



# MINUTES

## Environment, Health and Housing Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2018
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Ben Aitken (Chairman) Councillor Viv Willder (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Maxine Chew, Chris Dixon, Gail Goodman JP, Peter Hardy, Neil Harvey, John Kirkham, Roger Lloyd, Graeme Neale, Louis Rigby.
<b>Other Members in Attendance:</b>	Councillor Karen Buckley and Councillor Mark Bamforth (via video link).
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Paul Walker, Kathy Winstanley, Simon Stott and Sharon Wadsworth.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Kathryn Crameri – Chief Executive Officer for Citizens Advice Fylde. 2 members of the public.

### Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

The Chairman, Councillor Aitken, welcomed Councillor Chris Dixon to his first meeting as a member of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.

#### 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 on this occasion.

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 4 September 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

#### 3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 22(c):

Councillor Neil Harvey substituted for Council Frank Andrews.

### Decision Items

#### 4. Appointment of Member Working Group – Plastic Conscious Fylde

Kathy Winstanley introduced a report that outlined a proposal for the establishment of a cross party and cross committee member working group with a remit to "investigate and consider the options to minimize the reliance on single use plastic items across the borough and to become a 'plastics conscious' borough".

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The working group would consist for a maximum number of six members and would consider what steps the Council could take, in collaboration with Lancashire County Council as the waste disposal authority and other local partners, to bring about a significant change in historical practice with regards to single use plastics and would report back to the Environment Health and Housing committee with recommendations.

It was RESOLVED:-

1. That the committee agree to establish a cross party, cross committee working group: ‘to investigate and consider the options to minimize the reliance on single use plastic items across the borough to become a ‘plastics conscious’ borough”, which would report back to the Environment, Health and Housing committee with any appropriate recommendations.
2. That the working group consists of a maximum of six elected members from the Environment, Health & Housing and the Operational Management Committees.
3. To appoint Councillors Ben Aitken, Viv Willder and Roger Lloyd to the working group. Councillor Aitken, as Chairman of the Environment, Health & Housing Committee would chair the Working Group.
4. That the Chair of the Operational Management Committee is asked to nominate two or three representatives from their committee to be part of the cross party working group.

### Information Items

The following information items were received by the committee.

#### 5. Update on the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2013-2018

A final update on the action plan for the Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 was presented to the committee. A new strategy would be prepared for 2019-2024 in due course.

Councillor Lloyd made a request for the amount of funding received in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre area for the Trailblazer Project and how the funds had been spent. The Chairman gave an undertaking that the information would be circulated to the committee members.

#### 6. Empty Residential Homes Position Statement

This latest report advised members on the effects of a number of changes to the council tax scheme in relation to empty residential properties.

Councillors were urged by the Chairman to report any concerns with empty properties to the Housing Services.

Following a suggestion by Councillor Buckley it was agreed for a report to come to a future meeting of the committee to discuss the use of the council tax premium for long term empty properties.

#### 7. Progress Housing Group Annual Update 2017-18

This report provide information on how Progress Housing are working towards their six strategic aims launched in their Going forward – our 2022 Strategic Plan and Business Priorities. An undertaking was given by the Chairman to circulate the contact details for Progress Housing following a query he had received from a member of the council.

#### 8. Citizens Advice Fylde – Annual Report

As part of its Service Level Agreement, Citizens Advice Fylde provided an annual update summarising their performance, challenges and services provided throughout the year.

The new Chief Executive Office for Citizens Advice Fylde, Kathryn Crameri, introduced herself to the committee and provided responses to questions from members.

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