



# MINUTES

## Environment, Health and Housing Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 2 September 2021
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Councillor Jayne Nixon (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Paula Brearley, Karen Buckley, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Karen Henshaw JP, Roger Lloyd, Bobby Rigby.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Tracy Manning, Kathy Winstanley, Ian Curtis, Kristine Riding, Cheryl Bennett, Adam Sugden, Katharine McDonnell and Hannah Kirk.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Jack Spees and Harvey Hamilton-Thorpe, Ribble Rivers Trust.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Mike Pomfret, Project Manager for the Fairhaven and Church Scar Coastal Defences, who had died recently.

### 1. Declarations of Interest

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

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 15 June 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

### 3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Karen Buckley substituted for Councillor Sally Nash-Walker.

### Information Item

#### 4. Presentation on Ribble Valley Health

The Committee received a presentation from Jack Spees and Harvey Hamilton-Thorpe from Ribble Rivers Trust on the work that they do. Following the conclusion of the item, the Chairman offered his thanks to Mr. Spees and Mr. Hamilton-Thorpe.

### Decision Items

#### 5. Surveillance Cameras

Ian Curtis, Head of Governance, introduced a report on surveillance cameras across the borough. He explained that replacement CCTV provisions were required in St Annes, Lytham and Kirkham, subject to available funding. Further

Minutes – Environment, Health and Housing Committee – 2 September 2021

to this, he detailed the acquisition of four rapid redeployable CCTV cameras (RRCs), alongside how CCTV can be facilitated by town and parish councils.

Following questions, Mr. Curtis advised that if any more requests than available RRCs were received, the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee would assess the priority of deployment, relating to a number of criteria.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the replacement of the strategic town centre cameras in St Annes, Lytham and Kirkham in principle, subject to Capital budgetary provision being confirmed through the 2022/23 budget process.
2. Note the replacement of the two mobile CCTV vans by four rapid redeployable cameras; and
3. Note the ability of town and parish councils to fund their own supplementary CCTV systems.
4. Create additional signage notifying residence of CCTV, and update those already in place.

#### 6. Private Sector HMO Inspection Programme

Cheryl Bennett, Principal Housing Services Officer, introduced a report which detailed the current condition of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in Fylde and further advised on a project funded by the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2021/22 to begin undertaking proactive inspections of HMOs.

She advised that many HMOs were once single dwellings which have been converted to house multiple occupants, and the local authority have a statutory duty to maintain housing standards within their district. According to council tax records, there 530 HMOs within the Fylde Borough, however this number is not always reliable as many HMOs evade the council tax system.

Following number of concerns raised by members of the Committee, it was agreed that these should be addressed prior to the request being put before the Finance and Democracy Committee.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Note the contents of the report and the proposed HMO inspection programme, in accordance with Part 1, Chapter 3 of Housing Act 2004, in which local authorities have a statutory duty to maintain housing standards within their district.
2. Recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee to approve fully funded revenue budget increase to undertake the proactive inspection programme of HMOs in Fylde for the total of £97,403 to be met by the HPG (£26,022 21/22 and £71,381 22/23) and £10,054 (£2,000 21/22 and £8,054 22/23) to be used to support the work of the housing service to provide continued support for clients facing homelessness in 2021/22 under the Housing Act 1996 totalling £107,457.

Following the conclusion of this item, Councillor Peter Hardy left the meeting.

#### 7. Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Kristine Riding, Housing Services Manager, provided an update on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and further details on new statutory duties placed on Local Authorities. She advised that Fylde Borough Council fall under Tier 2 responsibilities, which are to co-operate with the lead Tier 1 local authority to deliver this support within their areas, under Part 4 duties of the Act, namely, to provide safe accommodation.

It was further advised that funding had been awarded to the sum of £33,196 to undertake the additional duties and to provide support within their local authority area. This funding would be paid on an annual basis for a period of three years. It was planned that this work would be undertaken in partnership with Fylde Coast's Women's Aid (FCWA) to offer support and commission a Housing Outreach worker.

Following number of concerns raised by members of the Committee, it was agreed that these should be addressed prior to the request being put before the Finance and Democracy Committee.

It was RESOLVED to:

## Minutes – Environment, Health and Housing Committee – 2 September 2021

1. Note the contents of the report and the proposed project to work in partnership with Wyre Council and Fylde Coast Women's Aid to commission a Housing Outreach Worker to engage and support female and male victims and their children under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
2. Recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase for the total of £33,196 to be met by MHCLG New Duties funding (£16,500 21/22 and £16,696 22/23) to undertake new Part IV duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

### Information Items

The following information items were received and noted by the committee.

#### 8. Afghanistan Crisis

The Committee received an update on the Afghanistan crisis. It was reported that Fylde Council would be involved in the relocation of 5 families, so work had been undertaken to establish any suitable properties in the area. Many offers of donations from Fylde residents had been received, but it had been advised to wait until it had been established what was needed. It was advised that social media notifications would be circulated concerning this.

#### 9. Street Begging Update

Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, provided an update on this issue, following a discussion paper that was introduced at the March meeting of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee. This included an update on the use of Community Protection warnings and notices to respond to anti-social behaviour. Following concerns raised by members, Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager advised that thorough welfare checks on vulnerable individuals were part of the process and the support was in place to get people into accommodation.

At this juncture, members of the Committee through the Chairman offered their thanks to officers for the hard work that had been done to provide support for vulnerable individuals.

Further to the above, Mrs. Manning advised that the police possess the same powers as local authorities to respond to anti-social behaviour and suggested that it may be opportune to engage with the new Police and Crime Commissioner about responding to anti-social behaviour in accordance with the Commissioner's call for feedback on this issue. It was RESOLVED to ask Mrs. Manning to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to outline that the council would like to see the Constabulary using the range of powers available to them to respond to anti-social behaviour, rather than deferring to local authorities, in particular when dealing with challenging customers.

#### 10. Private Sector Enforcement Policy

Cheryl Bennett, Principal Housing Services Officer, provided a detailed update on changes in the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, which would revert back to the original policy as approved by the Environment, Health and Housing Committee on 11 June 2019.

#### 11. Safe Communities and Confident Young Citizens Project Update

The Committee received an update on the Safe Communities and Confident Young Citizens Project. It was reported that a rise in anti-social behaviour had been seen in the current unprecedented time, and the project was putting in positive pathways for young people to follow. There were two age groups, those aged 13-17 who have received a wide range of multi-sports activities and those 18-24, focusing on employability skills and work experience.

Following the conclusion of this update, the Chairman extended his thanks to Ian Brookes, Sports Development Officer, and his team for their work on the project.

#### 12. Carbon Neutral Update

The Committee received an update from the Carbon Neutral Working Group and detailed a meeting with Keith Ashcroft, Area Director Cumbria and Lancashire at the Environment Agency, who endorsed the work of the Working Group and the wider council.

#### 13. Capital Programme Monitoring Report - Position as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

The committee received an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 31 July 2021 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the committee.

#### 14. Reports of the Various Outside Bodies

Minutes – Environment, Health and Housing Committee – 2 September 2021

The committee received information reports from member representatives on outside bodies, specifically those under the remit of the committee.

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