

MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Thursday, 14 October 2021
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Jayne Nixon (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Paula Brearley, Noreen Griffiths, Will Harris, Roger Lloyd, Sally Nash-Walker, Bobby Rigby.
Officers Present:	Paul Walker, Darren Bell, Adam Sugden, Katharine McDonnell and Hannah Kirk.
Other Attendees:	Councillor Karen Buckley

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 2 September 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitutes on this occasion.

Decision Items

4. Review of Flood Risk and Surface Water Management in Fylde

Paul Walker, Director of Development Services, presented the report of the member working group, established by the committee, to review flood risk and surface water management at Fylde.

He advised that in November 2020, the committee established a working group, of cross party members to ensure it was representative of the borough as a whole.

Mr Walker provided a detailed overview of the Working Group's research and considerations. He explained that following consideration of the legislative background, which provided the framework and informed the work of those responsible bodies, the working group met with representatives from all the key bodies. These included members of the Planning team at Fylde, representatives of the Local Lead Flood Authority, Lancashire County Council Highways, Unite Utilities and Environment Agency.

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The working had also taken evidence from landowners, home owners, businesses, the National Farmers Union, charities and councillors. The evidence from these groups had been particularly compelling and had helped inform the report.

Additionally the working group had also launched an open access survey for the public, with 327 responses.

Finally the working group had considered what best practice was available; had undertaken a number of site visits across the Ribble and Wyre estuaries; and had considered national policy.

The final report, before committee, reflected and align its areas of concerns and recommendations with the latest government strategy, the National Flood and Coastal Flood Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

Mr Walker illustrated the range of the concerns in the report by highlighting a number of those concerns. He advised that each of the 24 concerns then translates into a number of recommendations. He highlighted a number of the recommendations to illustrate how the working group proposed the concerns would be addressed.

Mr Walker concluded by advising that the proposed additional resource would be included in the Corporate Management Review, currently underway, and a further report would come to committee on completion of that review. He proposed that the committee may wish to consider receiving an annual report on progress of the recommendations being implemented.

In response to questions, Mr Walker, Mr Bell and Mr Sugden advised that the enforcement of planning conditions was initially delegated to officers who then report to Planning committee. It was important to note that working in partnership with other responsible parties was essential for considering enforcement.

It was also advised that the extra local resource would enable the council to deal with many of the concerns regarding housing development, and associated drainage schemes in a more focussed and timely way. It would also enable the council to engage with responsible authorities and developers.

The Committee expressed support for the findings and recommendations within the report, and thanked the working group and officers for their work.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to:

1. adopt the findings and recommendations of the flood risk and surface water management working group report;
2. notes that a further report will be presented to the committee on the recommendation for increased resources following a corporate review of the management arrangements that is currently being carried out by senior officers; and
3. agrees to an annual report being presented to monitor progress with implementation and delivery of the recommendations.

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