



# MINUTES

## Environment, Health and Housing Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 2 November 2021
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Chris Dixon (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Paula Brearley, Will Harris, Karen Henshaw JP.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Tracy Manning, Kirstine Riding, Tim Dixon, Jerry Friel, Ian Brookes and Hannah Kirk.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Councillor Karen Buckley, and Sarah Geatrell from Trueman Change (via remote access)

### 1. Declarations of Interest

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

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 14 October 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

### 3. Substitute Members

There were no substitutes on this occasion.

### Decision Items

#### 4. Grants Scheme to Residents as a Result of the Pandemic Evaluation

Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, was invited to introduce Sarah Geatrell, Trueman Change, to discuss the evaluation of the grants scheme that had been provided to residents as a result of the pandemic. In doing so, she detailed a report that went to Council, regarding a fully funded budget increase, passported from central Government via Lancashire County Council to support residents in need of support due to the pandemic, through the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS). Following the success of the initial scheme, further funding was awarded through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

Ms. Geatrell noted that the piece of analytic work Trueman Change undertook highlighted how valuable to funding was to groups across the borough, especially at allowing them to remain operational throughout the pandemic. She advised that the analysis examined how effectively various partners worked together to deliver the schemes and highlighted that the process was quick and flexible, with fast decision making and funds being made available in 2-4 weeks.

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It was further advised that all the groups would apply for funding or recommend others to apply for similar funding streams. It was recommended that a further funding scheme be made available, in order to support longer sustainability with local groups and that the input of a social prescribing team would help to maximise the input.

At the conclusion of the report, the Chairman extended his thanks to the CVS.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To note the success of the community grants scheme and the allocation of a further sum of funding from the Contain Outbreak Management 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.

#### 5. Accommodation Project for Ex-Offenders and Rough Sleepers

Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager, introduced a report advising the Committee of funding awarded under the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders scheme announced by MHCLG in 2021. In doing so, she advised that this was a new scheme, providing additional funding to local authorities to support ex-offenders into Private Rented Sector Tenancies.

She informed members that from April 2020 to March 2021, 378 prisoners had been released within Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. Of that number, 50 were released to the boroughs of Fylde and Wyre. Following this, it was reported that in conjunction with Wyre Council, Fylde Council had applied via the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for MHCLG funding to support 50 service users. It was noted that the funding was approved, but at a lower level to support 20 service users across both authorities in 2021/22 and 2022/23, amounting to £68,345, split between the two authorities.

It was further advised that a procurement exercise would be undertaken, with those being selected to tender having experience in supporting ex-offenders. It was noted that a priority was to ensure support was available throughout the process.

Following questions, Jerry Friel, Senior Housing Officer, advised that the project would be piloted for a year, with feedback meetings to take place on a quarterly basis. It was confirmed that a feedback report would be brought back to the committee for consideration in 2022.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. 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.
2. Recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee the 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. Appoint an external agency to work with Fylde Council Homelessness and Housing Advice service to support rough sleepers and ex-offenders into accommodation.

#### 6. Business Health Matters Funding

Tim Dixon, Tourism and Cultural Services Manager, was invited to introduce a report advising 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.

In doing so, he advised that the scheme would be led by Active Lancashire and run until December 2023, with a focus on Workplace Health Champion training and health screenings. It was noted that this scheme was similar in practice to the weight management project, supporting a funded officer for a certain period of time. Mr. Dixon further advised that the officer would report to Ian Brookes, Sports Development Officer and that Fylde Council would provide 'in kind' match funding in the way of officer time, to support the delivery of the project.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Finance and Democracy 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 and 2023/24 £26,751) to be met

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in full, from the ESF Funding through Active Lancashire relating to this project.

Information Items

7. Carbon Neutral Working Group Update

The committee received an update from the Carbon Neutral Working Group, which detailed the recommendation of a draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy to the Operational Management Committee. Further to this, the Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting of the Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster Youth Council to discuss climate change and had in turn, invited a group of youth councillors to speak at a future meeting of the Working Group.

8. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The committee received an update on the approved General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the committee.

9. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The committee received an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30 September 2021 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the committee.

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