scheme set out initial aims to “avoid duplication with other forms of support”. We found that this aim was largely met.

13. How likely is it that you could have been able to obtain this funding from anywhere else at the time you applied?



Many of the groups we received comments from felt they have been able to use their funding to help residents look to the future and create hope, “picking people up” after the peak of the pandemic. People often spoke of how use of the funding brought about optimism and positive messaging, against a backdrop of pessimism and negative messaging in the pandemic. When speaking with people about the impact of the funding people often used powerful language such as “miracle” and “godsend”, showing the profound impact of the scheme in communities. Our case study research also showed that people referred a number of times to the scheme as having “saved lives”.

When given the opportunity to give open comments about the scheme, groups chose mainly to express thanks, saying:

“We are extremely grateful for the grant which has made a significant impact in the area and has contributed to the continued success and extension of the project”

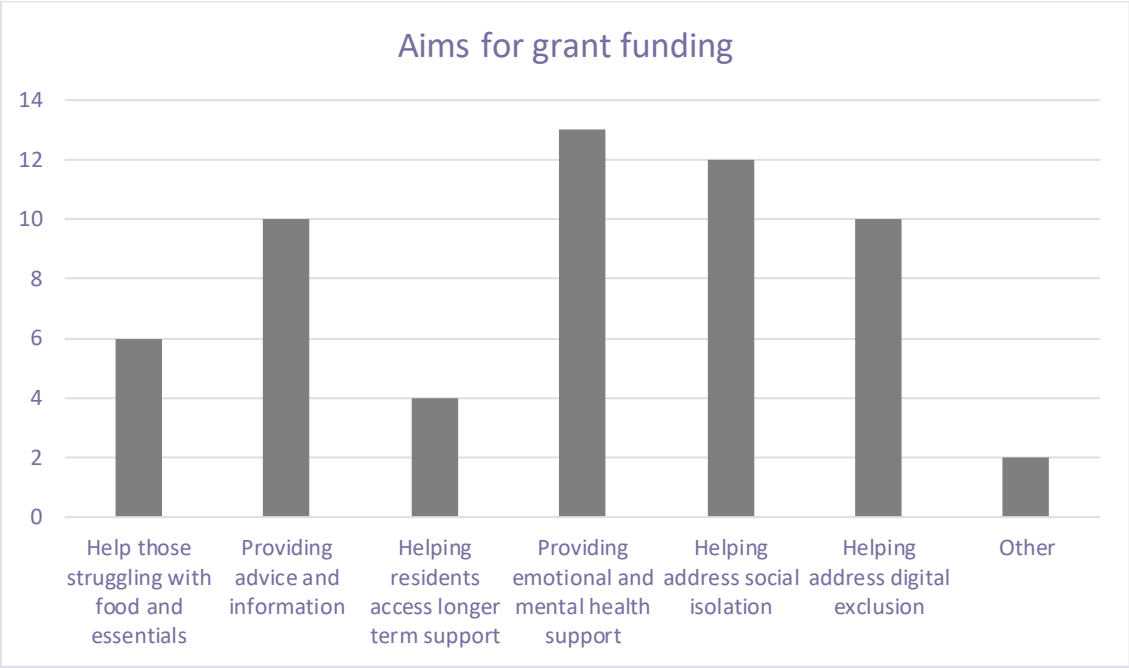
“Thank you for your generosity and support to people in dire need”

“It came at exactly the right time for us. Not only did it give us a much-needed boost at Christmas after a very bleak few months but it’s given us vision and encouragement for the future. Spurred us on to continue to greater things”

“Just to say a huge thank you for enabling us to continue our work in an enriched capacity during a time of such chaos and turmoil”

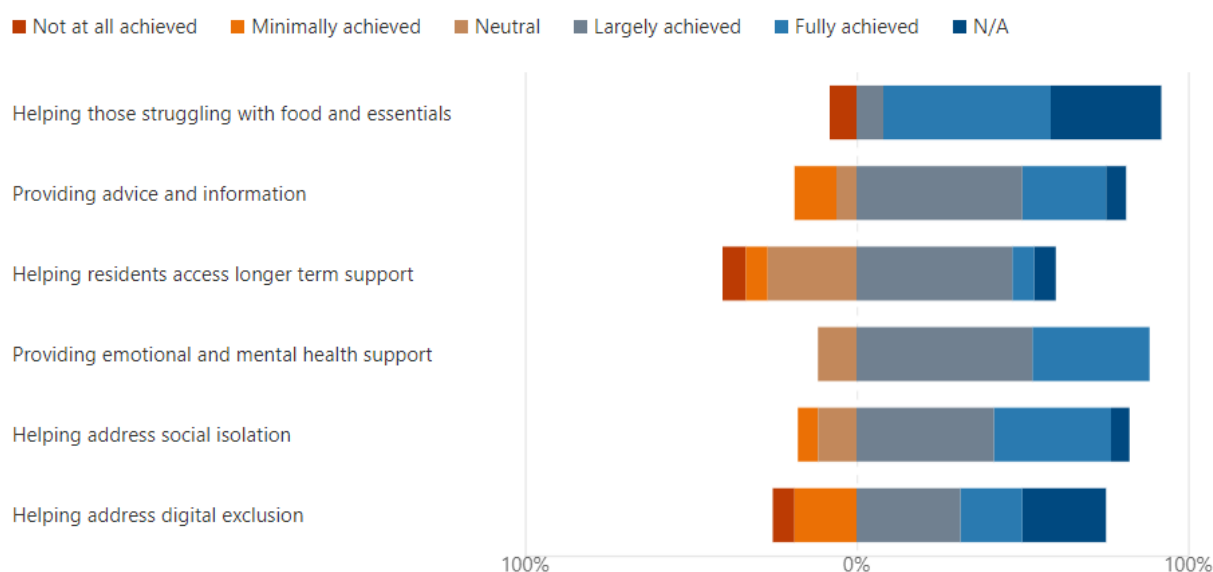
We found that groups applied for grant scheme funding with a broad range of aims as follows:

10. What did your organisation aim to achieve with the funding from the grant scheme?



The top two aims quoted in our survey results were providing emotional and mental health support and helping address social isolation. Our survey showed that fewer groups noted longer term aims. Our survey showed that most groups feel that they either largely or fully achieved their aims with the funding:

12. Thinking about your organisation's aims for the funding, to what extent do you feel you have been able to achieve these (as applicable)?



Groups felt most able to achieve aims in areas of emotional or mental health support, whereas aims to provide access to longer term support for residents remained least fully achieved. This fits with our findings about how more work can be done to support groups to achieve longer term aims.

Whilst most groups were able to deliver their aims, some groups we spoke to reported that they had difficulties delivering support with digital technology. When asked why this was, groups noted problems with basic Wi-Fi provision, privacy and security issues around people living in shared accommodation and, particularly in older age groups, skills in using the equipment. **We recommend** that any future grants for digital technology are made with guidance in place to help groups deliver their aims. **We also recommend** that groups applying for funding for similar aims, such as addressing digital exclusion aims, should be signposted to each other for peer support during the post-award process.

Given that some groups reported that some aims were not fully achieved, and that case studies showed some groups weren't able to spend funds exactly as planned, **we recommend** that it would be helpful to introduce checkpoints with groups after funds are granted. At these check points, Fylde Council and partners can follow up on how and when funds are spent,

with a light-touch approach. This would help to address any difficulties encountered using signposting or partnerships with other organisations in the VCFS network.

4.1.1 Case studies of successful awards

To examine the impact of the grant scheme funding further, we conducted case studies with six VCFS organisations who were successfully awarded funding as follows:

- Wesley's Larder (Fylde)
- Just Good Friends (Fylde)
- The Volunteer Centre (Fylde)
- Fylde Coast Women's Aid (Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool)
- UDevelop (Wyre)
- Harmony & Health Singers (Wyre)

These case studies demonstrate in detail how the funding has been used to create an impact in local communities. We have examined six case studies because one of our five original case studies had not yet spent the funds awarded.

Case Study One: Wesley's Larder

Wesley's Larder & Cafe



GROUP PURPOSE

- Providing low cost, wholesome, free meals for families and individuals reducing hunger, isolation and food waste, with focus on families



AREA

Fylde



FUNDS AWARDED

£5,000 in bid round three
£1,129 in bid round four



FUNDING GOALS

- Give access to food and hot meals
- Reduce emotional and financial pressure on people
- Remove dilemma to "heat or eat"



RESULTS

- Increased volume of food delivered, more families supported, less families hungry
- Ability to get food from new sources and freeze foods
- Kitchens and deliveries made Covid-safe through PPE and Covid measures
- Essential costs covered

TruemanChange.

Wesley's Larder came to know about the grant scheme funding through word of mouth from another VCFS group. They used their funding to:

- provide PPE and sanitiser to make their services and premises Covid-safe
- make and deliver 70+ Christmas dinners for vulnerable families
- cover running costs of heating and cleaning
- be able to freeze foods to reduce wastage and provide meals to more families
- give support to schools and develop links to the New Roots programme to support asylum seekers with language classes, food, and accommodation

The funding allowed Wesley's Larder to deliver food parcels in more volume to the community as follows:

- 30 meals a week to the Lower Lane estate area
- 30 food bags a week to the Kirkham area
- 15 households a week supported in the Freckleton area
- 90 parcels delivered a week in the Church Road / St Annes area

When talking about the impact the funding has had, Wesley's Larder said "the funding took away worry about income streams for a while. It was a huge relief to have the church open and people coming in for help."

The group reported that the funding allowed them to generate volunteer capital in the following ways:

- creating credibility to get more funding elsewhere like from the Rotary Club
- giving church confidence in doing new things
- joining up with partners at the Well Church (who also received funding). The two churches combined resources to create extra impact with the funds given to both organisations, sharing delivery of support to communities. Wesley's Larder did the cooking of meal parcels and Well Church looked after distribution
- volunteers became comfortable to return to their roles gaining confidence from seeing other volunteers at the Well Church
- it led to new opportunities, for example using different sources to obtain food, offering a broader range of foods to residents, refurbishing kitchens at some locations and developing the offer of a new community café
- running a larder from two more churches, expanding geographically to the Freckleton and Kirkham areas, where they have been able to support more new families



Wesley's Larder used their funding to keep their services open welcoming people who needed food and making deliveries with help of partners

The funding allowed them to show their credibility and win further funding from the Rotary Club and other partners



They used funding to cover essential costs and produce flyers to raise awareness

Wesley's Larder freckleton
Freckleton Methodist Church
Kirkham Road, Freckleton, PR4 1HS

**Open on Wednesdays
2.15 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

A food store where the groceries are free!

Open to everyone no appointment or referrals needed.

Bring your own bag.

Come and see what we have collected from Tesco, Lidl, FareShare

Run by volunteers we are here to help you.

All Covid protocols observed

The funding allowed Wesley's Larder to expand the range of food offered and range of food sourced from new partners



TruemanChange.

Case Study Two: Just Good Friends

Just Good Friends



GROUP PURPOSE

- Restorative approach to loneliness and isolation
- Improving feelings of self-worth by making people feel valued
- Helping people create new supportive friendship groups



FUNDING GOALS

- Keeping people connected because “people need people”
- IT support and equipment to reduce digital exclusion, especially in older people



AREA

Fylde



FUNDS AWARDED

£5,000 in bid round two



RESULTS

- Retaining membership of 250+ group members, many at high-risk of social isolation
- Increasing mental health and wellbeing of group members, retaining a sense of belonging and social togetherness

TruemanChange.

This group has 250+ members and they used the funding to support their membership, many of whom were at high risk of social isolation and mental health issues. They used the funds to build capacity in their group and keep it running, helping them to:

- provide remote support, keeping people in touch with each other and staying connected to the group base
- provide online exercises to those who were less physically active or shielding
- do walks with people at risk of loneliness in their garden or yard or, later, simply walking around their home
- provide online creative crafts and quizzes to keep people socially connected
- deliver essentials like food and prescription medicines
- explain Government Covid-19 guidelines, particularly relating to shielding, and offer advice
- provide doorstep deliveries including newsletters and small gifts to increase sense of belonging
- monitor people's wellbeing doing 'well checks', working on a traffic light system for highest concerns

The group initially aimed to use the funding for IT support advice and guidance to over 100 of their most vulnerable and isolated members to become more confident in the use of laptops, tablets/iPads and Smartphones, but this aim wasn't fully met.

However, through building capacity in other ways listed above, Just Good Friends said they used the funding to:

"bring joy to people's lives"

"we couldn't have done what we've been doing without financial help"

"open people's worlds up"

"people say it saved their lives"

"not leave people behind"

"the difference in people is absolutely staggering"

Just Good Friends said the funding helped the group to develop in the longer term, creating 'volunteer capital' in the following ways:

- retaining group membership
- creating stronger partnerships with social prescribing team and GP surgeries
- enabling the group to continue from a positive place post-lockdown



Just Good Friends provided remote support to those who were socially isolated, improving their mental health, increasing happiness and wellbeing

The funding helped to providing a network to combat loneliness



The funding was used to keep the group running, combatting loneliness in vulnerable people



Group users said of how the group helped them during lockdown...

"You've done so much to help me since I met you and joined Just Good Friends"

"You have no idea what a relief that is that I will get help with my computer, when you are on your own with no one to help"

TruemanChange.

The impact of this group can also be seen in a video from the BBC with the following link: https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=1347899125595698&_rdr

Case Study Three: The Volunteer Centre

The Volunteer Centre



GROUP PURPOSE

- Providing support and inspiration for volunteers, organisations and groups to develop volunteering in the community



AREA

Fylde



FUNDS AWARDED

£1,800 in bidding round 4



FUNDING GOALS

- Providing support and educational skills to families of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers



RESULTS

- 5 laptops, equipment and technical support issued to Syrian refugee and asylum-seeking families
- Families' English language learning and wider education was able to continue during lockdown
- Improving families' prospects and wellbeing, and reducing social isolation keeping people connected to relatives and friends

TruemanChange.

This group used their grant funding to provide five laptops and equipment on a two-year loan to five families of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in the St Anne's area of Fylde. These families previously only had phones which were proving difficult to use for remote learning. Families also received technology support, and equipment such as laptop bags, mouse and software. The families used the laptops with the aim of continuing their English language learning and wider education during the Covid-19 lockdowns. The group was also able to translate educational content into Arabic. Families attended virtual learning sessions and group sessions on Zoom to enable their learning, particularly in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The equipment and technology provided "improved the lives of the whole family", including some families with young and teenage children. The laptops helped with:

- ESOL learning
- wider activities and family learning, including accessing online content with stories, pictures, and audiobooks where the whole family learned together
- maintaining relationships with their family and friends, reducing social isolation
- enhancing the prospects of the families supported
- improving the wellbeing of these families

Some families were able to gain qualifications and certifications, with many of the adults able to take theory and practical driving tests, increasing the social reach and opportunities of the families supported. The group said that, in itself, this "takes down barriers and creates equality". They said "the impact of the funding was tenfold" and families said "it allowed us to continue our learning".

The equipment and technology provided by the funding has helped these five families initially, but after the two-year loan period will also be reused by other families. The group said that, in this way, the funding has "left a legacy". They said "to be able to access this has been just phenomenal. It has changed people's lives. A thank you to the funders is not enough".

The group said that the funding has helped to grow volunteer capital by allowing the group to make stronger links with the local College, paving the way for future digital training options.



5 families of Syrian refugees were given support through technology, equipment and virtual learning using the funding

Learners were awarded achievements and qualifications through the funding given from the grant scheme



The families who were supported have been able to navigate lockdown with much more confidence and with improved skills

The funding has improved the life chances of children in the families who were supported, developing new skills and confidence

The families have all been so grateful for this support which has helped them to continue learning English throughout. In addition, it has allowed them to stay in touch with family, friends, and schools. In fact, it has also become a lifeline to most of them by allowing them to stay in touch with support staff who have kept them up to date with any new guidelines and information from the Government. They have also been able to contact GP and Job Centre's, as well as being able to book online for Covid Injections when required.



TruemanChange.

Case Study Four: Fylde Coast Women's Aid

Fylde Coast Women's Aid



GROUP PURPOSE

- Offering free advice and support to individuals who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse, stalking and child sexual exploitation



AREA

Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool



FUNDS AWARDED

£5,000 in bidding round four



FUNDING GOALS

- Deliver innovative project The Recovery Pathway
- Support for women at medium and standard risk of domestic abuse
- Create a tailored pathway for each woman



RESULTS

- Loss of funding from elsewhere to deliver this earlier in the pandemic
- Funds not spent when received, but funds to be spent in September 2021

TruemanChange.

This group applied for a grant to run a project called The Recovery Pathway which delivers a package of support for women at medium and standard risk of domestic abuse.

The aim of the funding was to fund an Outreach Worker to map a unique tailored Recovery Pathway for a group of between 60 - 65 women, to include emotional, psychological and practical support e.g. safety planning, identifying coping mechanisms, parenting and improving financial capability.

**“A NEEDS LED
APPROACH”**
PREVENTION WORK
RECOVERY PATHWAY
ASSESSING RISK
PEER SUPPORT SESSIONS
GROUP THERAPY

At application stage, the group thought that the funding would allow essential work to continue during the pandemic and cover the full project costs until 31st March 2021. However, Fylde Coast Women’s Aid suffered a loss of funding from elsewhere and were not able to recruit an Outreach Worker with grant scheme funding alone. They have instead applied for (and won) further funding of £15,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office and are using the combined the funds to pay for a three-day-a-week Outreach Worker post for 12 months, with the same purpose, from September 2021.



The support that will be given through the funding will help women, especially older women, victims of financial abuse, those lacking in confidence and those without technology skills to increase their safety and optimism through:

- Peer support
- Drop-in sessions
- Talks from external agencies

Case Study Five: UDevelop

UDevelop



GROUP PURPOSE

- Mental health and wellbeing preventative service to help people gain new skills and confidence



AREA

Wyre



FUNDS AWARDED

£2,500 in bidding round one



FUNDING GOALS

- Delivering a remote online health and wellbeing course to improve personal development and wellbeing



RESULTS

- Increased confidence and personal development of learners
- Increased mental health and wellbeing
- Improved access to further opportunities
- Allowing people to “start a new life” despite Covid-19 pressures

TruemanChange.

This group used their funding to deliver a 4-week remote mentoring programme working with individuals in isolation to improve personal development. It particularly targeted unemployed, economically inactive, vulnerable groups, delivering a digital 'starter programme' to 26+ people during the pandemic in several cohorts. The funding especially helped younger people between the ages of 19 - 21. Many of the learners on the programme faced issues with mental health, family / relationship problems, potential homelessness, and alcohol / drug use, amongst other things.

All learners received weekly support through phone calls, Zoom, Microsoft teams or WhatsApp, working with learners to set goals and work on tasks.

The funding has allowed the group to build skills and confidence of local people. People who attended the programme said they could "start a new life" by improving:

- Confidence to work and take part in things
- Health and fitness levels
- Personal routines and image
- Access to volunteering opportunities
- Access to jobs and apprenticeships
- Severity of mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and self-harm

As well as increasing skill sets and personal development opportunities for these individuals, UDevelop were able to contribute to wider socio-economic aims such as reducing unemployment, reducing anti-social behaviour, and reducing reoffending.


Through the funding, UDevelop were able to support partnerships and create 'volunteer capital' by:

- making referrals to the Lancashire programme Building Better Opportunities
- building up their network with the YMCA, Job Centre, work coaches, NHS social prescribers, support workers and other partners
- expanding to new geographical areas, delivering this programme in the Wyre area
- obtaining more funding

19:26

YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE COURSE!!

- How do you feel? Do you think you will be able to sustain your changes? I feel more confident - better, sharing my course - and I will be able to continue with the changes made.
- What do you want to do next? I want to volunteer in charity shop & continue building my confidence & work towards my playing role.
- How can we help support you?
- Tell us about what you thought about the course, I think this course is wonderful & we should have more people doing it, we've done well with this course & there is still a lot to be learned & a lovely person to have around to offer.



Mental health support

The help provided benefits us	Additional mental support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me

Activities

The help provided benefits us	Additional mental support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me • I have been able to talk to people who have been through the same thing as me

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Case Study Six: Harmony & Health Singers

Harmony & Health Singers



GROUP PURPOSE

- Bringing together people in the community through music and togetherness



AREA

Wyre



FUNDS AWARDED

£5,000 in bidding round three



FUNDING GOALS

- Supporting 250 group members with virtual contact, doorstep support and building membership database



RESULTS

- Delivery of doorstep support
- Keeping members in touch with one another
- Virtual / online support network
- Increasing wellbeing and mental health of members and wider public

TruemanChange.

This group used their funding to support 250 members remotely during the pandemic, preventing social isolation and increasing mental health and wellbeing of members. They created positive messaging in the wider community, bringing music and song to people virtually, and later in the local market square and 'on location' in outdoor sessions. The group said "we were able to give hope and encourage people to look forward with more optimism" during the pandemic. Many members of Harmony and Health Singers have experienced issues such as bereavement, loneliness, financial problems, disabilities, poor physical and mental health and violence, amongst other things.

The funding has allowed the group to:

- set up remote group music sessions and connecting members, giving them a support network and something to look forward to
- create a professional YouTube video of a Christmas message and songs, plus screen hire
- make doorstep visits for wellbeing checks, signposting to food banks and other services
- deliver Christmas gift bags (including calendar, newsletter, DVD and support items) for 200 members, delivered by hand by volunteers to those living alone and most vulnerable
- pay for printing & purchase of personalised Christmas cards, plus postage or delivery to keep members connected, encouraging communication amongst the most isolated members

The group also initially aimed to purchase four Breezie tablets to go out on loan to the most vulnerable isolated members. The group didn't achieve this aim as many members reported they wouldn't be able to use the equipment or didn't have a stable WiFi connection.

The funding given has supported group members in the following ways:

- Helping to continue group activity through virtual support
- Allowing people to remain connected, fostering mental health, wellbeing and integration
- Giving a sense of belonging to people, some of whom are vulnerable, during a time of great difficulty

The funding helped the group to build longer term sustainability and volunteer capital by building communications and networks, restoring lost connections between members, raising money for other charities, building a database of members that can be used for the future, building reputation and profile ("showing people what we do").

The group said that the funding "[gave] us a stable platform to get going again after lockdown".



The group could continue activity remotely during lockdown, maintaining networks for their members and reducing social isolation

Doorstep visits were made at Christmas to support members at risk of isolation with gift bags along with wellbeing checks

A newsletter was delivered to members to keep them connected and increase belonging



HARMONY & HEALTH NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1 - WINTER 2021

TruemanChange.



Harmony & Health Singers were able to maintain their sense of connection and increase their wellbeing through their funding. "The money has allowed us to keep the light shining"

TruemanChange.

Whilst looking at our case studies, we found that some groups found it a little difficult to recall details about their initial application and exact funding aims, as they had multiple funding sources in some cases and were working under extreme short term financial pressures. All groups were able to express very clearly that the funding built extra capacity into their organisations, sometimes exactly as planned, or sometimes in different or additional ways than planned.

From our case studies, we found clear evidence that the funding was vital to these groups at the time it was delivered. Groups reported that the funding was fundamental in helping to ease financial pressures, and it allowed them to focus resources on delivering support in the community instead of searching for funding.

Importantly, groups reflected to us that the Covid-19 recovery period is only just beginning, and groups are now just starting to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Groups reported an essential need for continued funding to support their activity and to help them build longer term sustainability. **We recommend** that further funding is given to support local groups in the emerging Covid-19 recovery phase. A later section in this report, Future Work, looks at how we recommend this is done.



4.2 Working with others

One theme that we identified in our research was Working with Others. This includes:

- how Fylde Council worked in partnership with others to deliver the scheme
- how the funds given through the grant scheme helped to develop volunteer capital in the longer term in the VCFS network

4.2.1 Partnerships

Everyone we spoke to from the grant scheme panel reflected that partnership working between grant scheme partners was positive and effective. Panel members felt that decisions were made quickly and freely, with a high degree of flexibility.

The panel found their partnership working to be “an opportunity to work together across the wider [area]”. Here are some of the characteristics of the partnership working as described by the panel:

“sharing and joining up of information”

“respecting expertise”

“using creative, innovative approaches”

“able to focus on making a difference”

“refreshing”

The panel felt that, in partnership, they were able to join up the objectives and funding from Council partners with the networks and connections at the CVS, and with the health perspective given by the respective CCG’s in later bidding rounds.

The small panel team said that they were able to make effective decisions quickly and highlighted the importance of simplicity during delivery of the scheme. **We recommend** that any future panel is small, unbureaucratic, and maintains the same collaborative approach as the previous panel.

Several panel members commented in interview that the scheme has actually brought to life partnerships with new organisations that hadn’t been partnered with before, enriching the

relationships and networks between Fylde and Wyre Councils, CVS, CCGs and VCFS groups in the community. Pete Smith, panel member from Fylde and Wyre CCG added:

“Having a multi-agency panel was great [...] as it felt that we were able to consider bids from a variety of angles with a variety of expertise and knowledge supporting that. The process and criteria were clear, which was reflected in the bids received being so closely matched to what we were looking for”

In interviews, only one issue was mentioned about how partnerships amongst the grant scheme partners could be improved. This was about data sharing between organisations. Given the speed at which the environment was changing in the Covid-19 pandemic, panel members reflected that there were sometimes question marks around how information should best be shared at speed between partner organisations. **We recommend** that agreements are made about information sharing practices for any future work between partners.

This positive view about effective partnerships is also reflected in the feedback from VCFS groups, where groups highlighted the flexible nature of the scheme, the simplicity of the process and the speed of delivery of funds. They also commented positively on communications during the grant scheme process, for example:

“[we had] excellent communication with CVS, [they were] very approachable”

“The grant application is really fit for purpose. Also the communication has been spot on”

Groups said that the funding from the grant scheme allowed them to strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones with other VCFS groups. We saw examples of this to some extent in all of our case studies, for example with Wesley’s Larder, who were able to strengthen a partnership with the Well Church, expanding their operations geographically to the Freckleton and Kirkham areas.

4.2.2 Volunteer Capital

Our evaluation shows that funding from the grant scheme has allowed groups to begin to build ‘volunteer capital’. This is where, as well as the short-term delivery of support and provisions, the funding has brought benefits to the groups themselves in the longer term. Examples we found of volunteer capital generated has included:

- reducing financial worry and helping financial planning
- retaining group memberships
- investing in the future through new equipment and technology
- training and developing volunteer teams
- extending the reach of what they could deliver in the community
- expanding operations and diversifying services
- building up group reputation and profile in the community
- developing infrastructure in many forms, from assets to data storage

Groups said:

“[This funding] helped us to stay operational as we worked remotely during lockdown”

“This funding has reshaped our mission, vision and strategic aims”

“This funding enabled us to extend the reach of the project and reinforced our awareness of the need for the equipment and training”

“[The funding] enabled us to extend the project and gain the confidence of our Trustees in its impact”

“It has taught us that we can create flexible resources that can be used across multiple projects by ourselves and our partners”

“Our future is confirmed as we can ensure safe recording of information which we share”

“The strengths of volunteers coming together led to new things”

“Without a shadow of a doubt the funding has helped us to retain our membership”

Some groups also said in interview (for example UDevelop) that winning this funding from the grant scheme has given them the confidence and “track record” to go on to win other funding from other sources. For some groups this funding has had an exponential impact. Groups said:

“[Our] profile in the community has been enhanced and other funding received now because of [our] achievements”

“[The funding] gave credibility for funding from other groups such as the Rotary”

Importantly, groups also mentioned some ways in which the funding has helped volunteers themselves. Through delivering support in the community, volunteers were able to reduce their own social isolation, boosting their own mental health and confidence in getting back to a 'new normal' in the Covid pandemic. One survey comment highlighted this:

“[This funding] gave confidence to the volunteers and a real sense of being valued“

The volunteer capital that is beginning to emerge in these groups can be built upon in the longer term, and more groups can be helped in this similar way.

We recommend that consideration is given to a further funding round to help support local groups to further develop their longer-term sustainability and allowing other groups the opportunity to do the same. We report more on this in our later section Future Work.



4.3 Awards and Process

4.3.1 Bidding Rounds and Panel

VCFS organisations submitted applications to the grant scheme in four bidding rounds. These applications were evaluated in partnership by a panel of representatives as follows:

Panel Member Name	Job Role
Tracy Hopkins	Vice Chair, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CVS
Mark Broadhurst	Head of Service, Wyre Borough Council
Tracy Manning*	Director of Resources, Fylde Borough Council
Pete Smith	Commissioning Manager, NHS Blackpool / NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG

**In consultation with Edyta Paxton and Joanne Collins from the Fylde Community Hub*

The dates of the panel meetings for each bidding round were:

19/10/2020, 20/11/2020, 10/12/2020 and 08/02/2021

4.3.2 Awards Made

From data held at Fylde Council and within the CVS, we calculated that across all four bidding rounds, £176,723.08 of funding was awarded in 58 awards by Fylde and Wyre Councils together with the CCG's. Some groups were awarded funding in more than one bidding round.

The breakdown is as follows:

Bid Round	Fylde Award	Wyre Award	Blackpool Award	Total Awarded	No. Awards
1	£15,186.00	£16,861.00		£32,047.00	10
2	£13,300.00	£7,952.22		£21,252.22	11
3	£5,000.00	£14,000.00		£19,000.00	5
4	£15,583.24	£30,089.06	£58,751.56	£104,423.86	32
Total All Rounds	£49,069.24	£68,902.28	£58,751.56	£176,723.08	58

Records show that Fylde Council spent a total of £49,069.24 on 25 of these awards. The below table shows the breakdown of funding awarded and the number of awards made by Fylde Council in each bidding round:

Bid Round	Fylde Awards	No. Fylde Awards
1	£15,186.00	6
2	£13,300.00	6
3	£5,000.00	1
4	£15,583.24	12
Total All Rounds	£49,069.24	25

We found that some data held about the bidding rounds (in particular bidding round four was stored with different partners rather than centrally and the outcomes of bids could have been more clearly labelled. We found that information on applications that were not granted could have been written more clearly. For the future, **we recommend** that any further bidding rounds are documented in a way that stores information on all bidding rounds and all application outcomes centrally and clearly.

Funding was awarded by Fylde and Wyre Councils and the respective CCGs to the following groups in each bidding round (groups awarded funds by Fylde Council are highlighted in blue):

List of groups awarded funds in each grant scheme bidding round

Bid Round	1	2	3	4
Groups Awarded	Fleetwood Town FC	Cancer Help (Preston) Ltd	Harmony Health & Singers	1st Fleetwood Scout Group
	Garstang Volunteer Force	Faith in the Community - The Pantry	LovemyBeach project	Age UK Lancashire
	Headway B,F&W	Grange Park Task Force	Men's Shed Fleetwood CIO	Aiming Higher for Disabled
	Hope Church Lytham	Home Start BF & W	Preesall & Knott End Help Group	Blackpool & the Fylde Street Angels
	Park View 4U	Just Good Friends	Wesley's Larder & Café	Bpl Community Homeless Project
	Salvation Army Fleetwood	Light Church		Caritas Care - Vincent House
	St Peter's	Poulton Methodist Church		Counselling in the Community
	Streetwise Lancashire	Stalmine-with-Staynall Res Ass		Faith in the Community The Pantry
	Udevelop	UR Potential		Fleetwood Town CT
	Westview Community Ass	Volunteer Centre BF&W		Friends of Highfield Park
		Well Baptist Church		Fylde Coast Womens Aid
				Fylde Repair Café CIC
				Groundworks
				Heartbeat
				Ihope
				Kensington Trust
				N-Vision
				Renaissance UK
				Revoelution
				Sam's Place NW Ltd
				Skool of Street
				Social Enterprise Solutions (UK) CIC
				Streetwise Lancashire
				The Boathouse Youth
				The Swallows Head & Neck Cancer
				The Washington Group
				TKD Lytham
				UR Potential CIC
				Wesley's Larder & Café
				West View (Fwood Together)
				Windmill Youth Dev Group
				Wyre District Scouts
No. Groups Awarded	10	11	5	32

4.3.3 Overall Experiences

We found from our survey that groups who were awarded funds were extremely positive about the grant scheme, giving on average 4.89 stars out of 5 stars to reflect their experiences of the process.



One survey respondent said:

“This has been one of the most user-friendly scheme[s] we have engaged with”

All groups who were awarded funds said they would apply again if the opportunity arose and / or they would recommend others to apply.

When asked to discuss improvements for the grant scheme, groups who were awarded funds largely said they wouldn’t improve anything at all. Only one respondent made a suggestion which was:

“Providing a list of other organisations delivering similar services so that best practice can be shared”

4.3.4 Speed, simplicity and flexibility

People noted in our survey and case studies that the scheme process was simple and speedy with clear communication. Grant scheme panel members felt that the virtual format of the panel was effective in delivering the grant scheme’s aims. **We recommend** that any future bidding rounds should be run in a similar virtual format to the previous rounds

The panel reflected in interviews the success of the scheme having an ‘open-door’ approach which helped attract applicants from a broad range of VCFS organisations. **We recommend** that a focus is retained for any future bidding rounds on delivering a simple open-door process with flexible and quick availability of funding.

Here’s a summary of what groups found to be efficient about the scheme:

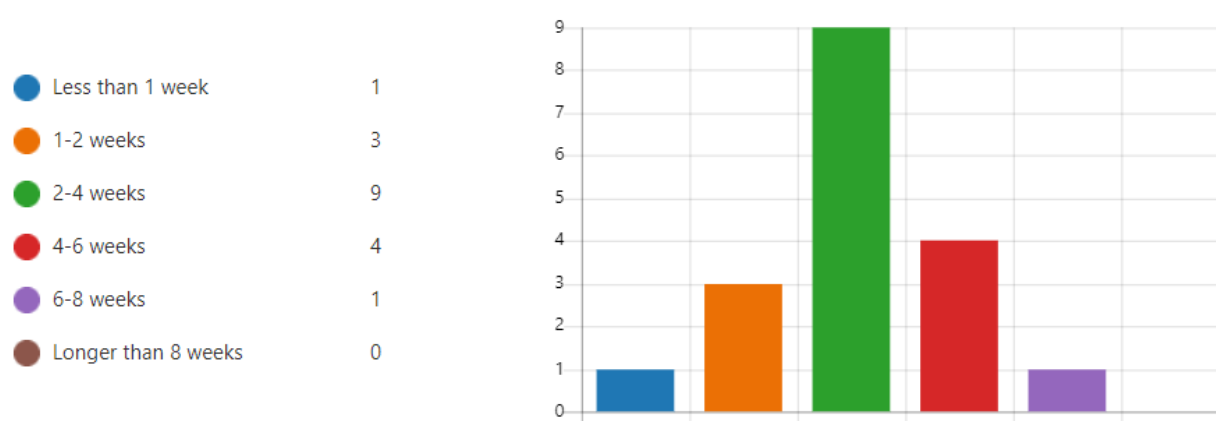
“The application process was pretty simple, which meant that there were not hours of management time needed to complete this and impact the amount received”

“We have achieved what we set out to do but there has been a degree of flexibility to adapt it to what was a rapidly changing situation”

“[We] feel supported by those around us at Fylde and Wyre councils. The email support and calls were excellent. Staff we spoke with were keen to help and compassionate.

We found that the speed of the funding process was of special importance to groups and most groups noted that they received funds within four weeks. This reflects the ‘on the ground’ readiness of the grant scheme, meeting its initial aims to deliver support at times of highest need.

15. How long did it take you to receive your grant after applying?



4.3.5 Applications

We found that VCFS organisations were drawn to this funding in particular for a variety of reasons. Some examples were as follows:

“The fact that as a church we were able to apply for the grant”

“The fact the funding would be used to directly fund emergency provision for our clients and during Covid we had seen a huge need”

“Focus on responding to the impact of the Covid pandemic on the local community”

Panel members reflected that, during the application process, some applications didn’t effectively express what groups wanted to achieve with the funding. People commented on this in our survey too. People said:

“We were lucky in having the ability to apply and the confidence to ask questions and get help where needed.”

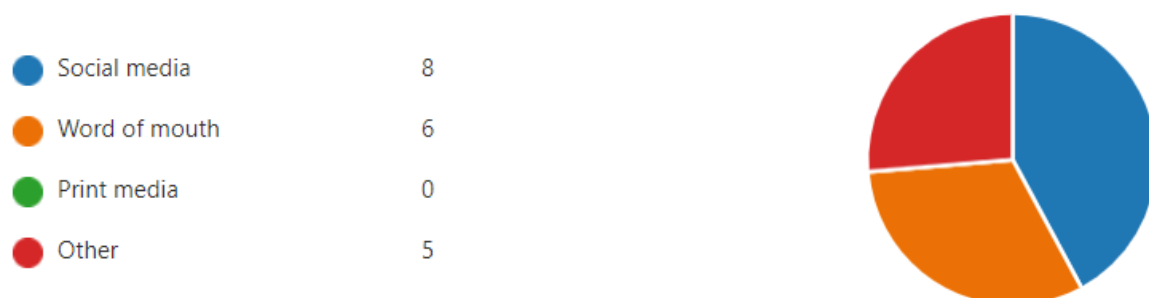
“Knowledge of how to put needs into words helps & not everyone can do this”

We found that more support may be needed for applicants during application stage to ensure that there is more of a level playing field in the bidding process. **We recommend** that applicant groups or those enquiring about applications are offered support through the process if they need it.

4.3.6 Communications

Our research shows that most groups awarded funds said they had heard about the grant scheme funding through social media or network / word of mouth. Some groups reflected somewhat of a reliance on ‘who you know’ in getting to know about this funding opportunity.

7. How did your organisation hear about the grant scheme?



Some people reflected that more can be done to spread the word about the grant funding if it were to run again. One comment said:

“I don’t think a lot of groups were aware of the grants being offered although we did personally try to spread the word”

We recommend that any future options to deliver funding to VCFS groups should take into account how groups can be made aware of the funding available outside of networks and word of mouth.

In the course of our research, some comments were also received from a small number of VCFS groups who were not awarded funds. These groups said that they would have liked more communication about the reasons why they were not awarded funding. **We recommend** that applicant groups who were not awarded funding are contacted to help to resolve this, for previous and future bidding rounds. This links to our recommendation about providing support to applicant groups during the application process.

4.4 Future Work

The success of the grant scheme in providing short-term, emergency support is clear. We found that focus is now shifting towards Covid-19 recovery and the longer-term sustainability of VCFS groups. Groups reported that their recovery is only just beginning and they still face extreme funding pressures. This view was also shared by grant scheme panel members, who reflected that further funding could help groups to build capacity in the longer term, further developing their volunteer capital.

Given these combined views, our evaluation suggests that a further injection of funds would help groups to develop and thrive in the longer term. **We recommend** that consideration is given to one more future grant scheme round to support local groups with this. There is a remaining sum of around £11,000 held at CVS as “credit” from previous bidding rounds which could be used to part-fund this further bidding round for Fylde. Based on funds awarded in previous bidding rounds, it may be expected that this further bidding round could require funding upwards of £15,000, which can include the £11,000 credit held at CVS. Exact figures are to be agreed.

Beyond this, the grant scheme panel group raised a possibility of promoting the use of the Community Projects Fund to make this support for VCFS groups possible in the longer term. **We recommend** that Fylde Council consider working more closely with the CVS to promote the Fylde Community Projects Fund.

Our research shows that the future bidding round and ongoing work should focus on improving the longer-term capacity and vitality of the local VCFS sector. This is an investment for the future, as Fylde Council and partners can benefit from the strength built into the VCFS network in future collaborative working.

There should be a focus in this period of funding on encouraging groups to draw on their resources and networks, building up their abilities around strategy, business planning and seeking funding from other sources. There should also be a focus on developing other types of volunteer capital such as infrastructure, equipment, and training. Groups should be encouraged to connect strongly to Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CVS for longer term support and guidance in these areas.

Grant scheme panel members reflected that, in any future bidding round, some changes in the panel would be beneficial given that the Covid-19 situation has evolved. The panel identified a need for representation from the social prescribing team for their on the ground local knowledge and connections for any future bidding round. The panel felt that the social

prescribing team could also help to raise awareness of the funding and identify groups presenting highest need for funding.

It is proposed that a new panel would include:

- Edyta Paxton¹ (as Fylde lead, with advisory input from Tracy Manning)
- Tracy Hopkins, CVS (as CVS lead)
- Mark Broadhurst (as Wyre lead, if Wyre Council were to also continue funding)
- Health representatives from social prescribing team and GP surgeries (the Fylde team propose involvement from 'go-to' people such as Ruth Mason and Anna Butler-Reed)

Tracy Hopkins, Vice Chair at CVS also noted that she is linked to a team of several social prescribing link workers who could input with advice to the new panel.

We recommend that a new panel is formed to deliver an additional bidding round of the grant scheme, with representation from social prescribing team and GP surgeries, supported with advice from 'go-to' people with deep local knowledge in the VCFS network. We recommend that Wyre Council also consider its future involvement with a final bidding round.

5.0 Conclusion

We have found in our independent evaluation that the grant scheme was successful in delivering its aims of providing support in the local community in response to the Covid-19 pandemic through grants given to VCFS groups.

We found evidence of excellent partnership working, combining resources and expertise to deliver a timely, efficient response that has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents in local communities.

We also found emerging evidence of volunteer capital generated from the funding, where groups have begun to improve resilience in the groups themselves, starting to build longer term strength in the VCFS network.

We also found that there is more to do, and that VCFS groups and grant scheme panel members see a need for further funding to build on this volunteer capital. This further funding can be invested to help groups develop sustainability and vitality in the longer term Covid recovery period. In turn, local Councils and partners will benefit from their relationships with this stronger VCFS network.

¹ Edyta Paxton is being invited to join the panel at the request of Tracy Manning, Director of Resources

6.0 Summary of Recommendations

We recommend that:

- An additional grant scheme bidding round is delivered, focusing on supporting local groups to further develop their longer-term sustainability and volunteer capital
- That input is sought from the social prescribing team and GP surgeries
- The new panel is supported with advice from 'go-to' people with deep local knowledge in the VCFS network.
- Wyre Council considers if it wishes to join a final bidding round
- Fylde Council works more closely with the CVS to promote Fylde Council's Community Projects Fund as a means of providing longer term support to the VCFS groups

We recommend that the proposed future bidding round of the grant scheme should:

- be small, unbureaucratic, and maintain the same collaborative approach as the previous panel
- retain a focus on delivering a simple open-door process with flexible and quick availability of funding
- be run in a similar virtual format to the previous rounds
- be documented in a way that stores information on all bidding rounds and all application outcomes centrally and clearly

We recommend that simple action plans are drawn up to:

- create support for applicant groups through the applications process if they need it
- develop communications in the applications process, aiming to make groups aware of the funding outside of networks and word of mouth
- make contact with applicant groups who were not awarded funding to discuss decision making
- put guidance in place for future grants focusing on digital technology, to help groups deliver their aims
- introduce checkpoints built in after awards are granted to ensure delivery of funding aims and to help with problem solving
- create a peer support network in the post-award process for groups applying for funding with address similar aims, in particular for aims around digital exclusion

- agree and communicate information sharing practices, to ensure partners can act at pace

7.0 Next Steps

From our recommendations, we consider that the following things need to be done next:

- Agree funding and a timeline for the additional bidding round process
- Agree new panel membership
- Draw up a simple communications plan to reduce reliance on word of mouth when making groups aware of funding availability
- Set up a simple infrastructure for clearer data recording on applications and awards
- Develop a small, unbureaucratic post-award process to help groups with troubleshooting and issues around digital delivery
- Agree information sharing practices between grant scheme partners

Trueman Change would be happy to support the implementation of these steps in future.

8.0 Appendices

8.1 Link to survey

<https://forms.office.com/r/sXxJVwvnNj>

Additional information on evaluation data available on request

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	5
ACCOMMODATION PROJECT FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of funding awarded under the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders scheme announced by MHCLG in 2021 and request approval to combine this funding with the Rough Sleeper Initiative continuation funding received in 2021, to tender for an external agency to run Fylde Rough Sleeper and Ex-Offenders Accommodation Project.

In April 2021 MHCLG launched a new scheme to provide additional funding to local authorities to support ex-offenders into their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) Tenancies. The scheme aims to build a pathway from prison into the PRS and is supported by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The funding is to enable the introduction of new schemes specifically focused at supporting ex-offenders, increasing their access and sustainment of PRS tenancies.

Fylde and Wyre Councils jointly submitted an application to support 50 ex-offenders based on the number of prison releases to both boroughs in 2020/21. Funding was approved at a lower level to support 20 service users totalling £68,345, split between both authorities. Fylde Council are to receive £34,172. Support will include rent bond, rent in advance, rent top up for 6 months and assistance with essential items, white goods and carpets if required.

In 20/21 MHCHG announced continuation of the Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding at £27,000. The initial funding in 2019/20 enabled a Rapid Rehousing Officer to be employed to undertake support for clients presenting with multiple complex support needs, at risk of homelessness, or sleeping rough. This post has now been funded from other sources till 2026.

Environment Health and Housing approved in June 2021 for the continuation funding to be used to provide external support for clients facing multiple disadvantages, including substance misuse and related problems, including mental health issues, to improve their self-worth, access and continue with the support that is available. Although there has been interest from external agencies to work with Fylde Council to undertake this project, the level of funding available has been insufficient for agencies to commit.

RECOMMENDATION

To consider and recommend to Finance & Democracy Committee:

- Note the contents of the report and funding awarded under the 2021 Accommodation for Ex-Offenders scheme and the proposal to combine this funding with the Rough Sleeper Initiative funding 2021 to run Fylde Rough Sleepers and Ex-Offenders Accommodation project.
- To recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded revenue budget increase in

2021/22 for the total sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme.

3. To appoint an external agency to work with Fylde Council Homelessness and Housing Advice service to support rough sleepers and ex-offenders into accommodation.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Final Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 07/01/2020](#)

[MHCLG Next Steps Funding to support homeless households 19/10/2020](#)

[Update 05/01/2021 Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025](#)

[Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding 2020/21 15/06/2021](#)

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

BACKGROUND

1. In April 2021 MHCLG launched a new scheme to provide additional funding to local authorities to support ex-offenders into their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) Tenancies. The scheme aims to build a pathway from prison into the PRS and is supported by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The funding is to enable the introduction of new schemes specifically focused at supporting ex-offenders, increasing their access and sustainment of PRS tenancies.
2. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre have had 378 prison releases from April 2020 to March 2021. Of this cohort approximately 50 were released to the boroughs of Fylde and Wyre, with 60% aged under 35.
3. Nationally 53% of people who have slept rough in the last year have been in prison and as ex-offenders they face particular challenges in accessing private sector tenancies. Within Fylde, the majority of clients we work with who are at risk of rough sleeping and are rough sleeping, will have an offending history.
4. Fylde Council working with Wyre Council applied via the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for funding released from MHCLG, to provide additional funding to local authorities to support 50 service users, ex-offenders into their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) tenancies, across both authorities.
5. Funding was approved at a lower level to support 20 service users across both authorities in 21/22 and 22/23 totalling £68,345, split between both authorities. Fylde Council are to receive £34,172.
6. In 20/21 MHCHG announced continuation of the Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding at £27,000. The initial funding in 2019/20 enabled a Rapid Rehousing Officer to be employed to undertake support for clients presenting with multiple complex support needs, at risk of homelessness, or sleeping rough. This post has now been funded from other sources till 2026.
7. Environment Health and Housing approved in June 2021 for the continuation funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative to be used to provide external support for clients facing multiple disadvantaged, including substance misuse and related problems, including mental health issues, to improve their self-worth, access and continue with the support that is available.
8. Although there has been interest from external agencies to work with Fylde Council to undertake this project, the level of funding available has been insufficient for agencies to commit.
9. This proposal is to combine the 2 funding streams to create a new project to deliver an, "Accommodation project for rough sleepers and ex-offenders".

10. Combining the two funding streams will create a new project to deliver support to those customers who have a history of rough sleeping and offending to a value of £61,172. It is anticipated at the outset that the project will run for a two-year period and will deliver an additional supportive role to complement the statutory role that Fylde Council's Housing Advice and Homelessness Service delivers.
11. Elements of the funding will be required to provide Rent Bond, Rent in Advance, Rent top up on Private Rented Sector accommodation and assistance with essential items, white goods and carpets if required.

ROUGH SLEEPERS AND EX-OFFENDERS ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

12. A procurement exercise will be undertaken and a selection of organisations will be invited to tender to undertake the project who have experience of supporting ex-offenders who are at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.
13. There are a number of support organisations that already work within Fylde area that will be approached:
 - a. AFC Fylde Community Foundation run a positive pathway for ex-offenders focussed on re-habilitation back into normal life.
 - b. Brighstarts are a Community Interest Company dedicated to providing high quality homes and support for people with substance misuse related problems. They also provide external floating support for clients referred into their service.
 - c. HumanKind Charity runs person centred offender rehabilitation services to improve opportunities for ex-offenders. HumanKind provide the Tenancy Training Programme available for clients approaching the Council for homelessness and housing advice.
 - d. Nacro are a social justice charity who focus on changing lives, building stronger communities and reducing crime. They provide housing and external floating support for clients.
14. The successful tenderer will be expected to:
 - a. Support clients with substance misuse related problems, to initially engage, and continuation of that engagement, with support services that are available. The intention is to reduce the likelihood of clients with substance misuse and related problems re-presenting to the Homelessness Service.
 - b. Assist clients to maintain their health, well-being and personal safety
 - c. Assisting to engage with individuals, professionals and other bodies concerned about a client's welfare
 - d. Ensuring support within the community and drug/alcohol services is accessed
 - e. Support to cope with the practicalities of everyday life
 - f. Providing life skills training
 - g. Assisting with personal budgeting and debt counselling
 - h. Assisting to deal with relationships and disputes
 - i. Assisting to deal with benefit claims and other professional correspondence related to maintaining a tenancy

15. Support will be focussed on three stages:

<p>Stage 1: Identified rough sleeper and prior to release from Prison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information to inform presentation to Fylde Council under homelessness legislation • Ensure statutory agencies working to support individuals currently rough sleeping or undertaking offender management adhere to the Duty to Refer policy framework into homelessness services • Assisting to engage with individuals, professionals and other bodies concerned about a client's welfare • Ensuring support required within the community has been identified, including mental health, health and well-being and drug/alcohol services is accessed either prior to release or homeless

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing life skills training required including assistance with benefit entitlement, personal budgeting and debt counselling • Involvement with IOM (Integrated Offender Management) and MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement) meetings to identify offenders prior to release and unaccommodated • Completion of OASys (Probation) and ASSET (Young Offenders) risk assessments prior to release and unaccommodated for circulation to relevant statutory support agencies
<p>Stage 2: Identified rough sleeper and upon release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a homelessness assessment and sharing with local authority if a local connection lies with Fylde • Support to access accommodation within both the private rented sector and social rented sector • Ensure necessary information sharing protocols are in place • Ensure risk assessments have been undertaken and shared with relevant support agencies • Assisting clients to engage with agencies and services to meet identified support needs • Ensuring referrals in place for substance mis-use and mental health to ensure smooth transition from custody to community and if rough sleeping the referrals are in place within the community. • Ensuring life skills training required including assistance with benefit entitlement, personal budgeting and debt counselling is in place • Involvement with IOM (Integrated Offender Management) and MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement) meetings to identify offenders prior to release and unaccommodated • Undertake tenancy training with clients to ensure knowledge of accessing and maintaining a tenancy
<p>Stage 3: Identified rough sleeper and post release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring ongoing engagement with substance misuse, mental health and other support services • Ensuring life skills training has been accessed and understood including assistance with benefit entitlement, personal budgeting and debt counselling is in place • Household essentials provided • Tenancy support for a period of 12 weeks to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utility suppliers in place ○ Benefit entitlement in place ○ Liaison in place between Landlord and Tenant to maintain tenancy

CONCLUSIONS

16. Note the contents of the report and funding awarded under the 2021 Accommodation for Ex-Offenders scheme and the proposal to combine this funding with the Rough Sleeper Initiative funding 2021 to run Fylde Rough Sleepers and Ex-Offenders Accommodation project.
17. To recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded revenue budget increase in 2021/22 for the total sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme.
18. To appoint an external agency to work with Fylde Council Homelessness and Housing Advice service to support rough sleepers and ex-offenders into accommodation.

HOUSING SERVICE SHOW AND TELL

19. On the 15th March 2022 Fylde Council Housing Services are running our second Housing Service Show and Tell. The event will be open from 10am to 3pm in the Town Hall and will have displays and information from all services with staff available to answer queries and questions. Services include: Affordable Housing Delivery; Disabled Facilities Grants; Homelessness and Housing Advice; Private Sector Inspection; and Tenancy Support.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	To recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded revenue budget increase in 2021/22 for the total sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme and to appoint an external agency to work with Fylde Council Homelessness and Housing Advice service to support rough sleepers and ex-offenders into accommodation.
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Kirstine Riding	kirstine.riding@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658569	18 October 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Accommodation for ex-offenders	April 2021	Scheme giving ex-offenders a stable place to live up and running - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative Funding	2021-2022	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-initiative-2021-to-2022-funding-allocations
MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative Funding	2020-2021	Rough Sleeping Initiative: 2020 to 2021 funding allocations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	6
BUSINESS HEALTH MATTERS FUNDING			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of funding awarded from the European Social Fund (ESF) to provide support to the Business Health Matters programme which is being rolled out across Lancashire and delivered within each locality district (other than Ribble Valley). The Business Health Matters programme supports local businesses in improving the physical and mental health of their employees so that staff are happier, healthier and more resilient. Healthier working-aged individuals, who are given opportunities to upskill remain in employment and live longer, happier lives. Businesses benefit from this with increased productivity and sustained workforces, resulting in reduced absence costs and lower staff turnover rates.

Business Health Matters is a portfolio of projects and services linked to Workplace Health and Wellbeing. The projects and services delivered aim to improve the wellbeing of employees in the workplace and address both physical and mental health. The portfolio includes health screening, wellbeing planning and workplace health champion training.

The project is focused on skills development and in particular the training of Workplace Health Champions in SME's (small / medium sized businesses) across Fylde. The Champions will gain a Level 2 or Level 3 accredited qualification and act as a champion for workplace health within their organisation.

The project is led by Active Lancashire and brings together a partnership which includes Leisure Service Providers, Local Authorities and Housing Associations from across Lancashire. In addition to delivering level 2 and 3 qualifications, the project will also deliver basic skills qualifications and look to improve the labour market status of females.

The project runs from April 2021 to December 2023 and the funding allocated to Fylde Council by Active Lancashire to deliver this initiative is £80,251 to 31st December 2023. Fylde Council plan to recruit an officer to deliver this service for the duration of the project which will be fully funded from the ESF funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is requested to consider and:

To recommend to the Finance & Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £80,251 (split between the years 2021/22 £26,750, 2022/23 £26,750 & 2023/24 £26,751) to be met in full, from the ESF Funding through Active Lancashire relating to this project.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. Poor workplace health is of huge detriment to businesses, with physical inactivity costing employers £7.4 billion each year and mental health issues costing businesses over £42 billion per year across the UK. In Lancashire, 22.3% of working-age residents within Lancashire are economically inactive, which is 2.4% higher than the national average, and nearly a third of those people are on long term-sick. This high number of inactive residents is putting a great strain upon our health services and the Lancashire economy. By providing businesses with the tools and support to improve the physical and mental health of their staff, the programme aims to reduce the number of employees out of work due to health conditions and make Lancashire a healthier, happier place to live and work.
2. As part of the Building Blocks / Business Health Matters project 1,210 participants across Lancashire must gain the Level 2 qualification in Introduction for Workplace Health Champions. Out of this total as part of the Building Blocks / Business Health Matters project 1,210 participants must gain the Level 2 qualification in Introduction for Workplace Health Champions. Out of this total Fylde Council is responsible for 24 participants achieving this level of qualification.
3. In addition, the project must also deliver 390 participants across Lancashire which have gained a Level 3 qualification in Skills for Workplace Health Champions. Fylde Council is responsible for 8 participants gaining a level 3 or above qualification.
4. In addition to the above qualification the Building Blocks / Business Health Matters Project is required to support 536 participants across Lancashire to gain a basic skills qualification. Out of this total Fylde Council is responsible for 11 participants achieving this level of qualification.
5. The Business Health Matters programme is made up of 2 main projects:
 - Workplace Health Champion Training - A free offering that delivers basic skills training, accredited Level 2 and 3 training to employees in SMEs. The training is delivered by Active Lancashire and a number of partners (via a tutor workforce).
 - Workplace Health Screenings - Health screenings (physical and mental) are delivered in the workplace by trained gym and leisure staff. Businesses are further supported by tailored wellbeing packages based on the outcomes of the screenings.
6. Fylde Council shall provide 'in kind' match funding to a maximum of £66,876 against total project costs of £167,191 for the Building Blocks / Business Health Matter Project in accordance with the following timeframes: 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2023. The match funding from Fylde Council will be provided in officer time, to support the delivery of the project:

ESF Grant to Fylde	£80,251
ESF Grant to Active Lancashire	£20,064
Match Funding Fylde Council (Officer time)	£66,876
Total Project costs	£167,191

7. This new project role will sit within the Tourism and Cultural Services team where the existing Sports Development and Weight Management Officer functions reside. There are already strong links to national governing sporting bodies, Active Lancashire and this team are already working closely with local leisure and sports clubs and organisations and heavily involved with the local leisure offering.
8. The programme is supported Chambers of Commerce, along with 20 local and national delivery partners including The Lancashire Colleges, Lancashire Mind, UCLan, UKactive and a number of local authorities, including Fylde Council and leisure trusts. In Lancashire, all local authorities, other than Ribble Valley have partaken in this project
9. Fylde Council plan to recruit an officer to deliver this service for the duration of the project which will be fully funded from the ESF funding.
10. A job description and person specification will be prepared. The post will be full time, working flexible hours and will report to the Health and Sports Development Officer in the Cultural Services Team and will be responsible for delivering the project outputs, plus fully work within GDPR guidelines
11. More information on the project - <https://www.businesshealthmatters.org.uk/>

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report recommends that Finance and Democracy Committee approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £80,251 (split between the years 2021/22 £26,750, 2022/23 £26,750 & 2023/24 £26,751) in order to fund a Business Health Matters post.
Legal	None arising directly from this report
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Improvement in workplace health and wellbeing through the outputs from this initiative.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tim Dixon	tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658436	19 October 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	7
CARBON NEUTRAL WORKING GROUP UPDATE			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

There are a number of actions for delivery by 2023/24 within the Corporate Plan on the carbon neutral agenda. This report gives an update on work in this area – the actions as articulated within the Corporate Plan are set out below:

- *Implement carbon reduction policies including plastics reduction, tree planting, energy efficient and recycling;*
- *Design education and awareness programmes to support carbon reduction policies and actions; and*
- *Work with partners to deliver carbon reduction.*

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Corporate Plan and the previous meeting of the Carbon Neutral Working Group.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This Committee has been designated the lead Committee on coordinating work on carbon reduction. This report aims to keep all members updated on work in this regard.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact - Tracy Manning tel: 01253 658521 email: tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk

Notes

Carbon Neutral Working Group

Date:	Thursday, 7 October 2021
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Present:	<p><u>Councillors</u></p> <p>Tommy Threlfall (Chairman), Frank Andrews, Mark Bamforth, Noreen Griffiths, Karen Henshaw, Stan Trudgill and Viv Willder.</p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p>Tracy Manning, Kathy Winstanley, Mark Evans, Steve Fulton, Andrew Loynd and Gareth Matthews.</p>
Note Taker:	Hannah Kirk

1. Introductions and apologies

The Chairman, Councillor Tommy Threlfall, welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Bobby Rigby.

2. Presentation from Blackpool Transport

James Carney, Finance and Commercial Director at Blackpool Transport, was invited to introduce a presentation to all members of the Council on their work towards net-zero public transport across Fylde. In doing so, he highlighted the Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA), a £126 million fund which set out to promote electric bus transportation across England. Blackpool Council was one of the 17 authorities selected for phase 2, which required the development of a business case for investment. It was planned for to fund an overhaul of the Rigby Road Depot, installing electric charging points and introducing 115 electric buses.

Further to this, Mr. Carney also provided an overview of the National Bus Strategy (NBS), which encouraged Local Transport Authorities to commit to enhanced partnerships with the public transport operators. This would see an increase in the frequency, reliability and affordability across bus services. It was explained that Blackpool Transport had been making improvements in line with the NBS for some time, including a whole fleet of new buses and contactless payments on board.

Following questions, the Chairman offered his thanks to Mr. Carney for his presentation and extended an invitation for him to return to the Working Group with further updates in the future.



BTS Presentation
Climate Change.ppt

3. Consideration of the draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy

Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, invited Kathy Winstanley, Head of Health and Environment, to introduce the draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy for consideration by members. In doing so, Mrs. Winstanley highlighted that Lancashire County Council were the waste disposal authority, which limited the options with regards to the waste and recycling that could be collected. At this juncture, it was noted that the paid for green waste collections had continued to increase year on year since introduction, with a noticeable increase in wheeled bins for recycling, as opposed to green boxes.

Mrs. Winstanley informed those in attendance that whilst the goal was to reach 100% of properties across the borough having wheeled bins, this will be challenging to achieve logistically due to access and storage issues. However, it was reported that 97% of properties within Fylde had wheeled bins and the team had been working on extending this wherever possible, in keeping with the corporate plan. She further reported that Fylde Borough Council had been able to use their own resources to operate battery collection and large bulky item services in partnership with local charities, with the latter having been suspended following the Covid-19 pandemic. Further to this, she informed members that a report was due to go to the next Operational Management Committee meeting, detailing other options for consideration as it is a statutory responsibility for a local authority to provide this (bulky) service. It was hoped that a solution would be found, and a new system would be in place by early 2022.

Residents who cannot have a wheeled bin due to access issues are provided with recycling boxes/bags. It was reported that Gareth Matthews, Senior Waste Prevention and Enforcement Officer, was responsible for investigating any service issues, such as the bags being put out for collection ahead of the advised time. These matters were to be dealt with in an educational way in the first instance, with the need to become firmer if the problem persisted. It was further reported that a system was in place to support residents with a genuine need for extra wheeled bins, due to extenuating circumstances or having a large family. This could be determined by conducting a waste audit over a two-week period and engaging with residents with regards to what can be recycled.

In response to questions, Mrs. Winstanley informed those in attendance that the average lifespan of a wheeled bin was 14 years. It was reported that a project was undertaken several years ago that saw 20,000 bins replaced FOC, as the grey and green bins had been in place since 2002. It was highlighted that it had been a logistical challenge, which had required budgetary support, as the initial Government funding that saw residents provided with wheeled bins was no longer in place.

At this juncture, Mr. Matthews provided an update on the recycling bin trial that had been taking place in Lytham, advising that the bin had been in place for 6 weeks and were being checked 3 times a week. It was reported that almost every visit saw the bins a quarter full but various items of household waste were also being found. However, the previous week had seen the best quality material. It was further advised that Mr. Matthews would keep the trial under review and continue to update the Working Group on the progress.

Following the conclusion of the report, the Chairman extended his compliments to Mrs. Winstanley and the team on the provision of a high-quality service. Further to this, the draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy was approved, and it was agreed that it would be referred to a meeting of the Operational Management Committee for approval.

4. Any Other Business

The Chairman informed those in attendance that he had expressed an interest in exploring Government-funded schemes for residents to install solar panels on their homes. It was agreed that this topic be discussed in further detail at the next meeting of the Working Group.

It was advised that the Chairman had been invited to attend a virtual meeting of the Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster Youth Council to discuss the council's carbon neutral work. An update would be provided to the next meeting of the Working Group.

5. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MANAGEMENT TEAM	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	8
GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 - POSITION AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2021			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30th September 2021 and specifically for those areas under the remit of the Committee.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Chief Financial Officer – the report is based upon information extracted from the financial ledger system of the Council for the period to 30th September 2021 and feedback received from budget holders.

LINK TO INFORMATION

General Fund Revenue Budget monitoring Report to 30th September 2021:

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/finance/budget-monitoring/>

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This information is provided to enable the committee to consider and scrutinise periodic revenue budget monitoring reports for those areas under the remit of the Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22

POSITION AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30th September 2021. The report includes a narrative description of the most significant variances from the profiled latest budget and details any actions required to address these. Appendix A to this report shows the value of the most significant variances for all of the Council services by Committee and provides a brief explanation for each variance. In addition to the budget areas identified in the supporting Appendix of the report the Council has separately received funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and a progress update report will be presented to the Environment Health & Housing Committee later in the year as delivery against the scheme continues.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council operates a system of Revenue Budget Monitoring which revolves around the production of detailed monthly monitoring reports for budget holders. Significant variances from the expected budget position at the point of monitoring, both for expenditure and income, are summarised in monitoring reports which are periodically reported to each Programme Committee for information purposes. This report therefore details the findings and issues emerging from budget monitoring carried out to 30th September 2021.
- 1.2 It should be noted that work continues on improving budget profiling across the Council in order that budget profiles more accurately reflect the spending pattern of individual budgets across the financial year. This serves to enhance budget monitoring and focus attention on true variances rather than budget profiling issues. This is a continuous process with budget holders so that the improved profiling continues to refine the budget monitoring system.
- 1.3 Council approved the 2021/22 budget at its meeting on 4th March 2021. Subsequently on 29th July 2021 the Finance and Democracy Committee approved the financial outturn position for 2020/21. The impact of those approvals, including savings and growth items approved at the Council budget meeting, along with slippage from 2020/21 as approved by the Finance and Democracy Committee, are now reflected in the financial ledger. Therefore, this report monitors expenditure and income against the updated approved budgets for 2021/22.

2. Budget Rightsizing Exercise

- 2.1 For a number of years the Council has carried out an annual budget rightsizing exercise to analyse underspends which have occurred over the last 3 financial years and to adjust current and future year budgets to better reflect the level of resource requirement in the context of current financial constraints. This process will be repeated during 2021/22 and the resulting changes to budgets will be reflected in later updates to the Councils Financial Forecast.

3. Conclusions

Last year and this year has seen particular volatility in expenditure and income levels as the impact of the covid restriction measures on the financial position of the Council for 2021/22 and possibly beyond, together with the potential for future general reductions in central government funding from 2021/22 onwards, requires that the Council continue the approach to continually seek opportunities to achieve savings and efficiencies to enable a balanced budget position and financial stability.

Regular budget monitoring reports are an integral part of the Council's financial monitoring framework and these reports will be available on the Council's website.

External pressures outside the Council's control are impacting on all local authorities. Instructions remain in place that officers should not commit to any unnecessary expenditure and should seek to maximise efficiencies wherever possible.

Finance staff work continuously with budget holders across the Council and are heavily reliant upon budget-holders to be able to understand and quantify the potential impact of in-year hotspot variances within their areas of responsibility.

We are at the mid-point of the 2021/22 financial year and much uncertainty exists with respect to the remainder of the year. Therefore, it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions on the in-year financial position. The financial risks facing the Council, as set out in the MTFS to Council in March 2021 remain alongside the significant additional risks presented by the pandemic. Instructions issued by Management Team that budget holders remain prudent are still in place, and the overall financial position of the council will be captured in the next update of the financial forecast in the Medium Term Financial Strategy which will be presented to members in the forthcoming committee cycle.

REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22 - Period 6 to September 30th 2021 (Variances in excess of £5K)

Appendix A

Key

BLUE	Variance currently showing but expected to be on target at year end
GREEN	Favourable variance against latest budget
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FINANCE & DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE / CORPORATE CROSS CUTTING BUDGETS

Service Area	Detailed Description	Full Year Budget £	Budget as at Period 6 £	Actual & Commitments as at Period 6 £	Variance as at Period 6 £	FAV / ADV	Alert	Budget Holder Comments
All Council services	Employee costs including basic pay, pension, NI, and overtime, plus agency costs	9,929,509	5,014,755	4,913,569	-101,186	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	The budget forecast which was approved by Council in March 2021 assumes Employee Cost Savings (including vacancy savings arising from delays in the recruitment to vacant posts) of £300,000 per annum from 2021/22 onwards. The actual level of savings achieved in relation to direct employee costs for the current year to date shows a level of savings in excess of this. However, the figures shown here do not include the in-year employee pay award which is yet to be agreed which will reduce the favourable variance currently indicated. This budget will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and may be adjusted as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Human Resources	Training Exps - qualifications	15,000	7,500	0	-7,500	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	On site and travel-to training has been reduced / not available due to COVID restrictions March to August, courses and events will be increased with outcomes from appraisals which are also six month behind. It is likely that not all the budget will be required but too early to estimate an underspend figure at this stage.
Mayoralty	Mayoral Chauffeur/Assistant	19,485	9,747	3,915	-5,832	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	There have been reduced Mayoral engagements during the year due to covid restrictions and consequently lower expenditure has been incurred to date, but this is now starting to return to normal. The budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Council Tax Collection Costs	Council Tax Costs Recovered	-200,000	-100,000	7,369	107,369	ADVERSE	RED	Court action has ceased during the pandemic but has commenced again in October. It is expected that part of the loss of income will be offset by specific government covid grant for this purpose and the budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Bank Charges	HSBC Bank - Card Processing	62,500	31,250	36,863	5,613	ADVERSE	RED	Anticipated overspend due to an increased number of customers being encouraged to pay by card due to Covid. This budget will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and may be adjusted as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Lytham Institute	Covid-19 Business Support Grant	0	0	-12,000	-12,000	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Additional one-off unbudgeted Restart Grant in 2021/22 which will contribute to the in year running costs.
Computer Services	Purchase of Computer Equipment	280,138	140,069	62,979	-77,090	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	An underspend is currently recorded against the profiled budget, however with a core infrastructure and network transformation project and associated license costs in response to the challenges of end of life platforms and enablement of hybrid working underway we expect variances to normalise in the next period. A parallel and essential modernisation project to telephony ahead of the decommission of the PSTN lines is being scoped and due to commence before the end of the calendar year which will enable full internet dialling and direct routing of calls through video and voice platforms. These commitments also pick up business continuity, ongoing network hardening and security works, Town Hall WIFI replacement and meeting room improvements enabling a modern, secure and fit for purpose network in line with the ICT Strategy.
	Computer - Telephone Charges	20,000	10,000	4,033	-5,967	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	
	Computer - Program Licence Chgs	144,000	72,000	47,778	-24,222	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	
	Computer - Development Costs	174,456	87,228	16,271	-70,957	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	

REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22 - Period 6 to September 30th 2021 (Variances in excess of £5K)

Appendix A

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TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Service Area	Detailed Description	Full Year Budget £	Budget as at Period 6 £	Actual & Commitments as at Period 6 £	Variance as at Period 6 £	FAV / ADV	Alert	Budget Holder Comments
Fairhaven Cafe	Café Rent	-16,750	-8,375	0	0	ADVERSE	RED	The Café has been closed during the first half of the financial year as works was completed as part of the Fairhaven Restoration Project. The rent concession will be adjusted as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Fairhaven Lake and Gardens	Adventure Golf	-160,000	-120,000	-164,778	-44,778	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Extra income due to good weather and competitor product not available in Spring due to covid restrictions. New business, so forecasting not based on historical data.
	Watersport Activities	-41,222	-30,916	-2,313	28,603	ADVERSE	RED	Water sports centre not open until September due to timescales of HLF project
	Combined Tickets/Other Fees	0	0	-6,265	-6,265	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	New golf / boat ticket introduced in May 2021 to split out combi ticket from golf only ticket to provide additional data.
Management of the Arts & Heritage Assets	Support to Arts	14,000	7,000	0	-7,000	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	Normal annual budget £4K. An additional one off £10K virement has been put against this code for match funding should a Coastal Explorers project application to Arts Council England (ACE) be successful, which will be communicated mid December 2021. Previous bid to the Big Lottery Fund for Coastal Explorers was unsuccessful.
Lytham Festival	Lytham Festival Income	-64,000	-64,000	0	64,000	ADVERSE	RED	The cancellation of the Lytham Festival (outdoor music event) due to restrictions on public gatherings has caused the loss of income from ticket sales. The budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Fylde Tourism	1940's Lytham Wartime Festival	35,000	35,000	250	-34,750	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	The 1940's Lytham Wartime Festival was cancelled due to covid restrictions and therefore no expenditure has been incurred, nor income generated, in respect of this event. There is a net favourable variance of £16k. The budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Income - 1940's Lytham Wartime Festival	-18,000	-18,000	0	18,000	ADVERSE	RED	The 1940's Lytham Wartime Festival was cancelled due to covid restrictions and therefore no expenditure has been incurred, nor income generated, in respect of this event. There is a net favourable variance of £16k. The budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Kite Festival	30,000	30,000	26,494	-3,506	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Reduced festival expenditure due to covid. There is a net adverse variance of £7k overall with the kite festival with the reduction of income below. The budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Income - Kite Festival	-20,000	-20,000	-9,340	10,660	ADVERSE	RED	Reduced income opportunities due to covid - reduced number of stalls / smaller fairground and limited sponsorship opportunities. There is a net adverse variance of £7k. The budgets will be adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.

REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22 - Period 6 to September 30th 2021 (Variances in excess of £5K)
Appendix A
Key

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OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Service Area	Detailed Description	Full Year Budget £	Budget as at Period 6 £	Actual & Commitments as at Period 6 £	Variance as at Period 6 £	FAV / ADV	Alert	Budget Holder Comments
Fleet & Plant	Repairs by Commercial Garages	43,400	21,700	15,520	-6,180	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	There are a number of favourable variances in respect of vehicle costs. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Fuel	330,595	165,298	138,223	-27,074			
	Hire of Transport	63,357	31,679	20,724	-10,955			
Car Parking Fees	Car Parking Fees	685,000	445,000	481,232	36,232	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Due to the good weather and increased staycations over the summer months due to Covid it is anticipated that the annual income will be greater than expected. The budgets will be kept under review and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise to reflect this.
Stanner Bank Car Park	Ticket Issuing Machines	0	0	12,491	12,491	ADVERSE	RED	Increased costs associated with maintenance and repair of the barrier system. Further costs likely to be incurred through the rest of the year, especially if there are further instances of vandalism and/or addition of a new CCTV system to cover the barrier.
Fylde Waste Schemes	Bulky Waste Collection	35,000	17,500	0	-17,500	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	No in year expenditure due to there being no current service in operation. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Household Refuse Special Colln	-40,000	-20,000	0	20,000	ADVERSE	RED	No in year income due to there being no current service in operation. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Green Waste Subscription Charge	-545,000	-545,000	-590,760	-45,760	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Additional customers signed up for 21/22 contributing to additional unbudgeted income. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Public Conveniences	Miscellaneous Receipts	-25,000	-15,000	-20,673	-5,673	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Additional unbudgeted income due to increased number of visitors following lockdown/staycations. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Land Charges	Fee Income	-65,000	-32,500	-43,050	-10,550	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Increased land charge fee income received in year. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.

REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22 - Period 6 to September 30th 2021 (Variances in excess of £5K)

Appendix A

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ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Service Area	Detailed Description	Full Year Budget £	Budget as at Period 6 £	Actual & Commitments as at Period 6 £	Variance as at Period 6 £	FAV / ADV	Alert	Budget Holder Comments
Covid-19 Support	Unringfenced Covid Grant Support	294,000	147,000	633	-146,367	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	The Government provided un-ringfenced Covid support grant to all local authorities in 2021/22, with Fylde receiving £392k for the year. Of this £33k was allocated to Town and Parish areas to support covid recovery, and to date £50k has been vired to support agency labour costs within Operational Services to ensure continuing service delivery and £15k has been vired to the Cemetery & Crematorium to ensure covid compliance. This budget will be kept under review as part of the ongoing response to the Covid pandemic throughout the remainder of the current financial year.
	Practical Support for Self-isolation/expenditure	0	0	5,750	5,750	ADVERSE	AMBER	Lancashire County Council are providing funding for practical support for self isolation. Officers are continuing to explore options to deliver the requirements of the funding.
	LCC Funding / Practical Support for Self-Isolation	0	0	-73,612	-73,612	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	
Covid-19 Welcome Back Fund	Welcome Back fund - expenditure	243,516	121,758	0	-121,758	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	This budget is specifically held to assist in the economic recovery following the Covid pandemic. Funds are required to be spent before April 2022, with all spending agreed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It is expected that the budget will be used in full before the end of the financial year.
	Covid-19 Welcome Back Grant	-243,516	-121,758	0	121,758	ADVERSE	AMBER	This grant funding is specifically held to assist in the economic recovery following the Covid pandemic. Funds are required to be spent before April 2022, with all spending agreed by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It is expected that the budget will be used in full before the end of the financial year and the grant is claimed in arrears.
Cemetery and Crematorium	Cremations	-1,140,000	-570,000	-472,261	97,739	ADVERSE	RED	There has been a reduced demand for services from residents outside of the borough. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.

REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22 - Period 6 to September 30th 2021 (Variances in excess of £5K)

Appendix A

Key

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Service Area	Detailed Description	Full Year Budget £	Budget as at Period 6 £	Actual & Commitments as at Period 6 £	Variance as at Period 6 £	FAV / ADV	Alert	Budget Holder Comments
Building Control	Inspection Fee - Dwellings	-143,000	-71,500	-124,732	-53,232	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	Increased Building Control fee income received in year due to an increased demand. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Development Management	Consultants Fees	25,000	12,500	6,215	-6,285	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	This budget is held to allow for the appointment of specialist consultants to assist in the determination of planning applications. Spend depends on the needs of the service based on the nature and type of applications received. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Advertising	12,000	6,000	11,333	5,333	ADVERSE	RED	This budget is for the publishing of press notices in the local paper required by statute. Spend is related to the nature of applications received and so is largely outside the control of the council. The number of applications received during the year to date is higher than in previous years and this is also reflected in increased application fee income. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Planning Application Fees	-675,000	-337,500	-433,328	-95,828	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	The number of planning application fees received during the year to date is significantly higher than previous years. There will be additional spend against other budgets as a direct consequence and these budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
	Pre-Planning Advice Fees	0	0	-9,123	-9,123	FAVOURABLE	GREEN	The number of pre-application submissions made to the council is difficult to predict. All fee income will be indicated as a surplus. These budgets will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Planning Appeals	Planning Appeal Hearing Costs	45,000	22,500	0	-22,500	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	The number of planning appeals held during the year to date has been limited and no awards of costs have been made against the council. A decision on one application for costs is outstanding and will be reported in the next monitoring period. This budget will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Planning Enforcement	Enforcement Costs	35,000	17,500	0	-17,500	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	This budget is held to cover legal action against a particular site. Further action has been placed on hold due to Coronavirus restrictions and having regard to government advice. This budget will be kept under review during the remainder of the financial year and adjusted as necessary as part of the budget right-sizing exercise.
Development Management Team	Consultants Fees	20,000	10,000	0	-10,000	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	This budget is held to address capacity issues in the planning service and will be utilised by the end of the financial year.
Planning Policy	Local Development Framework Costs	30,000	15,000	0	-15,000	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	The costs associated with the examination of the local plan have not yet been received. It is currently anticipated that this budget will be utilised in full by the end of the financial year.
Economic Regeneration	Consultants Fees	150,000	75,000	0	-75,000	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	This budget is to deliver the St Annes Town Centre Masterplan. Consultants have been appointed and are expected to complete the work by April 2022.
St Annes/Pleasure Island/Salters Wharf	LCC - Lancashire Economic Recovery Grant	-108,000	-54,000	0	54,000	ADVERSE	AMBER	The grant has not been received as yet. This funding is held to deliver the Island Masterplan.
	Consultants Fees	120,000	60,000	0	-60,000	FAVOURABLE	BLUE	This budget is held to deliver the Island Masterplan. Consultants have been appointed and are expected to complete the work by April 2022.

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MANAGEMENT TEAM	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	9
CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 – POSITION AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2021			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30th September 2021 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Chief Financial Officer – the report is based upon information extracted from the financial ledger system of the Council for the period to 30th September 2021 and feedback received from budget holders.

LINK TO INFORMATION

Capital Programme Monitoring Report to 30th September 2021:

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/finance/budget-monitoring/>

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This information is provided to enable the committee to consider and scrutinise the Capital Programme monitoring reports for those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact: Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer.

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an in-year progress update in respect of those schemes within the Capital Programme that have been approved for delivery in 2021/22, together with an update on the overall Five-Year Capital Programme of the Council. This report includes a narrative description of some of the more significant schemes within the Capital Programme and details any risks and the actions required to address these. Appendix A to this report provides an update by Committee on schemes scheduled for commencement or delivery in 2021/22. Appendix B provides a summary of the latest position for the 5 year Capital Programme and Appendix C provides details of the financing of the programme.

1. Background

The Council approved the Capital Programme on 4th March 2021. That update showed a balanced capital programme position from 2020/21 onwards. This report includes year to date expenditure and sets out the latest phasing of the programme and any additions or changes since the capital programme was presented to Council in March 2021. The Programme has also been rolled forward to include the year 2025/26.

2. Notes on Specific Schemes

There are a number of schemes for which further information is provided below:

(i) Town Centre Regeneration Kirkham

Following the Government's Future High Street funding initiative (FHSF), the Planning Committee resolved, in the autumn of 2019, to choose Kirkham Town Centre as its choice to pursue any bids for funding under the scheme. The first opportunity, being part of the broader FHSF, named the High Street Heritage Action Zone initiative (HS HAZ) was launched. This was a competitive process and seeks to enhance the historic environment of high streets that have conservation area status. Following the expansion of the funding for the scheme, due to unprecedented bids from a national perspective, the Kirkham bid proved to be successful, following a recommendation to Government from Historic England (HE). HE is the body responsible for administering the scheme. The grant award is £1.8m and will be match funded from a number of sources including Fylde Council, Kirkham Town Council and Section 106 payments for public realm improvements attributed to residential planning permissions. The scheme will run over 4 years, commencing in April 2020, and includes a wide range of projects.

In line with many other authorities, due to COVID 19, the implementation of the scheme has been delayed and a revised project plan, which sets out the projects to be delivered and the associated funding, has been agreed with Historic England.

A further bid for £9.1m was also submitted under the main body of the Future High Street Fund during 2020 and proposed to deliver a number of schemes across the whole of the town centre including the re-purposing of buildings, traffic management measures, building reuse and enhancement and public realm projects. This was once again a competitive process. The bid was well founded, and the economic case was very strong. In April 2021 an award of £6.29m for the Kirkham scheme was announced from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which was approved at Council on the 5th July 2021. A report will be presented to Planning Committee to seek approval of various property acquisitions as part of the project.

The Kirkham Futures Regeneration Programme, which encompasses the funding streams identified above is a complex multi-stranded programme with strict delivery timeframes. As such the Programme has been added to the Council's Strategic Risk Register in order that the identified risks can be managed.

(ii) St Annes Sea Wall

St Annes Seawall is 660m long and was constructed in 1935. It reduces the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to over 400 properties. The seawall surrounds The Island, which is one of three strategic headlands which are critical to maintaining healthy beaches, dunes and reducing the risk of coastal erosion along Fylde Council's frontage. St Annes Seawall is at the end of its design life and is in poor condition; it is cracking and crumbling and is subject to ongoing repairs and maintenance. Voids have previously been identified resulting in settlement of the promenade. The crest level is low and overtopping during storms results in damage to the promenade and

flooding of the car park, swimming pool and fitness centre plant room, and flooding up to the thresholds of the cinema, casino, amusement, and restaurant complex.

In 2020 the council were awarded £300k Pipeline acceleration funding to develop the St Annes Seawall Outline Business Case. Following this a bid has now been submitted to the Environment Agency formally for their appraisal and consideration and if EA funding is approved the planning phase will commence consisting of technical surveys including topographical, geotechnical, detailed design, ecological and bird surveys and an environmental impact assessment. It will include securing all the necessary licenses, consents and approvals including: Marine License, Planning Permission and Environment Agency Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) licence. The scheme will be in the sum of £11.8m funded by Environment Agency grant of £9.5m and the council's contribution of £2.3m towards the total project cost which was approved at Council on the 5th July 2021. EA have now approved the scheme and the final award is a total scheme cost of £12.1m funded by EA Grant of £9.7m and the council's contribution of £2.4m. This has now been reflected within this capital programme update and will also be updated in the next MTFS forecast to be presented in November. Following the planning phase it is proposed to start the construction phase early 2023.

(iii) Fairhaven Lake and Gardens Heritage Lottery Scheme

In December 2018, the council was notified that it had been successful in securing the second round capital grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in the sum of £1.4m for the restoration of Fairhaven Lake & Gardens, with further match funding provided by Fylde Council and other external financial contributions. Works have progressed throughout 2020/21 albeit at a reduced pace as a result of the pandemic and the Adventure Golf is now complete and open to the public and the restoration works are due to be completed during 2021. Fairhaven Café re-opened in October 2021.

Until the scheme is fully delivered there remains the possibility of additional contract costs beyond those in the approved budget.

(iv) St Annes Regeneration Schemes

The next section of works has been agreed along St. Annes Road West between The Pier and The Square (known as the Square-Pier Link). A scheme designed to the available budget was presented and approved by Planning Committee, but the Regeneration Manager was asked to look at extending the scheme, potentially widening pavements to provide an enhanced pedestrian ambience and increased paving space capacity to absorb high levels of footfall that is encountered at peak times. As matters stand, the potential for achieving these enhancements to the scheme is being discussed with Lancashire County Council as any further amendments would have to be agreed, since there would be changes to the highway configuration. It is now proposed to pursue the scheme as part of a wider programme of works in the town centre following the preparation of a masterplan which has recently been commissioned.

(v) Lytham Regeneration Schemes

In respect of the large capital scheme for Lytham town centre, a number of suggestions have been made by the Lytham Business Group and other parties, some of which require careful consideration along with agencies such as Lancashire County Council. Options are being considered involving local members and a draft plan is being drawn together. This will have a phased programme of works to be considered in due course by the Planning Committee. It is envisaged that the first phase of work, the improvements to lighting on East, Central and West Beaches will be completed during the current financial year in line with the scheme agreed by Planning Committee in March 2021. The Lytham Beach Lighting Scheme is programmed for delivery during the current financial year and the proposed improvements to Clifton Street are now timetabled for Q2 2022/23 in line with the Corporate Plan. Plans have been prepared and will be presented to the Town Centre Working Group at the earliest opportunity. This will enable detailed schemes to be prepared and consulted upon.

(vi) Better Care Fund (Formerly Disabled Facilities Grants)

As the local housing authority, the Council has a statutory duty to provide disabled adaptations within the Borough. In order to fund these works the Council receives grant support which previously was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). From 2015/16 the Government established the 'Better Care Fund', and under these new arrangements the funding for Disabled Facilities Grants transferred to the Department of Health, with funding being distributed to all Councils via the upper-tier authority for that area. As such, in Lancashire the fund is administered by Lancashire County Council. Each upper-tier authority then allocates the funding to their respective housing authorities (i.e. district councils within their area) to enable them to continue to meet this statutory responsibility.

The level of government funding has increased significantly under the 'Better Care Fund' arrangements and the budget for 2021/22 of £1.236m provides for the delivery of disabled adaptations to similar levels as 2020/21. It is anticipated that for 2021/22 all identified need for disabled adaptations can be met from the existing resource.

(vii) M55 Link Road (Inc. S106 monies for design work)

The accelerated delivery of the £27m M55 Heyhouses Link Road is subject to a funding package made up from a number of sources. This funding is now in place and work has started on site with the earthworks being the first phase. The road will then be constructed by Lancashire County Council's in-house team and is due for completion in early 2024.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Actual expenditure to 30th September 2021 is £2.052m against a full year budget of £14.016m. This equates to 14.6% of the latest budget. Progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been delayed due to covid restrictions. This is noted as appropriate in the analysis at Appendix A. Consequently, the phasing of some schemes have been adjusted or re-phased into 2022/23 as part of this update and will be reflected in future Financial Forecast updates during the year.
- 3.2 Capital Receipts total £161,575 against a total in year budgeted figure of £185,000 made up of Right to Buy Receipts and General Asset Sales. Any changes to this will be reflected in future Financial Forecast updates during the year.
- 3.3 The current Capital Programme as updated is showing a balanced position for 2021/22 onward. The Capital Programme and the associated financing will be subject to discussion with members during the months in the lead up to the annual budget setting process for 2022/23.
- 3.4 Any additional expenditure which is not fully funded by external finance would normally require the generation of capital receipts or further borrowing (the latter placing further pressure on the Revenue Budget from the consequent repayment costs). However, Budget Council on 4th March 2013 approved the creation of a Capital Investment Reserve to finance future capital expenditure. The balance of this reserve at 31st March 2021 was £5.223m including the budgeted transfer into the reserve of £1.813m in respect of 2020/21. Of this £2.441m is already committed to deliver existing approved capital schemes in the year 2021/22 and a further budgeted contribution into the reserve of £1.706m in 2021/22 is estimated, leaving a forecast unallocated balance on the reserve at 31st March 2022 of £4.488m. The estimated transfer in is subject to change as costs and income undoubtedly fluctuate over the next 2 financial years.

An updated position in respect of the Capital Investment Reserve will be included within future updates of the Financial Forecast presented to the Finance and Democracy Committee and to Council. Additional future projects will be subject to further consideration as part of the budget setting process for 2022/23. Whilst it remains the case that this reserve is the preferred source of finance for any further additions to the Capital Programme, continuing contributions to the reserve are required in order to maintain a sustainable funding source for future years.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 2021/22 IN-YEAR SCHEME MONITORING REPORT - AS AT 30/09/21

Appendix A

CODE	APPROVED SCHEMES	Head of Service / Budget Holder	Financing Source	Approved Budget 2021/22 £000	Slippage B/F from 2020/21 £000	Adjustments from 04/03/21 £000	Updated Budget 2021/22 £000	Expenditure to 30/09/21 £000	Variance £000	Budget Holder Comments
	FINANCE & DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE									
Z188	Purchase of Land Adjacent to Squires Gate Station	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	0	5	1	6		6	This project is ongoing. As agreed at Full Council, the compulsory purchase of the land will now be initiated which could take 12 months to complete.
	Sub total			0	5	1	6	0	6	
	TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE									
Z112	Fairhaven Lake & Promenade Gardens Restoration	Mark Wilde	Capital Investment Reserve	1,025	408		1,433	922	511	Building and Landscaping works are scheduled to be completed during 2021. The lake works project will be undertaken during 2021/22.
Z097	Promenade Footways	Darren Bell	No external finance - funded by borrowing / general asset disposal receipts	115			115		115	This funding has been identified to improve the footway surface around St Annes Promenade bandstand and boating pool. The scheme is linked with the Square to Pier Link and Gateway scheme to be delivered through the Planning Committee with the intention that works will run concurrently by the same contractor. These works are currently delayed with a likely start date during 2021/22. When the Pier scheme is progressed this scheme will be finalised and a draw-down report for funding presented to the committee.
Z176	Staining Playing Fields Development Scheme	Mark Wilde	S106 Developer Contributions / Capital Investment Reserve	0	43		43		43	Plans for landscaping works are currently being developed with project completion anticipated during 2021.
Z179	Coastal Signage Improvements	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	0	68		68	2	66	Phases 2 and 3 (Digital Beach Signs and Beach Safety Signs) have been completed. Phases 1, 3 and 5 (Consolidation / Rationalisation, Waymarking & Directional and Heritage & Interpretation) are currently being modelled.
Z181	Coastal Explorers	Mark Wilde	Capital Investment Reserve	20		-20	0		0	Following the unsuccessful bid with the Big Lottery further options had been explored with the Arts Council for additional funding but this was also unsuccessful. As this money was originally intended to form the basis of match funding as part of a wider scheme the contribution from FBC is now not required. An update report will be presented to a future committee on this basis.
Z192	Fylde Sand Dunes Improvement Scheme	Mark Wilde	S106 Developer Contributions / Specific Grants	0	46		46	15	31	The first phase of the scheme to regrade the dunes opposite the Persimmon Homes development has now been successfully completed. A tendering exercise has been completed for the second and third phases of the scheme - which include new dune entrance ways and signage. Draft artwork has been produced by a graphic designer for the signs and is ready for completion by December 2021. A contractor has been selected for the entranceway installation and this will be completed by December 2021.
Z197	Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	50	55	40	145	116	29	Works are substantially complete. Additional works on the maintenance of football pitches are to be completed Spring 2022.
Z210	Additional Parks Access Control Measures	Mark Wilde	Capital Investment Reserve	16			16	16	0	Following a tender exercise, a contractor was commissioned to deliver the access control scheme, which is now nearing completion. Waddington, Lima and Beauclerk Gardens Open Spaces are now complete.
Z211	Ashton Gardens Lighting Improvement Scheme	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	25			25		25	This scheme has been delivered and completed to budget. Awaiting final invoice.
Z212	Park View Drainage Improvement Scheme	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	40			40	1	39	Anticipated scheme completion to budget during 2021/22.
Z213	Fairhaven Boathouse - Remodelling and Refurbishment Scheme	Mark Wilde	Capital Investment Reserve	224			224	7	217	Anticipated to be completed during the winter period of 2021/22.
Z214	Play Area Improvements	Mark Wilde	Capital Investment Reserve	100			100		100	The scheme is currently at consultation and design stage. The following step is to prepare the tender documentation including contract and specification, by September 2021. Ground works are expected to commence from January 2022.
Z215	Friends of Newton Community Park Improvement Scheme - Fylde Council Contribution	Mark Wilde	Capital Investment Reserve	50		50	100	30	70	Scheme approved at Finance & Democracy Committee 29th March 2021. Anticipated scheme completion to budget during 2021/22.
Z219	Fairhaven Kiosk / Ice Cream Bar Project	Darren Bell	Funding Volatility Reserve	0		20	20		20	Scheme approved at Council 5th July 2021. Scheme details currently being developed. A draw-down report is expected to be submitted to committee March 2022.
	Sub total			1,665	620	90	2,375	1,109	1,266	

Appendix A (Cont'd)

CODE	APPROVED SCHEMES		Financing Source	Approved Budget 2021/22 £000	Slippage B/F from 2020/21 £000	Adjustments from 04/03/21 £000	Updated Budget 2021/22 £000	Expenditure to 30/09/21 £000	Variance £000	Budget Holder Comments
	<u>OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</u>									
Z038	Replacement Vehicles	Kathy Winstanley	Borrowing	447	39		486		486	It is anticipated that part of the replacement vehicle purchases for this financial year will be required to be re-phased in future updates of the financial forecast due to expected longer lead times from the tenders. This will be reviewed later in the year.
Z049	Car Park Improvements	Darren Bell	No external finance - funded by borrowing / general asset disposal receipts	70			70		70	The improvement of the interface between Stanner Bank car park and Inner Promenade is currently ongoing, expected completion end October 2021. The remaining budget will be rephased to future years within a future forecast update of the medium term financial strategy to contribute to the resurfacing of Fairhaven Rd and/or Swimming Pool Car Parks.
Z165	Public Transport Improvements	Darren Bell	S106 Developer Contributions	48	90		138		138	This scheme relates to developer contributions (s106) funding that is paid to Lancashire County Council (LCC). The funding will contribute to the delivery of improved public transport services where an enhanced public transport requirement is identified as a result of increased housing development. These payments may be made over a period of several years and in this instance the s106 agreement allows for payments to be made up until 2028.
Z130	Fairhaven and Church Scar Coast Protection Scheme	Darren Bell	Specific Government Grant (Environment Agency) / Capital Investment Reserve		10		10	2	8	This is the residual Sand Dune improvement works on the Dunes North of Fairhaven Lake. This was an outstanding condition of the Fairhaven Coastal Defence scheme which Environment Agency Grant in Aid can be claimed.
Z207	St Anne's Sea Wall	Darren Bell	Specific Government Grant (Environment Agency)			891	891		891	In 2020 the council were awarded £300k Pipeline acceleration funding to develop the St Anne's Seawall Outline Business Case. Following this a bid has now been submitted to the Environment Agency formally for their appraisal and consideration and if EA funding is approved the planning phase will commence consisting of technical surveys including topographical, geotechnical, detailed design, ecological and bird surveys and an environmental impact assessment. It will include securing all the necessary licenses, consents and approvals including: Marine License, Planning Permission and Environment Agency Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) licence. The scheme bid was to the sum of £11.8m funded by Environment Agency grant of £9.5m and the council's contribution of £2.3m towards the total project cost which was approved at Council on the 5th July 2021. EA have now approved the scheme and the final award is a total scheme cost of £12.1m funded by EA Grant of £9.7m and the council's contribution of £2.4m. This has now been reflected within this capital programme update and will also be updated in the next MTF5 forecast to be presented in November. Following the planning phase it is proposed to start the construction phase early 2023.
Z182	Accommodation/ facilities at Snowdon Road Depot - Welfare Improvements	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	350	-144		206	132	74	Scheme completed - awaiting final invoices.
Z190	Charging Infrastructure for Electric Taxis	Darren Bell	Specific Government Grant		150		150		150	Contracts and leases are being finalised. Work has already started in other districts with contractors expected to start install in the coming months.
Z195	Cemetery and Crematorium - Infrastructure Phase 3b	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve		35		35		35	Further infrastructure works are anticipated to be completed during 2021/2022.
Z199	Outdoor Digital Signage	Mark Evans	Capital Investment Reserve		30		30	10	20	The outdoor digital signage proposal has been referred to the Town Centres Working Group in order to consider alternative siting proposals that will be more suitable in the conservation area location in which they are proposed. Various options are currently being examined and it is expected that the projects will be delivered within this financial year.
Z216	Staining Drainage Improvement Scheme	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	65			65		65	Scheme to be completed during 2021/22.
Z217	South Fylde Line Study	Darren Bell	Specific Grant / Capital Investment Reserve	0		70	70	7	63	The capacity study by Network Rail started June 2021, due for completion by October 2021. Stantec were appointed as contractors to carry out the study and prepare SOBC documents at end June 2021, scheme to be completed by end November 2021.
	Sub total			980	210	961	2,151	151	2,000	

Appendix A (Cont'd)

CODE	APPROVED SCHEMES		Financing Source	Approved Budget 2021/22 £000	Slippage B/F from 2020/21 £000	Adjustments from 04/03/21 £000	Updated Budget 2021/22 £000	Expenditure to 30/09/21 £000	Variance £000	Budget Holder Comments
	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE									
Z010	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) Programme	Mark Evans	Specific Grant (Better Care Fund) / External Contributions / Grant repayments	1,130	106		1,236	544	692	Following delays as a result of Covid restrictions, the grant programme is now progressing as normal and all of the original funding is expected to be fully committed by the end of the financial year.
Z161	Housing Needs Grant	Mark Evans	DFG Grant Repayments		27		27		27	Housing Needs grant awards are dependent on the repayments received by the sale of properties where DFG grant has previously been provided. The funding to be used where professional services have been provided, such as architectural fees, but the DFG grant has not gone ahead in 2021/22. Funding has been used in previous years for specific community information events. Planning of a 2022/23 programme of events is underway as part of the HMO Inspection project.
Z209	Progress Housing Buy Backs	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions		58		58		58	Finance & Democracy Committee in November 2020 approved a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme – 'Progress Housing Buy Backs' in 2020/21 for £57,500. Progress Housing have confirmed they now expect completion of the purchases in Autumn of 2021 and will be invoicing for the full amount by the end of the year.
Z107	CCTV Replacement Schemes	Ian Curtis	Specific Grant (LSP Performance Reward Grant)	27			27	25	2	Expenditure of £27k on rapid redeployable cameras has been authorised. Four WCCTV speed dome cameras have been ordered and will be delivered at the end of July. A report will be taken to committee in September on the replacement of the town centre CCTV systems from analogue to IP cameras.
Z201	Hydration Points	Darren Bell	Capital Investment Reserve	60			60		60	The project was delayed due to Covid restrictions which would have stopped the points being used. Following a presentation to Members in September 21, it was decided to focus on a limited number of sites and submit a drawdown report following approval from United Utilities for new connections to the water supply infrastructure. It is proposed to have a number of units installed in February/March 2022.
Z205	Fylde Affordable Housing Delivery Programme	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions	60			60		60	This funding had been allocated to deliver an affordable housing survey which requires community engagement that could not be carried out within the previous social distancing restrictions that had to be observed. As a result the project has been delayed. The contract has been awarded and it is anticipated that the survey will be completed during the current financial year 2021/22.
Z208	Affordable Housing Scheme, Lytham Road, Warton	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions	130	130		260		260	Council (19/10/20) approved a scheme for affordable housing on Lytham Road Warton, utilising S106 funding. phased equally over two financial years (2020/21 and 2021/22), the sum of £260,000 to be fully funded from a portion of the balance of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose (from Agreement ref: 12/0717 - Moss Farm, Cropper Road, Westby). Negotiations are still underway to approve the Affordable Housing Statement for the site, in line with the conditions for the grant.
	Sub total			1,407	321	0	1,728	569	1,159	

Appendix A (Cont'd)

CODE	APPROVED SCHEMES		Financing Source	Approved Budget 2021/22 £000	Slippage B/F from 2020/21 £000	Adjustments from 04/03/21 £000	Updated Budget 2021/22 £000	Expenditure to 30/09/21 £000	Variance £000	Budget Holder Comments
	<u>PLANNING COMMITTEE</u>									
Z138	St Annes Regeneration Schemes	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions / Capital Investment Reserve	100	24		124	1	123	The funding was specifically aimed at delivering the Wood Street (Phase 3) Scheme. Works commenced but, despite being suspended due to the covid situation, have now been completed on phase 3a (north side). There are some works that have not yet been invoiced, which are currently undergoing a snagging process prior to final sign off. Any residual amounts unspent will be directed towards the implementation of an enhanced Pier Link project in accordance with the decision made by Planning Committee on 22 June 2020.
Z185	St Annes Road West – Square to Pier link and Gateway	Mark Evans	Capital Investment Reserve	110			110		110	This project was referred back to the Planning Committee by the Finance and Democracy Committee. It has subsequently been resolved to pursue the delivery of the Pier Link as part of a wider programme of investment in St Annes Town Centre that will be guided by a Town Centre Masterplan.
Z139	Lytham Regeneration Schemes	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions / Capital Investment Reserve	800		-750	50		50	Work has commenced on the redesign and re-planning of the public realm of Lytham Centre. The Corporate Plan now programmes the delivery of the Clifton Street Works (£750k) during Q2 of 2022/23 and this element has been re-phased into next year as part of this update. The Lytham Beach Lighting Scheme (£50k) is programmed for delivery during the current financial year.
Z136	Kirkham Public Realm Improvements	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions / Capital Investment Reserve		3		3	1	2	This is a residual amount from the last phase of regeneration works allocated for signage which will now be delivered as part of the Kirkham Future High Street Fund / Heritage Action Zone programme.
Z158	M55 Link Road (Inc. S106 monies for design work)	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions / M55 Link Road Reserve	2,000	122		2,122		2,122	The accelerated delivery of the £27m M55 Heyhouses Link Road is subject to a funding package made up from a number of sources. This funding is now in place and work has started on site with the earthworks being the first phase. The road will then be constructed by Lancashire County Council's in-house team and is due for completion in early 2024.
Z172	St Annes Pier - Coastal Revival Fund	Mark Evans	Specific Grant	5			5		5	This scheme is funded by a specific grant from MHCLG for which Fylde Council is acting as the accountable body. The spend of the remaining funds rests with the owners of the Pier, but is anticipated to be completed during the current financial year.
Z187	Kirkham and Wesham Station	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions		15		15		15	This funding was identified to allow a feasibility study to be carried out which would examine the alternative proposals available to deliver off street parking at Kirkham and Wesham Station. Following an initial delay as a result of changes to the rail franchise operating on the Preston-Blackpool Line, the feasibility study has now been completed (considered by Planning Committee on 11/11/2020). Awaiting final invoice.
Z193	Future High Street Fund: Kirkham	Mark Evans	Specific Grant		17	3,489	3,506	19	3,487	A further bid for £9.1m was also submitted under the main body of the Future High Street Fund during 2020 and proposed to deliver a number of schemes across the whole of the town centre including the re-purposing of buildings, traffic management measures, building reuse and enhancement and public realm projects. This was once again a competitive process. The bid was well founded and the economic case was very strong. In April 2021 an award of £6.29m for the Kirkham scheme was announced from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which was approved at Council on the 5th July 2021. A report will be presented to Planning Committee to seek approval of various property acquisitions.
Z202	Wesham Community Centre	Mark Evans	Capital Investment Reserve / S106 Developer Contributions / Specific Grant	60	32		92		92	This scheme was programmed to commence in early October 2020, Whilst preliminary ground works commenced, a national shortage of building materials delayed delivery. Work has continued on the project which is nearing completion and should be concluded during the current year.
Z203	Elswick Village Green	Mark Evans	Capital Investment Reserve / S106 Developer Contributions / Specific Grant	115			115		115	Elswick PC are leading this proposal and have faced a number of challenges in delivering the project in line with the originally agreed programme. Progress of the project continues to be monitored and the Parish Council have been offered support to deliver the project.
Z204	Kirkham Heritage Action Zone	Mark Evans	Capital Investment Reserve / S106 Developer Contributions / Specific Grant	1,327	177	35	1,539	202	1,337	This is a 4 year programme with spending being spread across the programme period. Delays of approx 6 months have resulted from the Coronavirus pandemic and officers have agreed a reprofiling of the spend with Historic England. A further grant award of £80k has been successful from Historic England and a report was presented to F&D (29/07/21) for a fully funded capital budget increase approval.
Z186	Tree Planting Scheme	Mark Evans	Capital Investment Reserve	25			25		25	Anticipated scheme completion to budget during 2021/22.
Z218	25 Victoria Road St Annes Y-Pad Scheme	Mark Evans	S106 Developer Contributions	0		50	50		50	Scheme approved at Finance & Democracy Committee 29th March 2021. It is phased over two financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23) for £200,000 with 25% being paid at start on site and the remainder 75% on project completion once the units are allocated to Fylde Coast YMCA, after regard and consideration of the compliance with the financial regulations.
	Sub total			4,542	390	2,824	7,756	223	7,533	
	Total Expenditure			8,594	1,546	3,876	14,016	2,052	11,964	

UPDATED 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2025/26 - BY SCHEME

		Estimate 2021/22 £000	Estimate 2022/23 £000	Estimate 2023/24 £000	Estimate 2024/25 £000	Estimate 2025/26 £000
FINANCE & DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE						
2188	Purchase of Land Adjacent to Squires Gate Station	6				
	Sub total	6	0	0	0	0
TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE						
2112	Fairhaven Lake & Promenade Gardens Restoration	1,433				
2097	Promenade Footways	115	40	40	40	40
2176	Staining Playing Fields Development Scheme	43				
2179	Coastal Signage Improvements	68				
2181	Coastal Explorers	0				
2192	Fylde Sand Dunes Improvement Scheme	46				
2197	Blackpool Road North Playing Fields drainage	145				
2210	Additional Parks Access Control Measures	16				
2211	Ashton Gardens Lighting Improvement Scheme	25				
2212	Park View Drainage Improvement Scheme	40				
2213	Fairhaven Boathouse - Remodelling and Refurbishment Scheme	224				
2214	Play Area Improvements	100				
2215	Friends of Newton Community Park Improvement Scheme - Fylde Council Contribution	100				
2219	Fairhaven Kiosk / Ice Cream Bar Project	20	340			
	Sub total	2,375	380	40	40	40
OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE						
2038	Replacement Vehicles	486	306	971	791	1,251
2049	Car Park Improvements	70	30	30	30	30
2165	Public Transport Improvements	138	30			
2130	Fairhaven and Church Scar Coast Protection Scheme	10				
2207	St Anne's Sea Wall	891	1,870	7,480	1,870	
2182	Accommodation/ facilities at Snowdon Rd Depot - Welfare Improvements	206				
2190	Charging Infrastructure for Electric Taxis	150				
2195	Cemetery and Crematorium - Infrastructure Phase 3b	35				
2199	Outdoor Digital Signage	30				
2216	Staining Drainage Improvement Scheme	65				
2217	South Fylde Line Study	70				
	Sub total	2,151	2,236	8,481	2,691	1,281
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE						
2010	Disabled Facilities Programme	1,236	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130
2161	Housing Needs Grant	27				
2209	Progress Housing Buy Backs	58				
2107	Rapid Deployment CCTV Replacement Projects	27				
2201	Hydration points	60				
2205	Fylde Affordable Housing Delivery Programme	60				
2208	Affordable Housing Scheme, Lytham Road, Warton	260				
	Sub total	1,728	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130
PLANNING COMMITTEE						
2138	St Annes Regeneration Schemes	124				
2185	St Annes Road West – Square to Pier link and Gateway	110				
2139	Lytham Regeneration Schemes	50	750			
2136	Kirkham Public Realm Improvements	3				
2158	M55 Link Road (Inc. S106 monies for design work)	2,122				
2172	St Annes Pier - Coastal Revival Fund	5				
2187	Kirkham and Wesham Station	15				
2193	Future High Street Fund: Kirkham	3,506	2,118	683		
2202	Wesham Community Centre	92				
2203	Elswick Village Green	115				
2204	Kirkham Heritage Action Zone	1,539	1,067	622		
2186	Tree Planting Scheme	25				
2218	25 Victoria Road St Annes Y-Pad Scheme	50	150			
	Sub total	7,756	4,085	1,305	0	0
Total Expenditure		14,016	7,831	10,956	3,861	2,451

UPDATED 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2025/26 - FINANCING

	Estimate 2021/22 £000	Estimate 2022/23 £000	Estimate 2023/24 £000	Estimate 2024/25 £000	Estimate 2025/26 £000
FINANCING:					
Capital Receipts - General Asset Sales	160	45	45	45	45
Capital Receipts - Right to Buy Receipts	25	25	25	25	25
Better Care Fund / Disabled Facilities Grant	1,156	1,090	1,090	1,090	1,090
Disabled Facilities Grant Repayments - 'Housing Needs Grants'	27				
Section 106 Monies - St Annes	74				
Section 106 Monies - Lytham	50	80			
Section 106 Monies - M55 Link-Road	122				
Section 106 Monies - Public Transport Improvements	138	30			
Section 106 Monies - Kirkham and Wesham Station	15				
Section 106 Monies - Fylde Sand Dunes Improvement Scheme	19				
Section 106 Monies - Wesham Community Centre	18				
Section 106 Monies - Elswick Village Green	35				
Section 106 Monies - Kirkham Heritage Action Zone	69	223	168		
Section 106 Monies - Fylde Affordable Housing Delivery Programme	60				
Section 106 Monies - Affordable Housing Scheme, Lytham Road, Warton	260				
Section 106 Monies - Progress Housing Buy Backs	58				
Section 106 Monies - 25 Victoria Road St Annes Y-Pad Scheme	50	150			
Capital Investment Reserve	1,520	670			
Capital Investment Reserve - Underwriting max £343k - Fairhaven	251				
M55 Link-Road Reserve	1,308				
Funding Volatility Reserve - Additional Contribution to M55 Link Road	692				
Funding Volatility Reserve - Fairhaven Kiosk / Ice Cream Bar Project	20	340			
Funding Volatility Reserve - St Annes Sea Wall			2,300		
Other External Finance (see analysis below)	7,453	4,872	6,357	1,910	40
Direct Revenue Finance	120				
Prudential Borrowing	316	306	971	791	1,251
Total Financing	14,016	7,831	10,956	3,861	2,451

Total surplus (-) / shortfall in year	0	0	0	0	0
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Cumulative surplus (-) / shortfall	0	0	0	0	0
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See note below for external funding available to finance the above schemes:

Other External Finance: Analysis					
LSP Performance Reward Grant	27				
Environment Agency - Fairhaven and Church Scar	10				
Environment Agency - St Anne's Sea Wall	771	1,870	5,180	1,870	
Coastal Revival Fund - St Annes Pier	5				
Central Government Grant - Future High Street Fund: Kirkham	3,506	2,118	683		
Staining Parish Council	10				
New Fylde Housing - DFG Contribution	80	40	40	40	40
Lancashire Environmental Fund - Fylde Sand Dunes Imp't Scheme	27				
Heritage Lottery Fund - Fairhaven Restoration Project	1,169				
Sport England - Fairhaven Restoration Project - confirmed	100				
United Utilities - Fairhaven Restoration Project	60				
Lytham Schools Foundation - Fairhaven Restoration Project	5				
Café Tenant Contribution	15				
RSPB - Fairhaven Restoration Project	3				
Central Government - Charging Infrastructure for Electric Taxis	150				
Wesham Town Council	24				
Elswick Parish Council (Elswick Village Green)	10				
Kirkham Town Council (Kirkham Heritage Action Zone)	150				
External Grants - Lancs Env Fund (Elswick Village Green)	30				
External Grants - Pocket Parks (Elswick Village Green)	15				
External Grants - Historic England (Kirkham Heritage Action Zone)	778	618	272		
External Grants - Historic England - Additional Grant (Kirkham HAZ))	35	35	10		
Private Sector / Other (Kirkham Heritage Action Zone)	357	191	172		
Department for Transport (South Fylde Line Study)	50				
Project Partners (South Fylde Line Study)	16				
Newton Community Park - Lancashire Environment Fund	30				
Newton Community Park - Newton & Clifton Parish Council	15				
Newton Community Park - Friends of Newton Community Park	5				
	7,453	4,872	6,357	1,910	40