



Agenda

Finance and Democracy Committee

Date:	Monday, 29 March 2021 at 6:30pm
Venue:	Remote meeting via Zoom
Committee members:	<p>Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Vince Settle (Vice-Chairman)</p> <p>Councillors Peter Anthony, Peter Collins, Ellie Gaunt, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Michael Withers.</p>

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Public Platform

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

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

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1	Declarations of Interest: Declarations of interest, and the responsibility for declaring the same, are matters for elected members. Members are able to obtain advice, in writing, in advance of meetings. This should only be sought via the Council's Monitoring Officer. However, it should be noted that no advice on interests sought less than one working day prior to any meeting will be provided.	1
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DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	4

COUNCIL TAX & BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNT POLICY

PUBLIC ITEM

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

Please note that the COUNCIL TAX & BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNT POLICY report is TO FOLLOW

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	5
WRITE-OFF OF UNCOLLECTABLE DEBTS 2020/21			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

This report details the proposed write-off of debts in relation to Business Rates, Council Tax, and the recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments.

Under this Council's Constitution the Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services has delegated authority to write-off uncollectable Business Rate debts up to £10,000 and uncollectable Council Tax debts of up to £5,000.

Additionally, the Council's Constitution provides delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) to write-off uncollectable debts in excess of those levels up to £25,000 per individual debt, such write offs to be subsequently reported to the Finance and Democracy Committee for information purposes.

The Chief Financial Officer has recently exercised this delegated power by writing-off one uncollectable Business Rate debt and two uncollectable Council Tax debts. To meet the requirement that the written-off sums are reported to the Finance and Democracy Committee details of the debts are provided at Appendix A.

The writing-off of debts in excess of £25,000 requires the approval of the Finance and Democracy Committee. There is one uncollectable Business Rates debt in excess of the £25,000 limit for which write-off is now requested. Details are provided at Appendix A. There are no uncollectable debts in excess of the £25,000 limit in respect of any other category of debt.

All of the uncollectable debts for which write-off is requested (or is being reported) relate to the period to 31st March 2021. The cost of writing off these debts will be met from the appropriate bad debt provision. In respect of Business Rates and Council Tax the provision is funded by contributions by all the recipients of Business Rate or Council Tax income (those being Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, together with Fylde Council).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the write-off of the one uncollectable debt in excess of £25,000 details of which are provided at Appendix A this report; and
2. Note the write-off by the Chief Financial Officer under delegated powers of the three uncollectable debts below £25,000, details of which is also set out in Appendix A to this report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

No previous decisions have been made in respect of these specific debts.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

REPORT

Background

1. The Council is responsible for collecting substantial amounts of income each year in respect of Business Rates (NNDR), Council Tax and Sundry Debtors. In addition the Council seeks to recover any overpayment of Housing Benefit.
2. Historically, the Council's overall collection rate of income for Business Rates and Council Tax is high with approximately 98% of all income due to the Council eventually collected. Similarly, non-collection of sundry debts is at a low level.
3. Good recovery procedures are in place and the recovery teams within the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service and the Fylde Council Finance Administration team pursue all monies due with vigour and continue to explore new avenues of debt recovery in pursuit of challenging performance targets. Debt write-off is only considered in exceptional circumstances when other recovery options have been exhausted.
4. Where an amount outstanding has not been collected due to the debtor absconding, officers make enquiries of various agencies with a view to obtaining a forwarding address. Unfortunately, there are usually a small number of cases in each year for which it is not possible to trace the debtor and where the action taken has been unsuccessful in recovering the debt.
5. In respect of the debts in relation to Business Rates, Council Tax and the recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments the head of the Shared Service (The Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services) has presented these debts for write-off and is satisfied that every effort has been made to recover the money owed to the Council. However, for absconders, should the Shared Service become aware of the debtor's location, the amount written-off will be re-instated and action taken to recover the amount outstanding.
6. In some cases where a debtor has been declared bankrupt, or a company has gone into liquidation, the Council has little control. However, the debt, or part of it, may be re-instated at a later date upon payment of a dividend. Further information in relation to bankruptcy and liquidation terminology is provided at Appendix B.

Implications

7. The collection of revenue is of vital importance to the financial management of the Council. Failure to collect debts, and in a timely manner, has adverse implications to the Council's finances and cash flow.
8. All of the debts for which write-off is requested (or is being reported) within this report relate to the period prior to 31st March 2021.
9. Although this report seeks approval to write-off a number of uncollectable debts, any debt that is written-off can be re-instated at a later date should there be a further opportunity to recover part or all of the debt.
10. The names of individual debtors and their address have not been published because to do so may infringe the Data Protection Act 2018.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The financial implications are detailed within the body of this report.
Legal	The Council's Constitution determines that the writing-off of debts in excess of £25,000 requires the prior approval by the Finance and Democracy Committee. Additionally, amounts above a specified level that have been written-off by the Chief Financial Officer under delegated powers are required to subsequently be reported to the Finance and Democracy Committee for information purposes. This report fulfils those requirements.
Community Safety	No implications arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul O'Donoghue Chief Financial Officer	01253 658566	March 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A	N/A	N/A

Attached documents

Appendix A – Information on debts written-off and for which write-off is requested

Appendix B – Terminology

Section 1: Debts in excess of £25,000: (Authority sought to write off debt)

Business Rates		
Name	Amount (£)	Reason
Clifford House (2002) Ltd	26,998.06	No Prospect of Recovery
Address: 34-36 Orchard Road, Lytham St Annes, FY8 1PF		
Property type – Offices and Premises. This relates to a two year period between 2016 and 2018 where the property was empty between tenants. The company has no assets other than the debt property which is subject to a legal charge which exceeds the property valuation. The only remaining option would be to liquidate the company, but this would be costly and the distribution of any proceeds would be paid to the charge holders and higher ranking secured creditors long before ourselves, as unsecured creditors. Therefore, there is no prospect of recovery and it is recommended that the debt be written off now that all avenues of recovery have been exhausted.		

Section 2: Debts under £25,000: (For information only)

Business Rates		
Name	Amount (£)	Reason
Individual - name not disclosed due to Data Protection	15,843.94	Absconded
Address: address not disclosed due to Data Protection		
Property type – Public House and Premises. This debt is for a 13 month period between 2015 and 2016 where the ratepayer ran a public house in Warton. Due to non-payment a court summons was served and a liability order obtained and the case was subsequently passed to an Enforcement Agent for collection. A number of payments were made before the ratepayer ceased to trade and moved onto welfare benefits. The ratepayer had been traced to a social housing property in the Fylde area but has since absconded and we have been unable to find her current whereabouts.		

Council Tax		
Name	Amount (£)	Reason
The estate of a deceased person - name not disclosed due to Data Protection	10,757.24	Deceased
Address: address not disclosed due to Data Protection		
This taxpayer sadly passed away in 2018 and at the time of her death the majority of debt had already been incurred. The taxpayer was elderly and deemed vulnerable, so court action was not deemed appropriate. The property was sold in May 2019 and the estate has now been wound up.		

Council Tax		
Name	Amount (£)	Reason
Individual - name not disclosed due to Data Protection	5,307.41	Insolvency
Address: address not disclosed due to Data Protection		
This taxpayer was approved for an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) in which the debt will be paid over 5 years and if this is successful we will receive a £0.13 dividend. As the IVA is a form of insolvency proceedings we are barred from taking further action to recover the debt. Prior to the IVA the debt was being recovered via an Enforcement Agent. Any dividend payments we receive will be offset against any sums previously written off.		

TERMINOLOGY

Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy is the legal process involving an individual who is unable to repay outstanding debts when they become due. It is a legal procedure started either by the debtor (voluntary) or by creditors (involuntary) when the debtor is unable to make their payments.

A trustee is appointed by the court to measure, evaluate and dispose of the debtor's assets and distribute any proceeds to the creditors.

Liquidation

Where a limited liability company cannot repay their debts the Director(s) may call a creditors meeting to have the company voluntarily wound up. Also, a creditor who is owed outstanding sums may apply to the court to have the company wound up.

Once a company is wound up a liquidator is appointed to dispose of any assets and distribute any proceeds to the creditors.

Receivership & Administration

Administration is where a business is in danger of becoming insolvent and has an administrator appointed in order to try to improve the financial viability of the business to achieve a better outcome for creditors. This may include the sale of parts of the business or the continuation of trade whilst 'in administration'.

Receivership is where an individual or company cannot meet its debts and creditors, usually a debenture holder or a mortgagee, have applied to the court for the appointment of a receiver or administrator. Unlike liquidation, the business may not necessarily be wound up.

The task of the receiver or administrator is to protect the interest of the appointer, not the creditors as a whole. They will attempt to sell the business as a going concern, whether as a whole or in part, and any remaining proceeds from the sale will be distributed to the creditors after the debenture or mortgage has been paid.

Proposal to strike off - Dissolution

A company may apply to the Registrar of Companies House to be 'struck off' the register and dissolved. The company can do this if it is no longer needed. For example, the directors may wish to retire and there is no one to take over from them; or it is a subsidiary whose name is no longer needed; or it was set up to exploit an idea that turned out not to be feasible. Some companies who are dormant or non-trading choose to apply for strike off.

The registrar publishes a notice in the relevant Gazette stating his intention to strike the company off the register unless he is shown reason not to do so. Companies House records will show "action - proposal to Strike off" and this indicates there is dissolution pending.

If the registrar sees no reason to do otherwise, he will strike off the company not less than two months after the date of the notice. The company will be dissolved on publication of a further notice in the relevant Gazette.

In administering these cases, the outstanding debt is written off on systems but records at Companies House are continually checked to confirm that the dissolution of the company has been completed.

Voluntary Arrangements (IVA or CVA)

A Voluntary Arrangement is a formal proposal to creditors to pay part or all of the debt.

An individual will be subject to an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) and a company will be subject to a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA).

An insolvency practitioner will act as the supervisor and application is through the court for an "Interim Order" which prevents creditors from recovery proceedings against the debtor while the interim order is in force.

The supervisor tells the court the details of the proposal and whether in his opinion a meeting of creditors should be called to consider it. At the meeting, the creditors vote on whether to accept the proposals. If enough creditors (over 75% in value of the creditors present in person or by proxy, and voting on the resolution) vote in favour, the proposals are accepted. They are then binding on all creditors who had notice of, and were entitled to vote at, the meeting.

The supervisor pays the creditors in accordance with the accepted proposal.

The voluntary arrangements avoid the restrictions that apply to bankruptcy or liquidation and give the debtor more say in how his assets are dealt with and how payments are made to creditors.

Debt Relief Order (DRO)

The DRO is a cheaper, quicker and easier alternative to bankruptcy for individuals who have less than £1,000 in assets, aren't homeowners and have less than £50 in disposable income per month.

To qualify for a DRO individuals must have less than £20,000 in qualifying debts and haven't had an existing Bankruptcy Order, Individual Voluntary Arrangement or a Debt Relief Order in the last six years.

A DRO usually lasts for 12 months, and listed Creditors are not able to take action to recover the amounts owed, however normal expenses that fall due during the period, such as utility bills, council tax and rent, must be paid.

Arrangements to repay creditors must be made if the financial circumstances of the individual improve during the 12 month period.

The courts are not involved in the process and individuals contact an approved debt adviser like the Citizen's Advice Bureau who can check if the relevant conditions are met and assist in completing the relevant application.

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	6
COVID 19 – FYLDE RECOVERY PLAN			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report provides details of the actions and measures that will be implemented over the next 12 month or longer to support the long-term recovery of the local community and the economy in Fylde. It outlines how the council will engage with all stakeholders to establish a co-ordinated partnership approach to recovery.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the proposed Fylde Recovery Plan included in Appendix 1 to the report

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

REPORT

1. The COVID 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Fylde economy and the wider community, it is a core responsibility of the public sector to take decisive action and provide leadership to support the recovery of the local economy and community.
2. The Recovery Plan included as Appendix 1 to this report outlines the approach and actions Fylde Council will take to deliver leadership and facilitate recovery in partnership with all stakeholders.
3. The plan covers both community and economic recovery which must recover together, it outlines the approach we will take when working with community groups, businesses, other agencies, and neighbouring authorities to deliver successful sustainable recovery.
4. The post pandemic recovery will be a priority for every service area of the council with policy, procedure and practices reviewed to ensure that they support, facilitate and drive economic and community recovery

creating an environment in which businesses and customers are attracted to Fylde, it is easy to engage effectively with the council, infrastructure is in place, assets are accessible and there is a comprehensive offer for residents and visitors.

5. The plan includes a review of every aspect of the organisation to ensure appropriate leadership, experience, skill, knowledge and attitudes are in place to work effectively with all stakeholders to deliver a successful recovery.
6. The Recovery Plan included in Appendix 1 sets out the corporate strategic direction informed by and supporting the delivery of the Corporate Plan. The plan brings together several strategic areas crucial to recovery, including lessons learnt and best practice developed throughout the pandemic, with the Corporate Plan and Commercial Strategy driving the recovery agenda. Behaviour in terms of attitude, approach and ways of working have been transformed across the organisation during the pandemic, it is vital to the success of the recovery that this is maintained post-pandemic.
7. Members are asked to consider and approve the proposed Recovery Plan.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No direct implications at this stage
Legal	No implications
Community Safety	No implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Allan Oldfield	Allan.oldfield@fylde.gov.uk – 01253 658500	8 March 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
COVID 19 – Spring Response	February 22 nd	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary

Attached documents

Appendix 1 – The Fylde Covid Recovery Plan



The Fylde Recovery Plan

Introduction

The COVID 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Fylde economy and wider community, the local authority is expected to take decisive action and provide leadership to support the recovery of the local economy and community. The recovery plan outlines the approach and actions Fylde Council will take to deliver leadership and facilitate recovery in partnership with our stakeholders.

Throughout the COVID 19 pandemic, Fylde Council has adapted to new challenges, providing essential support for local communities and businesses, learning from each experience. It is now necessary that the council develops and implements a clear plan to support local economic and community recovery, to revive town centres and high streets, to re-establish a thriving tourism, leisure and events offer, and to support community cohesion.

Community and economic recovery are determined by a multitude of factors making it a complex challenge reliant on partners working together. The council will work closely with partners from all sectors of the community to deliver effective sustainable recovery including; the County Council, Lancashire authorities, local business partnerships, entrepreneurs, investors, parish authorities and third sector providers such as charities, trusts and volunteers.

The post pandemic recovery will be a priority for every service area in the council to deliver successful and sustainable recovery. Policy, procedure and practices across all services will be reviewed to support, facilitate and drive economic and community recovery creating an environment in which businesses is attracted to Fylde, making it easy to engage with the council, infrastructure is in place, assets are accessible and there is a comprehensive offer for residents and visitors.

The Pandemic Period

Managing the organisation during the pandemic was challenging requiring flexibility that allowed limited opportunity to reflect to allow for focus or planning, with the agenda continually shifting in response to the crisis, sometimes daily, and the level of demand on resources relentless. However, the experience allowed for organisational learning through different activities and engagement that presented the opportunity to better understand sectors of the community that the Council can build on to support local recovery including:

- Opportunities to build new working relationships with the local community across all sectors i.e. business, volunteers, public sector based on recovery
- Develop new working relationships with sub-regional partners across Lancashire with a Fylde coast focus based on common economic objectives
- Build on the migration to digital channels with all stakeholders to increase and enhance networks and connectivity with all economic and community partners
- Retain and enhance new ways of delivering council services, building different relationships, developing new skills, and reviewing policy / process to ensure every service area is aligned to recovery
- Retain a strong financial position whilst adopting a more flexible and responsive, approach to capital investment and projects aimed at recovery

The organisational learning and development presented by the circumstances from the pandemic will be retained and developed to create a council that is successfully connected and engaged with stakeholders that drive the economy. Withdrawing back to pre-pandemic behaviour would be detrimental to the recovery in the post-pandemic environment.

The Recovery Plan

The plan brings together corporate strategic factors crucial to recovery, including lessons learnt and best practice developed throughout the pandemic, as well as the Corporate Plan and Commercial Strategy that will drive the recovery agenda. Behaviour in terms of attitude, approach and ways of working have been transformed during the pandemic, it is vital to the success of the recovery that this is maintained post-pandemic.

The recovery requires a pro-active approach to strategic partnerships including the Economic Prosperity Board, Lancashire Leaders, Local Enterprise Partnership and North West Employers with the council seeking to leverage projects and resources that contribute to local recovery. A new relationship with major employers is required to facilitate where possible ambitions for investment that support recovery. Relationships with strategic partners and major employers must drive big initiatives including the Enterprise Zones, Clean Energy Technology Park, and transport infrastructure projects crucial to economic recovery. Fylde has a voice on the regional and sub regional agenda and it is important that this is articulated.

Support, engagement, and facilitation with town centre business partnerships, in St Annes, Lytham and Kirkham with leadership and coordination through the Town Centre Working Group are crucial to the recovery. The success of the Kirkham Future High Street Fund and Heritage Action Zone will provide invaluable learning opportunities to support additional funding bids, with capital from grants invested in the recovery process.

The plan recognises that recovery is influenced by the whole environment, building on the success of In Bloom initiatives, enhancing the quality of parks, open spaces, and public realm, as well as a clean and green Borough, all contributing to recovery. All service areas will be influenced by the recovery priority over the next few years resulting in a cultural shift that will transform the role and reputation of the council.

The pandemic has shown that the pace of change can be rapid, it is essential that the recovery plan is responsive to change with the ability to implement actions that will unlock potential where it is slowed or hindered by policy or procedure. The ability to rapidly respond to changes in the environment, that the private and community sector has always had, must be possible for the council to work effectively with all partners to deliver recovery.

To rebuild and refocus the corporate agenda on long term post pandemic recovery it will be necessary to review service delivery, structures and personnel. A review of every aspect of the organisation to ensure leadership, experience, skill, knowledge, and attitudes are in place to work effectively with all stakeholders to deliver a successful recovery. The pandemic has changed the world, it has changed Fylde as a place and in turn the council must change to deliver post pandemic recovery that will deliver long term prospects and prosperity to the people of Fylde.

What we will achieve

What we will do

Supporting Community Recovery

- Vulnerable residents staying safe and healthy, including the homeless
- Great outcomes by volunteer and community groups, delivered with support and facilitation from the council
- A reduction in anti-social behaviour through a community partnership approach
- Support those with financial hardship as a result of the pandemic
- A healthier and more active community across all age groups and demographics

- Maintain and further develop the community-based arrangements that have been created during the pandemic, ensuring that new and returning groups are sustainable
- Implement an active citizenship scheme to support young people through post-pandemic recovery, providing opportunities and activities to develop their life skills
- Work in close partnership with the In Bloom groups to return award-winning status the towns and villages
- Target those most impacted by the pandemic (i.e. homeless, unemployed, vulnerable etc.) to ensure they can access the support they need from the council and our partners
- Offer all residents targeted support and advice regarding healthy and active lifestyle choices including change empowerment programmes

Supporting Economic Recovery

- Economic recovery through facilitating and supporting investment and development
- Economic benefit for the borough secured through regional partnerships
- Progressive employment opportunities and an enhanced skills base
- Revived town centres and high streets through support and investment
- An extensive and quality tourism offer with a wide range of all-year-round events

- Deliver major infrastructure improvements including the M55 link road, south Fylde railway improvements, the Enterprise Zones, the M55 junction, and the Clean Energy Technology Park
- Develop and deliver regeneration strategies for the borough's three town centres; St Annes, Lytham, and Kirkham
- Facilitate major town centre projects including; the Kirkham Future High Street/Heritage Action Zone, redevelopment of the former public offices and JR Taylors in St Annes, and expansion of the unique independent traders and café culture in Lytham
- Review significant empty or derelict commercial premises/land and engage with owners to encourage reuse/redevelopment
- Deliver public realm schemes across the borough that enhance the local environment and stimulate private sector investment
- Apply for grant funding and provide capital investment for projects to revive the high street, boost the rural economy, and enhance tourism
- Support the return of events to the Borough, actively promoting and facilitating additional events and all-year-round tourism attractions and facilities
- Create all year-round leisure destinations at Fairhaven, The Island and other locations in partnership with local stakeholders
- Establish sustainable and meaningful forums to engage with the business community, that are constructive and deliver benefit to the local economy

Re-aligning the Council

- Establish sustainable and meaningful forums to engage with the business community, that are constructive and deliver benefit to the local economy
- Effective and productive partnerships and engagement with every stakeholder
- Service policy and plans that support and drive sustainable recovery

- Revise the Corporate Plan and Commercial Strategy so that they are drivers behind the post-pandemic recovery over the long-term and shape the approach required to deliver sustainable recovery
- Review council operational and governance structures to ensure the appropriate resources and decision-making arrangements are in place to deliver the recovery plan
- Review policy and procedures to reflect both the changes brought about by the pandemic and the approach required to deliver community and economic recovery
- Implement stakeholder engagement that is accessible, supportive and productive, resulting in sustained effective communication and shared objectives for recovery, embracing the digital developments introduced during the pandemic
- Communicate through all media the recovery initiatives and successes in partnership with all stakeholders

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	7
BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW – WARDING ARRANGEMENT			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The Boundary Commission has indicated that it is minded to accept the council's proposal that the council should consist of 37, instead of 51 members from the 2023 election. The review now moves to the next stage, the Warding Arrangements. A consultation is currently open.

The committee's working group, appointed in September 2020, reconvened in February 2021 to consider warding arrangements for Fylde incorporating 37 councillors. The working group has produced a draft proposal of 15 wards, each represented by two or three councillors which (with one exception) provides electoral equality within the Commission's accepted tolerance.

The committee is asked to accept the draft proposal for provisional submission to the Commission and to recommend that it be approved by the council as the council's final submission on warding arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the document at appendix 1 as a provisional proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission prior to the consultation closing date of 5 April 2021; and
2. To recommend to the council that the draft proposal be confirmed as the council's final proposal on warding arrangements to the Commission.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Establishment of a cross-party working group – 28th September 2020 F and D Committee

Commendation of submission to council – 23 November 2020 F and D Committee

Approval of council size submission – 7 December 2021 Council

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

REPORT

THE REVIEW

1. Members will be aware that the Local Government Boundary Commission is carrying out an electoral review of the council. The aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters. The review is also intended to ensure that ward boundaries reflect the interests and identities of local communities, as well as promoting effective local government. More information about the review is available at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/fylde.
2. There are two elements of the review, which are council size (that is, the number of councillors) and warding arrangements. The council submitted a proposal to the Commission that the council size should be 37 councillors, instead of the present 51. The Commission is minded to accept that proposal, so the focus now moves to warding arrangements.
3. The consultation on warding arrangements closes on 5 April. However the Commission has agreed to receive a provisional proposal from the council, pending the proposal being confirmed once Council has met on 19 April 2021.

WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

4. As with the consultation on council size, any person, group or organisation can submit a proposal for warding arrangements. Proposals must be evidence based and demonstrate how they meet the three aims of the review, as set out in paragraph 1 above. The Commission will have regard to the quality of each proposal, rather than its source. In other words, the council's proposal will only carry weight to the extent that it addresses the aims of the review.
5. In September 2020, the committee appointed a working group consisting of¹ Councillors Buckley, Green, Nulty, Oades, Singleton and Small to work up the council's proposals to the Commission. The working group reconvened in February 2021 to consider warding arrangements for Fylde incorporating 37 councillors.
6. The Working Group have participated in a number of meetings over recent weeks (19 February and 5, 12 March) to draft a warding arrangements proposal. This proposal is attached for approval.
7. The proposal recommends the creation of fifteen new wards, each represented by two or three councillors. All of the proposed wards respect existing parish boundaries and with one exception provide electoral equality within the 10% tolerance indicated by the Commission as being acceptable. In the one exceptional instance where electoral equality within that tolerance is not achieved, the proposal provides justification based on the community and coherence of that particular area.
8. The draft proposal is attached for approval by the committee as a provisional submission to the Commission and to be recommended to the council for adoption as Fylde's final proposal for warding arrangements.

REVIEW TIMETABLE

9. The remaining stages in the Commission's review are as follows:

Warding patterns consultation closes	5 April 2021
Commission meeting to agree draft recommendations	15 June 2021
Draft recommendations consultation opens	29 June 2021
Draft recommendations consultation closes	6 September 2021
Commission meeting to agree final recommendations	16 November 2021
Final recommendations published	30 November 2021

¹ Councillor Lee substituted for Councillor Oades on two occasions when the group considered warding arrangements.

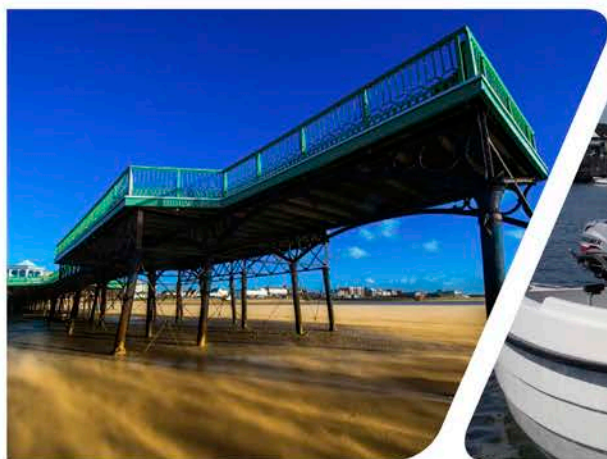
IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No direct implications at this stage
Legal	No implications
Community Safety	No implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Ian Curtis	ian.curtis@fylde.gov.uk Tel 01253 658506	19 March 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Draft submission and enclosures		Council office or within committee papers

Attached documents

Appendix 1 – Warding Arrangements submission



Fylde Council Warding Arrangements

The Boundary Commission has approved a new Council size of 37 Members.

The forecast electorate for 2026 is 69,001 - this results in an optimum councillor:elector ratio of 1:1,865.

In terms of a 10% variance above or below this optimum figure:

- 1 Councillor ward (1865 optimum): 1679 to 2051 electors
- 2 Councillor ward (3730 optimum): 3357 to 4103 electors
- 3 Councillor ward (5595 optimum): 5036 to 6154 electors

The suggested pattern of wards that follows has been considered in accordance with the three statutory criteria;

- To achieve electoral equality
- To reflect community interests and identities
- To promote effective and convenient local government.

To achieve electoral equality

The warding pattern put forward by the cross-party working group achieves the optimum electoral equality in all wards save one, which has a strong community identity in its own right.

Freckleton (village of music and flowers) is served by a parish council, the boundary of which has been kept intact in this exercise. It is a tight-knit community with a common bond having suffered an air disaster in 1944 when a B-24 bomber aircraft crashed into the village school. The electorate predicted in 2026 is 4847 which serves 3 councillors although the variance is -13.4%.

To the north, HMP Kirkham separates the communities of Kirkham and Freckleton as does the A583, the main road through Warton to Preston. To the west of Freckleton is Warton which has experienced a great deal of housing development of late bringing the community closer to Wrea Green in terms of house building. To the east of Freckleton is Newton and Clifton, which together with Elswick, forms a rural ward within variance. It is proposed that the benefits in terms of community identity for Freckleton and surrounding areas justify the variance in electoral variance.

To reflect community interests and identities

Much of Fylde is parished. St Annes has the largest town council, which serves an electorate of 23,325. As such, it is necessary to divide the town into wards which can be achieved within variance and the ward boundaries are formed by main roads, the railway line or the perimeter of the Royal Lytham and St Annes Open Championship golf course. The other town councils in Fylde are Wesham and Kirkham and their boundaries are also respected to reflect community identity. There are numerous parish councils in the Fylde rural areas who frequently work together and whose parish councillors join with Fylde Borough Council in a quarterly liaison committee. This strengthens working relationships and representation at rural parish level. For this reason, it was felt important to respect town and parish boundaries, using these as building blocks for the new wards.

To promote effective and convenient local government.

This exercise provided the opportunity to move away from single member wards which would result in more effective local government. When a councillor in a single member ward is taken ill or incapacitated for some reason then representation is lost. Two or three councillors in a ward are able to

The new pattern of wards will mean that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters as elected members elsewhere in the authority. The ward patterns, based as they are largely around strong physical features or well-understood patterns of community identity, are coherent and comprehensible.

The map below shows the suggested new ward pattern. The numbers on the map are a key to the further ward details laid out in Table 1 below.

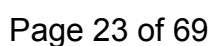


Table 1: The suggested wards, number of councillors and the electoral variances

Reference number on map	Name of new ward	Number of Councillors per ward	Electorate 2026	Variance 2026
1	North Beach	3	5370	-4.0%
2	Queensway	3	5346	-4.4%
3	Central	2	3582	-4.0%
4	Promenade	3	5439	-2.8%
5	Waddington	2	3588	-3.8%
6	Westby Park	3	5661	1.2%
7	Woodlands	2	4002	7.3%
8	Lytham West	2	3622	-2.9%
9	Lytham East	2	3822	2.5%
10	Fylde Rural North West	2	3971	6.5%
11	Wesham and Greenhalgh	2	3774	1.2%
12	Kirkham	3	6094	8.9%
13	Ribby with Warton	3	5792	3.5%
14	Freckleton	3	4847	-13.4%
15	Fylde Rural East	2	4090	9.7%

The link to the detailed map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1VQk46JYXYNXdijgTiXWrCvnyOdDWX4jo&usp=sharing>.



Ward 1 - suggested name North Beach

Number of Councillors – 3

Number of electorate per councillor – 1790

Number of electors within the ward – 5370

Variance: -4.0%

Ward is bounded by - Sandgate - St Leonard's Road West - Railway Line - Lord Street - Mayfield Road - Headroomgate Road - Leach Lane

The natural boundaries of the sea, borough boundary and the airport dominate this part of St Annes. St Annes residents closer to Blackpool were once effectively cut off from the rest of St Annes by the airport and the former holiday camp at the sand dunes. However, recent development on the former holiday camp site has made this community much more coherent. The boundary along the centre of Leach Lane/Headroomgate Road is a locally recognised boundary, with this wide bus route/main thoroughfare creating a natural buffer between wards. Similarly, the school grounds at Mayfield Primary create another natural boundary between proposed wards. Residents of this area use the doctor's surgery on Highbury Road East predominantly and many children within the ward attend Mayfield Primary school. The name of North Beach defines this stretch of coast where, historically, sand yachting competitions took place and now kite surfing is popular. It is one of two bathing beaches for St Annes and is where the coastguard station is located. The council's car park within this area is also named after North Beach.

Ward 2 - suggested name Queensway**Number of councillors – 3****Number of electorate per councillor – 1782****Number of electors within the ward – 5346****Variance: -4.4%****Ward is bounded by - Leach Lane - Headoomgate Road - Church Road - Moorland Road - Shepherd Road - Singleton Avenue - Heyhouses Lane - Wildings Lane**

Abutting the borough boundary and the airport, the ward is also bounded by the locally recognised boundary of Leach Lane/Headroomgate Road, and similarly Church Road. Wildings Lane demarcates the urban edge of St Annes and the rural hinterland. This ward encompasses the historical heart of the settlement that became St Annes, with Heyhouses Primary school being at the centre. However, this ward also encompasses one of the newest developments in the borough 'Queensway', which is adjacent to already established residential housing. It is the gateway into St Annes and Lytham using the well known avenues of Queensway and Kilnhouse Lane. A large housing development of around 1,000 dwelling is underway directly to the east of Queensway, hence the choice of name for this ward as one which will be easily recognised.

Ward 3 - suggested name Central**Number of councillors – 2****Number of electorate per councillor – 1791****Number of electors within the ward – 3582****Variance: -4.0%****Ward is bounded by – Lord Street - Mayfield Road - Headroomgate Road - Church Road - Lima Road - Beauclerk Road - Links Gate - Railway Line**

The railway line and the golf course provide natural boundaries to this ward, with the busy main road of Church Road separating the ward from Queensway ward.

A large part of the ward has a distinct identity of higher density housing, as it lies immediately behind the main town centre and tourist areas. Whilst many residents here will cross the railway line to the main shopping area of St Annes town centre, residents will also utilise the shops on St Albans Road. Residents in this area access the health centre on Durham Avenue.

Ward 4 - suggested name Promenade**Number of councillors – 3****Number of electorate per councillor – 1813****Number of electors within the ward – 5439****Variance: -2.8%****Ward is bounded by – the Sea - Sandgate - St Leonard's Road West - Railway Line – St Paul's Avenue – Rosebery Avenue – Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Course**

This ward is dominated by the main shopping and tourist areas of St Annes. Residents in this area predominately live in either the large homes or apartments that feature along the Inner Promenade and Clifton Drive South. Sandwiched between the railway line and the sea, residents benefit from easy access to all the amenities which attract millions of visitors to St Annes. Equally, residents have a shared experience of their daily lives being affected by visitors in terms of noise, traffic and litter nuisance.

Ward 5 - suggested name Waddington**Number of councillors – 2****Number of electorate per councillor – 1794****Number of electors within the ward – 3588****Variance: -3.8%****Ward is bounded by - Wildings Lane - Heyhouses Lane - Singleton Avenue - Shepherd Road - Moorland Road - Church Road - Lima Road - Beauclerk Road - Links Gate - Railway Line – Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Course – Albany Road – Smithy Lane – North Houses Lane**

This ward encompasses the Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Course and uses this, the railway line, and the local thoroughfares of Singleton Avenue and Smithy Lane as its boundaries. The ward incorporates the new development adjacent to the new Booths supermarket and has a number of local shops which are well-used by the community. Residents of this area will access Clifton Primary school, the parks at Waddington Place, and Hope Street Park, just over the ward boundary in Central ward. Waddington Park sits in the centre of this ward and is a popular place for dog walkers and children from the surrounding area, hence the proposed name.

Ward 6 - suggested name Westby Park**Number of councillors – 3****Number of electorate per councillor – 1887****Number of electors within the ward – 5661****Variance: 1.2%****Ward is bounded by –Smithy Lane – North Heyhouses Lane – Moss House Lane – Fairhaven Golf Club – Oakwood Drive – Forest Drive – Blackpool Road – Albany Road and Westby with Plumpton parish council**

This ward is dominated by the development at Cypress Point and bounded by the natural boundary of Fairhaven Golf Club and Lytham Park Cemetery and Crematorium. The new planned link-road to the M55 motorway, which sits on the northern boundary of Westby will join the new communities at Whitehills and Cropper Road, which have similar characteristics to the community at Cypress Point, to the rest of the ward. Many residents within the Westby Parish already use Peel Road, Ballam Road and School Road to access the communities of St Annes and Lytham for work, school, shopping and leisure activities. There is also shared farmland in the current warding pattern naturally joining this area together.

Ward 7 - suggested name Woodlands**Number of councillors – 2****Number of electorate per councillor – 2001****Number of electors within the ward – 4002****Variance: 7.3%****Ward is bounded by - St Pauls Avenue – Rosebery Avenue – Arundel Road – Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Course – Rossall Road – Lytham St Annes High School – Albany Road – Blackpool Road – Cambridge Road – Ansdell Road South**

This ward encompasses the historical planned communities of Fairhaven and Ansdell, with the thriving shopping centre of Woodlands Road at its heart. This is a community with a strong and distinct character with active community groups such as Ansdell in Bloom. Together with the shopping area of Woodlands Road, the community utilise the library, post office and Institute in Ansdell. Residents'

leisure pursuits are very much focused around the Lake to the edge of the ward, with its walks, sea views, water activities, golf and playground.

Ward 8 - suggested name Lytham West

Number of councillors – 2

Number of electorate per councillor – 1811

Number of electors within the ward – 3622

Variance: -2.9%

Ward is bounded by - Forest Drive – Fairhaven Golf Club – Green Drive – Ballam Road – Park View Road – The estuary – Ansdell Road South – Cambridge Road – Blackpool Road

Encompassing Lowther Gardens, Park View playing fields, the historic Lytham Hall, Lytham town centre, and the Hall Park estate; the community utilises Lytham Hall Park and Lytham CE Primary school, as well as the many amenities that Lytham offers. Here the railway does not create a division in the ward, instead a locally popular walk through Witch Wood (which runs alongside the railway) creates a link between the northern and southern ends of the ward as well as access across the eastern and western sides of the ward.

Ward 9 - suggested name Lytham East

Number of councillors – 2

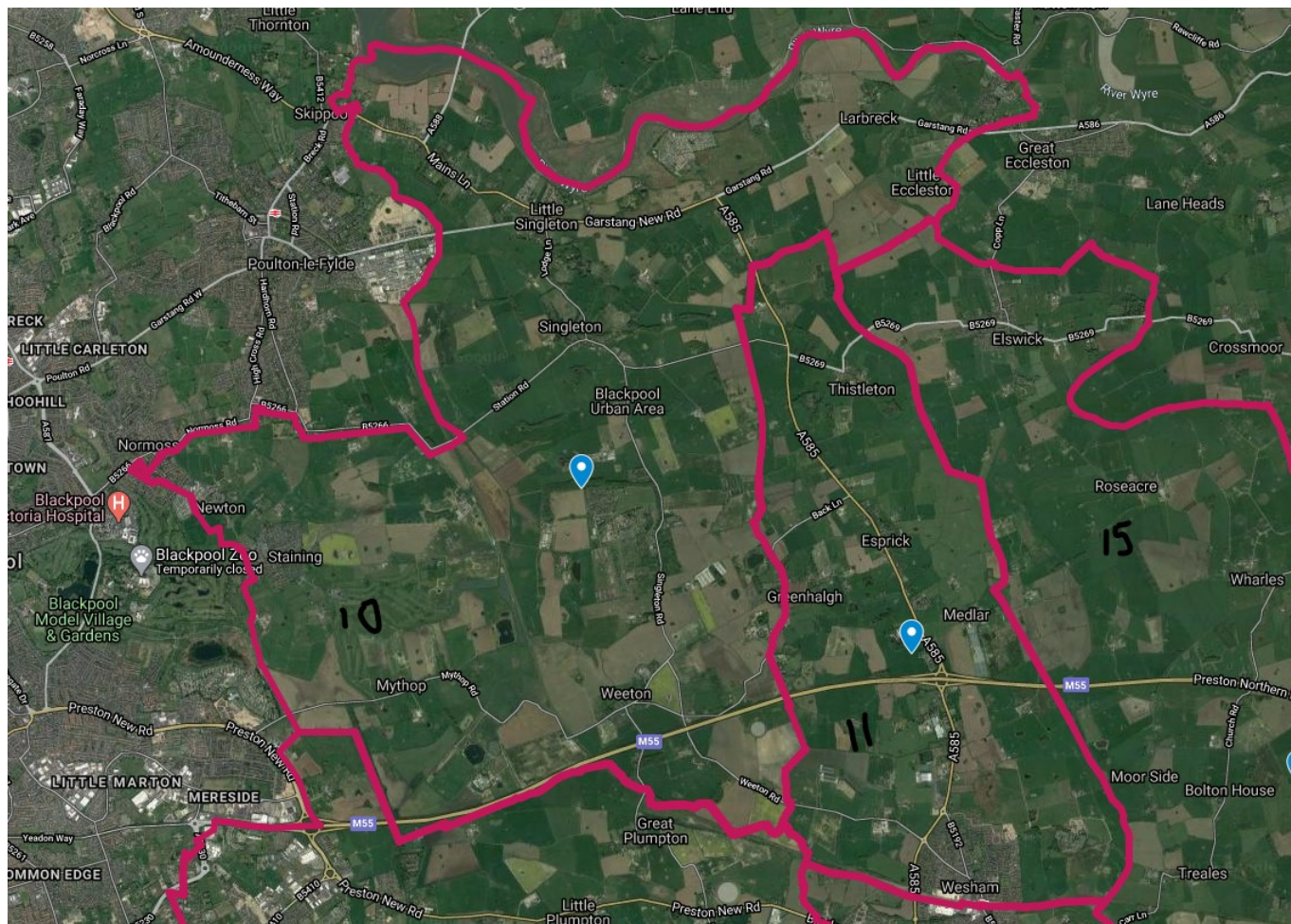
Number of electorate per councillor – 1911

Number of electors within the ward – 3822

Variance: 2.5%

Ward is bounded by Ballam Road - Park View Road – the estuary – Main Drain

The ward is characterised as the suburban, less historic part of Lytham, and bounded by the estuary to the south and the locally recognised boundary between Lytham and Warton, Main Drain. Residents enjoy good transport links both via car and public transport, and utilise community facilities such as Lytham Health Centre and the YMCA sports centre.



Ward 10 - suggested name Fylde Rural North West

Number of councillors – 2

Number of electorate per councillor – 1986

Number of electors within the ward – 3971

Variance: 6.5%

The ward comprises the civil parishes of Singleton, Staining, Weeton and, Little Eccleston with Larbreck

The villages of Singleton, Staining and Weeton are all within a 3.5 mile radius of each other and form a rural/semi-rural setting on the outskirts of Blackpool and Poulton-Le-Fylde.

Little Eccleston with Larbreck is a smaller rural community at a mere distance of 5 miles from the three larger villages,

Singleton, Staining and Weeton Villages have recently had improvements to their Village Halls and, until recently, shared the use of a speed indicator. Each of these villages maintain its own unique identity with its own Village pub, Village Hall, Church, School and Parish Council.

The four farming communities enjoy the annual In Bloom competition and have their own Grade II listed buildings.

With so much in common it makes sense, therefore, that these villages are encompassed in one ward.

Ward 11 - suggested name Wesham and Greenhalgh

Number of councillors – 2

Number of electorate per councillor – 1887

Number of electors within the ward – 3774

Variance: 1.2%

The ward comprises the civil parishes of Greenhalgh with Thistleton and Meldar with Wesham

Medlar with Wesham (which is correctly pronounced as “Wessam”) has a strong community identity different to that of its near neighbour Kirkham. Wesham is a smaller community than its neighbour and only become established in the main by the introduction of the railway in 1840. Wesham has smaller neighbouring communities to the north covering Esprick 2miles away, Greenhalgh 2.8 miles away and Thistleton 3.5 miles away. These villages to the north of Wesham are represented by their own Parish Council, Greenhalgh and Thistleton Parish Council. Part of Greenhalgh is located south of the M55 whose residents associate closely with Wesham especially as Greenhalgh has lost both its pub and school which provided a focal point to the parish. It makes sense therefore joining Greenhalgh and Wesham which will respect both parish and town council at the lowest tier of local government and will ensure the borough ward has electoral equality.

The ward has a number of new developments, the community also enjoys good transport links, and community amenities such as a shopping area, pubs, health centre, community centre and outdoor play parks.



Ward 12 - Kirkham

Number of councillors – 3

Number of electorate per councillor – 2031

Number of electors within the ward – 6094

Variance: 8.9%

The ward comprises the civil parish of Kirkham

The town of Kirkham has been a market town since the 15th century and prides itself as a self-contained community with history of cotton and flax mills providing employment for its residents. It has seen many developments over the years but remains a vibrant and coherent community. Kirkham is bisected by the A583 which was the main Preston to Blackpool road prior to the building of the M55. However there is relatively little development south of the A road where HMP Kirkham is located. This proudly self-contained community has a good shopping area, schools, doctors, and local community amenities such as the library and community centre. Its strong sense of community is reflected in the annual gala and recent successful bid for funding to regenerate the high street.

Ward 13 - suggested name Ribby with Warton

Number of councillors – 3

Number of electorate per councillor – 1931

Number of electors within the ward – 5792

Variance: 3.5%

The ward comprises the civil parishes of Ribby with Wrea and Bryning with Warton

This ward contains the two settlements of Wrea Green and Warton. The demarcation between the two settlements has been eroded over recent years with new large-scale housing settlements, but both still maintain strong individual identities, with active community groups in both. The movement between the two settlements for shopping, work, education, and the community library in Warton is increasing. Wrea Green leads naturally into Warton along Bryning Lane and indeed through Bryning which sits between the two. Residents in this area, whilst falling into Warton Parish, are quite often more likely to use facilities in Wrea Green.

Ward 14 - Freckleton

Number of councillors – 3

Number of electorate per councillor – 1616

Number of electors within the ward – 4848

Variance: -13.4%

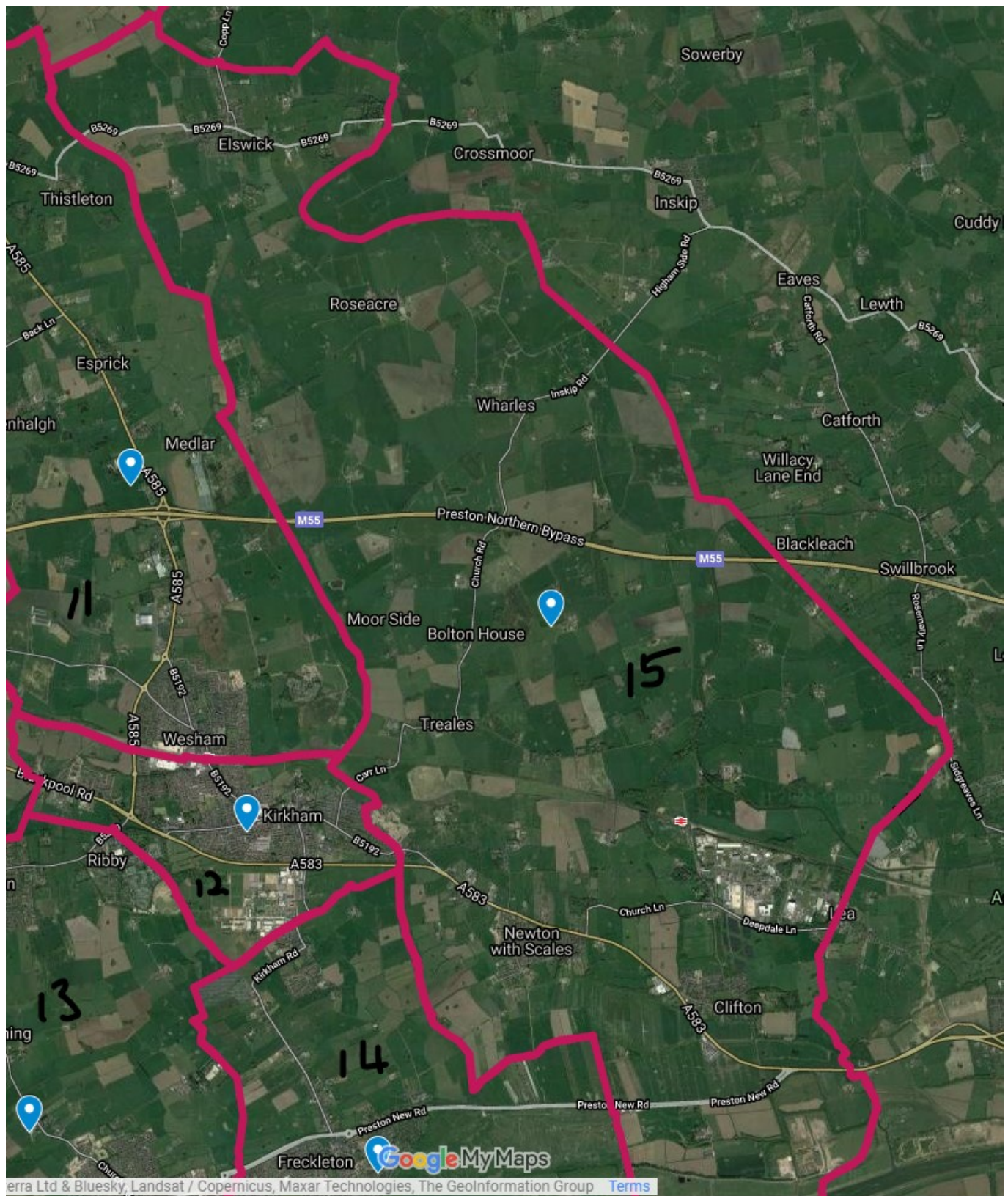
The ward comprises the civil parish of Freckleton.

The large village of Freckleton lies to the south of Kirkham and the community around HMP Kirkham. It is a separate community from the neighbouring village of Warton.

The council believes that the need to maintain the coherence and identity of this distinct community outweighs the fact that the electoral size would be slightly outside the tolerance that the Commission normally expects.

In the Second World War the neighbouring village at Warton hosted the American Liberator Bombers undergoing repair at the aerodrome. One day in bad weather one Liberator bomber crashed on the Freckleton Holy Trinity School, killing 34 children and 1 teacher. The airmen at the Warton base raised money to build a memorial garden and play areas dedicated to the children who died as a result of the crash.

Freckleton has a strong community identity which justifies a ward within its present parish boundary despite the variance in electoral equality. It is a well-served community, with a good variety of shops, pubs, churches, and a post office. The community holds an annual gala and run the local sports facilities as a community.



Ward 15 - suggested name Fylde Rural East

Number of councillors – 2

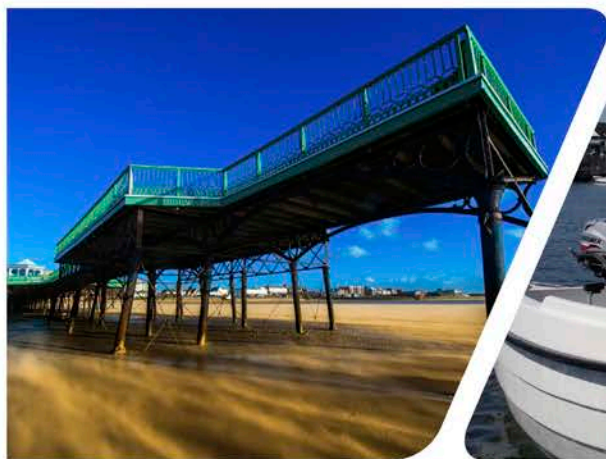
Number of electorate per councillor – 2045

Number of electors within the ward – 4090

Variance: 9.7%

The Ward comprises the parishes of Newton with Scales, Treales Roseacre and Wharles, and Elswick

This ward's is characterised principally by scattered hamlets and farmsteads. the sense of community comes from pride in its rural identity and settlements that collectively provide the community with its post office, school, shops and pubs. Individually the communities have a many active groups such as In Bloom and Gala committees. When faced with issues that affect this area the residents of these rural parishes already work together.



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DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	8
ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT BID – FYLDE COAST YMCA			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report provides details of a request from the YMCA for a grant award from the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) fund of up to £100,000 to ensure the financial viability of the Trust during the third re-opening and recovery of facilities after COVID pandemic lockdown regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested:

1. To approve a £100,000 award to the Fylde Coast YMCA from the Additional Restrictions Grant fund.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Finance & Democracy Committee 22 June 2020 consideration of a Revenue Bid

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

To approve an unfunded addition to the Revenue Budget in 2020/21 in the sum of £100,000 to support the YMCA through the COVID 19 pandemic.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

REPORT

1. Fylde Council has arrangements in place with the Fylde Coast YMCA to provide pool and leisure facilities at two key locations:
 - a. St Annes pool and gym – The facility is owned by Fylde Council. The council let a 12-year leisure contract with accompanying building lease to the YMCA from 1st September 2010. The approved revenue budget for 2021/22 includes provision for a contract subsidy payment to the YMCA in respect of the operation of St Annes pool/gym in the sum of £135,436 per annum.
 - b. Kirkham Rural Splash – The facility has been transferred from Fylde Council to the YMCA. There is a Service Level Agreement with the YMCA in respect of the operation of the facility for a period of 5 years effective from 1st April 2019. The approved revenue budget for 2021/22 includes provision for a subsidy payment to the YMCA in respect of the operation of Kirkham Rural Splash in the sum of £40,802 per annum.

2. A request was made, and granted, on June 22nd, 2020 by the YMCA for additional support to both facilities because of the COVID 19 pandemic, this was funded from grants awarded to the council to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. The request was for up to £100,000 of financial support based on forecasts and data available at the time related to the pandemic with a predicted re-opening of the facilities in July 2020. The path the pandemic has taken since then is dramatically different than what was forecast in June 2020.
3. On Friday 20 March 2020, the Government announced the temporary closure of all gyms and leisure centres (along with pubs, clubs, restaurants, cafes) as part of its COVID-19 response to stop the spread of infection. This included and affected all the YMCA Fylde Coast Health and Fitness Centres. Further closures have been imposed under government regulations in November 2020 and again since January 5th, 2021. Over the last 12 month the facilities have been closed for over 7 months, during the period they have been able to operate restrictive measures have been in place impacting significantly on income.
4. The YMCA, along with all large leisure operators, have taken advantage of the furlough scheme and other central government grants. However, the impact has been so significant on what is a crucial sector of the economy that a dedicated scheme for additional support to leisure trusts was announced. The [National Leisure Recovery Fund](#) (NLRF) operated by Sport England on behalf of the government. The fund is limited to £100 million and targeted at support to eligible public sector leisure centres that will reopen to the public, giving the sport and physical activity sector the best chance of recovery to a position of sustainable operation over the medium term.
5. The YMCA was entitled to make an application to the NLRF through the council and was awarded a £149,000 grant from the NLRF. There is a report to the Finance & Democracy Committee on March 29th, 2021 outlining the details of the NLRF grant award. However, the large operational costs and losses experienced by the YMCA over the last 12 months are greater than the support that has been available to date and a further request for support in the 2021/22 financial year has been submitted by the YMCA.
6. There has been national concern that 'if the leisure sector is not sustained through the crisis, the re-mobilisation of public leisure provision will be significantly affected, with facilities unable to open and clubs and voluntary organisations unable to re-start activities for communities. There will be additional costs to the public purse through re-procurement, the transfer of staff, or establishing new delivery mechanisms whilst facilities remain closed for longer periods. There will be an impact on the social and health benefits to communities at a time when these will be most needed.'
7. Fylde, like almost all other local authorities, has the health and wellbeing of the population as a top priority, the benefits from a healthy lifestyle are well documented and impact on physical, mental, and spiritual welfare. It is essential that large facilities operated by not-for-profit trusts through the council are retained to ensure that everyone has access to convenient and affordable leisure facilities.
8. The financial projections for both St Annes Pool & Kirkham have been submitted by the YMCA based on the three closure periods over the last year and the recovery from April / May in accordance with the Road Map. The figures show an overall income reduction (on the actuals for 2019/20) of 86% over the year 2020/21 and 45% for 2021/22 based on latest projections, with St Annes Pool projected to have a deficit of £64,326 and Kirkham £47,499, a total of £111,425. This is calculated based on the closure periods with patronage gradually returning to the pre-closure levels over several months after re-opening. When combined with other losses incurred by the YMCA since March 2020 the financial position of the trust is unsustainable. The YMCA has requested a contribution to support this deficit in the sum of £100,000.
9. The additional support is necessary to ensure that the YMCA can remain financially solvent through the recovery period with an anticipated long-term impact on the facilities even after the re-opening of the dry side facilities in April and the pools from May 1st, 2021. Many other leisure trusts operating council owned facilities have found it necessary to obtain additional support from the local authority to remain financially viable throughout the re-opening and recovery. The request is for up to £100,000 that can be funded from the Additional Restrictions Grant at Fylde.
10. The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is a discretionary fund that has been made available to all local authorities for allocation schemes to support local businesses that cannot access other national grant funding, or have exceptional circumstances, or to provide additional support to larger priority local businesses which

are important to the local economy in addition to other funding streams. The ARG is also aimed at providing longer term economic recovery after the pandemic and can be allocated up to March 2022.

11. The ARG scheme has changed since it was first introduced in October 2020 with a greater focus on making awards as soon as possible to support local businesses through the pandemic rather than hold onto the grant. The ARG fund was topped up when the third lockdown was announced from January 2021 and the latest announcement in the March budget included further ARG allocations, but they will be subject to the existing fund being spent or allocated for schemes.
12. The ARG fund at Fylde has been given £2.9 million to date with just over £2 million already allocated to local businesses and community organisations, there will be a further allocation proposed for a town centre vacant premises scheme and several other support schemes are being developed. The fund can be used to award a grant to the YMCA as a 'large priority local business important to the local economy'. Members are asked to consider approving the £100,000 additional support to be funded from the ARG.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	An award from the ARG fund of £100,000, is within the current capacity of the fund based on unallocated funds at the time of publishing the report.
Legal	The ARG technical guidance includes discretion to award grants from the fund to larger priority businesses.
Community Safety	No implications arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Allan Oldfield	allan.oldfield@fylde.gov.uk	14 March 2020

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
F&D Committee Report	June 2020	www.fylde.gov.uk
National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRF)	December 2020	NLRF Fund Guidance
Additional Restrictions Support Grant	March 2021	ARG March 2021 Revision

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	9
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE – YMCA, NATIONAL LEISURE RECOVERY FUND			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

At the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 11 March 2021, a verbal update was given on the Covid 19 recovery arrangements in place which included reference to a grant of £149,612 which had awarded to Fylde Council on behalf the Fylde Coast YMCA as part of the National Leisure Recovery Fund.

The committee noted that the grant would be taken forward as a fully funded revenue budget increase of £149,612 funded from the National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRF), to support the YMCA in their recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested:

To approve an additional revenue budget increase of £149,612 in 2020/21 fully funded from the National Leisure Recovery Fund, to support the YMCA in their recovery from the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Tourism & Leisure Committee – 11 March 2021

Information Item

11. COVID 19 Recovery

A verbal update was provided to members on the COVID 19 Recovery measures/ Roadmap in so far as it relates to the Terms of Reference of the Tourism and Leisure Committee with particular reference to how different events and facilities would be restarted safely when the restrictions are lifted.

Mr Walker advised the Committee that the Council had submitted an application on behalf of the Fylde Coast YMCA for a grant from the National Leisure Recovery Fund which had resulted in a £140,000 grant being awarded. In addition, a further £9,612 had been granted to the YMCA from that fund from unspent monies from other areas of across the country resulting in a total grant of £149,612. This would go forward as a funded budget increase.

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

REPORT

1. At the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 11 March 21, a verbal information item was given on the Covid 19 recovery arrangements as they affected the terms of reference of the Tourism and Leisure committee. This included reference to the recent award of two grants from the national Leisure Recovery Fund for the Fylde Coast YMCA in support of their recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.
2. It was a requirement that the application was made in the name of the local authority on behalf of the leisure trust, the evidence required for the application was provided by the YMCA. The original grant of £140,000 was awarded followed by a further allocation of £9,612.
3. The [National Leisure Recovery Fund](#) is administered by Sport England as part of a £100m fund for local authority leisure facilities. Fylde Council would act as the accountable body for the grant which essentially involved the funds being paid into the council account and then transferred to the provider (YMCA). Sport England have commissioned a national provider to monitor the use of the grant which involves regular reporting by the YMCA through the council.
4. The NLRF was established in response to the exceptional significant losses and ongoing costs from the COVID 19 pandemic experienced by major leisure facility providers in the public sector operating through trusts, charities, public owned companies or direct service provision.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report requests approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £149,612 in 2020/21 to be met in full from the National Leisure Recovery Fund grant.
Legal	Fylde Council would act as the accountable body for the grant.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul Walker	Email: paul.walker@fylde.gov.uk	17 March 2021

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	10
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE – HOVE ROAD, ST ANNES			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

At the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 11 March 2021, consideration was given to the release of S106 monies to allow for proposed play area improvements at Hove Road, St. Annes to be undertaken.

The committee recommended that the Finance and Democracy Committee consider approving a fully funded revenue budget increase of £1,275 funded from the S106 contribution from the St. Albans Road development, to carry out the proposed play improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested:

To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £1,275 funded from the S106 contribution from the St. Albans Road development, to carry out the proposed play area improvement works at Hove Road, St. Annes.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Tourism & Leisure Committee – 11 March 2021

Decision Item

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £1,275 fully funded from the S106 contribution from the St. Albans Road development, to carry out play area improvement works at Hove Road, St. Annes as detailed in this report.
2. To award the above works to DCM Surfaces Ltd who, for the sum of £1,275, will undertake the agreed play improvements, subject to the approval of the fully funded budget increase by the Finance and Democracy Committee.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

REPORT

1. At the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 11 March 21, consideration to the release of S106 monies to allow for proposed play area improvements at Hove Road, St. Annes.
2. Fylde Council, as the Planning Authority, has received and is holding funds that have been secured through developer contributions associated with a housing development on St. Albans Road, St. Annes.
3. The terms of the Planning Agreement 08/0669 for the St. Albans Road development in relation to the public open space contribution states that the sum of £1,275 should be used by Fylde Council "To provide or improve or to facilitate the provision or improvement of public open space or the public realm likely to benefit the occupiers of the dwelling."
4. Officers from Parks and Coastal Services have requested that the total Section 106 contribution of £1,275 relating to the St. Albans Road development is released and allocated to play area improvement works at Hove Road, St Annes as stated in the Planning Agreement.
5. The Tourism and Leisure Committee agreed to allocate the total Section 106 contribution of £1,275 from the St. Albans Road development to help deliver the project as detailed in this report.

SCHEME DETAILS

6. The play area improvements will include the removal and disposal of old damaged rubber safety surfacing and replacement with new wet pour safety surfacing. Improvements will also include the purchase of new parks furniture items such as litter bins and benches.
7. These works will be undertaken in conjunction with the previously secured £50,000 play improvement capital as approved at the Budget Council meeting on the 4 March 2020.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report requests approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £1,275 to be met in full from the S106 contribution from the St Albans Road Development.
Legal	Section 106 contributions are made by developers under specific planning agreements relating to each new development. The planning agreement will specify how the monies are to be spent and a developer can usually require repayment of S106 contributions, if they have not been spent within 10 years of the Agreement.
Community Safety	Improving the quality of play area facilities provides an opportunity to increase public use and reduce nuisance behaviour.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The improvements represent the removal of unsafe surfacing and the installation of new surfacing that will have a long-life span (10+ years). There is no impact on existing environment as it is in the same footprint as original play area.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Health and safety information will be produced by the successful contractors prior to works starting on site, to safeguard the public and contractor personnel.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Lisa Foden	Email: lisa.foden@fylde.gov.uk	11 March 2021

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	11
ADDITION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 25 VICTORIA ROAD, ST ANNES - Y-PAD SCHEME			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 10 March, 2021 the Planning Committee considered and approved an Expression of Interest (EOI) by Fylde Coast YMCA for the use of Section 106 funds for the refurbishment of 25 Victoria Road, St Annes for the delivery of 5 Y-Pad one-bedroom apartments for the benefit of young people aged 18-25 in training or employment.

The Committee recommended approval of a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme – “25 Victoria Road Fylde Coast Y-Pad Scheme” for £200,000 phased over two financial years (2021/22 - £50,000 and 2022/23 - £150,000) to be met in full from a portion of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose (from Agreement Ref: 12/0717 - Moss Farm, Cropper Road, Westby).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to:

1. Approve of a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme – “25 Victoria Road Fylde Coast Y-Pad Scheme” for £200,000 phased over two financial years (2021/22 - £50,000 and 2022/23 - £150,000) to be met in full from a portion of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose (from Agreement Ref: 12/0717 - Moss Farm, Cropper Road, Westby).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Full Council 12th October 2015

It was RESOLVED:

1. that the Council approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase for 2016/17 in the sum of £562,697, to be met from a portion of the balance of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose in the total sum of £2.4m, in respect of the proposed development of 11 self-contained flats in St Annes by the YMCA. £562,697 was a 50% contribution towards the total scheme costs; and
2. That a condition of the grant is that an agreement is put in place with the YMCA to:
 - (a) Ensure ongoing provision of the affordable housing units, as set out in the funding request; and
 - (b) That a restriction is placed on the registered title of the site to prevent disposal without the written consent of Fylde Borough Council to protect the council’s investment.

Environment, Health and Housing Committee, 11th June 2019

Decision Item - It was RESOLVED

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To approve the adoption of a strategic approach to the allocation of future S106 funds by requesting Registered Providers of Affordable Housing submit Expressions of Interest prior to full funding submissions being made.

Planning Cttee – 10 March 2021

Decision Item - It was RESOLVED:

1. Approve the Expression of Interest by Fylde Coast YMCA for the use of Section 106 funds for the refurbishment of 25 Victoria Road, St Anne's for the delivery of 5 Y-Pad one-bedroom apartments for the benefit of young people aged 18-25 in training or employment.
2. Recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme – "25 Victoria Road Fylde Coast Y-Pad Scheme" for £200,000 phased over two financial years (2021/22 - £50,000 and 2022/23 - £150,000) to be met in full from a portion of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose (from Agreement Ref: 12/0717 - Moss Farm, Cropper Road, Westby); and
3. To authorise drawdown of the expenditure (subject to approval by Finance and Democracy to the addition to the Capital Programme) phased over two financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23) for £200,000 (25% in 21/22 (£50,000)) being paid at start on site and confirmation that internal funding and Homes England Grant Funding has been received and the remainder (75% in 22/23 (£150,000)) on project completion once the units are allocated to Fylde Coast YMCA, after regard and consideration of the compliance with the financial regulations covered within the body of the report.
4. That a condition of the grant is that an agreement is put in place with the YMCA to:
5. Ensure ongoing provision of the affordable housing units, as set out in the funding request; and
6. That a restriction is placed on the registered title of the site to prevent disposal without the written consent of Fylde Borough Council to protect the council's investment and ensure the provision will provide affordable housing in perpetuity for 80 years.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

BACKGROUND

1. The Planning Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2021, considered an EOI from Fylde Coast YMCA for the refurbishment of 25 Victoria Road, St Annes. The scheme proposes the refurbishment of an existing property of 5 self-contained flats one-bedroom flats, owned by Fylde Coast YMCA into 5, one-bedroom Y-Pad apartments for the benefit of young people aged 18-25 in training or employment.
2. The Planning Committee considered and approved an EOI for £200,000 from Fylde Coast YMCA to support the re-development of 25 Victoria Road and recommended to Finance and Democracy approval for this scheme for S106 funding and inclusion to the Capital Programme. The scheme will be phased over two financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23) with 25% (£50,000) being paid at start on site and confirmation that internal funding and Homes England Grant Funding has been received and the remainder 75% (£150,000) on project completion once the units are allocated. The scheme will be fully funded from a portion of the balance of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose (from Agreement Ref: 12/0717 Moss Farm, Cropper Road, Westby).
3. A copy of the report presented to the [Planning Committee is available to view on the council website](#).

IMPLICATIONS

Finance	This report requests approval of a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme – “25 Victoria Road Fylde Coast Y-Pad Scheme” for £200,000 phased over two financial years (2021/22 - £50,000 and 2022/23 - £150,000), to be met in full from a portion of S106 developer contributions for affordable housing currently held by the Council for this purpose.
Legal	Agreement for the payment of the grant Ensure ongoing provision of the affordable housing units, as set out in the funding request and a restriction is placed on the registered title of the site to prevent disposal without the written consent of Fylde Borough Council to protect the council’s investment and ensure the provision will provide affordable housing in perpetuity for 80 years.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Kirstine Riding	Kirstine.riding@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658569	10/3/2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Fylde Coast YMCA, Patterson House, St Albans Road, St Annes	2015	http://ymcahousing.org.uk/paterson-house/
MyHomeChoice Fylde Coast Consistent Assessment Policy	2021	MyHomeChoice Fylde Coast

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	12
FULLY FUNDED ADDITION TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME - SOUTH FYLDE LINE STUDY			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

Funding has been secured to carry out a study and develop a Strategic Outline Business Case into the viability of creating a passing loop on the South Fylde Line to increase the capacity of the line from 1 to 2 trains per hour. The report outlines the proposed study and progress made to date which was presented to the Operational Management Committee on 16/03/21 who have recommended that this is supported.

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Democracy Committee are requested to:

1. Approve a new fully funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2021/22 'South Fylde Line Study' to the sum of £70,000 funded from a grant of £50,000 from the Department for Transport and further funding of £16,000 from project partners, and the remaining £4,000 match funding from Fylde Council to be funded from the Capital Investment Reserve.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Full Council at its meeting of 19th October 2020 resolved:

1. That the council approves the 2020-2024 Corporate Plan receiving annual progress reports in accordance with the established performance policy framework; and
2. That the Budget Work Group be tasked to identify the priority actions of the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 and to report back to Full Council for agreement.

Operational Management Committee of 16th March 2021 resolved:

1. Support the study into the viability of creating a passing loop on the South Fylde Line and the creation of a Strategic Outline Business Case.
2. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee a new fully funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2021/22 'South Fylde Line Study' to the sum of £70,000 funded from a grant of £50,000 from the Department for Transport and further funding of £16,000 from project partners, and the remaining £4,000 match funding from Fylde Council to be funded from the Capital Investment Reserve.
3. Subject to the approval from Finance and Democracy Committee as detailed above, to authorise expenditure of up to £70,000 following the required procurement of the consultants to undertake this study.

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

REPORT

1. Within the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 one of the actions under the economy section is to 'Work in collaboration with partners to deliver 'a passing loop on the South Fylde railway line.'
2. Prior to the Beeching Review of railway lines in the 1960s the South Fylde line was double-tracked enabling trains to pass each other along the line. Following the review the line from Blackpool South Station to Kirkham and Wesham Station was reduced to a single track resulting in a maximum of one train per hour being able to use the line, limiting the potential capacity of the train services and restricting growth. When there are delays on the line services are unable to catch up resulting in poor service performance and an increased likelihood of cancellations.
3. In early 2020 the Department for Transport (DfT) announced the Restoring Your Railway/Beeching Reversal ideas fund. The fund was established to looking at the viability of restoring lost railway lines to communities. DfT would fund 75% of costs, up to £50,000, of successful proposals to help fund transport and economic studies and create a business case. Future funding to develop projects would be subject to agreement of the business case. The Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) that would need to be produced would be the equivalent of a [Governance for Railway Investment Projects \(GRIP\) 3 study](#).
4. In the first round of funding a study to review the Fleetwood to Poulton line was successful in obtaining funding. This study is ongoing, due for completion in April 2021.
5. The fund required a Member of Parliament to sponsor the project and a group, such as a Local Authority, to act as a lead promotor. For the second round of funding Mark Menzies MP and Scott Benton MP submitted a joint bid to progress the idea of providing a passing loop on the South Fylde Railway Line to enable the capacity of the line to increase from one to two trains an hour. Fylde Council's Chief Executive was named as the Lead Promotor for the scheme meaning that Fylde Council will be responsible for financial management and overall oversight of the project. The application was successful and announced at the end of 2020.
6. A Project Working Group has been established to provide advice and assistance and oversee the progress of this study and the development of the SOBC and ensure it is produced by November 2021. The group includes representatives of the two MPs, Department for Transport, Network Rail, Northern Rail, Community Rail Lancashire, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council. A monthly update report is provided to DfT to update the Secretary of State for Transport on progress. This report is also shared with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Operational Management Committee.
7. The Project Working Group have concluded that the best way to proceed is to procure the services of two consultants. One would look at the capacity of the network to see whether 2 trains an hour could operate. A second consultant would gather a variety of evidence to support the proposals, carry out an assessment of alternative transport options, carry out stakeholder engagement, assess costs of implementing a scheme, carry out a cost benefit analysis and produce the SOBC.
8. Network Rail are best placed to carry out a capacity study of the line to assess whether it would be viable to operate 2 trains per hour within the wider timetable and that platform space can be provided at the already congested Preston Station, taking into account other potential changes to train services in the future. Network rail are currently developing a remit for this study and will provide a cost for this work. It is proposed that, assuming the quote provided is considered by the Project Working Group to be reasonable, the work will be direct awarded to Network Rail. Within Fylde Council's procurement rules, where engaging consultants for specialised needs, a direct award is possible when agreed between a Director and the Chief Executive.

9. The scope of work required by the second consultant is currently being agreed by the Project Working Group then the work will be tendered, either through The Chest or via a mini tender exercise through a Local Authority Framework.
10. The grant for this study is 75% of the total cost up to £50,000 with 25% match funding required.
11. To assist with match funding, Project Group members were asked for assistance in covering the match funding amount. Community Rail Lancashire have offered 10% of the total costs up to £10,000. It has been proposed that Fylde Council, Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council split the remaining match funding amount which would equate to 5% each of the total project cost. Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council have informally agreed to this.
12. To accept the grant and to continue with delivery of the project a grant offer letter must be signed by Fylde Council with DfT by the end of March 2021. Although the full costing for the study do not need to have been finalised by this point, agreements for match funding must be in place.
13. At the Operational Management Committee of 16th March 2021 they were asked to support the study and to recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee that an in-year addition to the capital budget for 2021/22 is made up to £70,000 including a contribution from Fylde Council's Capital Investment Reserve of £4,000. Subject to agreement with the Finance and Democracy Committee, the Operational Management Committee are asked to approve expenditure of the capital budget so that the relevant consultants can be appointed as soon as possible. This was approved at the meeting.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report requests approval of a fully funded capital scheme addition to the Capital Programme in 2021/22 'South Fylde Line Study' to the sum of £70,000 funded from a grant of £50,000 from the Department for Transport, £16,000 from project partners and the remaining £4,000 match funding from Fylde Council to be funded from the Capital Investment.
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Andrew Loynd	andrew.loynd@fylde.gov.uk , 01253 658 527	03/03/21

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	13
BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRESS REPORT			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

a) Background and Advice

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone sits alongside Hillhouse Technology, Samlesbury and Warton Enterprise Zones (EZs) and continues to play a key role as part of the Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster (LAMEC) in retaining Lancashire's position as a national leader for high value industrial activity.

In respect of governance, the progress on the programme is closely scrutinised by the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board (a joint committee of the three local authorities) which acts as the Programme Board for Blackpool and Hillhouse Enterprise Zones, in accordance with the governance structures set out in the Memorandum of Understanding dated 9th November 2016. This MoU also confirmed Blackpool Council's role as accountable body for the EZ. Progress reports are also presented to the LEP EZ Governance Sub-Committee, to Blackpool Council's internal EZ and Airport Project Board, and to the EZ Project Team comprised of a large number of external stakeholders in the project including representation from Fylde Council and St Annes Town Council. Reports have also presented as required to the Growth Deal Management Board and LEP Board in respect of a Growth Deal project that sits within the Enterprise Zone.

b) Achievements to date

The Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone has benefitted from c.£30.6m public and private sector investment to date to enhance the site's potential as a premier business location in the North West.

In July 2018, Blackpool Council, as majority landowner and accountable body, approved an EZ masterplan and delivery plan agreeing to invest up to £28.8m to enable essential infrastructure and to kick start development over the first few years to open up the site for development.

An updated delivery plan and revised masterplan (see appendix A) was approved by Blackpool Council on 7th December 2020. The current delivery plan identifies that expenditure of up to £72m will be required to complete site assembly, provide core enabling infrastructure and promote and deliver the Enterprise Zone over its remaining 20 year lifetime. The investment required to deliver the EZ will be funded by a combination of prudential borrowing against forecast business rates growth, land and property disposals, and grants and rentals to achieve a position of equilibrium after the cost of borrowing. With a target of 5,000 jobs this expenditure equates to £14,400 per job- with the EZ expected to add a cumulative £2Bn to the GVA of the Fylde coast.

Recent grant funding of £800,000 has been secured from Growth Deal toward the MultiPLY Project, and a provisional allocation of £7.5m from Blackpool's Town Deal funding has been awarded to support highways infrastructure.

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone provides a very significant opportunity for Lancashire as a post-Covid-19 economic recovery project stimulating growth, employment and skills, helping to diversify the economy and

providing a location attractive to modern industry and inward investment, and providing property to enable local business to grow.

The tables below seek to summarise the progress to-date against the Key Performance Indicators and identifies key milestones to be achieved over the next two years

Baselines at April 2016	
Existing jobs	Difficult to estimate as it is an existing business park with over 200 businesses located on site but circa 1,800
Companies on site	c.250 – 300
Business rates baseline (set Dec 2017)	Blackpool - £1,503,000 Fylde - £870,000 TOTAL £2,373,000

Key Performance Indicators	Targets to 2041 (25 year lifetime)	Actuals up to Q 3 20/21	RAG
Build, convert or re-purpose potential employment space	260,000 sqm	24,277 sq m	
Attract Private Sector Investment	£300m+	c.£21.69m	
Jobs created	5,000	1,602 (gross)	
New Businesses	140	114	
Develop new infrastructure	£72m	£28.8m*	

Milestones	Dates
Proposition and identifying opportunities for data centre market	Ongoing
Land / property acquisitions x 4	Sept 2021
Appoint international marketing agents LAMEC brand	Apr 2021
Changing Rooms and car park/3G pitch planning application decision expected	May 2021
Appoint Common Edge Changing room and 3G pitches contractor	May 2021
Architectural feasibility study & design work for airport complete	May 2021
Head of Terms to be agreed bespoke 20,000 sq ft unit	Jun 2021
Focussed marketing of Common Edge phase 1 commences	Jun 2021
Design and outline planning application for eastern gateway access	Sept 2021
Design and outline planning application for Common Edge Road	Sept 2021
No. 12 grass football pitches ready for use	Sep 2021
Release of existing sports pitches and commencement of highway and utility infrastructure	Oct 2021
40,000 sq ft devt complete	Oct 2021
Fiscal benefit extension decision from HM Treasury	Nov 2021
Planning approval for highways	Mar 2022*
12 month construction contract for EGA access road	Mar2022
Airport Control tower, fire station relocation planning application	Jan 2022
Outline planning app for airport redevelopment	Mar 2022
Decision on airport redevelopment planning application	May 2022
Commencement of works for airport redevelopment	July 2022
Delivery of spec dev of 20,000 sq ft commercial unit	Sept 2022
Replacement hangar development commenced	Sep 2022
Completion of airport redevelopment works	Autumn 2023

**Subject to Secretary of State approval of Greenbelt development*

Objectives over 2-3 years

Phase 1 infrastructure complete

Phase 1 spec and bespoke developments commenced and pre-lets secured

Commenced relocation of aviation operational infrastructure to enable new development

Commenced upgraded utilities including PV solar site and new primary sub station

Objectives over 5 years

Common Edge Phase 1 development complete – all plots occupied

Residential development underway

Relocation of airport existing property stock and infrastructure complete

New airport spec development in planning stages

Objectives over 10 years

Phase 2 continued spec development of remaining plots airport site

Squires Gate Industrial Estate – spec proposals for future development

c) Masterplan

The EZ masterplan and delivery plans have now been refreshed to reflect the new development since 2016. The updated plan reflecting the impact of changes in third party ownership across the site, requirements for changes required to satisfy Sport England and address Highway and transportation concerns. The masterplan is appended as appendix 1.

An online public consultation is to be undertaken in respect of the refreshed masterplan and the supporting written document, with any significant amendments as a result of feedback reported back to Blackpool Council, the EPB and LEP for endorsement. This consultation will be run in parallel with a pre-application consultation on the third Common Edge planning application, which will cover the new Highways and the development of the former sports pitches. Timing will be dependent upon on restrictions prior to the local elections in May.

The masterplan and associated delivery plan are designed to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances and opportunity and will be reviewed on an annual basis and fully refreshed every 5 years.

The approved marketing strategy will continue to be implemented for the Enterprise Zone and where appropriate will be updated in line with the revised masterplan.

One of two Project management roles funded by Fylde Borough Council has now been appointed and commenced work on the 1st March 2021. The outstanding role will be re-advertised in April. The importance of strengthening the project management resource is a very high priority to ensure continued successful and expanded delivery as the range and scale of direct delivery ramps up in 2021/22.

d) Fiscal Incentives

Work is continuing to lobby MHCLG to seek an extension of EZ fiscal benefits which are due to expire for Blackpool in March 22 for rates relief and November 23 for Enhanced Capital Allowances.

With full LEP support, Blackpool EZ joined nationally with The LEP Network to put a proposal to HM Treasury. This seeks an extension of business rates relief to 2025/26 as a low cost focus and engine for post Covid-19 economic recovery and growth, and to recognise the delays in all EZ's being able to bring forward enabling infrastructure.

Further to being informed by HM Treasury that there is presently no opportunity for the proposal to be included in the 3rd March budget which focussed on the Freeports programme, the LEP Network will now look to re-engage with Treasury and MHCLG to further discuss EZ policy, with the objective of securing support in the Autumn financial and business rates review.

e) Current Activity Phase One

Work on the provision of 12 new grass football pitches – granted planning consent by Fylde BC in May 2020 has now been completed with Contractor STRI Group now maintaining the seed growth on the pitches which will be playable from the start of the 2021/2 football season in September. Additional drainage works have been undertaken in association with the phase one work to help alleviate local drainage difficulties in Division Lane including reopening of blocked drainage ditches and culverts on Moss Edge Lane to relieve pressures caused by

partially blocked Highway drains in Division Lane. A new drainage strategy has been developed for Common Edge to ensure that the drainage outflows to the existing drainage networks do not exceed current greenfield rates of discharge.

The second of three proposed planning applications designed to release the Common Edge Sports pitches was submitted in September to Blackpool and Fylde Councils. It includes a 3G sports pitch, grass rugby pitch, training area, reconfiguration and extension to existing car park, provision of associated hard-standing, fencing and landscaping, improvement works to the access from Common Edge Road including the creation of a new footway and cycleway.

Only one 3G facility will now be provided at Common Edge to comply with Sports England's recommendations, with a further floodlit grass pitch to be enhanced for Rugby League use. Discussions with the Football Foundation have confirmed that they will still, subject to application, be willing to provide grant toward the cost of the facilities with a full funding application to be submitted in June. Initially it was hoped that planning consent could be secured by January, however very last minute issues raised by Sport England, Natural England and Lancashire Highways, have resulted in the final approval being unlikely to be secured until May, with the Fylde planning committee consideration being targeted for the April 28th meeting. This will not delay the new sports pitches coming into use and phased release of existing pitches will allow Highway preparation works to progress.

Detailed design work on the changing room and car parking is now 95% complete with minor adjustments being made to allow for changing places provision.

Further design work has continued both the Eastern Gateway Access and the Common Edge Road junction upgrade led by Blackpool highways team, with further detailed site investigation being commissioned. The purchase of third-party property has now been agreed but leasehold surrenders and renewals with sports clubs are still under negotiation and need to be resolved before the design can be finalised and the planning application submitted for the roads. Target for submission of the major planning application covering roads and commercial development is the third quarter 2021.

f) Initial Development

Legal agreements have been concluded for the development of 40,000 sq ft facility to be occupied by Multiply Components Ltd, and Eric Wright Construction commenced on site works in late October. The Design and Build contract is for a nine month build with an October 2021 opening subject to completion of specialist fit out works being undertaken by the company. £800K of Growth Deal funding was secured and the funding fully drawn down. Steelwork has now been erected and cladding and external works will commence shortly.

g) Current Planning Applications

Three live planning applications are currently being considered by Blackpool Council, with a significant number of retrospective applications anticipated for works/and use changes within the Squires Gate Industrial Estate. These current planning applications include an application for a small fibre switching data centre to support role out of superfast broadband across the Fylde Coast.

h) Squires Gate Industrial Estate (Former Wellington Bomber Factory)

The new owners of Squires Gate Industrial Estate continue subdividing and letting units and over cladding the building to improve appearance.

i) Marketing

Marketing Lancashire has commissioned a new EZ section of the Invest in Lancashire website <https://investinlancashire.com/lamec/> but phase 2 works on the individual LAMEC website has still yet to undertaken. Blackpool (and Hillhouse) EZ continue to push for an update to the websites to include an option for people to sign up to the respective EZ newsletters, as the websites only offer a City Deal and Lancashire Business Brief that are not relevant to the EZs.

Any updates need to ensure the material is fully accessible for anyone with disability. Additional administrator rights have been obtained on elements of the LAMEC website to ensure regular news updates are posted and linked to EZ social media accounts, but further improvement is required.

A series of workshops have been held to review the branding and messaging for all four LAMEC sites and a combined communications strategy is to be implemented once approved by the LEP.

Regular newsletter updates have continued throughout lockdown providing Covid-19 business support advice with the Marketing Officer continuing to monitor the situation carefully. The next quarterly spring 2021 edition is planned by the end of March containing good news stories.

A double page spread in the Invest in Lancashire Guide 2021 has been secured along with editorial coverage and can be viewed here: [Lancashire Investment Guide 2021 \(flickread.com\)](https://www.flickread.com/lancashire-investment-guide-2021)

Work is progressing with LCC to appoint a joint international agent for all four LAMEC sites. So far, no interest has been received and the advert was extended to 12th March 2021, with an appointment to be confirmed in April.

j) Enquiries

A reasonable number of new enquiries have been received in the past few months despite the twin economic uncertainties of Brexit and Covid and work is continuing to secure these interests with development proposals presently being worked up.

The top 10 enquiries are:

No.	Date of enquiry	Target sector	Size	Type of enquiry
1	Jan 2021	DC	up to 125,000 sq ft	National company, land sale enquiry for data centre
2	Dec 2020	FM	up to 80,000 sq ft	Land sale for international wholesaler, Warehousing and distribution
3	Oct 2020	DC	Up to 30,000 sq ft	D&B LH for NW data centre facility requirement
4	Apr 2020	AV	25,000 sq ft	D&B sale hangar for specialised sim/helicopter training facilities, worldwide contracts
5	Nov 2020	E	20,000 sq ft	D&B sale for mix of owner/occupier and spec devt
6	Dec 2020	FM	Up to 80,000 sq ft	D&B LH for regional manufacturing and warehousing co.
7	May 2020	AV	2 acres	Land sale for hangar complex for engineering and storage.
8	Nov 2020	FM	Up to 30,000 sq ft	D&B lease for fast growth, local target sector company
9	Aug 2019	ADM	20,000 sq ft	D&B sale for established local manufacturers constrained at existing premises
10	Dec 2020	ADM	Up to 2 acre plot for 20,000 sq ft	D&B sale for established local manufacturers constrained at existing premises

SECTORS: ADM - Adv. Manufacturing & engineering, AV - Aviation, OA - Office administration, FM - food manufacturing, E - Energy, DC – digital and creative, O - Other

k) Blackpool Airport

Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd has taken the decision that on expiry of the existing operating contracts the CAA licensing for the airport will be brought in-house and the airport managed directly by the company. Staff have all been notified and a press release informing of the decision was issued to the local, regional and trade press early March. Work is now underway to apply to CAA for new operating licenses to come into effect from end of September, and a specialist project manager appointed on a short-term contract to lead the transition.

The airport has continued to operate throughout Covid-19 lockdowns to ensure offshore services could be maintained. There is continued lobby group pressure to reintroduce commercial air services but in the present distressed state of the aviation industry there is very limited interest from airline industry to consider new domestic or near European routes.

Work has continued to repair and upgrade the airport infrastructure – with the Control tower in the middle of a £150,000 programme to repair the Visual Control Cupola and provide a short service life extension whilst studies are finalised to determine the nature and location of new aircraft control facilities – with a potential new

location to the south of the main runway one option

The airport was successful in securing support from the Airfield Development Advisory Fund, with the consultancy support funded looking at options for introduction of virtual control technology, which would avoid the requirement for construction of a new control tower.

The contract to serve the offshore rigs transferred to NHV with effect from 1st December for the present time NHV will continue to serve the production platforms owned by both Spirit and Italian company ENI.

To date:

- A total of over 300 live enquiries are currently logged for Blackpool EZ.
- Some 114 businesses have located to the Enterprise Zone since April 2016.
- A gross cumulative total of 1602 jobs have located to the Enterprise Zone, this figure includes jobs new to the area, safeguarded jobs within Blackpool and construction full time equivalent jobs.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Enterprise Zones Team, Blackpool Council

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To review the work of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit.

That the committee note the contents of this progress.

FURTHER INFORMATION

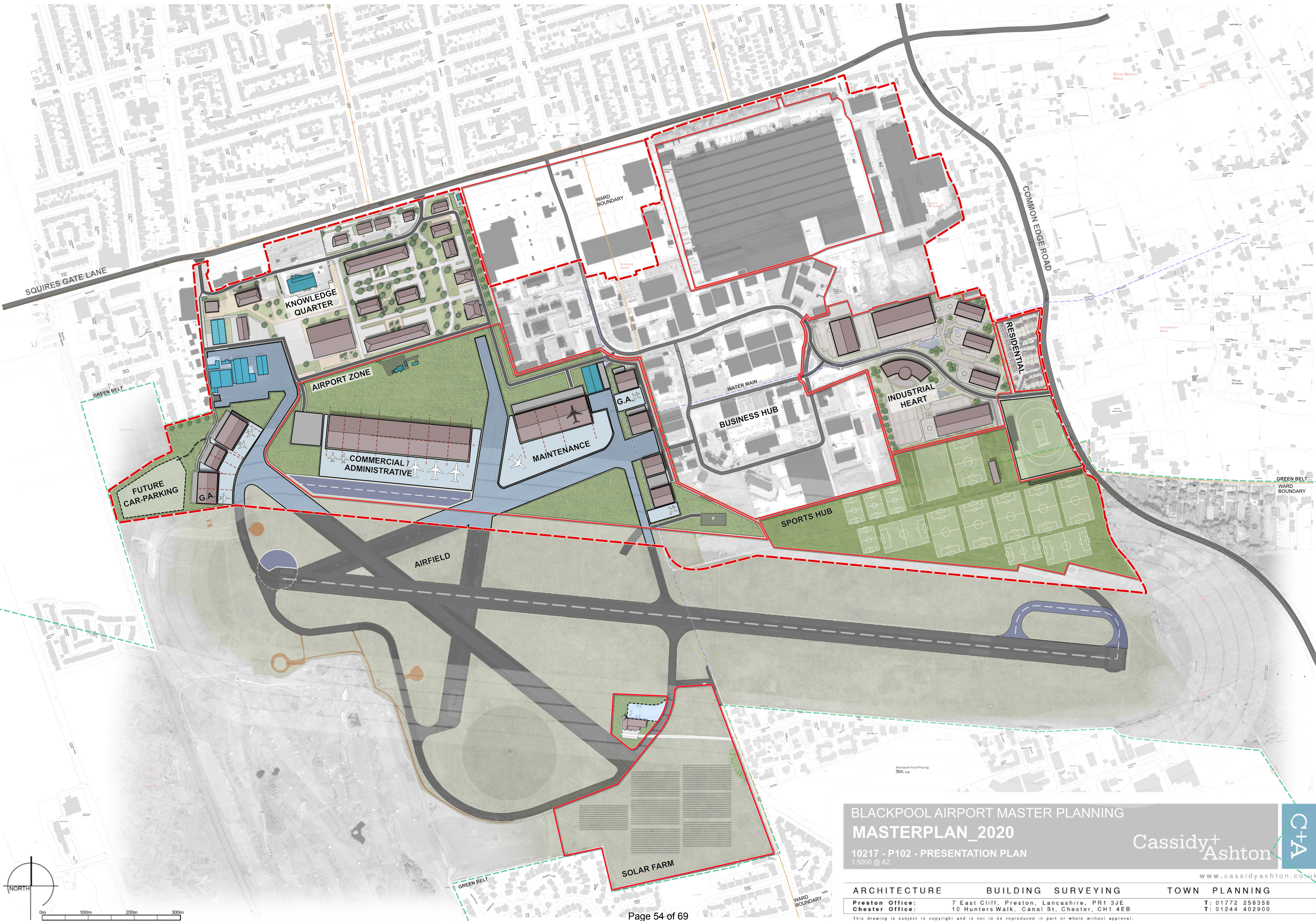
Contact:

Rob Green

Head of Enterprise Zones

Blackpool Council

rob.green@blackpool.gov.uk



BLACKPOOL AIRPORT MASTER PLANNING
MASTERPLAN_2020

10217 - P102 - PRESENTATION PLAN
1:5000 @ A2

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INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	14
COVID 19 PANDEMIC RECOVERY			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

An outline of the recovery measures in response to the COVID 19 pandemic for the services under the remit of the committee.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Direct experience and feedback from the service providers based on the Road Map published for recovery

LINK TO INFORMATION

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-roadmap-to-cautiously-ease-lockdown-restrictions>

INFORMATION

- Finance** – The team are still involved with the administration and post verification of grants that will continue for most of the current financial year. The one-year settlement means there is no long-term certainty, but all risks are captured in the regular programme of budget monitoring and MTFS reports.
- Corporate Planning** – The Corporate plan has been reviewed considering the pandemic and a Recovery Plan developed to deliver the corporate strategic objectives for the recovery of the local community including the local economy.
- Customer Services** – Plans to re-open in person service / appointments are included in the Fylde Road Map based on the regulations, measures and guidance currently known, any phased back to full operations will be monitored and reviewed at each stage of the process. Current forecast is for full access in Step 4 of the Road Map.
- Democratic Arrangements** – Regulatory updates are yet to be published regarding committee / council meetings after May 7th, 2021 until that date in person cannot take place. All members will be provided with details of meeting arrangements as soon as they are known. Plans are in place for the AGM to be held on May 26th, 2021 subject to the regulations.
- ICT / Website** – The service has been essential during the COVID period with significant additional demands, the team will be part of the 'return to the workplace' plans for every service area with the expectation that it will late summer before arrangements are settled and the work locations for the longer term are confirmed.
- Communications** – The team have been essential throughout the pandemic and have had to be bolstered

with additional internal and external resource because of the significant increase in demand. The actions and resources required to manage communications at each stage of the Road Map are included on the appendix to this update.

7. **Performance Monitoring** – All services have been impacted by the pandemic resulting in reduce resource, new demands and changes of working practice, regular performance monitoring and reporting will be in place for the second half go the 21/22 financial year.

A COVID Road Map Recovery Plan is being developed to identify the key actions and resources required to manage the recovery process over the next few months in Fylde. A copy of the plan is included as **Appendix 1** to this information item, this is a live document subject to changes based on regulation updates. Not all the measures planned / prepared will necessarily be required dependent on the final regulations that are expected no earlier than a week before each step of the Road Map.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To outline the service recovery plans as the COVID pandemic lockdown measures ease.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact – Allan Oldfield (01253 658500) allan.oldfield@fylde.gov.uk

COVID Road Map Recovery – Fylde Resource Plan

National Road Map Step One	The Impact / Behaviours	Actions to be Taken	Additional Resources Required
<p>March 8th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise & recreation outdoors with household or one other person Household only indoors Stay at home No holidays Funerals 30 Weddings & Wakes 6 <p>March 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of six or two households outdoors (including private garden) Household only indoors Organised outdoor sports Outdoor sport and leisure All outdoor children's activities Outdoor parent and children's groups (max 15 excluding under 5's) Required to minimise travel No holidays (overnight stays) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People will meet others outdoors and stop, chat, eat a takeaway Increased expectation of funeral attendance <p>March 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger outdoor gatherings Private garden activity increases Outdoor sports open and ad hoc on open spaces Team sports being played Venues open for takeaway leads to drinking and eating in public open spaces Easter & weekends could have large crowds on the coast Queues will form at takeaway venues Coastal walks will be busy Picnics on open space BBQ's will be out Everyone eager to get out and business eager to trade Shared spaces busier Increased likelihood of unauthorised encampments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comms campaign ready week before Remove signage from benches Review funeral numbers Bulk bins located at key locations Adventure Golf open Tennis courts (open) Bowling Greens (open) Council concessions (some) Liaise with police / LCC on alcohol consumption in public open spaces Easter holiday and weekend planning based on single RAG resource plan Liaise with venues planning to operate takeaways – cover litter & toilet responsibilities. COVID marshals and other support available for advice and support in the community Pavement Café licences being renewed – trade have been contacted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICG campaign commissioned Additional bins purchased Additional collection / empty crew added for busy / sunny weekends Additional signage in key locations i.e. open spaces / town centres Additional resource from TIC pool to advise / support / enforce in the community being visible Additional agency resource to collect litter in key locations System for all resources to be connected out of hours (online, smartphones etc.) Legal advice and support Toilet hire or signage / flags Dedicated vehicle and operative to remove illegal signage (Rangers can assist) 7.5 tonne RCV with driver to empty bins (hire one extra) Briefing note / campaign for businesses trading / re-opening Connect and pool resources from all teams working at weekends

National Road Map Step Two	The Impact / Behaviours	Actions to be Taken	Additional Resources Required
<p>No earlier than April 12th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule of six or two households outdoors includes private garden • All non-essential retail open • Personal care services open • Libraries and community centres open • Indoor leisure / gyms open • Self-contained accommodation open • All children's activities • Outdoor hospitality (table service) • Indoor parent and child groups (max 15 excluding under 5's) • Domestic overnight stays (household only) • No international holidays • Funerals (30) • Weddings / wakes / receptions (15) • Event pilots (to be confirmed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor dining demand will be high, and limits of 'outdoor' area will be tested • Pavement licences will be crucial and will be used • Busy retail as people will be keen to spend / get a haircut etc. • Increased expectation at wedding / funerals etc. locations • Shoppers will join visitors drinking and dining in public open spaces • Demand to use the Green / public open spaces for activities / pilot events • Staycation numbers are high • Fly posting and promotion of venues and events etc increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms campaign ready week before • Monitor, support, advise and enforce • Outdoor dining / use of open space compliance messages • Liaise in advance of April 12th with venues operating outdoor service • Boating lake open in part (model boat club only) • Policy / procedure to manage enquiries to use public open space for events / pop up ventures • Review funeral arrangements • Understand where receptions / wakes can be held if indoor hospitality remains closed • Appointment only for public at Town Hall for certain services • Clarify definition of inside and outside and map pavement licences and coverings • Re-opening information and expectations communicated to operators • Clarify whether off sales allowed for alcohol • Restart Grants administered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICG campaign commissioned • Additional enforcement covering illegal signage as retail opens • Additional collection / empty crew added for busy / sunny weekends • Additional signage in key locations i.e. open spaces / town centres • Additional resource to advise / support / enforce in the community being visible • Additional resource to collect litter in key locations • System for all resources to be connected out of hours (online, smartphones etc.) • Toilet provision / access • Dedicated vehicle and operative to remove illegal signage • Teams pool resources (staff, second gator) for weekends to keep on top of litter / cleanliness issues.

National Road Map Step Three	The Impact / Behaviours	Actions to be Taken	Additional Resources Required
<p>No earlier than May 17th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 30 people outdoors • Rule of six or 2 households indoors (subject to review) • Indoor hospitality opens (conditions to be announced) • Indoor entertainment and attractions • Organised indoor sport • All accommodation open • All outdoor entertainment including performances • Domestic overnight stays • International travel subject to review • Most significant life events 30 max • Indoor events 1000 or 50% capacity (plus pilots) • Outdoor seated events 10,000 or 25% capacity (plus pilots) • Outdoor non-seated / other events 4000 or 50% capacity (plus pilots) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality is busy, all venues operating • Events taking place / many not on council premises • Busy weekends and good weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms campaign ready week before • Hospitality compliance support / advice / enforcement • Support and advice on events • Review in person access to Town Hall / council premises for all stakeholders • Fairhaven motorboat service resumes (water sports centre open) • Splash and boating pool reopen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICG campaign commissioned • Tourism social media campaign • Additional collection / empty crew added for busy / sunny weekends • Additional signage in key locations i.e. open spaces / town centres • Additional resource to advise / support / enforce in the community being visible • Additional resource to collect litter in key locations • System for all resources to be connected out of hours (online, smartphones etc.) • Toilet provision / access • Dedicated vehicle and operative to remove illegal signage • Teams pool resources (staff, second gator) for weekends to keep on top of litter / cleanliness issues.

National Road Map Step Four	The Impact / Behaviours	Actions to be Taken	Additional Resources Required
<p>No earlier than June 21st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal restrictions / social distancing regulations • All businesses open including disco / night club • Holiday's home and abroad with whoever you want • Parties indoors or outdoors with as many people as you like • Larger events permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'new normal' with maybe some advisory measures and people choosing to continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms campaign ready week before • Resource to monitor, advise and enforce if measures remain and regular conditions • Support events and outdoor activities • Re-open Town Hall and council facilities with full access for all stakeholders • Liaison with Police for opening night plans, requirement for officers to be available. • Comms to public re behaving responsibly – respect bar staff, taxi drivers etc • Lytham Windmill reopening • Mobile TIC deployed for information and support • Operational teams move to summer arrangements – parks, waste, coast etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunting, staging, chairs, signage, hi viz available. Review stocks • Support from Steve Williams and Lytham Heritage Group.

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	15

REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS OUTSIDE BODIES

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

On 19 October 2020, Council made appointments to the various outside bodies. These appointments followed recommendations from the programme committees. This report deals with appointments within the remit of this committee.

In line with the Protocol for Members on Outside Bodies (Part 5f of the Council's Constitution), every member serving on an outside body is required to complete a reporting form every six months, which is submitted to the relevant programme committee to which the external partnership relates.

Included as an appendix to this report are the returned completed reporting forms and a list of outstanding reports/details of those bodies which have not met.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Elected member representatives to the Outside Bodies

INFORMATION ATTACHED

Outside Bodies Reports and Summary

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

The information is provided to maintain an understanding of the work of the outside bodies, and to remain abreast of any issues that may have an impact on the residents of the borough or the council.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Tracy Manning, Director of Resources – tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk

Outside Body	Councillor	Report Status
Finance & Democracy Committee, 29/3/2021 meeting		
Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Project Board	Deputy Leader – Roger Small	Report attached
Fylde Community Projects Fund	The Mayor	Report attached
North West Employers Organisation	Chair of F&D – Karen Buckley	Report attached
NW of England & Isle of Man Reserve Forces & Cadets Association	Ed Nash	Report attached
South Fylde Rail Users Group	Vince Settle	Report attached

Outside Bodies - Member Reporting Form

Details

Councillor Name and Role on Outside Body *(for example, Observer, Trustee, Director):-*

R. Small member of Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone

Email:-

Period this report covers (2020

Name of Outside Body:-

How often does the organisation meet? And how often have you attended?:-

Quarterly, 3/4

Key issues arising for Fylde Borough Council:-

Examples of issues could be those that may affect decisions regarding budget setting, challenges for residents, policy changes that affect partnership working etc

Due to the pandemic there have been no new initiatives, main focus has been on maintaining service. As lockdown measures ease then the EZ is looking to be ready to exploit economic opportunities.

Who did you inform of these issues within Fylde Borough Council?:-

The lead officer, AO

In the light of these meetings, is it worthwhile for the Council to continue to have a representative/representatives on this body?:-

yes there will be initiatives as we come out of pandemic. We must be in a position to be ready to take advantages of economic upturn therefore our involvement in the EZ is essential, otherwise Blackpool will take everything and leave Fylde out.

Any further comments?:-

Outside Bodies - Member Reporting Form

Details

Councillor Name and Role on Outside Body *(for example, Observer, Trustee, Director):-*

Councillor Angela Jacques - Mayor

Email:- cllrajaques@fylde.gov.uk

Period this report covers (date):- May 2020 – May 2021

Name of Outside Body:- Community Projects Fund

How often does the organisation meet? And how often have you attended?:-

Due to the current situation, all applications for the funds have been sent out for consideration and replies have been sent back via email, as and when required.

Key issues arising for Fylde Borough Council:-

The ability to match funding, suitability of applications and the fund pot.

Who did you inform of these issues within Fylde Borough Council?:-

Jo Collins

In the light of these meetings, is it worthwhile for the Council to continue to have a representative/representatives on this body?:-

It is statutory responsibility for this body to continue and for the Mayor to play a role in it.

Any further comments?:-

It is important to ensure that the applications are for worthy causes and that the money that is awarded is spent wisely.

Councillor Name and Role on Outside Body (for example, Observer, Trustee, Director):-

Cllr Karen Buckley

Email

cllrkbuckley@fylde.gov.uk

Period this report covers (date)

Up to 29 March 2021

Name of Outside Body

North West Employers

How often does the organisation meet?

Ad hoc

How often have you attended?

I attend relevant sessions and organise a substitute if unavailable

What are the key issues arising for Fylde Borough Council

Pay negotiations; local government reform; a voice for the NW

Examples of issues could be those that may affect decisions regarding budget setting, challenges for residents, policy changes that affect partnership working etc

Each year the Union pay claim is discussed and soundings taken from all councils as negotiations are entered into between the National Employers and the National Joint Council Trade Unions (Unite, Unison GMB). Fylde is included in this negotiation as part of the national body and does not have separate, localised union arrangements. The latest claim is currently under consultation and details of this can be found on the LGA's website. In addition to the annual pay claim, NW Employers organised a session on local government reform last year which was well attended by Lancashire representatives. Recently the NW Regional Board has reconvened after a number of years fallow, initially as a response to Covid 19 but going forward there is a will to ensure the North West has a voice in national government. The challenge with this, however, is the dominance of Liverpool and Manchester both of which have combined authorities.

Who did you inform of these issues within Fylde Borough Council?

Chief Executive, Deputy Leader, council members through regular reporting.

In the light of these meetings, is it worthwhile for the Council to continue to have a representative/representatives on this body?

Yes

Any further comments?

-

Outside Bodies - Member Reporting Form

Details

Councillor Name and Role on Outside Body Ed Nash Member

Email:- cllr.enash@fylde.gov.uk

Period this report covers (date):-

Name of Outside Body:- North West England & Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadets Association

How often does the organisation meet? And how often have you attended?:-

Twice annually. Meetings were cancelled this year owing to Covid and elections carried out by email

Key issues arising for Fylde Borough Council:-

Fylde Council were awarded the Bronze Certificate for employers under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This was due to a great deal of hard work by officer Edyta Paxton and it is a great honour to be officially recognised as an employer who goes above and beyond to support the Armed Forces and to be given the award by the Ministry of Defence. Edyta was rewarded by travelling to Liverpool to receive the award from the Commadore North West aboard HMD Prince of Wales, our newest aircraft carrier. Work is now progressing towards the silver award.

Cllr Ed Nash was awarded The Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire's Certificate for Meritorious Service for support given to the Armed Forces community in Fylde over the last nine years.

Who did you inform of these issues within Fylde Borough Council?:- Leader, Chief Executive

In the light of these meetings, is it worthwhile for the Council to continue to have a representative/representatives on this body?:- Yes

Any further comments?:- Much more to do

Outside Bodies - Member Reporting Form

Details

Councillor Name and Role on Outside Body (*for example, Observer, Trustee, Director*):-

Cllr. Vince Settle- member of this liaison group

Email:-

Period this report covers (date):- 3 months up to Feb 2021

Name of Outside Body:- South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership

How often does the organisation meet? And how often have you attended?:-

Meets usually every 3 months. Always attend, but missed the 4th February meeting

Key issues arising for Fylde Borough Council:-

Examples of issues could be those that may affect decisions regarding budget setting, challenges for residents, policy changes that affect partnership working etc

The body is essentially a liaison group of Network Rail, Northern Rail, LCC, Blackpool Council and Fylde Council with attendance also from the Lancashire Partnership and police. It also acts as the conduit for funding bids from those bodies. As such, there are no specific budget issues or policy issues for Fylde, but can discuss any issues raised by Fylde councillors.

Who did you inform of these issues within Fylde Borough Council?:-

N/A

In the light of these meetings, is it worthwhile for the Council to continue to have a representative/representatives on this body?:-

YES

Any further comments?:-

The partnership has recently assisted the 2 MP's with the bid for a 30 minutes service on the line, and stands ready to assist in the Feasibility Study

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2021	16
EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to consider passing a resolution concerning the exclusion of the public from the meeting in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business to be discussed is exempt information as defined under paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), and paragraph and 5, information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.