



Meeting Agenda

**Community Focus Scrutiny Committee,
Town Hall, Lytham St. Annes
Thursday 14 October 2010, 6:15pm**

The main doors to the Town Hall will be open to the public at 6:00pm
The maximum capacity for this meeting room is 60 persons –
once this limit is reached no other person can be admitted.

COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN	Keith Hyde
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Roger Small

Councillors

Christine Akeroyd	Elizabeth Clarkson
Barbara Douglas	Dawn Prestwich
John Singleton	Paul Rigby
Kathleen Harper	Janine Owen
Maxine Chew	Tony Ford
Ken Hopwood	Linda Nulty
Barbara Pagett	Simon Renwick

Contact: Lyndsey Lacey, St. Annes (01253) 658504
Email: lyndseyl@fylde.gov.uk



Our Vision

Fylde Borough Council will work with partners to provide and maintain a welcoming, inclusive place with flourishing communities.

Our Corporate Objectives

- To Promote the Enhancement of the Natural & Built Environment
 - To Promote Cohesive Communities
 - To Promote a Thriving Economy
- To meet the Expectations of our Customers

The Principles we will adopt in delivering our objectives are:

- To ensure our services provide value for money
- To work in partnership and develop joint working



A G E N D A

PUBLIC PLATFORM

*To hear representations from members of the public in accordance with
Committee procedure rules*

ITEM	PAGE
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: <i>If a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest he/she is advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting. (For the assistance of Members an extract from the Councils Code of Conduct is attached).</i>	4
2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: <i>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 29 September 2010. As attached at the end of the agenda.</i>	4
3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS: Details of any substitute members notified in accordance with council procedure rule 26.3	4
4. PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT	7 - 8
5. HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY	9 - 10
6. EMPTY PROPERTY POSITION STATEMENT	11 - 16
7. SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION	17 - 32

Personal interests

8.—(1) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where either—

(a) it relates to or is likely to affect—

- (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (ii) any body—
 - (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;

- (i) any employment or business carried on by you;
 - (ii) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;
 - (iii) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;
 - (iv) any person or body who has a place of business or land in your authority's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
 - (v) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
 - (vi) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;
 - (vii) any land in your authority's area in which you have a beneficial interest;
 - (viii) any land where the landlord is your authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;
 - (xi) any land in the authority's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or
- (b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision;

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), a relevant person is—

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) or (ii).

Disclosure of personal interests

- 9.—(1)** Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (7), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting of your authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.
- (2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.
 - (3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.
 - (4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.

- (5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.
- (6) Subject to paragraph 12(1)(b), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.
- (7) In this paragraph, "executive decision" is to be construed in accordance with any regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000(d).

Prejudicial interest generally

- 10.—**(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.
- (2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the authority where that business—
- (a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;
 - (b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or
 - (c) relates to the functions of your authority in respect of—
 - (i) housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
 - (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
 - (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
 - (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
 - (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
 - (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Prejudicial interests arising in relation to overview and scrutiny committees

- 11.—** You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of your authority (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where—
- (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by your authority's executive or another of your authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the executive, committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

Effect of prejudicial interests on participation

- 12.—**(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority—
- (a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held—
 - (i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
 - (ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;
 unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority's standards committee;
 - (b) you must not exercise executive functions in relation to that business; and
 - (c) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.
- (2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of your authority or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

REPORT

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIPS	COMMUNITY FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	6 OCTOBER 2010	4

PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT

Public Item

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

Summary

This report is brought forward further to the meeting of the Committee held on 29 September. At that meeting it was resolved to ask Marie McRoberts (Assistant Director: Revenues and Benefits) to provide an update to the next meeting of the committee on matters associated with NI181, time taken to process revenues and benefits new claims and change events.

Recommendation

That the performance for NI181 is noted scrutinised and recommendations made for further investigation or explanation as required.

Performance Report

At the Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 29th September 2010, the Committee's attention was drawn to under performance. In particular, the Committee was concerned about the performance relating to NI181. The commentary below is an explanation of the current challenges around this particular PI and Marie McRoberts, Assistant Director of Revenues and Benefits, and the Manager of the Blackpool and Fylde Revenues and Benefits Shared Service will be present at the meeting to address questions arising from this matter directly.

Governance & Partnerships

NI181 Time taken to process Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events. The target is currently set at 15 days but is running at 22.59 days.

The System Replacement project places a number of calls on resources not present in a

normal year. This inevitably impacts on processing times particularly over the next few months leading up to go live in October and for some time after. It can take a considerable time to recover former performance levels

In addition to the normal workloads every member of staff needs training and this training is not effective unless they are also given some practice time on the new system. Staff time is also required to undertake data cleansing and reconciliation work before and after each data cut. This is a huge task requiring considerable resource to complete within the project timetable.

The situation is further exacerbated as a result of the recession, workloads have increased by a considerable amount, new claims alone have increased by 18.9% compared to Feb 2008. This is one of the highest increases in the North West.

Portfolio Holder

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources is Councillor Karen Buckley.

Risk Assessment

This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. Therefore there are no risks to address

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
Tracy Scholes	(01253) 658521	6 October 2010	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The introduction of the new revenues and benefits system may impact on collection rates
Legal	There are no direct legal implications arising from the report
Community Safety	There are no direct community safety implications arising from the report
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no direct human rights implications arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no direct sustainability and environmental implications arising from the report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no direct health and safety or risk management implications arising from the report

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIPS	COMMUNITY FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	14 OCTOBER 2010	5

HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY

Public Item

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

Summary

Dr Frank Atherton (Director of Public Health) will be in attendance at the meeting to give a presentation on health issues in the community.

Recommendation

That the committee accept the report and proffer support for the activities.

Portfolio Holder

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Social Wellbeing - Councillor Cheryl Little.

Report

In accordance with the Committee's work plan, Dr Frank Atherton (Director of Public Health) has been invited to the meeting to present a report on health issues in the community. In particular his will report will focus on the following three areas:

- The NHS White Paper
- Implications of Public Health
- Reorganisation of the NHS

Continued....

Risk Assessment

This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. Therefore there are no risks to address.

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
Lyndsey Lacey	(01253) 658504	29 September 2010	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report
Legal	There are no direct legal implications arising from the report
Community Safety	There are no direct community safety implications arising from the report
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no direct human rights and equalities implications arising from the report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no direct sustainability and environmental implications arising from the report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no direct health and safety or risk management implications arising from the report

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
COMMUNITY SERVICES	COMMUNITY FOCUS	14 TH OCTOBER 2010	6

EMPTY PROPERTY POSITION STATEMENT

Public Item

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

Summary

There are approximately 1095 empty properties in Fylde. Approximately 528 of these are considered to be long term empty properties. It is considered that empty properties are a waste of a valuable housing resource some of which could be used for helping to meet the needs for affordable housing for rent or purchase. Taking action to bring back into use some of these properties should result in an increased stock of affordable homes for rent or purchase. Taking action to improve the appearance of the limited number of 'blight' properties will improve the neighbourhoods in the vicinity of such properties.

Recommendation

1. That members consider the information contained in this position statement
2. Request a further report be presented if appropriate upon consideration of guidance to Local authorities due to be issued by Government in December 2010.

Reasons for recommendation

To guide members and officers on the appropriate actions to be taken to reduce the numbers of long term empty properties in Fylde.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The 'do nothing' alternative has been considered. It has been rejected because it will not address the issues raised by the existence of empty property in the borough.

Cabinet Portfolio

The item falls within the following Cabinet portfolio:

Portfolio Title: Councillor Name Cllr Cheryl Little

Report

1. An action within the recently agreed Fylde Housing Action plan related to the bringing of empty dwellings in the Private sector back into use. This report represents the first step in addressing this action. The report relates only to residential property.
2. In any housing market there will always be a proportion of the housing stock that is empty. Some properties will be empty on a transitional basis pending a change of owner, some will be empty awaiting closure of a deceased person's estate, some will be empty awaiting renovation and some will be empty when an occupier moves into residential care. All of these cases are normal and to be expected within a properly functioning housing market.
3. In an area such as Fylde, with its attraction as a coastal tourist location, there is also likely to be an above average number of second or holiday homes. These properties may also be vacant for a part of the year. Such cases are also normal and to be expected within the local housing market.
4. There are however properties that fall outside the normal activities of a housing market as referred to above. Such properties will often show themselves as long term vacant properties which may also fall into disrepair and become an eyesore in the area. Long term empty properties are a waste of a scarce housing resource. There would be a benefit to the whole community in bringing long term empty property back in to use.
5. In Fylde the most recent information available (Council Tax records @ 1st April 2010) suggests that there are approximately 1095 empty properties in the borough. It is estimated that included in this number there are 528 properties that have been empty for at least 6 months. This represents approximately 1.45% of the total housing stock in Fylde. The national average for long term empty properties is approximately 1.5%.
6. The council has up to date information on housing needs and projected growth in households from a number of sources including government predictions, a strategic housing market assessment and a housing needs assessment. The conclusions are that long term housing demand will remain high, household numbers will continue to grow and that the acute needs for affordable housing will remain. The new build housing development industry has been particularly hard hit by the recession and it is most unlikely that any new supply of housing will meet the long term needs and

demands of the housing market. In this context the existence of the current levels of long term empty property is unacceptable.

7. The council does not currently have an empty homes strategy nor does it have an officer wholly dedicated to empty homes work. Current activity and priority for the Housing team relates to enforcing of standards in the private sector and dealing with individual empty properties on an adhoc basis.
8. A review of the Housing structure is proposed which among other things will seek to address the development of an empty homes strategy and the scope for greater emphasis on empty homes work in line with the objectives and actions outlined in paragraphs 13 and 14 respectively. It is not envisaged that this will produce significant extra resource to tackle empty homes issues and it is proposed that the overriding priority for private sector housing work will remain on enforcement of standards in the private sector.
9. The Council has performed adequately in the returning to use of empty property by meeting its target of 20 in 2007-08 and a further 21 properties over 2008-09 and 2009 - 10. This represents only a small fraction of the estimated stock of long term vacant properties in the borough.
10. However there were some notable successes in this period including the return to use of two large detached properties in St Annes which was achieved through the Fylde RSL partnership and use of the Council's commuted sums resources. The overall inability to meet the targets is largely as a result of the focussing of activity on other priority work in the private sector.
11. Fylde sits within a peer group of similar types and sizes of local authorities as defined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting. The proportion of long term empty properties within the peer group ranges from 1% to just over 4% of the housing stock. At about 1.45% the proportion of long term empty property in Fylde is about average within its peer group. Activity to address the issue of empty property also varies within the peer group. In some authorities activity is underdeveloped whereas in others activity is more advanced with, for example, cross county partnership working and dedicated officer resource.
12. Within the stock of empty properties there will be a wide range of property type from small flats to large detached dwellings. It is felt that most benefit to the community would be derived from the re-use of empty stock to provide affordable family housing either for rent or for purchase by first time buyers or lower income groups.
13. Within the stock of empty properties there will be a range of disrepair and stock condition issues ranging from good condition new build to serious disrepair 'blight' properties. It is felt that most benefit to the community would be derived by addressing the issue of 'blight' type properties as a priority. It is currently estimated that relatively few properties will fall into this category and requiring action by the Council
14. It is suggested that the objectives for action in relation to empty properties in Fylde are to;
 - Increase the use of the existing housing stock to provide additional affordable housing for rent and purchase and
 - Remove 'blight' properties.

15. A number of actions will be required to achieve these objectives;

- An up to date survey of the long term empty property stock
- A filter to remove stock with an exemption from formal action
- An analysis of the remaining stock to provide information on location, type and size, condition, value etc.
- From the above analysis targeting of the priority type of property can take place.
- Options presented to the owner to return into use including informal persuasion, formal action, agreement to purchase, grant to renovate etc.

The options for action can be detailed as follows;

- Informal persuasion. This will involve officer time in visiting properties, searching for and making contact with owners. It is most likely to be successful where dwellings do not require too much remedial work and the owner just needs a push in the right direction to do something with the property. The threat of formal action will be a useful tool to push the owner to take action. This option is likely to need a significant amount of staff time to achieve meaningful outcomes.
- The Housing Act 2004 introduced new powers for Local Housing Authorities to take action in respect of long term vacant dwellings. It now gives the power to the council to take over the management of the dwelling to ensure its return to use. There is a detailed prescribed procedure to follow and approval from the residential property tribunal will be needed before making the appropriate management orders. It has been estimated that the costs of the procedure up to the point of obtaining the approval of the residential property tribunal will be in the order of £7k. This will be made up of staff time, preparation of evidence and representation at the tribunal etc. This cost is not recoverable. If this power is used some arrangements will be needed to improve the property and to manage it and its tenancies during the time that the management order remains in force. The order would last for up to 5 years in any individual case. It would be probable that the management functions would be carried out by a partner agency under some form of service level agreement. The costs incurred in improving the property and managing it can be recovered from the rental income. There is a risk that the amount of work required and the costs of management could exceed the rental income to be generated.
- Compulsory purchase powers have existed for some time and remain an option for consideration. The procedures are time consuming and take a long time to implement. The property will need to be purchased and a capital provision to do so will therefore be required. There is currently no budget provision within the capital programme for compulsory purchase orders. It is likely that compulsory purchase would only be used as a last resort if all other options have failed or are not appropriate.

14. The implementation of actions to achieve the suggested objectives will have resource implications which may include

- Revenue costs for increased staff activity

- Capital costs if grant assistance is considered. This may be found within the current discretionary housing grants budget but this budget is already under significant pressure
- Possible use of the commuted sums budget particularly if housing association partners become involved. The commuted sums budget is limited and there are some restrictions on its use depending on the individual section 106 agreements under which the sums have been provided.

15. This report raises a number of issues that require consideration by members. It gives an up to date position statement about empty properties in the council area and suggests actions that can be taken to deal with the issues. All of the actions will require time and resources and there is only a limited amount of work that can be done within existing resources.

16. The Department for Communities and Local Government has begun work on developing options and advice for local authorities, property owners and others to bring more empty properties back into use. It is expected that information will become available on this work by the end of December 2010. Members may wish to consider any advice that comes from this work before making decisions based on this position statement.

Conclusion

Empty properties are a wasted resource in the housing market. There is continuing pressure on the supply of housing from an increase in the number of households in Fylde. It is predicted that the growth in household numbers will continue. The new build development industry is not expected to meet the demand for additional housing particularly when considering the impact of the current recession. A number of issues have been highlighted in this report that suggests that action is needed to reduce the number of long term empty properties in the area but which needs to be balanced against other priorities in the private sector.

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
John Cottam	(01253) 658690	September 2010	

List of Background Papers		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Document name		Council office or website address

Attached documents - none

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Additional activity in relation to empty properties will require additional resources. The council is facing significant and uncertain financial pressures from 2011/12. Central government have made it very clear that there will be public expenditure cuts of at least an average of 25% which

	potentially could be up to 40% over the next 4 years and members will be faced with some difficult budget decisions to make during this period.
Legal	There are legally prescribed procedures to follow for a number of potential actions.
Community Safety	
Human Rights and Equalities	
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	
Health & Safety and Risk Management	

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	COMMUNITY FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	14 OCT 2010	7

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION

Public Item

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

Summary

In accordance with the instructions of Cabinet at its meeting on 15 September, the report is presented to the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee for its consideration. The report presents details of the recent review of the Shoreline Management Plan covering the Fylde coast and seeks adoption of the draft policies.

Recommendations

To consider recommending the adoption of the policies set out in the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan for the Fylde Coastline.

Reasons for recommendations

Adoption of the SMP2 will allow Fylde Borough Council to continue to apply for Grant in Aid from the Environment Agency for Flood and Coast Protection Schemes. Adoption of the SMP2 will give Fylde Borough Council a tool to deliver sustainable development, flood and coastal erosion risk management over the long term. Adoption of the SMP2 will meet Defra's Outcome Measure 9 target: Long Term Policies and Action Plans.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Without adoption of the SMP2 Fylde Borough Council will jeopardise its ability to apply for grant funding from the Environment Agency for Coast Protection Works.

Cabinet Portfolio

The item falls within the following Cabinet portfolio:

Environment & Partnerships: Councillor Thomas Threlfall

Report

1) Background

- a) Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are part of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management planning framework. The SMP sets the long term policy for the management of the coast and is taken forward through shoreline strategies and schemes.
- b) This is the first review of the SMP that was undertaken over 10 years ago and the review was started in 2008. Fylde is part of Coastal Cell 11, which runs from Great Ormes Head in Llandudno, North Wales to the Scottish Border in the Solway Firth, and in this review there is one SMP2 for the whole length, including the many large estuaries.
- c) Funding of the SMP2 for the English coastline has been secured through Defra, which is administered through the Environment Agency (EA). The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has funded the SMP2 for the Welsh Coastline. Halcrow Group Consultants were appointed to produce the plan, overseen by a Project management Board comprising Local Authorities, the EA, Natural England, English Heritage and Coastal Group Chairs.
- d) The SMP2 has been undertaken in stages in accordance with the Defra 2006 guidance, which is supported by WAG. The guidance gives four possible policy options:
 - Hold the Line-
maintain the existing coastline position
 - Advance the Line-
move the coastline seaward
 - Managed Realignment-
manage the movement of the coastline either landward or seaward
 - No Active Intervention-
No significant public money put into management of the coastline.
- e) The guidance states that a policy needs to be assigned to lengths of coastline over 100 years in each of three time epochs:

Short term- 0-20years
Medium term- 20-50years
Long term- 50-100years

- f) The draft SMP2 was published for public consultation from October 2009 to February 2010 with comments in some areas being allowed until the end of March 2010. The draft SMP2 was available at various council buildings along the coastline and press releases were issued from each council to advertise the public consultation. In addition all of the documents were available on the Coastal Group website at www.mycoastline.org . There were also public meetings and more local meetings to discuss the draft plan with stakeholders and the public. The parishes of Saint Annes on the Sea, Bryning with Warton, Freckleton, and Newton with Clifton were consulted as part of the exercise.
- g) All the comments that were received were reviewed by the project team to assess whether changes needed to be made to the draft plan. The consultant has amended the documentation as the result of changes and has written a consultation report. The consultation report which gives responses to the comments received has been published on the Coastal Group website for Stakeholders to see. A copy of the relevant parts of this report is appended.

2) Implications for Fylde

- a) The draft policies for the majority of the Fylde frontage were to hold the Line for all three time epochs.
- b) The Long Term Managed Realignment proposed between Freckleton Marsh and Naze Point would seek opportunities to build set-back defences where practicable. This would manage the risk to the sewage works and agricultural land in the flood zone. It would also have the potential of creating replacement habitat to mitigate losses elsewhere.
- c) No active intervention was proposed between Naze Point and Warton Bank for all time epochs. This is due to the fact there are no existing defences, and it is not economically justified to construct new defences in the future, due to insufficient assets being at risk. Short term Managed Realignment is, however, to be considered at Bush Farm creek, with Hold the Line of the set back defences at Bush Creek Farm being the draft policy for the Medium and Long Term. This is due to there being limited assets at risk, and shoreline defences are unlikely to be economically justified.
- d) Short Term Managed Realignment of the frontage between St. Annes (northern boundary) to Squires Gate will ensure the dunes are managed as the main front line defence. Specific Requirements, however, will be determined for a secondary defence line set back at the road south of Squires Gate to manage breaches in the dunes, and implemented if viable. Flood risk mapping needs to be improved in this area to assist in this process.
- e) Part of the SMP documentation is the Action Plan which sets out actions that need to be undertaken to achieve the policy. Delivery of the SMP Action Plan forms part of the NI189 score for Fylde Borough Council. This is a Defra key performance indicator, which records the percentage of agreed actions to implement long term flood and coastal risk management plans that are being undertaken satisfactorily.

Risk Assessment

The proposal will provide the Council with a tool to deliver sustainable development, flood and coastal risk management over the long term. It should be used as evidence in the Local Developments Frameworks.

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
Paul Walker	(01253) 658493	4 October 2010	

List of Background Papers		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Shoreline Management Plan 2	20 August 2010	www.mycoastline.org

Attached documents

Annex B includes the relevant parts of the Consultation Report. There are also a number of appendices to the SMP2 containing supporting information which have not been included in this report.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Without adoption of the SMP2, Fylde Borough Council will jeopardise its ability to apply for grant funding from the Environment Agency for Coast Protection Works.
Legal	None arising from the report.
Community Safety	None arising from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The SMP2 has had to undergo a Habitats Regulations assessment to assess the impacts on European designate habitats. If there is likely to be an adverse impact on a European site then the SMP will need to go to the Secretary of State to be approved. This will have no impact on the policies for the Fylde Coastline.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from the report.

ANNEX B6 – Sub-Cell 11b

Consultation materials & Meeting notes

Press Releases

Meeting Notes:

- West Lancashire 23rd November 2009
- Blackpool 15th December 2009



Blackpool Council



FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Date: 11 December 2009

Ref: PR/343/2009
Fylde Ref: 127ns

Press Release

Working together to tackle coastal change on the Fylde

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Councils are working with the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group, the Environment Agency and other organisations to plan the best way to manage the changing coastline, now and for future generations. And your help is needed to make sure that the plans are realistic, suitable and achievable.

The Fylde Coast is changing, it always has and it always will. Climate change and rising sea levels will increase the risk of flooding and erosion to the coast, affecting the places where people live, work and play. A new plan is being produced which considers different ways to manage the coast and we want your views on the suggestions that have been made.

The plan proposes investment in Fylde Borough to maintain the current level of defence along the main populated coastline of Lytham St Annes. This could require building work to be carried out to develop sea defences that will keep the current coastline the same. Other, less populated, stretches could be the subject of managed realignment where an economic case to invest in defences may be harder to make.

Councillor David Eaves, Cabinet Member for Environmental Wellbeing at Fylde Borough Council said: "Erosion and increased tide levels pose a risk of flooding to our populated areas. These risks may not present themselves for another 50 to 100 years but we must act now and make provisions to decrease the impact. It is vital that people have their say on the Shoreline Management Plan to make sure their views about their homes, businesses and interests are represented"

Blackpool has invested millions in to its sea defences and the plan reflects this suggesting only that the current level of defence is maintained.

Councillor Maxine Callow, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Regeneration at Blackpool, said: "These plans cover the whole of the Fylde Coast and will build on how our landscape changes in the future. We must protect ourselves from the climate changes and thankfully our investment into sea defences has dealt with this well."

Wyre's coastline is varied and has been changing shape with the multi-million pound sea defence project at Cleveleys. Investment will continue over the coming years and the Shoreline Management Plan will provide a framework for future projects to link in to.

Councillor Vivien Taylor, Living Places Portfolio Holder for Wyre Borough Council, said: "Wyre is very enthusiastic about these long term plans which will effectively protect our communities against coastal flooding.

"They underpin the investment we have already made in coastal defences, not least of all the award-winning Cleveleys project."

Pete Fox, Environment Agency North West Flood and Coastal Risk Manager – “It’s really important that local communities work with the Environment Agency, Local Authorities and others to produce the Shoreline Management Plans and Coastal Erosion Risk Maps. This will ensure we all get the best possible outcomes for people and the environment in Fylde and beyond.”

A consultation event will take place for the whole of the Fylde Coast at the Savoy Hotel in Blackpool on Tuesday 15 December 2009 between 7pm and 8.30pm. Plans can also be viewed at www.mycoastline.org where you can also leave your comments.

Fylde Borough Council will also have a display in the Town Hall in St Annes throughout December, while Wyre Borough Council is currently running a poster campaign in libraries and other public venues.

-ends-

Notes to editors

Once completed, the plans will be released around June 2010, along with maps showing predicted rates of erosion along the whole of the coast. These will be used to assist planners in making decisions about development and to help shape the work that Local Authorities and the Environment Agency do to protect homes and business and improve the environment.

During the consultation and beyond we will be talking to local communities along the coast about the plan and maps to help them understand what it means to them and get their input.

The Shoreline Management Plan covers the coast along North West England and North Wales and breaks this area down into individual sections. Each section is given its own action that sets out how it will be managed in the short, medium and long terms.

For more information about this Press Release, please call Nathan Skelton, Communications Officer, on 01253 477189, or email Nathans@fylde.gov.uk

Meeting Notes

West Lancashire Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Consultation Event 23rd November 2009 Notes

Present: Trevor Dunn, West Lancashire Council
Graham Lymbery, Sefton Council
Fiona Crayston, Blackpool Council
Paul Hatch, West Lancashire Council
Richard Shearer, Environment Agency
West Lancashire Elected Members and Parish Councillors

GL gave a brief presentation and then there was a round table discussion about the proposed policies.

It was felt that accretion is occurring along the West Lancashire Coastline since the dredging at Southport was stopped.

Policy Unit 1.3

The consensus around the room was that HTL was the correct policy for this length. However MR in the longer term may not be necessary as the shoreline will be accreting.

There were discussions about the scour on Hesketh Outmarsh that seems to be very quick at the controlled breach points, and it was questioned whether this should have an effect on the SMP policy.
Also how are the processes in this area going to change with the loss of the training walls in the Ribble.

Policy Unit 1.4

No issues

GL thanked all for coming.

Blackpool Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Consultation Event
15th December 2009, Savoy Hotel, Blackpool
Notes

Present: Andy Parsons, Halcrow
 Fiona Crayston, Blackpool Council
 Jo Marriner, Environment Agency
 Carl Green, Wyre Council
 Lee Swift, Environment Agency
 Andy Shore, Environment Agency
 Stakeholders including Elected Members, Civic Trusts and
 landowners, members of public

CG welcomed all and introduced the evening

The members of the project team introduced themselves

AP gave a presentation and then asked for general questions.

Would the new Cleveleys scheme be able to withstand a 1 in 1000 event like the Cumbria floods?

CG stated that it has been designed to a 1 in 200 event in 50 years time so up to a 1 in 500 event there would be overtopping but it would give quite good protection. It is worth noting that the Cumbria event was a 1 in 1000 event but could happen again.

ATL is rare but it has already been done in Wyre and Blackpool. What impact assessment has been done for those?

AP said that at each level in of coastal planning there is an environmental assessment which has much more detail in the studies at scheme level than is contained in the assessments in the SMP.

Is the SMP going to help people who are at risk of flooding and have difficulty getting insurance.

CG stated that if a property has 1 in 75 year protection they should be able to get insurance. Schemes now give greater protection than that so it should help but really the insurance companies take it as a business decision.

AP added that the SMP doesn't look at the standard of protection, that will start to be looked at in the strategies and probably wouldn't be finalised until a scheme is designed.

To what extent is fluvial flooding looked at in the SMP?

AP stated that the fluvial flooding is covered in a Catchment Flood Management Plan which is taken into account in the SMP as it was written before it.

CG split the group into tables of geographical areas where a representative from the project team was available to answer more specific questions.

Blackpool Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Consultation Event Specific Comments Raised

This is a summary report of the specific questions and points that attendees raised whilst in the individual breakout sessions at this meeting. If you feel that your question or point has not been noted, please contact Fiona Crayston at smp2@mycoastline.org. All relevant comments will be considered as part of the SMP review.

Royal Yachting Association

Expressed concern at the situation at Fleetwood Marina.

Also concerned that RYA had not been invited directly but had to seek information. *Letters were sent to RYA at a National and NW region level (Graham Knox) and all letters were sent with a line in that they should be passed on to anyone with an interest.*

Wyre Estuary

Concern from some in the area about the recent sedimentation trend and wanted to link this to recent schemes on the open coast. It was explained it was unlikely to be due to the new schemes and is likely to be part of a longer term trend of sediment transport which is shown in CETaSS.

There were discussions around planning permission being granted on the flood plain with a proposed housing estate south of Fleetwood.

The erosion rates for Glasson Docks were queried as it is thought they may be underestimated in the SMP.

There was concern about the inspection and maintenance of the sea walls at Fleetwood.

There is an ongoing beach management study and it was questioned when the results were going to be released. There were also questions about the coastal monitoring and it was explained that the data will be available on the Channel Coast Observatory website in the future.

Blackpool-River Wyre

The embankment at Pilling seems to be stated as an earth embankment but there is actually rock armour along it as well.

The dykes need to be dredged as the gates in the seawall prevent sediment being washed out and the build up leads to drainage problems. Could this be looked at in the action plan?

It was felt that a Fylde Coast Beach Management plan should be looked at in the Action Plan given the sediment linkages along the frontage.

North West & North Wales Coastal Group

North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2

Annex B I I

Public Consultation Location Specific Responses and Comments: Sub-cell I I b

Ribble Estuary – 11b 1				
Response from?	Response	Agree to draft Policies?	SMP2 Team Comments	Proposed Action
PCR_3 North Meols Parish Council	<p>11b 1.3 Crossens Pumping Station to Hesketh Out Marsh West (Hundred End Gutter)</p> <p>Banks Marsh, seawall</p> <p>At present, because of EA's assessment of Banks as a high flood risk area with main cause of flooding inundation through the sea wall, Banks is suffering from both planning and insurance blight. It would appear that holding the line would maintain this situation, which we cannot allow to continue as the residents of the village want to be able to regenerate the village to ensure 'sustainability'. I think it imperative that the comments made by myself at the meeting be investigated so that the flood risk assessment can be reviewed and changed to lift the blight. I was discussing the meeting with a parish council colleague and he suggested another option, funding permitting, and that is to rebuild the older seawall as a second line of defence.</p>	Y with reserva tions	<p>Support for draft policy is acknowledged.</p> <p>The SMP recommends that studies are undertaken in the medium term to investigate Managed Realignment opportunities in the long term and implement where practicable. The suggestion of improving the old sea wall as a secondary defence, funding permitting, could be taken forward in the short term epoch and would not compromise longer term proposed policy. A new item will be added to the draft action plan.</p> <p>There is an action already recommended in the draft action plan (Action 11.1) to continue with improvements to flood risk maps and inundation modelling to provide improved flood warning service.</p>	Add new item to draft Action Plan for PU 1.3
PCR_75 RSPB	<p>11b 1.3 Crossens to Hesketh Outmarsh West</p> <p>- We are unclear why MR is not proposed earlier than the 50-100 years period, especially as HTL would only protect agriculture land. We would recommend bringing this Preferred Policy forward.</p>		<p>Due to the large number of MR opportunities in the Ribble identified in the draft SMP, multiple MR undertaken at the same time may have significant implications on estuary processes and therefore we have recommended a staggered MR approach throughout the estuary. In some locations MR is the draft policy for the medium term, while in others studies are recommended to take place in the medium term to look at further MR opportunities in the long term.</p> <p>Draft Action Plan item 11b 1.1 proposes an estuary wide study to further investigate and consult on plans for managed realignment..</p> <p>There are also a number of linked studies being undertaken to support the SMP, including a sediment study which will consider the implications of large scale MR in the Ribble.</p>	No action required
	<p>11b 1.6 Hesketh Outmarsh East to White Bridge, Rufford</p> <p>- We are unclear why MR is not proposed earlier than the 50-100 years period, especially as HTL would only protect agriculture land. We would recommend bringing this Preferred Policy forward.</p>			
	<p>11b 1.7 White Bridge, Rufford, to Old Railway Embkmt, Much Hoole Marsh (River Douglas right bank)</p> <p>- We are unclear why MR is not proposed earlier than the 50-100 years period, especially as HTL would only protect agriculture land. We would recommend bringing this Preferred Policy forward.</p>			
	<p>11b 1.8 Old Railway Embankment, Much Hoole Marsh House to Hutton Marsh (Pilots Cottage)</p> <p>- We are unclear why MR is not proposed earlier than the 50-100 years period, especially as HTL would only protect agriculture land. We would recommend bringing this Preferred Policy forward.</p>			
	<p>11b 1.13 Freckleton Marsh (West end of sewage works) to Naze Point</p> <p>- We are unclear why MR is not proposed earlier than the 50-100 years period, especially as HTL would only protect agriculture land. We would recommend bringing this Preferred Policy forward.</p>			
PCR_113 EA NW	<p>11b 1.12</p> <p>This policy unit seems too large to adequately identify managed re-alignment options. The policy of Hold the Line for all three epochs may restrict opportunities to promote wider re-alignment in the vicinity of Lea. Possible options are to split the policy unit or to place further emphasis on localised opportunities for managed realignment at Lea Marsh</p>		<p>MR was not considered appropriate for most of this frontage due to the significant area of development in the flood zone along eastern part of the frontage, and the risk of contamination due to the historic and authorised landfill sites located west of Lea Marsh.</p> <p>It was noted in the Environmental "justification" column of the draft policy statement that there may be localised opportunities for short to medium term MR adjacent to the creek at Lea Marsh an action to investigate / progress this was recommended in the draft Action Plan. This can however be further emphasised by additional text to the short term policy & the mapping can be revised not to include the creek.</p>	<p>Revise mapping not to include creek at Lea marsh.</p> <p>Add text to short term policy approach for 11b 1.2: "Investigate small Managed Realignment / habitat creation opportunity at Lea Marsh and implement if practicable."</p>
	<p>11b 1.13</p> <p>The policy is for managed re-alignment in the third epoch. There may be an economic argument for</p>		<p>The consultation draft policy does already allow for potential implementation in the second epoch as it says "Manage flood risk by</p>	No action required

Ribble Estuary – 11b 1				
Response from?	Response	Agree to draft Policies?	SMP2 Team Comments	Proposed Action
	<p>this to be brought forward to the second epoch. This would also promote the potential for Newton Marsh as a site for habitat creation, but we accept that stakeholder engagement would be required if the draft policy is to be changed</p>		<p>maintaining existing defences to an adequate standard. Undertake studies to investigate Managed Realignment opportunities in the long term and implement where practicable.”</p> <p>The SMP action plan recommends that an estuary wide study is undertaken to investigate various Managed Realignment opportunities in the long term and develop plans to implement where practicable to create a more sustainable defence alignment. Include coastal processes and habitats study; stakeholder consultation, more detailed economic appraisal; investigation of options for adapting paths and rights of way to coastal change.</p>	
	<p>11b 1.14</p> <p>It could be argued that the policy here should be no active intervention for the full policy unit. The map allows for re-alignment at Poolstream (Bush Farm Creek in the SMP) but this policy may not be necessary at the time of publication of the plan. Further discussion required.</p>		<p>Following response and follow up discussion with EA NW the policy has been revised to indicate no active intervention for the full policy unit.</p>	<p>Revise to the same NAI policy for the whole PU</p>
<p>PCR_13</p> <p>Individual, Lytham St Annes</p>	<p>11b 1.19, 1.20, 1.21</p> <p>What work / when to reinforce the dunes & access to the beach areas of St Annes? There are cuttings in the defences now to allow this access e.g. bottom of Highbury Rd, St Annes where dunes have been flattened to access beach sport shop. Why are these access(es) allowed without flood gates or other water flow controls?</p> <p>Clear & signed access points through dunes and similar protection to beach? Make these points into weatherproof footpaths with duck boards where required so they are likely to be used.</p> <p>Check by manned patrol at times of high tide / storm that floodgates or similar controls are closed (HM Coastguard?)</p>	Y	<p>Support for draft policy is acknowledged.</p> <p>Local management activities are beyond the scope of the SMP. However, we included two actions in the consultation draft Action Plan to help address these issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise flood maps to take account of potential for breach of the dunes. Develop dune management plan to define actions necessary to maintain conservation features of dunes whilst providing natural coastal defence. <p>Propose to add need to manage flood risk related to access cuttings through dunes.</p>	<p>Add “including management of flood risks from cuttings and / or access routes through the dunes” to draft action plan item 2.13</p>
<p>PCR_65</p> <p>Individual, Tarleton</p>	<p>Concerned about land drainage, agricultural land protection.</p> <p>Facilities for the drainage of inland water into the sea must be made available and maintained. Major outfalls are vitally important for land water to discharge from areas behind the embankments.</p> <p>If adequate outfalls are not provided, flooding to the land side of embankments will become a real possibility and a greater threat than inundation by the sea.</p> <p>The continued silting of the Ribble Estuary may prejudice the efficiency of land drainage gullies on the seaward side and a programme of regular inspection, maintenance and dredging of these channels needs to be in place.</p> <p>The importance of providing and ensuring the integrity of the outfall drainage channels for the protection of property, including Grade 1 agricultural land, must override any ecological or environmental factors. There can be no compromise on this due to the importance of protecting property and prime agricultural land.</p>	Y	<p>Support for draft policy is acknowledged.</p> <p>The issue with siltation of outfall channels has been raised in other areas. While it would appear efficient to agree a strategic approach to managing the issue on the designated sites with Natural England and other stakeholders, this needs to be addressed through an Action Plan item from the SMP.</p>	<p>Adding text to action 1.1 to include ‘Assess needs for intervention to manage land drainage in areas where saltmarsh accretion causes problems at outfalls’ (as already included in other policy areas throughout the SMP)</p>
<p>PCR_70</p> <p>Friends of the Estuary</p>	<p>11b 1.16, 1.17, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21</p> <p>The shore defence seawall is breaking up. One reason is that trees (e.g. Sycamore) are now growing there. The prom railings and slope is old and has not been kept in repair and maintained. The footpath is breaking up quite badly and one area in front of Fairhaven Sand Dunes is sinking.</p>	Y	<p>Support for draft policy is acknowledged.</p> <p>Fylde BC is, jointly with Blackpool Council, developing a coastal strategy that will consider the long term management of the defences. The need to maintain the defences was noted in the draft</p>	<p>No action required</p>

Ribble Estuary – 11b 1				
Response from?	Response	Agree to draft Policies?	SMP2 Team Comments	Proposed Action
			SMP Action Plan,	
PCR_79 Individual, St Anne's	11b 1.19, 1.20, 1.21 Concerned by the lack of management of sand dunes.		Management activities are beyond the scope of the SMP. However, the draft action plan already included an action to help address this issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop dune management plan to define actions necessary to maintain conservation features of dunes whilst providing natural coastal defence. 	No action required
PCR_139 Preston and District Wildfowlers Association	<p>11b 1.9</p> <p>Preston and District Wildfowlers Association (PDWA) have been in existence since 1953. We have 110 full members plus a small number of junior members and around 20 “waiting list” members mainly from the local area. The Association is affiliated to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), which is a national organisation representing sporting shooting and conservation of wildlife/habitats with over 130,000 members.</p> <p>PDWA own the sporting rights on the tidal saltmarsh known as Longton and Hutton Marshes. PDWA also have 81 years remaining of a lease of the sporting rights on the reclaimed land referred to at Location (Policy Unit) 1.9. We understand from the consultation that this land has been identified for possible managed re-alignment within 0-20 years.</p> <p>PDWA have managed part of this reclaimed land as a non-shooting wildfowl sanctuary area since the land was reclaimed. The area managed has a high conservation status and regularly holds significant numbers of both breeding and wintering wildfowl. In winter months there are often well over a thousand wildfowl present.</p> <p>PDWA also manage the adjacent area of previously reclaimed saltmarsh (to the North East) as a non-shooting wildfowl sanctuary area. As stated above we also own and exercise the sporting rights on the saltmarsh on the other two sides of the reclaimed land.</p> <p>Our wildfowling activities are strictly controlled by both legislation and the rules of the association. Our activities are also covered by a Consent from Natural England as the area concerned is within the SSSI.</p> <p>PDWA therefore already successfully manage and control the conservation and habitat of part of the area designated for re-alignment, and on the salt marsh on three of its four sides.</p> <p>We recognise the environmental (and flood prevention) benefits of returning this area to tidal influence and improving its current unfavourable status. PDWA are actively looking to become more involved in land management and habitat improvement projects (particularly development of new wetland areas), for the benefit of the local community, our members and nature conservation.</p> <p>PDWA are therefore willing (and wish to) be involved in any managed re-alignment of this area of land and to help with its future management. We would be happy to, for example, take on Higher Level Stewardship agreements with Natural England as part of our commitment to manage this area effectively. Natural England officially recognises the value of properly managed wildfowling to conservation.</p> <p>PDWA asks that the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2 consultation recognises the long standing and culturally important activity of wildfowling and the sensitive nature of the habitats over which wildfowlers shoot and that we have the opportunity to be directly involved with this exciting re-alignment project.</p>	Y	<p>Support for draft policy is acknowledged.</p> <p>Include the Preston and District Wildfowlers Association as a stakeholder in future strategy / schemes and continue the discussions regarding Hutton marsh, PUI 1b 1:9.</p>	EA NW, to note the need for more detailed consultation with PDWA.

Ribble Estuary – 11b 1				
Response from?	Response	Agree to draft Policies?	SMP2 Team Comments	Proposed Action
PCR_174 Natural England	With reference to Appendix J6 1.2 Sub Cell 11b section H (Hutton Marsh), it is stated that private upgrading of sea defences has caused some parts of the SPA to be in unfavourable condition and that it should be brought back under tidal influence. It may be necessary to refer to the timing of the upgraded work and the designation, to ensure that any work to bring the area under tidal influence is carried out in line with the conservation objectives of the site.		Response noted	Update Appendix J text accordingly
PCR_171 Sefton MBC	iii) The draft recommendations for Sub –cell 11b1 and the predicted implications of the draft policies being adopted in this location are noted. While there are some predicted negative implications, on balance the implications are broadly positive. The draft recommendations and draft Action Plan are supported.	Y		No action required
PCR_205 David Borrow MP	I have been approached by my constituent, Mr Bob Foster of the above address. My constituent would like to know why Croston in West Lancashire has not been included in the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan. I would be grateful for your comments on the question my constituent has asked. I look forward to hearing from you soon.		Response letter has been sent, directly to MP, indicating that: The area at Croston, which Mr Bob Foster queries, is slightly inland of the River Douglas and therefore is not specifically mentioned in the SMP. However, the area is covered by Policy Unit 11b 1.7 and the flood risk to Croston has been considered as part of the evaluation of policies for that unit.	No action required
PCR_214 Individual Hesketh Bank	The draft SMP on the River Douglas or inland. REMADE (Lancashire County Council) has [proposed the] disused Southport to Preston Railway Bridge as a new crossing, could this gate be locked to stop fast flow tides, with a footway on top of the gates.		Details of the proposed new bridge and scope of design are beyond the scope of the SMP. The response will be passed on to EA NW, who would be consulted as land / defence owner / manager.	EA NW to pass comment to Area team.

St Annes to Rossall Point – 11b 2				
Response from?	Response	Agree to draft Policies?	SMP2 Team Comments	Proposed Action
PCR_26 Blackpool & Fylde College	Interested in sedimentation and the effects on birds with increased number of residents and tourists attracted to the seawall.	Y	Support for draft policy is acknowledged.	No action required

St Annes to Rossall Point – 11b 2				
Response from?	Response	Agree to draft Policies?	SMP2 Team Comments	Proposed Action
PCR_175 Blackpool Council (Planning)	<p>Concerns: Main Document: Page 24: ‘While the preferred policy for many of these areas is to hold the line in the long term, there may be a detrimental impact on tourism through loss of beaches at places such as along the North Wales Coast and at Blackpool, where it will become increasingly technically difficult to retain beaches as sea level rise causes coastal squeezes pressures’. – The Blackpool Local Development Framework (LDF) places great emphasis on the coast and beach as a recreational, environmental and economic asset, and any loss of beach would have a detrimental effect on the resort. As part of the LDF, the Blackpool Core Strategy emphasises the vital role the coast will play in the sustainable growth and regeneration of Blackpool. To ensure the beach remains a valuable asset, we would support future management options to sustain the beach, including the development of a long term beach management strategy.</p> <p>Main Document: Page 27: ‘promote use of the SMP2 recommendations in spatial planning of land use’ – Reference to the SMP2 will be included in the Blackpool Preferred Option Core Strategy.</p>		<p>Response noted.</p> <p>The SMP has recognised that it is likely to become increasingly technically difficult to retain beaches with sea level rise in the future. Therefore the SMP has recommended the need to develop a long term beach management strategy along the Blackpool frontage to deal with the long term trend in beach erosion in order to maintain the beach as a valuable asset.</p>	No action required

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee



Date	Wednesday, 29 September 2010
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Keith Hyde (Chairman) Councillor Roger Small (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Christine Akeroyd, Maxine Chew, Tony Ford, Kathleen Harper, Ken Hopwood, Linda Nulty, Janine Owen, Paul Rigby, John Singleton
Other Councillors	Susan Fazackerley (Deputy Leader) Cheryl Little (Portfolio Holder for Social Wellbeing)
Officers	Phillip Woodward, Clare Platt, Tracy Scholes, Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Paul Drinnan, David Gillett, Lyndsey Lacey, Darius Ward, Viv Wood

Membership - Community Focus Scrutiny Committee

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman made reference to the recent membership changes to the committee. In doing so, he welcomed Councillor Roger Small, newly appointed Vice-Chairman to the meeting.

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. No members declared any interests.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 8 July 2010 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

There were no substitutions

4. Open Golf Championship - Lytham St Annes

Paul Drinnan (Head of Regeneration) and Viv Wood (Tourism Officer) gave a comprehensive presentation to committee on the preparations that were being undertaken in relation to the Open Golf Championship being held at the Royal Lytham St Annes in 2012.

In brief, the report included the background to Royal Lytham St Annes hosting the international event, the involvement of Royal and Ancient which run the competition, the value of the Open to Fylde and the various opportunities/long term benefits the event offered to the area.

Mr Drinnan explained that a Project Board had been created that would deal with four strands of organisation of the event (details of which were included in the report) In addition, he highlighted the importance of the public realm works in terms of showcasing the event and the significance of the classic resort concept as a marketing tool.

Mr Drinnan highlighted some of the challenges for 2012 including:

- Support for the public realm project action plan
- Maximise investment through use of the voluntary sector / training programmes
- Support through the capital programme
- Partners/ LSP support
- Need to provide high quality visitor information services
- Support from the regional growth fund

Members of the committee sought clarification on various matters including: the Regional Growth Fund, responsibility for car parking, no of beds in the area, impact on the local economy including cafés/ restaurants and local shops and the legacy of the event. In addition, various suggestions were tabled by members at the meeting including the possibility of using Lowther to stage golfing events, the use of large screen to show the live event to a larger audience and “pass outs” etc.

Following detailed consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED to note the report and present an updated report to a future meeting of the committee when details of the funding arrangements are known.

(The Chairman indicated that he was satisfied that the matter was not controversial and dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)

5. Transforming Community Services (TCS) Programme

By way of introduction, the Chairman (Councillor Keith Hyde) made reference to the meeting held on 9 September when an informal presentation was given

to members by Sally Parnaby (Director of Regional Development and Provider Services) and Carole Sharrock (Head of Strategy) of NHS North Lancashire, on the Transforming Community Services Programme.

An Executive Summary and briefing paper detailing the background of the TCS Programme and the work undertaken to date by North Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust had previously been circulated.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

(The Chairman indicated that he was satisfied that the matter was not controversial and dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)

6. General Fund Budget Monitoring Report 2010/11 Position as at Quarter ended 30 June 2010

Tracy Scholes (Director of Governance and Partnerships) together with other relevant Directors provided members of the committee with an update on the General Fund 'hot spots' under and over spending for the quarter ended 30 June 2010.

The report provided details of the actions being taken to address the 'hot spots' variances in excess of 10K against the profiled budget. In particular, the report highlighted budget areas of concern that impinged on the Council's general income and areas that required further attention relating to costs for the first quarter.

Members of the committee sought clarification on various matters including: vacancy savings, concessionary fares, car parking income/enforcement, land charges (revocation of personal search fees) sewage/ environmental services costs at Lowther and general utility costs. The relevant Directors addressed each matter at the meeting.

The Chief Executive (Phillip Woodward) further reported that since the publication of the report, additional analysis had been undertaken of information received from other agencies about budget projections. In this respect, he addressed the committee on the implications of the public spending reductions and the associated impact for Fylde.

In his report, he made reference to key assumptions made in the existing budget strategy (March 2010) and the subsequent implications of the Government announcements (June 2010) which essentially impacts a number of key areas:

- A reduction in public sector budgets by an average of 25% over 4 years
- Council Tax freeze in 2011-12
- An increase in VAT to 20% (Jan 11)
- Public sector pay freeze in 2011/12

- Immediate reductions in special grant streams
- Concessionary fares responsibility transfer to County Council
- Review of public sector pensions

The Chief Executive further outlined key dates for the Comprehensive Spending Review and the Local Government Grant Settlement. In addition, he explained the potential local risks and details of how the Council was intending to respond to the public spending reductions. In doing so, he stated that it was intended to set up an 'all council' briefing session in early November on the matter.

A chart depicting the journey so far (approved budget compared to budget if no cuts/savings had been approved) was circulated at the meeting.

Following detailed consideration it was RESOLVED to note the current position and the contents of the Chief Executive's report.

(The Chairman indicated that he was satisfied that the matter was not controversial and dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)

7. Performance Exception Report

Tracy Scholes (Director of Governance and Partnerships) presented a report detailing the performance exceptions for data for Council for the first quarter of 2010/11. The report highlighted both good and poor performance to date measured against the targets set for the current financial year.

Particular consideration was given at the meeting to areas of under performance including: (NI154) net additional homes provided, (FLI020) percentage of undisputed invoices paid within 30 days, (NI181) time taken to process housing benefit/council tax benefit new claims and change events, (FL1019) the number of missed bins per 100,000 collections, (FL017) percentage of phone calls answered and (XN114) avoidable contact made to the Council.

Councillor Akeroyd asked about the costs associated with vet bills. In response, Mr Oldfield outlined the Council's statutory responsibility for stray dogs and the associated cost implications.

Councillor Nulty sought clarification on the net number of additional homes (NI 154). Mr Walker confirmed that this related to the total number of additional homes within the borough.

Councillor Nulty also sought further details on the time taken to process housing benefits/council tax benefit claims (NI181). In response, Tracy Scholes provided an overview of the issues associated with the System Replacement project which placed various challenges on the team. She explained that the transfer of systems had inevitable impacts on processing times which in turn affected the recovery of former performance levels

Mrs Scholes further stated that in addition to the normal workloads, every member of staff required training and that this was further compounded by the time required to undertake data cleansing and reconciliation work. She added that the situation was further exacerbated as a result of the recession in that workloads had increased by a considerable amount of new claims.

In addition to the above, members commented on (XNI14) Avoidable contact and (FL109) the number of missed bins per 100,000. These were addressed by the relevant directors.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED to ask Marie McRoberts (Assistant Director: Revenues and Benefits) to provide an update to the next meeting of the committee on matters associated with NI181.

(The Chairman indicated that he was satisfied that the matter was not controversial and dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)

8. Annual Report - Care and Repair (Wyre & Fylde)

In accordance with the recommendations of the task and Finish group in 2007, the third Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde) Annual Report was presented to the committee by David Gillett (Housing Manager) and Councillor Cheryl Little (Portfolio Holder for Social Wellbeing)

In brief, the report provided details of the background to the service, key objectives of the service and its performance framework together with funding arrangements. In addition, it provided an evaluation of the service based on trends and comparisons.

Included within the report was a copy of the Care and Repair progress report, an analysis of Customer Satisfaction Surveys 2009/10, an analysis of Handyperson Customer satisfaction questionnaires and the Handy person / small repairs handyperson data.

Councillor Cheryl Little (Portfolio Holder for Social Wellbeing) endorsed the contents of the report and in doing so, stated that there was continued evidence that during 2009/10 there had been increased interest in the scheme from residents of Fylde and that the Care and Repair service had performed well in relation to its set targets and objectives.

In summary, Councillor Little reminded members that the service was provided on an impartial basis and provided support to vulnerable members of the Community. In addition, it provided support to a number of Community Safety initiatives of which she supported. She added that its ongoing funding remained a critical issue to the continued delivery of the service and as such, sought the committee's support for its continuity.

Following discussion it was RESLOVED:

1. To note the contents of the Fylde and Wyre Care and Repair Annual Report and support the continued funding of the service.

2. To convey the Committee's thanks and appreciation for the excellent service provided.

(The Chairman indicated that he was satisfied that the matter was not controversial and dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)

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