



Cabinet Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 10 October 2023
Please ask for: Marianne Unwin
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Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of interest

Members will disclose any pecuniary and any other significant interests they may have in relation to the matters to be considered at this meeting.

3. Confirmation of minutes

(Pages 3 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

4. Public questions

To receive and respond to any questions from members of the public.

Public questions for Cabinet may be submitted at any time by writing to Democratic Services or via email democratic.services@wyre.gov.uk.

Public questions for this meeting must be received by noon on the Thursday before the meeting is held and do not need to specifically relate to items on this agenda. Questioners should provide their name and address and indicate to which Cabinet member the question is to be directed.

The total period of time allocated for public questions will not normally exceed 30 minutes.

5. Wyre Moving More Strategy

(Pages 9 - 70)

Report of the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Communities.

- 6. Medium Term Financial Plan (annual report)** (Pages 71 - 104)

Report of the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Resources.
- 7. Capital Programme Review and Monitoring Report (mid-year annual report)** (Pages 105 - 122)

Report of the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Resources.
- 8. The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre task group (final report)** (Pages 123 - 154)

Report of the Chair of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group and the Corporate Director Resources.



Cabinet Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde.

Cabinet members present:

Councillors Vincent, Berry, McKay, Bowen, Bridge and Le Marinel

Other councillors present:

Councillors Fail and Moliner

Officers present:

Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive

Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment

Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities

Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Temporary)

Alexandra Holt, Heritage and Audience Development Manager

Emma Lyons, Communications and Visitor Economy Manager

Julia Robinson, Commercial Manager Waterfront & Venues

Kathy Winstanley, Head of Public Realm and Environmental Sustainability

Officers absent- apologies received:

Clare James, Corporate Director Resources & Section 151 Officer

One member of the public attended the meeting.

CAB.6 Declarations of interest

None.

CAB.7 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 June 2023 were **approved** as a correct record.

CAB.8 Public questions

None received.

CAB.9 Replace using Diesel with Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel for the Council's Fleet

The Leader of the Council and the Corporate Director Environment submitted a report to seek Cabinet agreement to utilise Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel to replace diesel as the primary fuel used to power diesel engine council vehicles.

Councillor Fail asked about the council's progress towards an all-electric vehicles fleet. Councillor Vincent stated that the council was still interested in moving to electric vehicles, but that there were certain difficulties to be addressed, such as cost and performance. The switch to HVO resulted in an immediate reduction in the council's carbon footprint.

Decisions

Cabinet **agreed:**

- To significantly reduce the use of diesel to fuel the council's vehicle fleet and instead utilise HVO fuel, which is more expensive (generally between 30p and 45p per litre) but yields a significant reduction in the council's carbon footprint (c30%), contributing to our net zero target.
- To employ a hedging strategy to ensure a consistent supply of HVO fuel at an agreed price over the first twelve-month period, with the flexibility to move away from this approach delegated to the Corporate Director Environment in future years to procure when required if this is assessed to be more economical.
- That approval is given to proceed under the exemption to Contract Procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules (Appendix F) on the grounds that exceptions may apply if "a framework agreement is available that necessitates the Council not having to go out to tender and the goods, works and services will still provide the Council with best value for money". In line with this, the council would continue to utilise YPO framework number 981 to purchase the HVO product and appoint supplier Standard Oils to supply the HVO product.
- To approve the increased cost to the non-Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) fleet to cover the additional cost of HVO fuel in 2023/24. In a full year the impact is estimated to result in an increased cost of £48,635 compared to diesel. Owing to the inflated diesel prices in 2022/23, the actual impact on the budget is lessened and expected to be in the region of £17,080 (to be applied pro-rata in 2023/24 based on the agreed implementation date).
- To approve a budget in 2023/24 for the Refuse Collection Vehicle fuel, currently paid in full by Veolia, in order to subsidise the use of HVO fuel which is outside the current contract terms at an estimated cost of £75,770 per annum (to be applied pro-rata in 2023/24 based on an

agreed implementation date).

- To recommend that full Council approve the ongoing increased budget as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25 which goes to full Council in March.

CAB.10 Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2023

The Leader of the Council and the Corporate Director Resources submitted a report that considered the Annual Review letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) for 2022/23.

Decision

Cabinet noted the comments made by the LGO in the Annual Review Letter.

CAB.11 Extension of Public Space Protection Orders - Dog Control

The Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Environment submitted a report that summarised the consultation feedback following the review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) relating to dog controls, agree changes and to seek approval for the Legal Services Manager to make the Orders in accordance with regulations published by the Secretary of State.

Councillor Fail asked about the visibility of signage and the possibility of additional signage for more areas of green and open space. Councillor Bridge confirmed that the council would be conducting an audit on dog control signage.

Councillor Fail mentioned that there were two areas of green and open space around Waters Reach, Cleveleys which did not have signage. Councillor Bridge requested that Councillor Fail provided him with additional information regarding the two locations mentioned, and he would ask officers to investigate this matter.

Decisions

Cabinet **agreed**:

- To the making of the PSPOs (six control measures) as shown in Appendix A.
- To authorise the Legal Services Manager to make minor amendments that may be necessary to ensure the PSPOs are accurate, enabling authorised officers to continue to enforce across the borough in relation to dog fouling and dog control measures.

CAB.12 Options for the future operation of the Council theatres - Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

The Leader of the Council, the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Communities submitted a report providing members with options to consider around the future operation of Wyre Council's theatres (Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre) and recommends the launch of a public consultation as part of a wider consultation for the rejuvenation of Fleetwood's waterfront.

Councillor Fail made comments about the future of the theatres remaining owned and operated by Wyre Council. He suggested approaches such as increased funding through the Lofthouse Foundation, other revenue streams, pricing arrangements and the theatres' energy savings. Councillor Vincent proposed that Councillor Fail respond to the public consultation.

Decisions

Cabinet **agreed**:

- That Members note that the preferred option is to safeguard the future of Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre by outsourcing the operation of both theatres to suitable alternative providers.
- That Members agree to launch a six-week public consultation around options for the future of the theatres which will be incorporated into a wider consultation exercise for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Fleetwood's waterfront as a prime leisure destination.
- That the Corporate Director Communities be authorised to work with the Theatres Trust to commission an independent consultant to review Marine Hall operations and provide recommendations for the most viable future operating model and to help secure a future alternative provider. At this stage the cost of the consultants is unknown. Cabinet are therefore asked to approve an initial budget to be set aside of £20,000, funded from the Value For Money Reserve to support this work.
- That a soft market testing exercise be commissioned for Thornton Little Theatre to test market appetite and determine if there is a suitable alternative service provider to take over the running of this asset preferably by way of a lease. Cabinet are asked to set aside £10,000 for marketing and other related costs in relation to this.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.16 pm.

Date of Publication: 7 September 2023.

Options considered but rejected

Any alternative options that were considered but rejected, in addition to the reasons for the recommendations that were made, are included in the full reports.

When will these decisions be implemented?

All decisions will be put into effect five working days from the date of publication, unless a decision is “called-in” by any four members of the council within that period.

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Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Cabinet	18 October 2023

Wyre Moving More Strategy 2023-2028
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Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To present the Wyre Moving More Strategy 2023-2028.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 This strategy contributes to the following corporate priorities:

- We will collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to maximise opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across our communities
- We will work with our partners to focus on supporting people to become more active and increase their physical activity
- We will work with residents, Parish and Town Councils and businesses to plan, protect and enhance the quality of our neighbourhoods and environment and promote responsible use of Wyre's great outdoors.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Cabinet approves and endorses the Wyre Moving More Strategy 2023-2028.

4. Background

4.1 In Wyre, as in many other places, the continued impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic combined with high levels of physical inactivity are placing unprecedented levels of strain on the NHS - affecting residents' mental and physical health.

4.2 Local rates of inactivity in Wyre are above both regional and national levels. According to Sport England's national Active Lives Survey, more

than one third of adults and young people in Wyre are classed as inactive.

- 4.3** At National level Sport England contends that sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the Pandemic. Sport England's strategy 'Uniting the Movement' contains a ten-year vision to transform lives and communities via sport and physical activity. The three Strategy objectives of Uniting the Movement are: 1) Advocating for movement and physical activity; 2) Joining forces on five big issues (which are; Recover and reinvent, Connecting communities, Positive experiences for children and young people, Connecting with health and wellbeing and Active environments) and; 3) Creating the catalysts for change.
- 4.4** In 2019 Sport England developed the Strategic Outcome Planning Guidance (SOPG) to assist local authorities to take a strategic approach to maximising the contribution that sport and physical activity can make in improving population health.
- 4.5** The council commissioned the consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to conduct a diagnostic SOPG for Wyre and this was completed in January 2021. The SOPG proposed three further pieces of work in order that the council was in the best possible position to ensure sustainable provision / participation in sport and physical activity and to address inactivity.
- 4.6** These three pieces of work included: the preparation of a Physical Activity and Sports Strategy (Wyre Moving More); the completion of an Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) compliant Indoor Facilities Needs Assessment and Strategy and thirdly; the completion of a Leisure Investment Strategy.
- 4.7** Wyre Council commissioned KKP to produce a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for the borough with the intention that this strategy would help articulate the changing needs and priorities in the borough and which would support the borough's re-procurement of a leisure facilities operator to manage its centres.
- 4.8** KKP followed a rigorous process to devise the strategy which included stakeholder engagement sessions with relevant council officers and key representatives from local schools and colleges, from the Integrated Care System, Primary Care Networks, public health, Active Lancashire and town centre partnership boards. Surveys were sent to clubs and grass-roots sports clubs and the public were also invited to comment.
- 4.9** The information was analysed and synthesised to form the key findings and to create the vision, objectives and key performance indicators via a newly formed Wyre Moving More Project Board.

- 4.10** A draft version of the strategy was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2023. Members of the Committee made comments and requested that progress reports be reported back to the committee.
- 4.11** From the above process the council and its partners developed a clear vision statement for sport and physical activity in Wyre: “To help Wyre residents to feel healthier, happier and better connected to their communities through physical activity”.
- 4.12** This report presents Wyre Moving More, the borough’s new Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. The strategy presents a whole systems approach to increasing physical activity within a strategy strong enough to deliver better, more effective collaboration between partners and which communicates messages to residents and communities.
- 4.13** The strategy makes the case for the multiple positive benefits that increased levels of physical activity can bring to individuals. This applies to mental and physical health and the benefits to be gained from creating more connected, equal and inclusive neighbourhoods.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Wyre Moving More is a five-year physical activity strategy for Wyre, which aims to embed a culture of ‘moving more’ and thereby increasing physical activity levels across the borough’s communities. It states the ambitions of the Wyre Moving More Project Board, a cross-sector multi-agency initiative facilitated and led by the council. It sets out the Board’s collective long-term commitment to help Wyre residents to feel healthier, happier and better connected to their communities through physical activity.
- 5.2** The strategy takes a ‘whole system’ approach to addressing the issue of physical inactivity in Wyre.
- 5.3** There are a number of core principles identified within the strategy. These are: the need to address inequalities; that to achieve meaningful change the approach needs to be locally led and; a whole system collaborative approach is needed in the co-design and co-production of activities and initiatives to address physical inactivity.
- 5.4** Three core delivery themes which have a strong resonance in Wyre are identified. These are:
- Health and wellbeing;
 - Children and young people;
 - Active environments.

- 5.5** Strategy research and consultation findings have been articulated into objectives and actions across each of these themes alongside a further fourth theme which relates to Governance and Communication. Wyre Moving More Project Board theme groups developed and led this work.
- 5.6** The delivery of these actions, if delivered thoroughly through partnership and with a variety of services and agencies, should result in a step-change in access to sport and physical activity provision and a new single system approach and improved collaboration between public, voluntary and private sector services.
- 5.7** Delivery against the strategy will be monitored directly by the Wyre Moving More Project Board with an annual update to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** The need for a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy was highlighted during the commissioned SOPG options appraisal for the future provision of sports and leisure in the borough. We could have rejected this guidance but that was not considered appropriate.
- 6.2** Importantly the strategy was considered beneficial to support the procurement of future leisure management services for the council's own leisure centre and pool facilities.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	<p>One of the principles of the new strategy is to make best use of available resources and community assets. Staffing and other costs connected with the delivery of the strategy will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.</p> <p>The costs of managing council-owned leisure facilities will be negotiated during a re-procurement process and will form part of a future contract with the successful leisure operator.</p>
Legal	There are no legal or governance implications rising from this report. However, legal advice will be sought where relevant, in relation to any proposed partnership arrangements arising from the action plan.
Climate Change	No implications.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	✓
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Mark Broadhurst	01253 887433	Mark.broadhurst@wyre.gov.uk	18/09/2023

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Wyre Moving More Strategy 2023–2028

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Wyre Moving More Strategy 2023-2028



Photograph by Mike Coleran



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WYRE MOVING MORE

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Introduction

This is the five-year physical activity strategy for Wyre, which aims to embed a culture of 'moving more' and thereby increase physical activity levels across the Borough's communities. It states the ambitions of the Wyre Moving More Project Board, a cross-sector multi-agency initiative facilitated and led by Wyre Council. It sets out their collective long-term commitment to:

Help Wyre residents to feel healthier, happier and better connected to their communities through physical activity.

This strategy takes a 'whole system' approach to addressing the issue of physical inactivity in Wyre. Local rates of inactivity are above both regional and national levels. According to Sport England's national Active Lives Survey, more than one third of adults and young people in Wyre are classed as inactive.

While focused on the specific needs of Wyre's various communities, strategy core themes take a lead from the 'big issues' cited in Sport England's national *Uniting the Movement* strategy¹. This makes the case for the multiple positive benefits that increased levels of physical activity can bring to individuals. This applies to mental and physical health and the benefits to be gained from creating more connected, equal and inclusive neighbourhoods.

In Wyre, as in many other places, the continued impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic combined with levels of physical inactivity are placing unprecedented levels of strain on the NHS - affecting residents' mental and physical health. This critical issue needs to be tackled in a collaborative way and with resources directed from across the system.

This strategy celebrates local successes, where agencies from the health and physical activity sector already work together at neighbourhood level to influence change. It also recognises that new stories will need to be created to build a case for the required, significant external investment that is needed to deliver on stated objectives and actions.

Influencing behavioural change at population level is complex and achieving lasting impact will not be secured by the work of a single organisation. This strategy acknowledges the constraints that many partners in the physical activity sector face and the pressures on public sector funding. In this sense it cannot cater for all interest groups. It thus sets out how, via adoption of a collective approach, priorities will be set, and progress made.

¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/why-were-here/uniting-the-movement/our-vision>

Three core delivery themes which have a strong resonance in Wyre are identified. These are:

- Health and wellbeing
- Children and young people
- Active environments

Strategy research and consultation findings have been articulated into objectives and actions later in this report alongside a further fourth theme which relates to Governance and Communication.

NB It is important to note that references to 'physical activity' should be interpreted in its broadest sense. It is taken to mean formal, arranged activity including sport and dance, alongside informal unstructured physical activity such as gardening or walking for leisure.

Strategic Context

The International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) framework of eight investments that work for physical activity takes its lead from the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Action Plan for Physical Activity 2018-2030. This recognises the issue of inactivity as a global pandemic (more than 1.4 billion people globally do not do enough physical activity²).

Figure 1.1: ISPAH framework

It makes the case for the health benefits of physical activity: that it can enhance mental and social health and well-being as well as provide cognitive health benefits at individual and community levels³. Conversely it notes that physical inactivity is related (directly and indirectly) to leading risk factors related to high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high glucose levels and to the recent striking increases in childhood and adult obesity⁴.

ISPAH takes the approach that tackling physical inactivity should be done in a systemic (individual, community, societal, political) way, recognising it as a complex public health issue with multiple interacting influences. It notes that no one single solution is likely to be effective. In this sense it recommends that stakeholders should come together at a local level to consider (and address) the root causes of inactivity via the noted eight areas for intervention.

National context; Sport England: Uniting the Movement (2021)⁵

Sport England contends that sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the Pandemic. Its strategy contains a ten-year vision to transform lives and communities via sport and physical activity.

² 1. Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. *The Lancet Global Health*. 2018;6(10):e1077-e86.

³ 5. Lee IM, Shiroma EJ, Lobelo F, Puska P, Blair SN, Katzmarzyk PT. Effect of physical inactivity on major non-communicable diseases worldwide: an analysis of burden of disease and life expectancy. 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee Scientific Report Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2018 [Available from: https://health.gov/sites/default/files/2019-09/PAG_Advisory_Committee_Report.pdf]ncy. *The Lancet*. 2012;380(9838):219-29

⁴ 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee. 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee Scientific Report Washington, DC:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2018 [Available from: [https://health.gov/sites/default/files/2019-](https://health.gov/sites/default/files/2019-09/PAG_Advisory_Committee_Report.pdf)

⁵ <https://www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement>

In seeking to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity, it suggests that providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove barriers to activity, have never been more important. The three Strategy objectives are:



As well as advocating sport and physical activity, via building evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies what it terms the five big issues that people and communities need to work together to address. They are cited as being some of the most significant challenges to an active nation over the next decade and the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. Each is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but when tackled collectively could change things profoundly. They are:

Recover and reinvent:

Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities:

Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people:

Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing:

Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments:

Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these issues, the right conditions for change need to be created: involving people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This includes a range of actions, including the development of effective

investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible. The specific impact of Sport England's Strategy will be realised via funded programmes, supported, interventions made and partnerships forged.

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019 Report

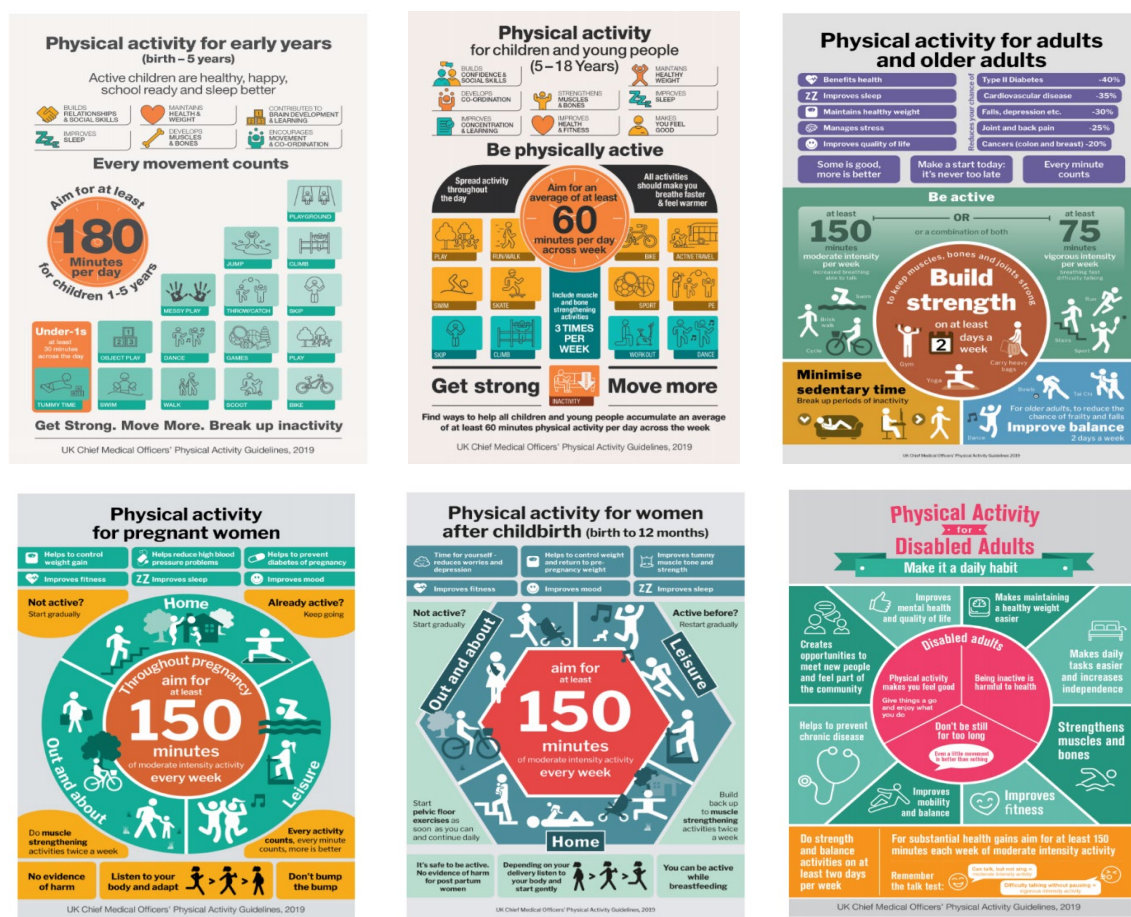
This updates the 2011 guidelines issued by the chief medical officers (CMOs) of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK CMOs draw upon global evidence to present guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits.

Since 2011, the evidence to support the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing to healthy weight status.

For adults, there is strong evidence to demonstrate the protective effect on physical activity on a range of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, mental health problems and social isolation. Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities.

The report emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages. It presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new guidelines are consistent with prior ones, introducing some new elements and allowing more flexibility in achieving recommended physical activity levels for each age group.

Figure 2.2: Physical activity guidelines



Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On - Feb 2020

Fair Society Healthy Lives, the original Marmot Review, published in 2010, set out an analysis of the causes of health inequalities in England and what needed to be done to address them. It showed the importance of social determinants of health acting through the life course.

Marmot’s foreword identifies that:

Health inequalities are not inevitable and can be significantly reduced... avoidable health inequalities are unfair and putting them right is a matter of social justice. There will be those who say that our recommendations cannot be afforded, particularly in the current economic climate. We say that it is inaction that cannot be afforded, for the human and economic costs are too high.

Key findings from this 2020 report indicate that for many groups in England, health and life expectancy are deteriorating, health has deteriorated for the population as a whole and there are clear systematic inequalities within the

groups for whom this is happening. Broadly speaking, poorer communities, women and those living in the North have experienced little or no improvement since 2010. There has been a slowdown in life expectancy of a duration not witnessed in England for 120 years. This has not been seen to the same extent across the rest of Europe or in most other OECD countries.

It is not possible to establish precisely why life expectancy has stalled and health inequalities in England are widening although it is clear that a change in winter-associated mortality and ill health is not the main factor. It establishes that the health situation is similar to other countries which have experienced political, social and economic disruption and widening social and economic inequalities. Measured via key social determinants, inequalities are widening in England and the protective role of the state supporting people is being reduced and realigned away from more deprived areas and communities.

Overall, inequalities in avoidable deaths increased markedly between 2010 and 2017 in the most deprived areas in England, by eight percent among females and 17 percent among males. The report recommends the following:

- Development of a national strategy for action on the social determinants of health with the aim of reducing inequalities in health.
- Ensure proportionate universal allocation of resources and implementation of policies.
- Early intervention to prevent health inequalities.
- Development of the social determinants of health workforce.
- Engage the public.
- Develop whole systems monitoring and strengthen accountability for health inequalities.

Sport England; Children's Experience of Physical Activity during lockdown

This report focuses specifically on children and young people aged 7-16 who were surveyed by CHILDWISE during May 2020, when most Covid-19 restrictions were in place. The survey explored the sport and physical activity being undertaken by children and young people during lockdown, the extent to which it differed from pre Covid-19 behaviour and the reasons behind any changes.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, there were significant inequalities within activity levels and physical literacy. Girls, less affluent children, children of Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds (BAME) and those with a disability were all less likely to be active and physically literate than others. Teenage girls, less affluent children and those from Black and Asian backgrounds were also likely to rely more than others on 'at school' provision to be active in their everyday lives.

Survey findings confirmed that activity levels dropped during the Pandemic, with just 19% of children under 16 doing an hour or more of physical activity (meeting CMO guidelines) on a typical day compared to around 47% in 2018-19. And around 43% of children under the age of 16 were reported to have been doing less than half an hour of physical activity a day compared to 29% in 2018-19.

According to their parents/carers, children from less affluent families were more likely to have done nothing (13%) compared to those from more affluent backgrounds (6%). Secondary age children (9%) were also more likely to say they're doing nothing to stay active during lockdown than primary age children (5%).

In terms of motivators to be active, the research found that enjoyment continues to play a key role with 43% of children saying they are active because they enjoy it. Family is also a major influence on participation given that parents and carers are role models, and often influence how, when and whether or not children can exercise or play sport. Finally, the report found that the places children play are more important than ever. The most popular places to be active are outside, with half of all children being active in their garden or on a balcony during lockdown.

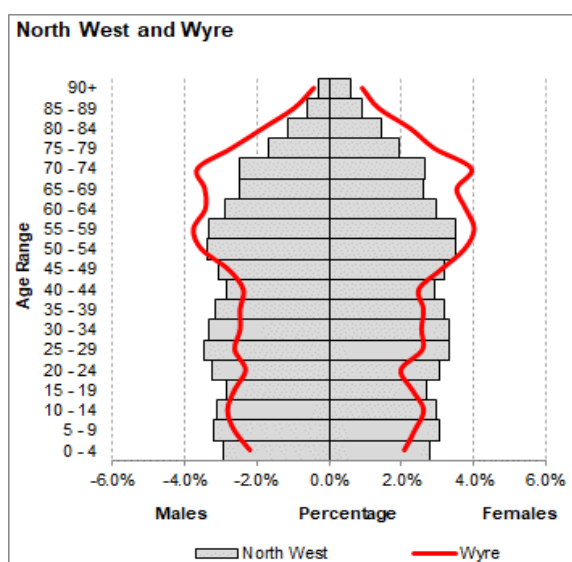
Strategic summary

The ISPAH eight investments model, Sport England and the Marmot Review demonstrate that the challenge of growing physical activity levels is being considered at global and national levels. Physical inactivity exists across the life course, is linked to health inequalities and has been badly affected by the Pandemic, with worsening trends amongst among children and young people.

From a health policy perspective, the notion that undertaking regular physical activity leads to health benefits has been enshrined within CMO guidelines for more than a decade. There is agreement that inequalities in rates of participation across demographic groups need to be addressed at a systemic level, by multiple stakeholders and that there is no one single solution that is likely to be effective. Principles established within the ISPAH and Sport England strategies provide an evidence-based framework around which to build and consider local insight and engagement, and to develop recommendations which can be tested in Wyre.

Local context; About Wyre

Wyre is characterised by its natural beauty and its role as a tourist destination. In a normal year it attracts around 2.5 million visitors to its coastline and to the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is diverse in its geography with two distinct geographical areas, divided by the River Wyre. Its population of 113,067⁶ is unevenly distributed across the borough. The west is more urban and densely populated; it contains the port of Fleetwood and the communities of Thornton and Cleveleys on the Wyre peninsula. To the East and South of the river is the much larger more sparsely populated rural land mass where the main town is Garstang.



Wyre has an ageing population profile and is less diverse than the country as a whole.

28% of residents are aged 65+ (this is already the highest proportion in Lancashire and this number is expected to rise to around 36% by 2043).

Conversely, it has a relatively low number and proportion of children and young people; 15% of the population are aged 0-16 and 13% aged 16-29 according to ONS data.

⁶ 2020 ONS Mid-Year estimate

Figure 1.2; Wyre with main roads

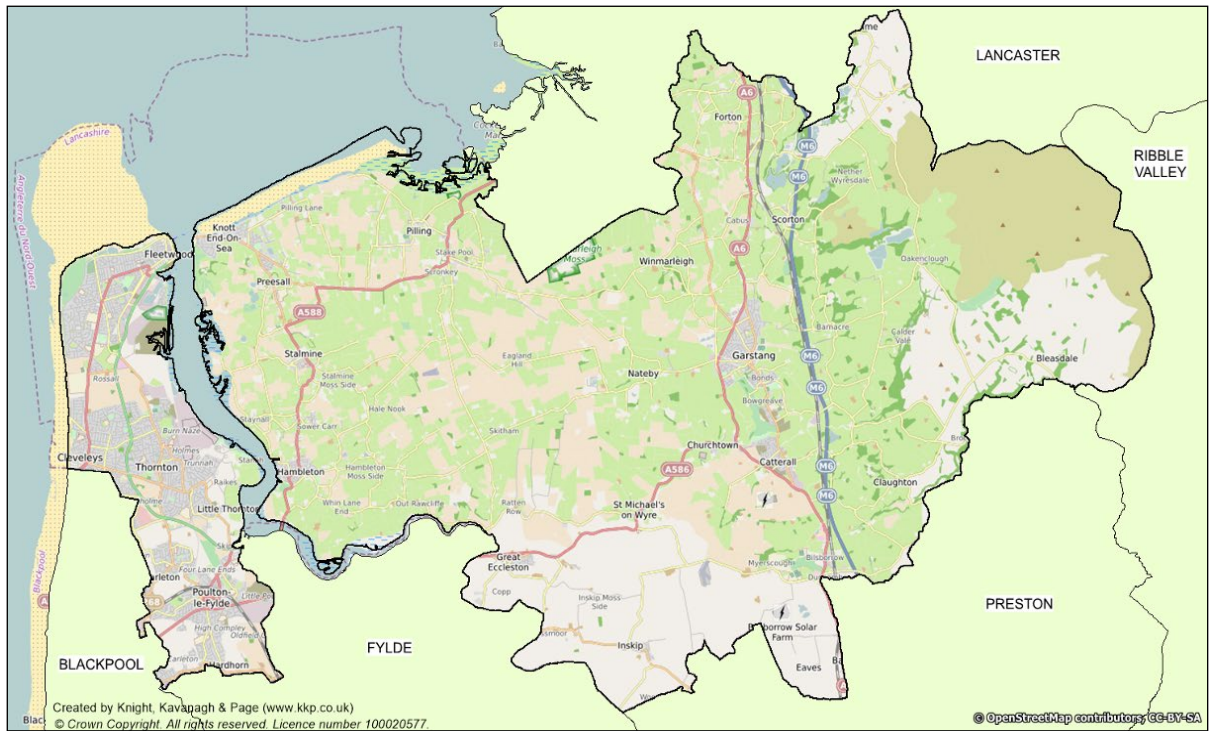
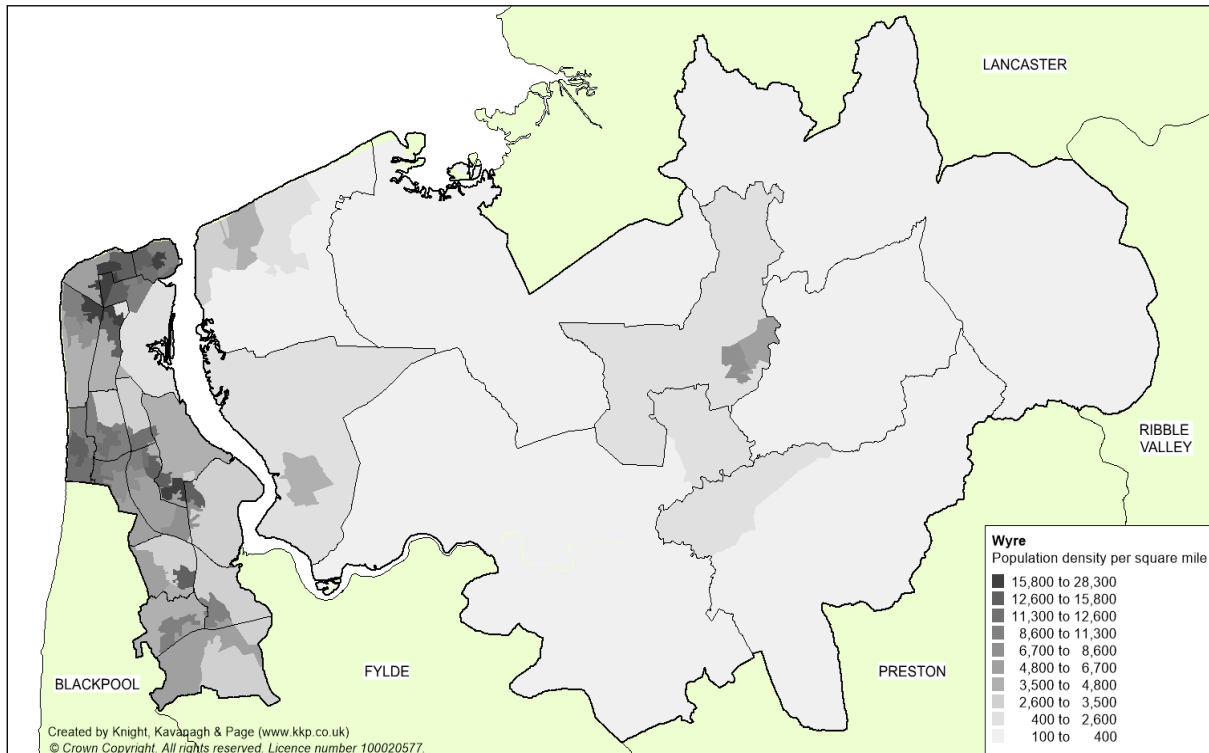


Figure 1.3; Wyre population density



Wyre multiple and health deprivation

In the context of multiple deprivation (based on 2019 ONS data), the peninsula area around Fleetwood contains neighbourhoods that are very highly deprived. Around 14,000 residents live in wards which fall within the top 10% most deprived in England. As a borough overall though, Wyre is less deprived on this measure compared to national levels; around one in five of the population resides in the top 30% most deprived wards. Health-related deprivation in Wyre is, however, more widespread. Some 15,000 residents reside in top 10% areas, and 40% of the population is classed as being in the top 30% most deprived. This is 10% above national levels.

Figure 1.5: Wyre Multiple Deprivation

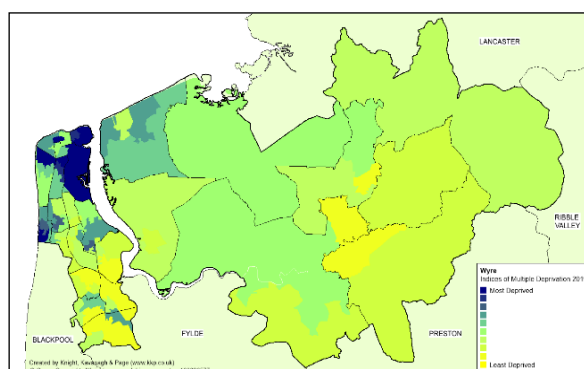
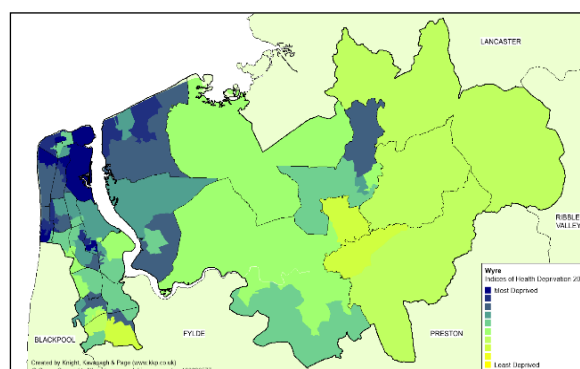


Figure 1.6 Health deprivation map



In these most deprived parts of Wyre, Life expectancy is 9.3 years lower for men and 8.7 years lower for women than in its least deprived areas.

There are higher rates of people with a long-term limiting illness in these areas (26% of residents compared to 18% nationally)⁷. NHS profiling for Wyre⁸ (2019), highlights that on 11 of 34 key indicators it has been performing significantly worse than the England average. These include:

- Life expectancy for both males and females,
- Under 75's mortality rate from all causes,
- Mortality rate from cancer,
- All cardiovascular diseases,
- Suicide,
- Hospital admission rate for alcohol-related conditions.

⁷ Source 2011 ONS Census data

⁸<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/101/are/E07000128>

Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2020/21

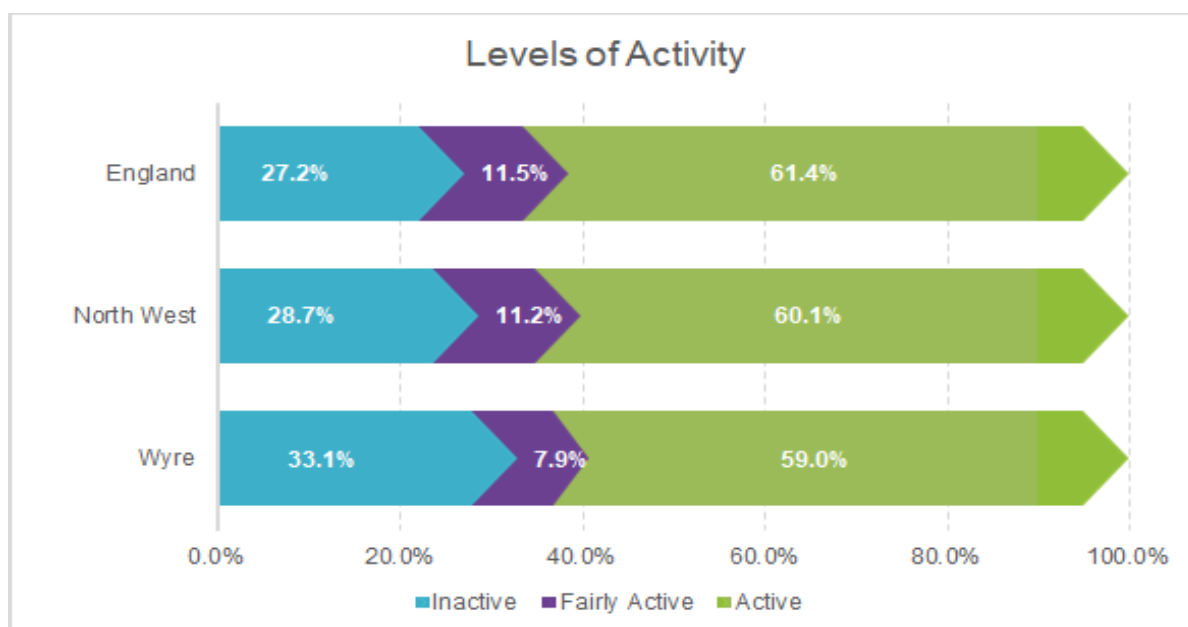
Sport England's most recent version ALS measures the number of 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. As identified below, a higher percentage of the Wyre population is inactive compared to England and the North West and a lower percentage is considered to be active.

Active Lives Survey results November 2020/21

	Inactive (<30 minutes/week)		Fairly Active (30-149 minutes/week)		Active (150+ minutes/week)	
England	12,410,300	27.2%	5,248,600	11.5%	28,039,000	61.4%
North West	1,711,300	28.7%	664,800	11.2%	3,581,200	60.1%
Wyre	31,500	33.1%	7,500	7.9%	56,200	59.0%

(Rate/population totals for sport/physical activity levels (excluding gardening) of adults (16+) in English LAs).

Figure 1.7 Levels of activity: Wyre



ALS also makes it possible to identify the top five participation sports within Wyre.

Most popular sports in Wyre (Source: SE Active Lives Survey Nov 19/20)

Sport	Wyre		North West		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Fitness	19,700	20.7%	1,396,500	23.4%	11,374,600	24.9%
Cycling	15,200	16.0%	854,200	14.3%	7,472,900	16.4%
Athletics	14,200	14.9%	735,700	12.3%	6,252,000	13.7%
Swimming	5,000	5.3%	242,200	4.1%	2,001,600	4.4%
Golf	3,200	3.3%	102,500	1.7%	763,000	1.7%

(* Includes walking and jogging)

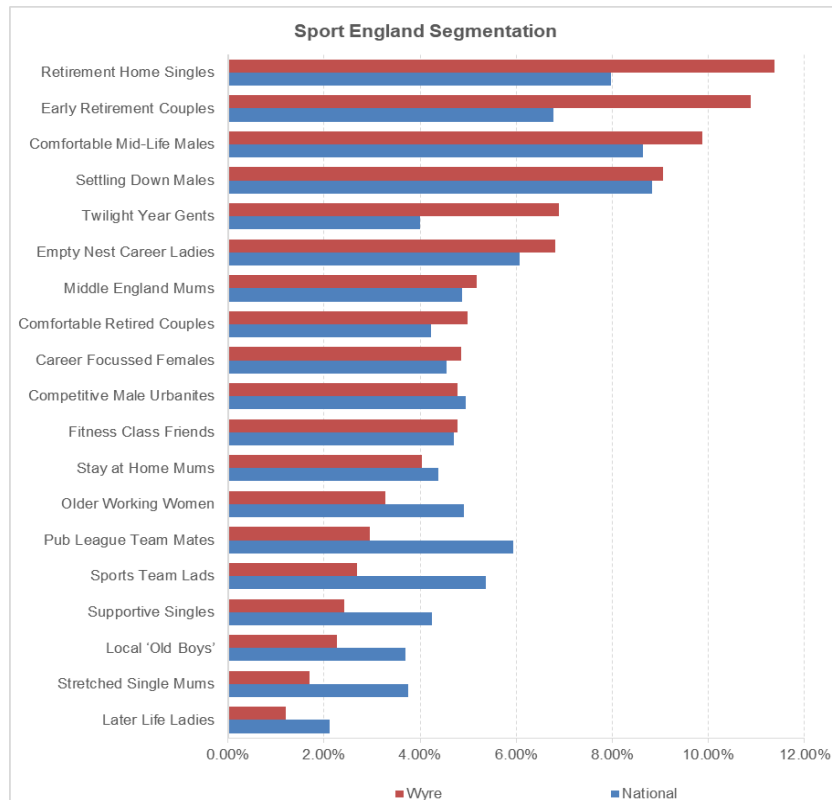
As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular. They cut across age groups and gender. In Wyre just under one in four adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least once a month. The next most popular activity is cycling in which 19% of adults take part on a relatively regular basis.

Sporting segmentation

(Data source: National market segmentation, Sport England)

Sport England classifies the adult population via a series of 19 market segments providing an insight to individual sporting behaviours. Profiles cover a range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports in which people take part, other interests, newspapers read etc.

Figure 1.8; Dominant market segments; Wyre



Knowing which segments are most dominant in the local population can help direct provision and programming. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

The profile of many market segments in the Authority is broadly in line with national figures. 'Retirement Home Singles' is the largest single segment of the adult population at 11.4% (10,075) compared to a national average of 8%. This is closely followed by 'Early Retirement Couples' (10.9%) and 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' (9.9%).

At the other end of the spectrum, it has few 'Later Life Ladies' (just 1.2%), 'Stretched Single Mums' (1.7%) and 'Local 'Old Boys'' (2.3%).

Mosaic

(Data source: 2021 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2021 consumer segmentation data can be used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour. The following table shows the top seven mosaic classifications in Wyre compared to the country as a whole.

These show that whilst there is a dominant grouping in Wyre (around 45% of the total population) representing relatively affluent middle and older aged residents (Senior Security, Country Living, Suburban Stability), which has widespread distribution across the Borough (see figure 1.9). There is also a smaller grouping (Rural Reality, Vintage Value, Modest Traditions) representing around 20% of residents who are again middle aged and older but who are less affluent, and in the case of Vintage Value may have more acute needs in terms of health and social care.

Figure 1.9: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Wyre

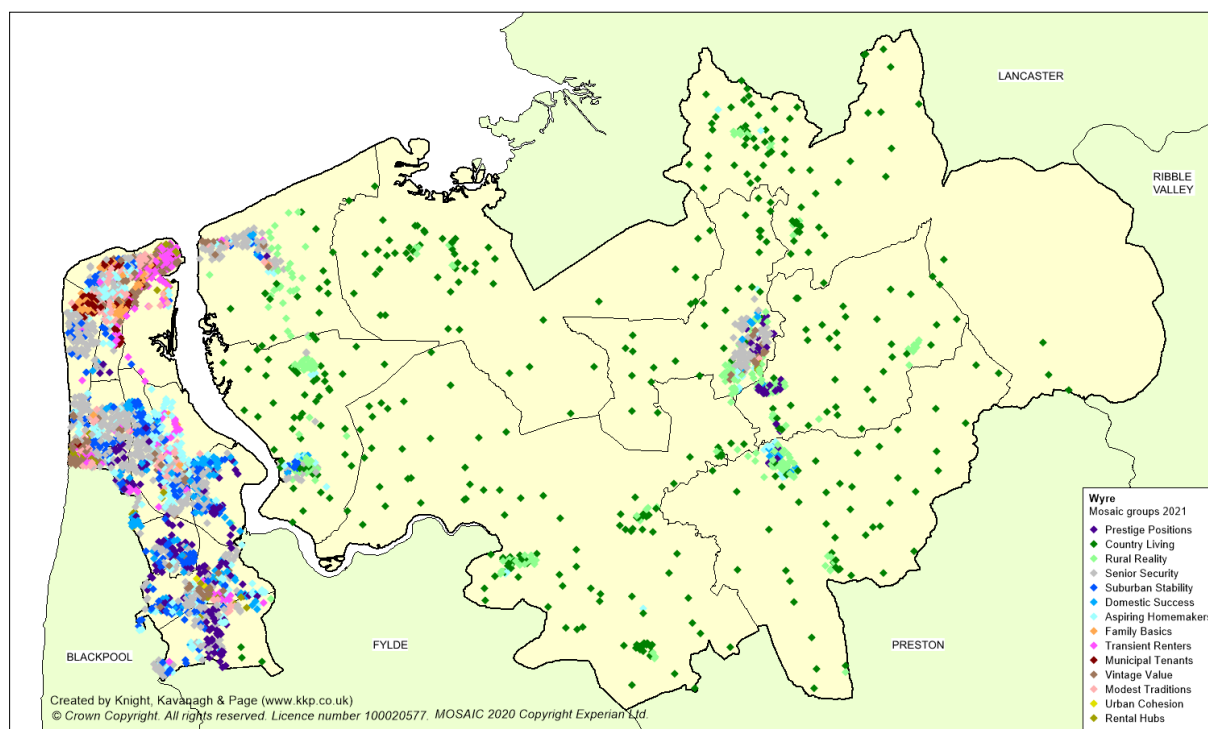



Figure 1.10; Mosaic – main population segments in Wyre

Mosaic group description	Wyre		National %
	#	%	
1 - Senior Security	26,351	23.2%	6.9%
2 - Aspiring Homemakers	13,826	12.2%	10.4%
3 - Country Living	11,621	10.2%	7.2%
4 - Suburban Stability	11,027	9.7%	5.0%
5 - Rural Reality	10,345	9.1%	6.9%
6 - Vintage Value	7,235	6.4%	5.1%
7 - Modest Traditions	6,761	6.0%	4.1%

Figure 1.11; Dominant Mosaic profiles in Wyre

<p>1. Senior Security</p>		<p>Elderly singles and couples who are still living independently in comfortable homes that they own. Property equity gives them a reassuring level of financial security. This group includes people who have remained in family homes after their children have left, and those who have chosen to downsize to live among others of similar ages and lifestyles.</p>
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2. Aspiring Homemakers		Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.
3. Country Living		Well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of major towns and cities. Some people are landowners or farmers, others run small businesses from home, some are retired and others commute distances to professional jobs.
4. Suburban Stability		Typically, mature couples or families, some enjoying recent empty-nest status and others with older children still at home. They live in mid-range family homes in traditional suburbs where they have been settled for many years.
5. Rural Reality		People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low-cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
6. Vintage Value		Elderly people who mostly live alone, either in social or private housing, often built with the elderly in mind. Levels of independence vary, but with health needs growing and incomes declining, many require an increasing amount of support.
7. Modest Traditions		Older people living in inexpensive homes that they own, often with the mortgage nearly paid off. Both incomes and qualifications are modest, but most enjoy a reasonable standard of living. They are long-settled residents having lived in their neighbourhoods for many years.

Wyre Council Business Plan 2019-23

The Wyre Council Business Plan makes clear reference to the role of Wyre's physical assets and outdoor environment in contributing to the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Within its 'People and Communities' theme it links the role of leisure and wellbeing provision with its aim to maximise opportunities for improving health and wellbeing outcomes for its communities.

Within the 'Growth and Prosperity' theme there is ambition to explore external funding and investment opportunities for key council assets such as leisure facilities.



Figure 1.12; Wyre Council Business Plan

Strategic theme	Example aim	Example action(s)	Example measurement
People and Communities: our ambition – empowered healthier and resilient communities	Work with our partners to focus on supporting people to become more active and increase their physical activity. Collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to support and	Work with partners to deliver Wyre's Moving More Strategy to increase rates of physical activity across Wyre. Complete a review of our indoor leisure provision by Summer 2023.	Reduced percentage of adults that are physically inactive. 900 children engaged with holiday activities. Increased number of people engaged with our health programmes.

	maximise opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across our communities		
Growth and Prosperity: our ambition – a strong local economy	Maximise commercial opportunities and promote our tourism assets	Explore external funding and investment opportunities for our key assets including theatres, markets and leisure facilities. Deliver UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023-25.	Increased number of visitors to the Borough each year.
Environment and Climate: our ambition – A cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment	Work with residents, Parish and Town Councils and businesses to plan, protect and enhance the quality of our neighbourhoods and environment and promote responsible use of Wyre's great outdoors	Complete a full review of the Wyre Local Plan by 2024.	10% reduction in Council carbon emissions by May 2023

The Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership and Integrated Care Strategy

Partners working in local government, NHS and other organisations such as business, education and voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations are working together as an integrated care partnership (otherwise referred to as the ICP). The partnership is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Lancashire and South Cumbria. To achieve this ICP partners are working together to improve access to health and care services, to help individuals make choices that will improve their own health and wellbeing and to deal with the root causes of poor health.

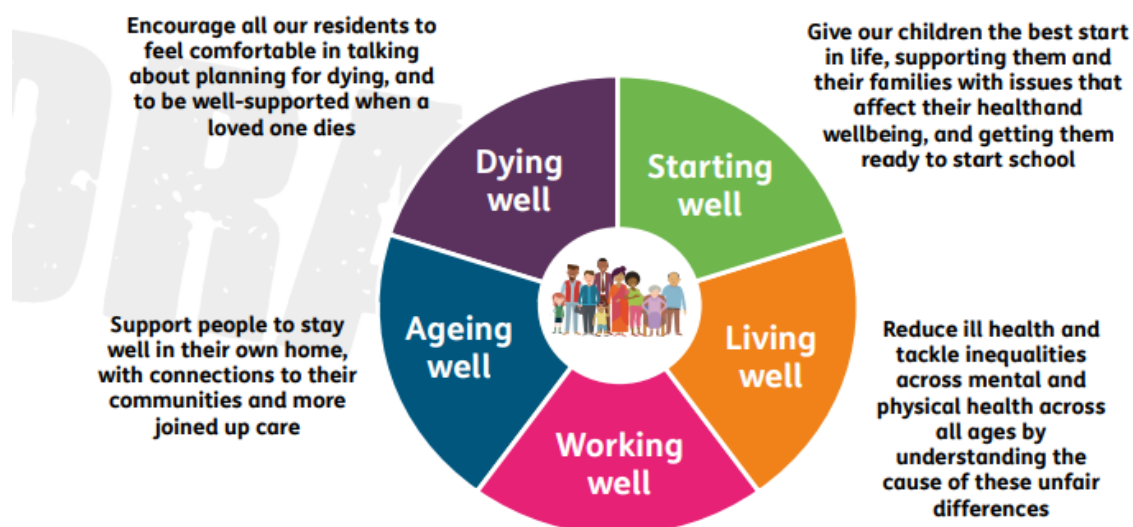
The ICP has set out its priority areas of focus in its Integrated Care Strategy 2023-2028 that aims to tackle the most complicated issues affecting people's health and wellbeing that can only be solved by different organisations working together with communities.

The five priorities within the strategy that reflect the different stages of life that everyone goes through are:

- **Starting well** - Giving children the best start in life, supporting them and their families with issues that affect their health and wellbeing, and getting them ready to start school.
- **Living well** - Reducing ill health and tackling inequalities across mental health and physical health across all ages by understanding the causes of these unfair differences
- **Working well** - Increasing ambition, aspiration and employment, with businesses supporting a healthy and stable workforce and employing people who live in the local area
- **Ageing well** - Supporting people to stay well in their own home, with connections to their communities and more joined up care
- **Dying well** - Encouraging residents to feel comfortable in talking about planning for dying and to be well-supported when a loved one dies.

Under Living Well one of the themes is: Supporting our residents to make healthy lifestyle choices, especially people who have the most unfair differences in their health and a key action is to address the things that lead to reduced healthy life expectancy (such as smoking, obesity, inactivity, drug and alcohol consumption).

Figure 1.13: ICP five priorities



NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

The NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board is the NHS organisation responsible for developing a plan to meet the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget and planning local health services.

It includes members representing NHS trusts and foundation trusts, local authorities, primary care, mental health, the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector and Healthwatch, so that all the health and care needs of the population can be considered. The Integrated Care Board brings them together to focus on population health and to make sure that the health and care needs of the communities in Lancashire and South Cumbria are met. Its plans and decision-making reflect the shared ambitions and strategies of the Integrated Care Partnership.

Lancashire and South Cumbria's Place Based Partnerships

Within the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System four places have been established: Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; South Cumbria and Lancashire. These places will be the engine room, driving delivery of the Integrated Care Strategy. Wyre sits within the Lancashire Place Based Partnership.

Lancashire covers a large area and a large population. Within the place there are three localities each of which is responsible for planning and delivering services.

These localities are: North Lancashire; Central and West Lancashire; and East Lancashire. Wyre sits within the North Lancashire locality.

Within each location, place-based partnerships are being formed. These partnerships include representatives of health, local authority, voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations, independent sector providers and the wider community; they will work together to plan and deliver services. They will work together to make sure services are joined up to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the population, prevent people from being unwell and reduce health inequalities across neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods are where communities come together to shape and integrate health and care services, but also to address the things that have an impact on their health. The exact size and shape of neighbourhoods will be agreed locally within places. Integrated working in these areas will include district councils, community groups and organisations, primary care services and wider health and care teams which will come together to form neighbourhood teams.

One of the key underpinning themes within the Integrated Care Strategy relates to buildings and how the system must aim to get the most out of its collective resources. The strategy acknowledges that some of the buildings are not in a good state of repair or are easy to access. The strategy states that the system needs to use its buildings better to bring teams together in neighbourhoods and places to lead to more joined up services for residents. The strategy has an aim of developing building spaces to help communities to improve their wellbeing in ways that work for them and commits the system to looking for more ways to use its buildings in the best possible way.

Wyre Council Local Plan 2011-2031

Wyre Council Local Plan (2011-2031) (incorporating partial update of 2022)

The Wyre Local Plan (2011–2031) (incorporating partial update of 2022) was adopted in 2023. It sets out a vision for growth and development of the entire borough to 2031, including where new homes, employment and shops will be located plus which areas will be protected. It commits to delivering a minimum 7,384 dwellings and 43 hectares of employment land and includes policies that guide and support the role of playing pitches as a key land use in Wyre.

These policies will enable developer contributions to be calculated using planning mechanisms, which could include S106 contributions. Whilst the Local Plan does not include a policy in respect of built sports facilities, work began in the summer of 2022 (and will be concluded in 2023) on a Green Infrastructure Audit (GIA), Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS),

Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS), incorporating a Green Infrastructure Needs Assessment (GINA).

The Local Plan has the following aim in respect of health and wellbeing is.

*To achieve a healthy environment with **accessible high quality green infrastructure** with **opportunities for active recreation** that contributes to the improvement in the general **health and well-being** of the population and promotes **healthy lifestyle choices**.*

In respect of strategic policies, the following is included in respect of health and wellbeing (Strategic Policy SP8).

The Council will support development, which promotes healthy communities and will promote the health and well-being of local communities. Development should help maximise opportunities to improve quality of life and to make it easier for people in Wyre to lead healthy, active lifestyles.

Several key sites have progressed to masterplan⁹ stage. These include the following:

- Great Eccleston village extension - 583 new dwellings, 1 hectare of employment land, a primary school, new village hall and convenience store.
- Lambs Road and Raikes Road, Thornton - 400 new dwellings and a new primary school.
- Forton village extension - 310 new dwellings, 1 hectare of employment land, a neighbourhood centre (including village hall and small convenience store) and extension to the existing primary school.
- Land south of Blackpool Road, Poulton-le-Fylde - 300 new dwellings and a new primary school.
- Land west of the A6, Garstang – 270 new dwellings, 4.68 hectares of employment land and a convenience store.
- Daniel Fold Farm Phase 2 – 66 new dwellings.
- Hollins Lane – 51 new dwellings.
- Land South of Prospect Farm, Garstang – 70 new dwellings.

The Council commenced work on a new Local Plan in 2022 with a focus on the issue of climate change.

⁹ <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/planning-policy/emerging-masterplan-sites/4?documentId=455&categoryId=20078>

Town partnership boards

These have been established in Fleetwood, Garstang and Cleveleys to drive development of a regeneration and investment framework for each town and its surrounding area.

Fleetwood

In Fleetwood, membership includes representatives from: Wyre Council, Fleetwood PCN, the VCFSE sector, local schools and Lancashire County Council. It's identified priority themes include:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Business and Economy
- Heritage, Culture and Tourism
- Community and Residential
- Transport and Linkage
- Sustainability and Low Carbon
- Technology and Digital
- Public Realm

Fleetwood is, and has been, the focus of several regeneration led funding initiatives. These include the National Lottery Heritage Funded restoration of Mount Pavilion and Gardens, restoration of its historic High Street and Project Neptune which involves the creation of a new fish and food processing facility at Fleetwood Docks which was part funded via the UK Government Getting Building Fund.

Wyre Council is also working collaboratively with Associated British Ports (ABP) to consider the wider regeneration of Fleetwood docks which would involve the mixed-use redevelopment of derelict waterfront land.

Garstang

The Board has produced a regeneration and investment framework which is intended to guide the development of Garstang Town Centre over the next 10 – 15 years¹⁰. This recognises the:

- Promotion of health and wellbeing as a key objective within the framework, and that the intended outcomes from the Wyre Moving More Strategy should be considered in framework proposals.

¹⁰ <https://www.greatergarstangpartnership.co.uk/post/the-regeneration-framework-is-published>

- Opportunity to 'reassess the current leisure, library and swimming offer – potentially combining facilities and incorporating additional community spaces'.
- Priority to 'Improve access from and to the surrounding villages and suburbs, focusing on sustainable, active travel'.

Cleveleys

Members of the town centre partnership board include representatives from Blackpool and the Fylde College, Regenda Housing, Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone, local businesses, Care for Cleveleys and Blackpool Transport.

Proposed priority projects include improving the public realm, reviewing the events calendar and developing a walking and cycling strategy.

Summary; Wyre context

Wyre is a place of contrasts. It is characterised by its rurality, but also by a mainly urban and more deprived peninsula. It has a larger proportion of older retired people than many areas (a trend which will become more pronounced in future years) with a large proportion of these people living quite comfortably in a socio-economic sense. At the same time, there are pockets of less well-off residents living in areas like Fleetwood who are much more likely to experience health and socio-economic deprivation.

In terms of physical activity, the Active Lifestyles Survey suggests that a good proportion of Wyre residents have active lifestyles. However, by the same token the Borough has a greater proportion of both children & young people and adults taking part in less sport/physical activity than the regional or national average.

Wyre Council is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of its residents as a key priority within its business plan. Its indoor and outdoor leisure environments are clearly cited as settings in which it will work to achieve this. The advent of the Integrated Care Partnership, including the focusing of resource at neighbourhood level (via PCNs) to tackle health inequalities presents a timely and perhaps unique opportunity to align the focus of Wyre Moving More with that of health partners to leverage the maximum possible effort to increase levels of physical activity participation in Wyre.

WYRE MOVING MORE

CORE PRINCIPLES

Addressing inequality

Wyre Moving More recognises that whilst overall levels of physical inactivity in Wyre are higher than regional and national levels, certain demographic groups (women and girls, those of lower socio-economic status, people with disabilities and people with long-term health conditions) have even higher levels of inactivity than the population as a whole.

To address such inequalities, in line with Sport England's strategy and in keeping with the findings of the Marmot report (2020), strategy actions recognise the need for proportionate universality (allocating resources and effort on a scale proportionate to the level of need experienced).

Locally led

Wyre Moving More is a long-term strategy based around aligning its approach with other system partners such as primary care networks at neighbourhood level. It recognises that, to achieve meaningful change there is a need to learn from successful neighbourhood-led whole system approaches to behavioural change in physical activity, such as those in train in Pennine Lancashire. In Wyre, which has its own good examples of where behavioural change has been achieved, this has occurred when residents have been listened to, effective relationships built and there has been true co-design of physical activity opportunity.

Collaborative

Wyre Moving More has been developed recognising the complex nature and the need for a whole system approach to addressing the issue of combating physical inactivity. This means Wyre's residents and neighbourhoods being directly involved in the co-design and co-production of activities and initiatives to address physical inactivity. Reflecting this, rather than being led by a single organisation, Wyre's 'Moving More' project board is a cross sector partnership representative of experts from Primary Care Networks, higher education, housing, local government and the charity sector.

Test and learn

Wyre Moving More is intended to help residents learn more about themselves and the role of physical activity in their lives. Achieving lasting change in relation to people's behaviour is nevertheless complex. As such, focus is being placed initially on adopting new approaches and forming new relationships. It is incumbent upon those seeking to support and enable this change that they recognise this level of complexity and act on the basis of the recommended long-term approach.

As noted above, the intention is to draw upon best practice and to apply techniques such as the Creative Active Schools approach.

As an example, in encouraging children and young people to be more active, the approach shall involve schools, sports clubs, voluntary groups and individuals helping them to form new connections and acquire and absorb new learning about how to work more effectively together. Progress made and lessons learnt will then be evaluated by the Wyre Moving More project board and appropriate outcome-related measures of improvement developed.

THEME 1

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Lancashire and South Cumbria's newly formed Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) has an operational plan which includes 'place-based interventions for health inequalities' as one of its key interventions. This means that resources are going to be increasingly focused at neighbourhood level within primary care networks, (PCNs).

The ICPs emerging operating model summarises the 'four pillars' of a population health approach. Investment is to be focused at **place** and **neighbourhood** level, with an emphasis on **local decision-making** and priorities. An integrated system means partners from **across the system** contributing to influence population health.

Strategic commitment to health and wellbeing is reflective of the desire to closely align the outcomes achieved by the physical activity sector (including public sector leisure facilities) with the strategic outcomes of health sector partners, in particular the emerging NHS Integrated Care System (ICS).

Social prescribing link workers in Wyre (commissioned by the Primary Care Networks) receive referrals directly from GPs and signpost residents into community groups, or classes offering physical activity as a non-clinical response to their physical or mental health care needs. Social prescribers, however, often find it difficult to know where (or where best) to direct people to get active in Wyre. This means that there is a potential bottleneck of people who wish to be more active but who are not yet 'in the system'.

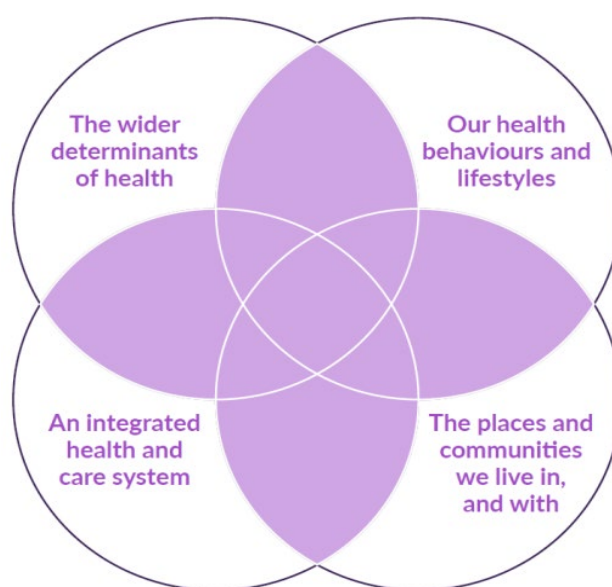


Figure 1.11: The four pillars of a population health approach (Kings Fund 2018)

Social prescribing teams report that pitching (in particular introductory) activity sessions at the right level is critical: even a gentle walking session can often be daunting for someone suffering from a long-term health condition. This should come as no surprise considering the Wyre Moving More survey findings (see appendix A). These indicate:

- The particular importance of offering opportunities **suitable for beginners** and **older people**.
- The significance of **cost**, the **timing of activities** and the need to be aware and to take account of **competing life commitments**.
- The fact that **weight gain, reduced confidence** and **social isolation** were the three key health related impacts felt by residents as a result of the Pandemic.

In addition, the evidence that c. 30% of residents surveyed report having a long-term health condition is a further factor that can limit the extent to which people become more active in Wyre.

A health referral programme into physical activity, involving an element of GP exercise referral is one way of helping to better connect people with active lifestyle opportunities.

Strong work is already occurring with regard to this agenda in Wyre, explored in the examples below from Healthier Fleetwood and Fleetwood Town Community Trust.

Case study - Fleetwood Town Community Trust and Healthier Fleetwood

Fleetwood Town Community Trust is an exemplar community football trust which delivers a range of community, health and education engagement programmes providing opportunities for young people, working age adults and older Wyre residents.

Its multi-activity initiatives which rely on a close working relationship with the Council, the NHS and local schools and colleges are tailored to address health inequalities across the life course. These include its:

- 'Healthy Heads' initiative, facilitating learning about health and wellbeing via physical education amongst Wyre school aged children with the Fylde Coast School Sports Partnership.
- Community walk and talk sessions and gentle exercise classes aimed at tackling stubborn issues around social isolation and the linked poor mental health of older local residents.
- Partnership work with the NHS Quit Smoking Squad to help support people to lead a healthier lifestyle by raising awareness of the benefits of stopping smoking.

- Work with Lancashire County Council to deliver the 'Ease the Pressure' initiative offering free blood pressure checks to adults over the age of 18.
- Man v Fat Football league; a male specific programme using recreational football and weigh-ins as a vehicle to encourage weight loss.

Healthier Fleetwood is a nationally recognised example of a resident centred approach to supporting the physical and mental health of town residents led by its three GP surgeries.

- As early adopters of a holistic, preventative approach now employed widely by social prescribing teams, Fleetwood's GP surgeries can move on from simply managing people's illnesses to help residents to lead healthier lifestyles and prevent illnesses from developing.
- Healthier Fleetwood is chaired and organised by local residents. It operates with a mantra based around 'the three Cs' – connecting, confidence and control. It acts as a hub, repository and promoter of physical activity and wider health improvement opportunities for residents in the town working closely with Wyre Council, local businesses, schools and the voluntary and faith sectors. Repeated engagement in community activities has been shown to help residents to build confidence and take more control over their health and the decisions that affect their lives.
- The types of physical activity promoted and delivered by Healthier Fleetwood include health walks, singing groups and gentle exercise. It also works closely with local schools to help address some of the mental health issues being presented amongst children and young people locally.
- Healthier Fleetwood's approach has helped to reduce A&E attendance in the town and reduce the burden on GP surgeries. In terms of Wyre Moving More, it provides a template approach for how the health and physical activity sectors can work hand in glove to deliver improvements to health outcomes in Wyre.

In these instances, the physical activity sector is leading the way developing community-led programmes and initiatives to alleviate mental and/or physical health problems which, in turn, reduce the clinical burden on the health sector. This said, while celebrating the successes being achieved there is a need for health sector partners to make a greater financial contribution to help deliver on priority actions.

The Wyre Moving More health and wellbeing interventions have been developed with strong input and agreement from health sector partners at both strategic and neighbourhood level. These are adapted from successful strategy approaches

elsewhere such as in Greater Manchester¹¹ and Blackburn with Darwen Council's **re:fresh programme**¹².

To effectively deliver and expand upon the good work already taking place in Wyre, a more comprehensive strategic approach is required. This should include the respective leaders in local government, the NHS and the physical activity sector jointly signing up to the commitments in this strategy and agreeing on how to resource them.

Wyre Council has an opportunity to align the procurement of its next leisure operating contract in 2026 with the framework provided by Wyre Moving More. This should mean that the pricing, programming and marketing of its leisure facilities are synchronised and wholly geared to delivering increases in physical activity and linked reductions in health inequalities. (Sport England's leisure services delivery guidance¹³ provides a best practice framework to achieve this).

As part of the strategy development process, alongside the Wyre Moving More resident survey, consultation was conducted with health and wellbeing sector partners culminating in a stakeholder workshop comprising representatives of Fylde Coast Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), local Primary Care Networks and Wyre's social prescribing link workers. Issues explored included:

- Connectivity between primary care and physical activity sector.
- Health referral pathways into physical activity in Wyre.
- Current experiences of engaging with physically inactive residents.
- The potential for greater collaboration across the system including the co-location of health services within physical activity settings.

¹¹ <https://www.gmmoving.co.uk/media/4383/gmmia-strategy-web.pdf>

¹² <https://refreshbwd.com/active/exercise-on-referral/>

¹³ <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/strategic-outcomes-planning-and-leisure-services-delivery>

THEME 1

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HEADLINE ACTIONS

Wyre Council and partners will develop a wellness offer integrated with the emerging aims and objectives of the Integrated Care Partnership, capable of increasing levels of physical activity and contributing to a reduction in health inequalities across its communities. It/they will:

- *Agree a joint approach with health partners on the Fylde Coast in respect of the commissioning of health-related physical activity interventions in Wyre.*

Wyre Council, Lancashire County Council and the NHS will work together with the Wyre Moving More Board to re-introduce a funded health referral programme in the District.

- *Agree the form and function of the health referral pathway into physical activity in Wyre.*

This will ease the bottleneck of people who wish to get active introducing a simple process whereby people can be given a visible, achievable, affordable opportunity to take up physical activity either as a consequence of referral by their GP or social prescriber - or as a result of self-referral.

- *Review, refine and respond via the mix of programmes and interventions pitched at inactive residents in Wyre (via Active Lives, YMCA and the community and voluntary sectors).*

This is about learning from what works well in Wyre, listening and responding to resident opinions and reactions so as to create the right offer to get people moving more.

- *Develop an outcome-focused operating framework and community wellness contract to inform and drive the management and operation of leisure and wellness facilities in Wyre.*

This is about combining in-depth understanding of local need with best practice guidance to make sure that Wyre's leisure centres are best prepared to cater for less active people by offering the right mix of activities, facilities and activity pricing, communications, programming and appropriately trained staff.

THEME 2

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Educational settings

Active Lives Survey figures show that the number of 'less active' children has risen over the 2018-19 to 2020-21 academic years. Around one third of children do less than an average of 30 minutes activity per day. Whilst levels of childhood obesity at year 6 in Wyre (2019/20)¹⁴ were broadly in line with regional levels, evidence from the NHS child measurement programme¹⁵ suggests that national rates have risen significantly since the Pandemic, and that children living in the most deprived areas nationally are more than twice as likely to be obese than those from the least deprived neighbourhoods. In addition, 42,000 hours of Physical Education (PE) have been lost from the curriculum nationally in the last decade.

Evidence provided by the Wyre & Fylde School Sports Partnership (SSP) and best practice in the sector suggests that convincing school leadership teams of the benefits of physical activity within the school curriculum is key to achieving change in terms of children's activity levels. Creating a 'whole school' approach to tackling physical inactivity is an approach being widely adopted across the physical activity sector to embed a culture of physical activity within school policy, leadership and the physical environment. Elsewhere in Lancashire, 'Ready Set, Rossendale'¹⁶ is a successful example of this whereby a 'champion' head teacher has been seconded to lead a programme of training and development amongst peers on the theme of the whole school approach.

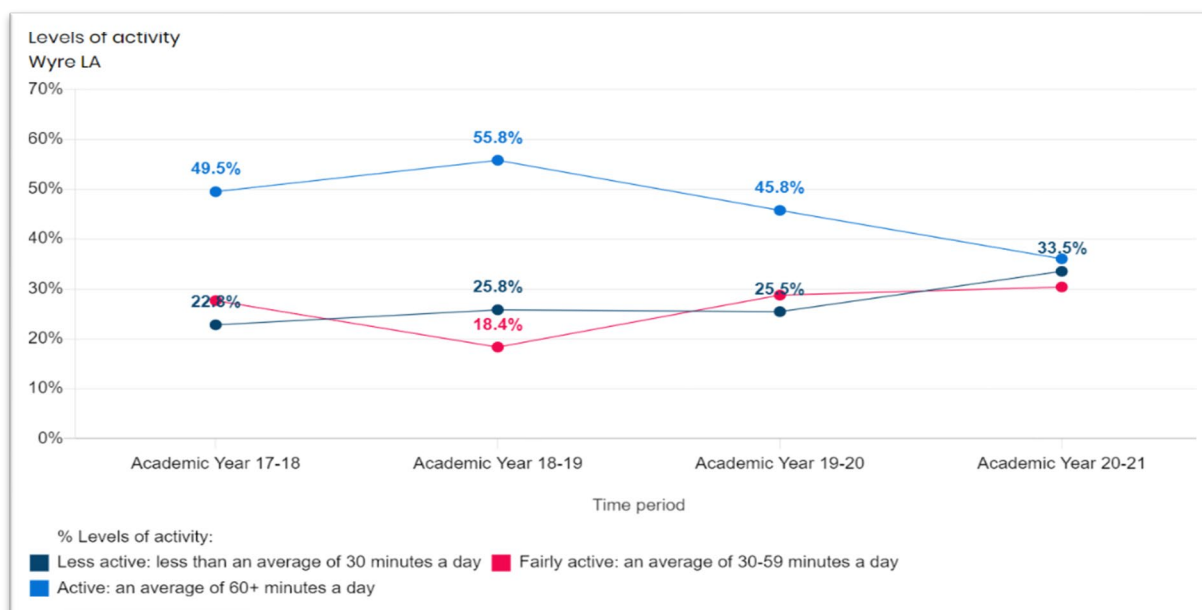
This context is set against the challenge of an already hectic school day, the stretched capacity of school leaders, teachers, volunteers and the SSP and the fragmented nature of school management in Wyre. Without a doubt, external funding and resources will be needed to test this approach in Wyre and it will require a co-ordinated effort by Wyre Moving More partners to achieve change.

¹⁴ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/health-and-care/health/lifestyle/healthy-weight/>

¹⁵ <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-child-measurement-programme/2020-21-school-year#>

¹⁶ <https://taaf.co.uk/sharing-the-learning/>

Figure 2.1; Levels of activity: Children & Young people (Wyre) Active Lives



Community settings

Opportunities to get active in the community setting for children and young people in Wyre are facilitated by a vibrant voluntary sports club network, a range of small private sector sessional operators and agencies such as Fleetwood Town Community Trust. Between them they offer a range of multi-sport opportunities and contribute to Wyre Council's Holiday Activity Fund programme, which is free to children in receipt of free school meals. Despite the value of this activity, hiring community venues affordably and at the right time for these programmes can be difficult in all parts of the Authority. It is reported that volunteer capacity within sports clubs has been adversely impacted by the Pandemic. This is an issue that needs to be addressed via, for example, supporting and making best use of local volunteer networks.

Health sector colleagues report that poor mental health amongst young people is a significant issue locally, with high amounts of 'screen time' cited as a contributory factor. This resonates with a rising national trend; NHS statistics suggest that approximately one in six children aged 6-16 had at least one probable mental health condition when surveyed in 2021. This figure was up from around c. one in nine in 2017 ³¹⁷.

¹⁷ NHS Digital (2018) [Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2017](#)

The limited number of survey responses from under 25's (at around 5% of all responses) meant that data collected as part of the Wyre Moving More local survey is insufficient to state that it adequately represents young people in Wyre's views. (This age group accounts for about 25% of all residents). This emphasises the need to 'dig deeper' at neighbourhood level to develop community-led learning and establish what young people really want in respect of physical activity. Engagement with LCC targeted youth services confirmed for example the importance of ensuring that messaging in relation to physical activity to young people is as simple, and that services are as accessible, as possible.

Active Bradford's JU:MP programme¹⁸ is a Sport England funded local delivery pilot programme which focuses on children aged 5-16 and their families in a particular collection of neighbourhoods. It is an example of a whole system, community and learning led approach which is akin to ISPAH's example of a 'community wide' investment considering and involving promotional campaigns, active travel and the club/voluntary sector.

Wyre Moving More's commitment relates both to school age children (aged 5-16) and young people aged 16-25. It recognises that interventions in this part of the plan will be required to take place both within the school environment and in community settings. Research undertaken via a sub-group of the Wyre Moving More board drew in contributions from Fylde & Wyre School Sports Partnership, Dr Felicity Guest (GP, Thornton), Active Lancashire, LCC's targeted youth service and Regenda Housing Association. Issues explored included:

- Physical activity within school settings in Wyre.
- Children's physical and mental health from a GP perspective.
- Physical activity for young people in community settings.

¹⁸ NHS Digital (2021) [Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2021: Wave 2 follow up to the 2017 survey](#)

THEME 2

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

HEADLINE ACTIONS

Wyre Council and partners will work to increase levels of physical activity and participation in sport by children and young people in Wyre thus improving health indicator outcomes - including reducing levels of excess weight and raising levels of good mental health. It/they will look to allocate/secure resources to:

- o *Embark on a programme of advocacy and influencing with school leadership teams and policy decision makers to improve the profile and prominence of physical activity within the family of Wyre Schools.*

This is designed to convince school leadership teams about the value (to young people and schools themselves) of a strong school physical activity offer.

- o *Identify Wyre school(s) with which to develop and pilot a 'whole school approach' to physical activity applying the principles and tools set out in the Creating Active School Framework and the WHO Promoting Physical Activity through Schools Toolkit.*

This will enable the Council and partners to test the 'whole school approach' in Wyre. It will involve embedding physical activity in schools' policies and practices – and throughout their daily routines.

- o *Identify Wyre neighbourhood(s) to take part in and test a pilot community led approach to improving levels of physical activity.*

This will focus on community settings and apply a whole system approach: involving a range of partners in the investigation of how to create the right conditions to achieve behavioural change in physical activity amongst young people in Wyre.

- o *Develop a programme of research and evaluation in relation to the physical activity behaviour of children and young people in Wyre.*

This will secure the learning from the school and neighbourhood pilots to gain a full understanding of what works and to develop a clear idea of what should be measured over the period of the strategy in relation to children and young people's physical activity behaviour.

THEME 3

ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

There is a universal desire to both improve the quality and accessibility of Wyre's indoor leisure facilities – which is backed up by the views of residents and local sports clubs and community organisations, and to facilitate more active travel and better access to, and optimise the use of, the Borough's natural environment. It is also essential that the new Local Plan reflects and takes account of these ambitions.

Indoor environments

There is a mixed economy of built leisure facilities in Wyre, with the Council (supported by its contractor YMCA Fylde Coast which operates its main venues) being a major provider of swimming pools and health and fitness facilities, whilst secondary schools provide the majority of publicly accessible sports halls. Private sector gyms also play an important role in keeping people active.

A recent study of Wyre's indoor leisure facilities has found that Wyre has, and can continue, to provide sufficient swimming and sports hall provision. It also found that facilities are generally well placed in relation to where people live. However, certain YMCA-managed facilities do not offer a consistently attractive customer experience due in part to their age and layout. This finding is validated by the online survey (see Appendix 1) which evidences the clear perceived distinction in quality between YMCA Thornton which has received relatively recent investment in its health and fitness and ten pin bowling facilities and YMCA Fleetwood which has not benefitted from comparable levels of investment.

An **invest to save** approach, is the key recommendation of the indoor leisure facilities study. This is based upon the rationale that the current swimming and health & fitness offer at Wyre leisure centres has strong current demand and it is clear that improvements to facilities would be valued by residents. Appropriate investment would, thus, both improve the quality of the offer made to local residents and grow the revenue generation base. (See Appendix 1: Wyre Facility preferences).

Research gathered from Wyre's social prescribing teams and the Moving More survey nevertheless sets a clear challenge to deliver active environments for those who are **not** physically active and find the prospect of going to a leisure centre daunting. This relates (in part) to addressing barriers to entry around cost, timing and targeting of activities highlighted earlier.

In this sense, procurement of an operating contract clearly geared to delivering health related outcomes, adopting the principles of Sport England's leisure services delivery guidance¹⁹ should be a key pillar of re-orientating Wyre's facilities to better attract and cater for those who are less physically active.

Active Blackpool's 'Feel Good Factory'²⁰ is a useful local example of provision of a combination of appropriate facilities (dedicated health and fitness space) programming (gentle exercise, injury rehabilitation, weight loss classes) and incentives (leisure card, digital app, health referrals) to deliver physical activity interventions for residents that are either presently inactive or returning to physical activity.

Outdoor environments

Wyre is a place blessed with an attractive outdoor environment in respect of its coastline, countryside, rivers and walkways. In relation to what physical activity means to Wyre residents survey findings suggest that the option to be active outdoors (i.e. walking, jogging, cycling etc.) has strong local resonance.

A review of current walking and cycling initiatives reveals that there is no lack of opportunity to walk and ride, with health walks, led bike rides, walking festivals and waymarked walking and cycling routes forming part of the offer. Despite this, Department of Transport data²¹ suggests that rates of walking and cycling in Wyre in 2019/20 were lower than national averages. On this theme, engagement with partners such as Regenda Housing Association, Sustrans and Lancashire County Council suggests that residents in the more urban deprived neighbourhoods on the Wyre peninsula do not necessarily feel connected with, motivated to use, or are simply unaware of the opportunities to become active in the outdoor environment.

Promoting walking and cycling as a means of 'Active Travel' (commuting to work or as part of routine journeys) as advocated in ISPAHs 'eight investments' framework is one way of embedding physical activity as part of everyday life of people in Wyre. Strategy consultation suggests that the new Wyre Local Plan alongside infrastructure funding opportunities offered by Lancashire County Council²² and Sustrans present an opportunity to improve infrastructure and to

¹⁹ <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/strategic-outcomes-planning-and-leisure-services-delivery>

²⁰ <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/residents/sports-and-leisure/health-and-fitness/memberships/feel-good-factory.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/download/48/state-of-wyre>

²² <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads-parking-and-travel/cycling-and-walking-strategy/>

employ the principles of Active Design when considering future leisure facility development.

Wyre Moving More's strategy commitment relates to exploiting as fully as possible the broad range of indoor and outdoor spaces in Wyre capable of supporting a physical activity habit amongst its residents. The research and consultation informing the priority actions within this theme are extensive. They also incorporate the Wyre Leisure Facilities Strategy and (in terms of the outdoor environment) stakeholder workshops with representation from Sustrans, Lancashire County Council, Wyre Council, YMCA Fylde Coast and each of the Wyre Town Centre Partnership Boards.

THEME 3

ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

HEADLINE ACTIONS

Wyre Council and partners will work to improve and facilitate access to indoor and outdoor spaces in Wyre to create strong and sustainable physical activity habits amongst residents. It/they will:

- *Seek external funding opportunities to provide improved built (indoor) facilities for physical activity and sport aligned with Wyre Moving More health and wellbeing objectives.*

- *Capitalise on opportunities to provide inclusive walking and cycling infrastructure and to facilitate Active Travel in Wyre.*

Taking advantage of potential match funding support from Sustrans and Lancashire County Council to improve walking and cycle paths across the Borough.

- *Improve the quality of, and opportunities for, physical activity in the outdoor environment including within / upon; parks, playing pitches, open spaces and waterways.*

Creating better connectivity between Wyre's residents and the outdoor environment including its coastline. This recognises that Wyre Council is updating its open space and playing pitch strategies and the key role that their implementation will have on the delivery of this agenda.

- *Ensure that the emerging Local Plan for Wyre fully reflects opportunities to increase physical activity levels in both the built and outdoor environments.*

Embedding opportunities to grow physical activity within the emerging policies and masterplans contained in the new Local Plan for Wyre.

THEME 4

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

Wyre Moving More is a joint venture by a range of organisations with the best interests of Wyre residents at heart. Whilst commissioned by Wyre Council, strategy development has been led by a consortium of strategic partners representing the physical activity sector in the Borough. A project board has been formed to set the initial strategic direction and to check and challenge the strategy process.

The objectives and actions outlined within this strategy are owned by the Board and it will retain responsibility for delivery and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of the intended outcomes of Wyre Moving More.

Board membership is as follows:

- Wyre Council.
- Lancashire County Council.
- The University of Central Lancashire.
- Active Lancashire.
- Fylde Coast School Sports Partnership.
- Fleetwood Town Community Trust.
- NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
- YMCA Fylde Coast.
- Representation from the sports club sector.

Having developed the initial strategy framework comprising three main themes (Health & Wellbeing, Children & Young People and Active Environments), these were then explored in more depth via workshop-based discussions involving community and specialist input (see table below). A list of attendees is provided in Appendix 2. Each Wyre town partnership board (Fleetwood, Garstang and Thornton Cleveleys) was also briefed on the initial rationale for, and focus of, the work.

Theme based workshop attendees included:

<i>Health & wellbeing</i>	<i>Children and young people</i>	<i>Active environments</i>
Torrentum Primary Care Network Fleetwood Primary Care Network Healthier Fleetwood	Fylde Coast School Sport Partnership University of Central Lancashire Active Lancashire	Sustrans Royal Lifesaving Society Lancashire County Council

Fylde Coast Clinical Commissioning Group YMCA Fylde Coast Wyre Council	Wyre Council	Wyre Council (including Planning Services, Parks and Countryside Services) Fylde Coast Cricket Coaching
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Delivery of strategy actions will require leadership, further collaborative work across the system, securing external funding and allowance of time and allocation of resource to enable reflection on learning generated by the work commissioned. The identification of individual(s) including elected members and community leaders/representatives who can **champion** the strategy will be crucial to its success.

As mentioned above, Wyre has a vibrant, long-established **voluntary sport sector** and sports clubs which are vital to helping people become and stay active in the Borough. Whilst they can, to varying degrees, access support from their national governing bodies of sport, the Pandemic has impacted acutely on volunteer capacity and there is a need to develop a local support network in the Borough, particularly if clubs and their volunteers are to be asked to 'step up' and contribute to the intended outcomes of Wyre Moving More.

Finally, establishing a clear consistent **digital and social media** presence for Wyre Moving More will be key to effectively delivering the strategy. Rather than investing in a bespoke website presence for example, this will be about creating a clear identity for the strategy, generating momentum for its work and embedding content across existing Council, NHS and other stakeholder platforms.

THEME 4

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

HEADLINE ACTIONS

Wyre Council and partners will work closely and effectively together to lead and deliver this strategy. It/they will:

- *Determine a clear remit, structure and terms of reference for a multi-stakeholder and decision-maker based Wyre Moving More Project Board.*
Create a clear plan setting out how implementation of the Wyre Moving More strategy will be led, governed and evaluated over its life.
- *Re-establish an informal Wyre Sports Club Network.*
Working closely with Wyre's sports club network, partners will determine club and volunteer training, support and development needs in the light of the Pandemic and in relation to delivery of Wyre Moving More objectives.
- *Establish a 'Wyre Moving More' digital platform.*
Create a clear web and digital presence for the Wyre Moving More strategy across existing Council and stakeholder platforms (e.g., Healthier Wyre).

STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

THEME 1

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Wyre Council and partners will develop a wellness offer integrated with the emerging aims and objectives of the Integrated Care System on the Fylde Coast and Lancashire Place Based systems, capable of increasing levels of physical activity and contributing to a reduction in health inequalities across its communities.

Actions

Agree a joint approach with health partners on the Fylde Coast in respect of the commissioning of health-related physical activity interventions in Wyre – to include:

- Identification of health funding streams with which to support the re-introduction of a GP health referral offer in Wyre.
- Investigation of the appropriate level of integration of primary care services within new or refurbished leisure facilities.
- Determining geographic (place-based and neighbourhood) areas of focus, based on levels of need (higher health inequality)

Agree the form and function of the health referral pathway into physical activity in Wyre – to include clarity about and commitments to:

- The role of self, GP and social prescribing teams in the referral process.
- The function of the leisure operator in handling initial enquiries.
- The role of website, digital app and telephone contact centres in facilitating referrals.

Review and refine the mix of programmes and interventions pitched at inactive residents in Wyre (Active Lives, YMCA and community and voluntary sector) in line with the findings of Wyre Moving More resident engagement including (but not exclusively):

- (Older people focused) gentle exercise, walk and talk, social cycling.
- Advice on diet and support for weight loss and exercise promotion programmes.
- Introductory 'Moving More' offers specifically to residents who are inexperienced or non-swimmers / unable to ride a bike.

In respect of the management and operation of leisure and wellness facilities in Wyre, develop an operating framework / wellness contract comprising:

- An operating contract with an outcome measured focus.
- Re-introduction of an exercise / GP referral offer.
- Programming and opening times responsive to resident needs identified within the Wyre Moving More survey.
- Leisure card, concessionary pricing, and refreshed membership options.

Sustain and wherever possible support the growth of existing community and voluntary organisations delivering on the wellness agenda.

- Identify the training and development requirements of the current workforce of social prescribers & community health workers in Wyre.
- Determine where and how greater involvement of the community and voluntary sector in enabling physical activity opportunity can be encouraged. This should include those offering smaller facilities (such as village halls) and sports clubs able to provide introductory / 'back to' activity sessions.
- Refresh the FYI directory of community and voluntary organisations in order to support the wellness agenda in Wyre

THEME 2

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Improve levels of physical activity and participation in sports by children and young people in Wyre and contribute to an improvement in health indicator outcomes (including reducing levels of excess weight and improving levels of good mental health) amongst these groups.

Actions

Embark on a programme of advocacy and influencing with school leadership teams and policy decision makers to improve the profile and prominence of physical activity within the family of Wyre Schools, to include:

- A series of workshop-based sessions involving school leadership teams, Fylde Coast the School Sport Partnership, local GPs and primary care networks.
- Identification of a champion head teacher able to advocate principles of the whole school approach to peers.
- Delivery of an annual Wyre 'day of movement' within the school network.
- Participation in the Lancashire School Games.
- Commence dialogue between Wyre Council and LCC Children, Education and Families Service to discuss how to establish and embed the whole school approach within local education policy.

Identify a Wyre school with which to develop/pilot a 'whole school approach' to physical activity using the principles of the 'Creating Active Schools' toolkit (CAS). To include:

- Mentoring from areas that have successfully implemented the CAS approach.
- Identification of resources, funding and support from Active Lancashire and Sport England with which to allocate additional school leadership staff time to drive adoption of CAS principles within Wyre.
- Sharing of learning across the wider Wyre school network.

Identify Wyre neighbourhoods for a pilot community led approach to improving levels of physical activity amongst children and young people based on whole system approach principles. To include:

- Identification of appropriate community organisations to lead co-design/co-production of physical activity opportunity (i.e., sports/voluntary groups, youth organisations).
- Considering how the breadth of activity opportunity offered by private sector providers in Wyre can be best connected to those young people not currently physically active.

- Training and development of community leaders (including young people aged 16-25) providing them with the qualifications and knowledge to enable sustainable activity.
- Considering the broad range of need associated with Wyre's young people including SEND, those with disabilities and home educated individuals.
- Development of simple digital and social media messaging to encourage young people to reduce their screen time.
- Integration of Active Travel planning (walking and cycling routes) in the design of safe, active neighbourhoods.
- Identifying appropriate funding (Active Lancashire, Sport England) to support this.

Develop a programme of research and evaluation in relation to the physical activity behaviour of children and young people in Wyre, to include:

- Evaluation of the pilot 'whole school approach' in Wyre.
- Evaluation of the neighbourhood focused pilot.
- Interrogation of Active Lives (Wyre) children and young people survey data.
- Development of an appropriate range of outcome measures upon which to guide the future development and review of young people's physical activity behaviour in Wyre.

THEME 3

ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Improve and facilitate access to the indoor and outdoor spaces in Wyre that will lead to a sustainable physical activity habit amongst Wyre residents.

Actions

Seek external funding opportunities to provide improved built (indoor) facilities for physical activity and sport aligned with Wyre Moving More health and wellbeing objectives. To include:

- A review of leisure management options and procure an outcome focused operating contract in accordance with Sport England leisure services delivery guidance 2020.
- Delivering an appropriate mix of indoor leisure facilities, reflecting needs identified within the Wyre Moving More online survey and associated community engagement.
- Considering the role of Wyre Council's wider stock of (non-leisure) built assets and their potential role in providing opportunity for physical activity.
- Securing external partnership funding (e.g., from UK Government (Levelling Up/ Shared Prosperity, Sport England etc.) with which to deliver capital investment.

Capitalise on opportunities to provide inclusive walking and cycling infrastructure and to facilitate Active Travel in Wyre. To include:

- Improvement and/or extension to existing National Cycle Network (NCN) infrastructure in Wyre.
- Improvements in safety and the prioritisation of walking/cycling/wheeling within road infrastructure, including trialling of 'quiet' routes / lanes.
- Undertaking an accessibility audit of existing NCN infrastructure.
- Securing investment into improved walking and cycling / wheeling routes via sources such as the Lancashire Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

Improve the quality of and opportunities for physical activity in the outdoor environment including within / upon parks, playing pitches, open spaces and waterways. To include:

- Developing/adopting new playing pitch and open space strategies for Wyre.

- Working with/influencing tourist partners and providers in Wyre to realise opportunities to make better use of Wyre's coast, countryside and waterways for physical activity.
- Encouraging the safe use of water and coastline by ensuring water safety messages are promoted to the public and in schools using simple language.

Ensure that the emerging Local Plan for Wyre fully reflects opportunities to increase physical activity levels in both the built and outdoor environments. To include:

- Agreeing a suitable policy in relation to the securing of developer contributions for indoor physical activity & sport facilities.
- Developing appropriate policy/identify appropriate site(s) for delivery of future indoor leisure provision aligned to recommendations in the Indoor & Built Facility Strategy.
- When developing policy for new leisure provision, including local master-planning ensure the integration of Active Design principles and opportunities for Active Travel.

THEME 4

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Wyre Council and partners will work closely and effectively together to lead and deliver this strategy.

Actions

Determine a clear remit, structure and terms of reference for the Wyre Moving More project board. To include:

- Identify a prominent local individual / elected member / sports person to become Wyre Moving More champion / ambassador.
- Work together to support the promotion and monitoring of the Wyre Moving More framework.

Re-establish a Wyre Sports Club Network to:

- Provide an opportunity for information sharing, including mentoring, of local sports clubs and societies as they continue their recovery from the Pandemic.
- Establish which clubs are willing, able to contribute to and benefit from the stated objectives of Wyre Moving More.
- Identify requirements in terms of training, development, support and capacity building.

Establish a 'Wyre Moving More' digital platform. To include:

- A website which can act as a focal point / 'what's on' noticeboard for Wyre Moving More branded activities.
- Use of social media platforms as a means for promotion of activities and events.
- A digital app which can act as a repository for data collection.

APPENDIX 1:

WYRE MOVING MORE SURVEY

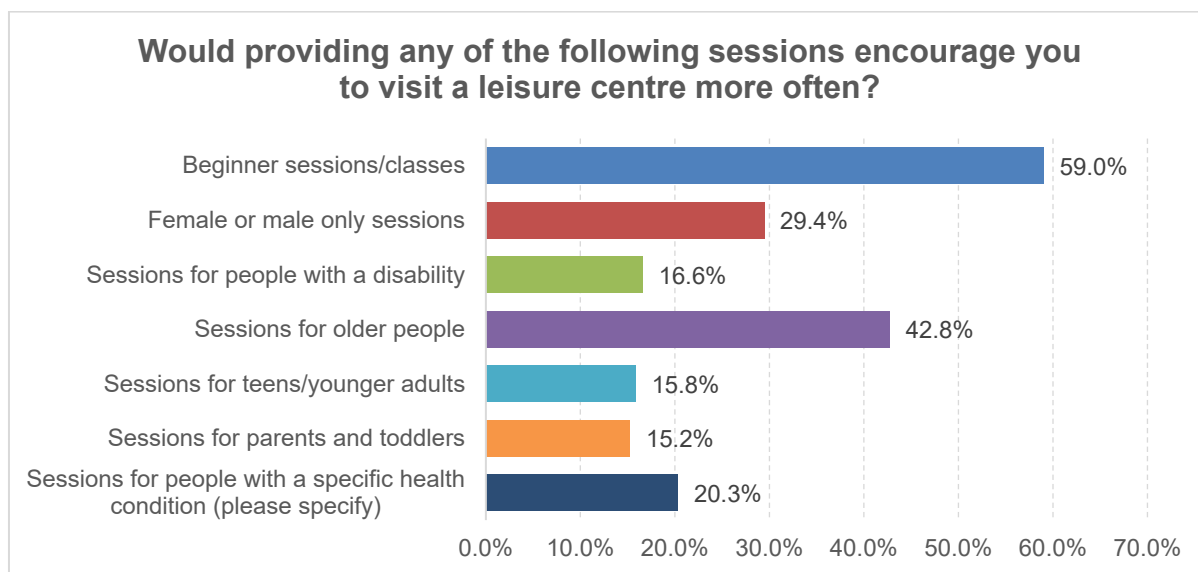
Engagement at resident level was undertaken via an online survey distributed over the period February – March 2022. This secured an excellent return of 948 responses.

A range of questions were asked to ascertain residents' preferences for, and perceptions of, physical activity. It also sought specific views in relation to Wyre leisure facilities to inform the linked Wyre Leisure Facilities Strategy

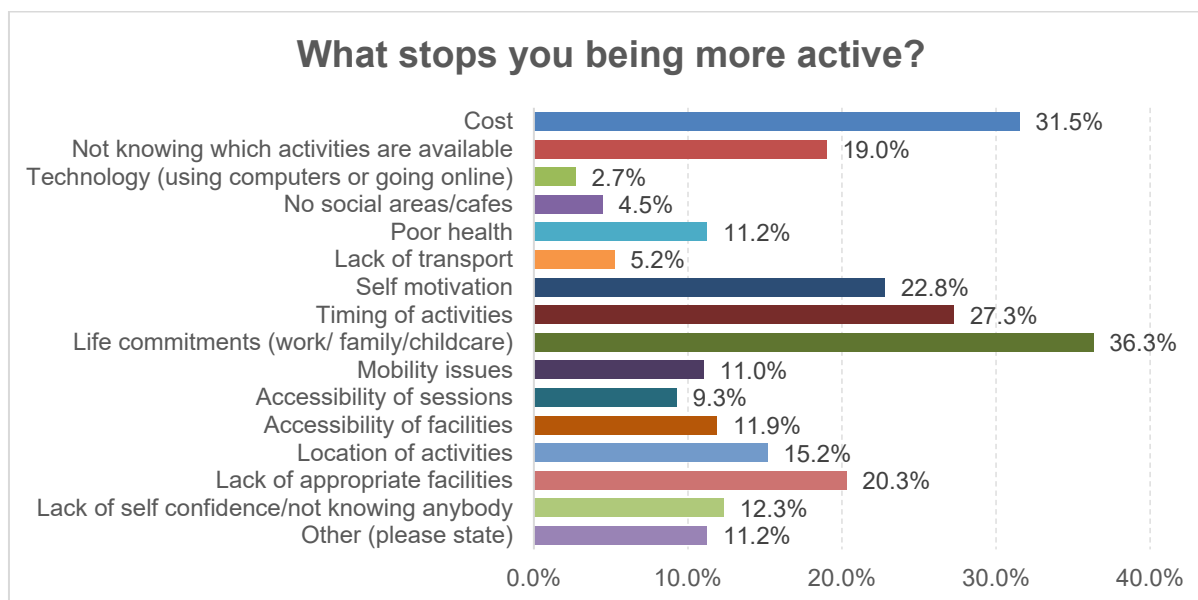
Wyre Moving More – summary of online survey findings

- The process secured an equitable geographical spread across the five main sub-areas in Wyre.
- Overall, responses were broadly in line with Wyre's age profile. Around 40% of all responses originated from residents aged 55+. 21% reported doing no more than one x 30-minute session of physical activity per week. 13% reported doing no activity at all.
- 37% of respondents reported not using any Wyre leisure facilities.
- Around one third of respondents reported having a long-term health condition.
- Cost, life commitments, timing of activities and lack of appropriate facilities figured strongly as barriers to residents being more active.
- Beginner activity sessions, sessions for older people and women or men only sessions figured strongly as interventions that would attract Wyre residents to visit leisure provision.
- A majority rated Wyre's contracted leisure facilities as being of average quality.
- Swimming, spa facilities, health and fitness and indoor sports halls were stated as favoured preferences within new facility provision. Indoor adventurous activity was also well represented. Outdoors, walking (strongly), cycling and beach activities were popular.
- Weight gain and reduced activity levels figured strongly in terms of the (negative) health effects of the Pandemic. Reduced confidence levels and social isolation also featured significantly.

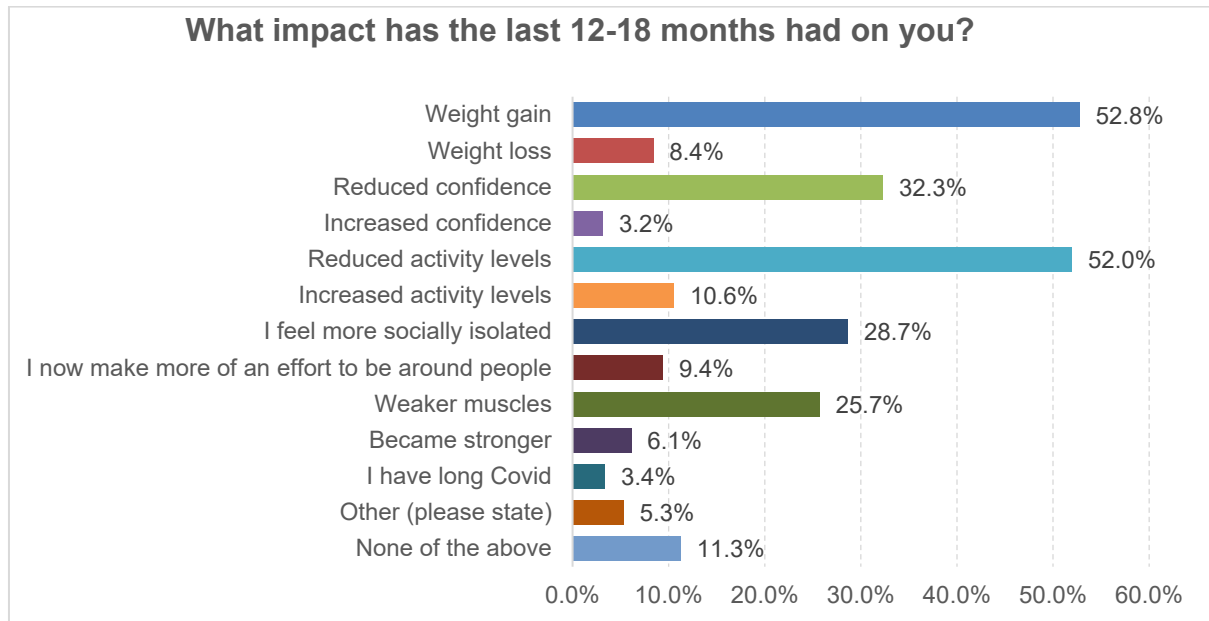
Sessional preferences within facility provision



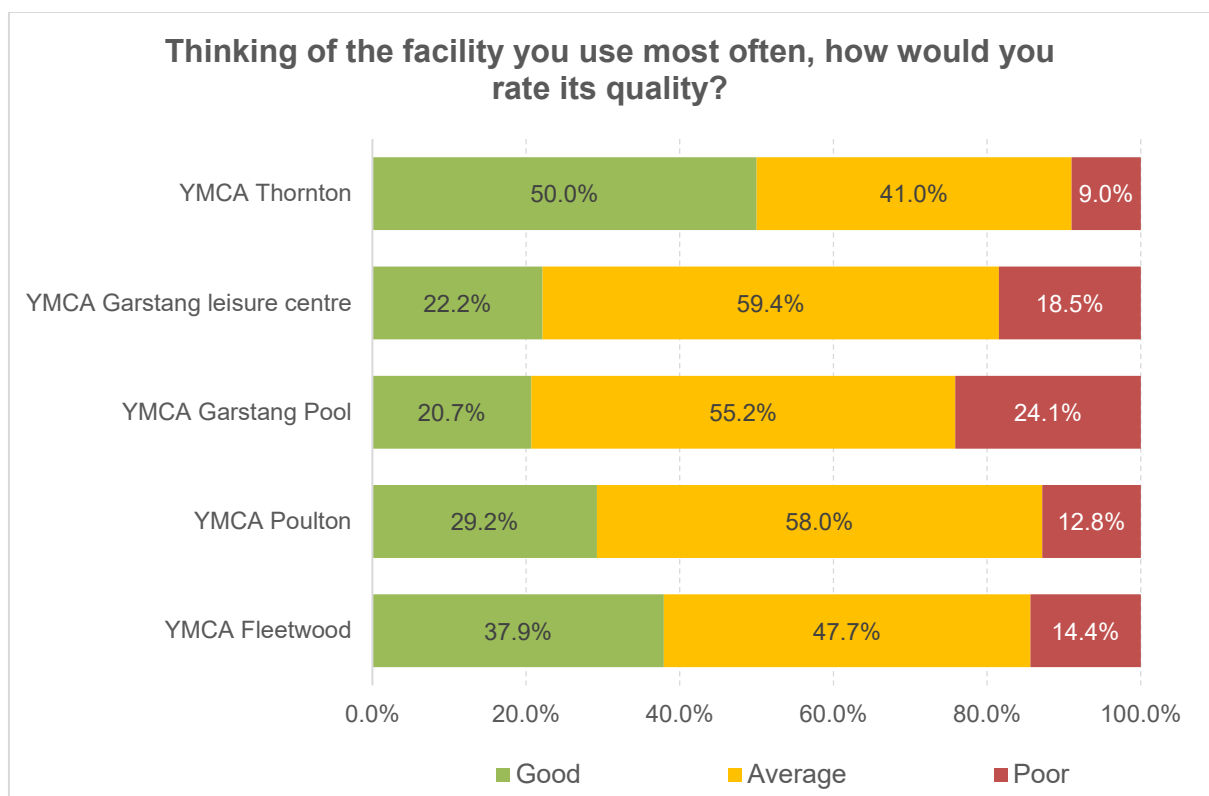
Barriers to access

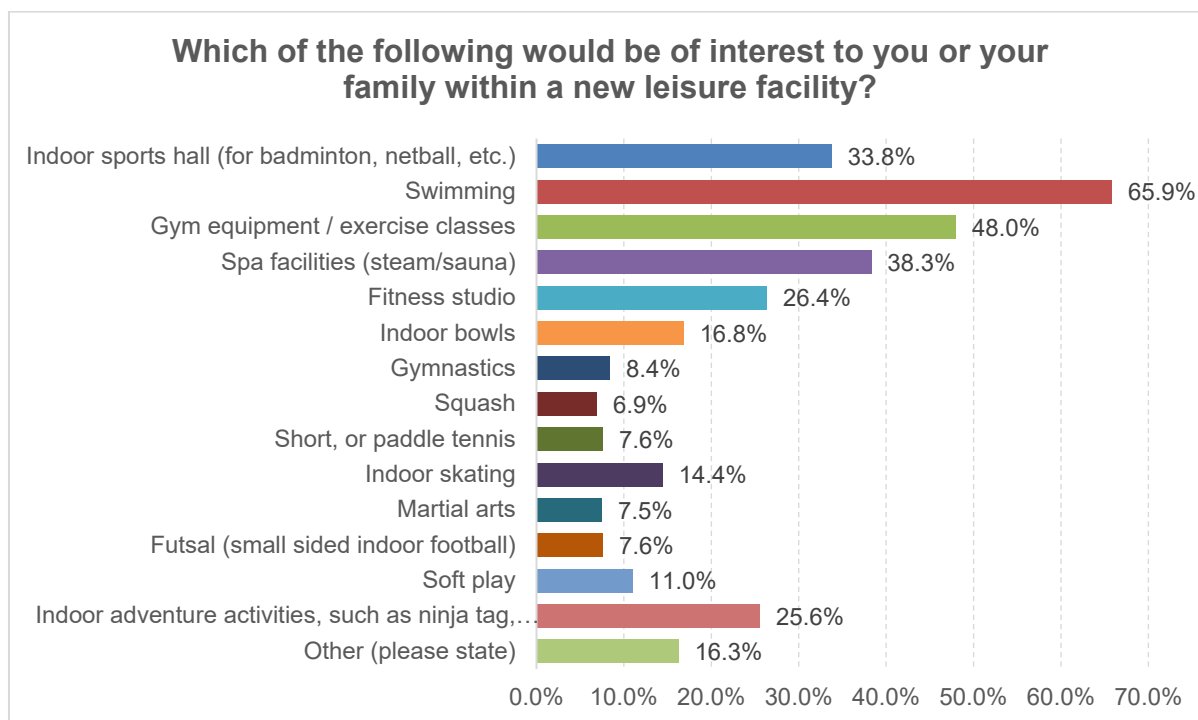
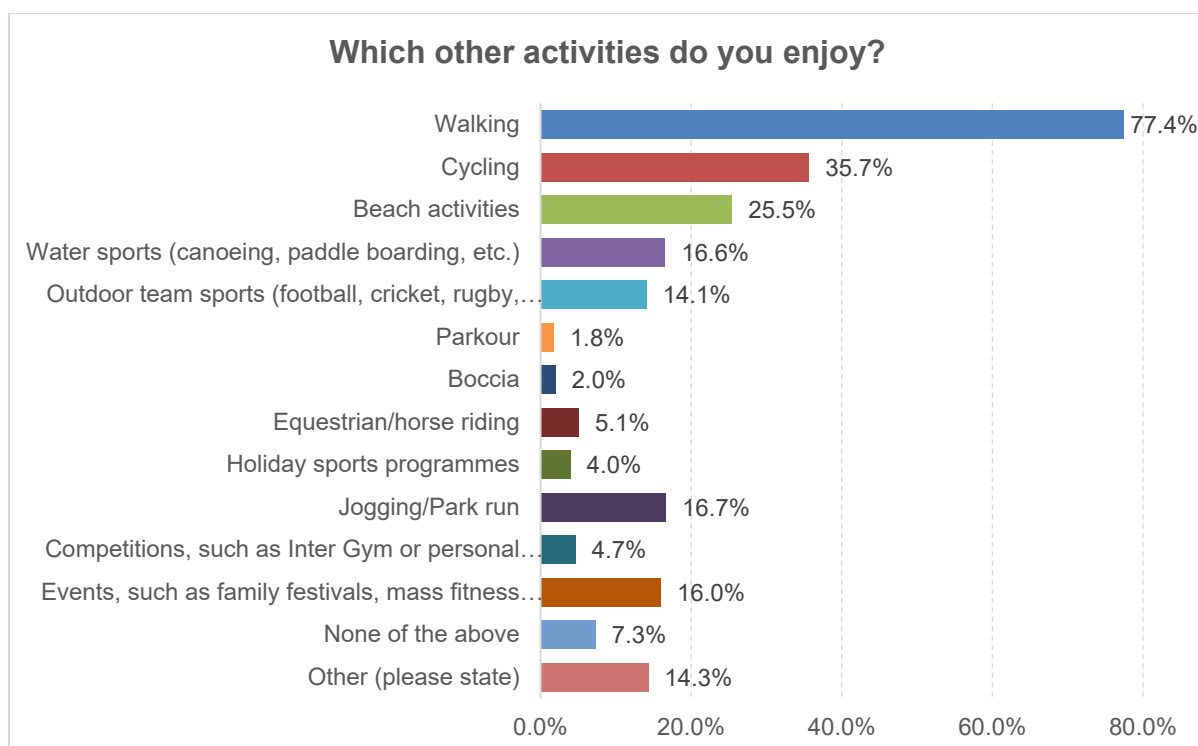


Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic



Resident perceptions of facility quality



Facility preferences*Other activity preferences*

APPENDIX 2:

THEME BASED WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Name	Role / organisation
Dr Christopher Gunn	Lecturer: Sport Business Management & Sports Coaching, UCLAN
Jo Carson	Social Prescribing Link Worker, Cleveleys Group practice
Lisa Banks	Torrentum Primary Care Network
Alex Millar	Network Development Project Officer - Sustrans
Bobby Denning	Fylde Coast Cricket Coaching
Cllr Shaun Turner	Lancashire County Council
Alison Boden	Wyre Council, Coast and Countryside Manager
Len Harris	Wyre Council Senior Planning Officer,
Shelley Birch	Wyre Council, (Children and Young People Lead)
Pete Smith	Commissioning Manager, Healthier Fylde Coast
Jenny Hill	Blackpool CCG
Dr Felicity Guest	GP, Torrentum Primary Care Network
Graham Oatridge	CEO, YMCA Fylde Coast
Anne Mullins	YMCA Fylde Coast, Thornton Centre Manager
Adrian Leather	CEO, Active Lancashire
Carol Ross	Director of Operations, Active Lancashire
Mark Stephenson	Operations Manager, Active Lancashire
Dr Mark Spencer	GP Principal, Mount View Practice
Matt Hilton	CEO Fleetwood Town Community Trust
Lee Cadwallader	Wyre and Fylde School Sport Partnership
Syd Holt and Richard Williams	Royal Lifesaving Society
Stuart Makepeace	Sport England (Observer)



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources (and S.151 Officer)	Cabinet	18 October 2023

Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28
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Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To consider the council’s Medium Term Financial Plan for the financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 The ability to demonstrate good financial management by ensuring that the council’s Medium Term Financial Plan, budgets and capital programme are soundly based and designed to deliver its strategic priorities.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are requested to:

- a Consider the attached Medium Term Financial Plan and the consequential action required in order to address the issues resulting from the five year Financial Forecast (current year plus four years);
- b Note the revised expenditure projections incorporating the slippage from 2022/23, and the resulting impact on the level of the council’s Reserves and Balances at 31 March 2023; and,
- c Agree the top-up and use of all Reserves and Balances as indicated in Appendix 3 to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

4. Background

4.1 The council’s comprehensive, Medium Term Financial Plan, essentially a five year financial forecast, complements the Annual Revenue Budget process and should be considered in conjunction with the Council’s

Business Plan, its capital investment plans and the Asset Management Plan. It provides detailed proposals for corporately managing the council's resources in the years ahead.

- 4.2** The council's financial plans support the delivery of strategic plans for assets either through investment, disposals, rationalisation or more efficient asset use. Financial plans show how the financial gap between the need to invest in assets and the budget available will be filled over the long term (for example through prudential borrowing, rationalisation of assets, capital receipts, etc.).

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 The last Plan was based on the Revenue Budget for 2022/23 and it was recognised that it would be subject to continuous monitoring to ensure its effectiveness. Since the Plan was last considered there have been regular monitoring reports to Members on both the Revenue and Capital Budgets and the 2023/24 Budgets for both of these have been approved. The Outturn figures for 2022/23 (pre audit), were presented to the Audit Committee on 26 September 2023. Attached, at Appendix A, is a copy of the updated Plan, which includes the latest five year financial forecast.

5.2 Based on the detailed appendices to this report, over the forthcoming MTFP period, savings would be required of:

- £2,278,000 for 2024/25
- £2,744,000 for 2025/26
- £3,026,000 for 2026/27
- £3,986,000 for 2027/28

These are expressed on an assumption that any savings in each year are one-off and non-recurring. Therefore, as an example, should recurring savings be found in 2024/25 of £500,000 then the required savings to be found in each subsequent year would be reduced initially by that same £500,000 (being recurring in nature).

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 Considered in detail in the appendices attached.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	Considered in detail in the appendices attached.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.
Climate Change	The report includes the assumption that HVO Fuel will be utilised by the majority of the Fleet on an ongoing basis

	and the additional costs have been reflected in the revised MTFP.
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Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Clare James	01253 887308	clare.james@wyre.gov.uk	22.09.2023

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

Appendix A – Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28



Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28

Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde

October 2023

The Medium Term Financial Plan for Wyre Council

1. Strategic Objectives

- 1.1 The Council's Business Plan sets out its vision, objectives and actions for a five year period, highlighting the issues upon which we have decided to focus in order to ensure that our vision is realised. Our vision is 'Wyre – proud, ambitious and thriving... Together we make a difference.'

Growth and Prosperity

Our ambition – A strong local economy.
We will:
Work with the Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board to support economic growth and attract greener investment to Wyre
Collaborate with our partners to facilitate cleaner, greener, vibrant town centres
Support businesses to grow, prosper and recover
Maximise commercial opportunities and promote our tourism assets
Deliver efficiencies

People and Communities

Our ambition – Empowered healthier and resilient communities
We will:
Collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to support and maximise opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across our communities
Work with our partners to focus on supporting people to become more active and increase their physical activity
Explore opportunities for communities and partners to build resilience supporting our most vulnerable residents and our ageing population
Work with partners to reduce violence and anti-social behaviour

Environment and Climate

Our ambition – A cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment
We will:
Work towards reducing the council's and wider borough's emissions by at least 78% by 2035
Collaborate with our partners to respond to a range of climate change issues, including our commitment to carbon footprint reduction and tackling flood risk across Wyre
Work with residents, Parish and Town Councils and businesses to plan, protect and enhance the quality of our neighbourhoods and environment and promote responsible use of Wyre's great outdoors

2. Background

- 2.1 The council's comprehensive, Medium Term Financial Plan is a five year financial forecast which complements the Annual Revenue Budget process and should be considered in conjunction with the Council's Business Plan, its capital investment

plans and the Asset Management Plan (2018-2023). It provides detailed proposals for corporately managing the council's resources in the years ahead.

- 2.2 Without a resilient Business Plan, priorities can be championed that have little or no reference in relation to the needs of local communities, which can lead to a lack of value for money, direction and public satisfaction.
- 2.3 The council continues to face many significant challenges ahead and will have to manage a wide and diverse range of services with decreasing resources and heightened customer expectations.
- 2.4 The council recognises and welcomes the resources that are made available through contributions from other public and private partner organisations, as well as the voluntary sector. These form a key part of the council's application of resources, duly reflected in its key documents, which are shared with those bodies to achieve the most effective mix of contributions to achieve shared aims and objectives.

3. Links to Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 Obviously, the council cannot do everything it would like to do, or indeed, everything its customers and partners would like it to do. The council, in the same way as other organisations, is restricted by the amount of money (revenue and capital) it has to spend. As such, it has to set priorities. These priorities, which are reflected in the Business Plan, are based on clear evidence of community needs and aspirations determined through prior research and local consultation. The 2023 Business Plan update was also influenced by the views of Overview and Scrutiny Committee who were consulted as part of the drafting process.
- 3.2 In order to respond effectively to the diverse needs of the community the council needs to be using resources effectively, delivering the best outcomes for local people and actively seeking new ways to improve the wellbeing of the community.
- 3.3 This process will be achieved through the following mechanisms:

Engagement with Residents using existing mechanisms and groups – The council is keen to ensure that the aspirations and needs of local people are met and continues to use the Together We Make a Difference Network to ensure better and more effective methods of achieving two-way communication.

The Council's Business Plan - outlines our vision, objectives and actions for the period 2019 to 2023 and demonstrates our commitment to make a positive difference to the lives of people living in Wyre.

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – reflects the budgetary requirements of the Business Plan and is communicated to staff and stakeholders.

Annual Service Plans – contain detailed action plans for the forthcoming year for each service including performance targets.

Team and Individual Objectives – ensures that each member of staff knows how their job helps to deliver a better Wyre. A staff appraisal system helps to assess everyone's contribution.

Performance Management Framework – a tool that underpins all of the above and allows everyone to track performance.

- 3.4** New schemes requiring funding are referred to Corporate Management Team (CMT) for detailed consideration against corporate priorities. (The Detailed Business Case template for Revenue and Capital projects can be seen at Appendix 1.) Once scrutinised by CMT, where necessary, successful business cases are then submitted to the relevant Portfolio Holder for approval. Further scrutiny takes place when Cabinet consider the Capital Programme as part of the council's Estimates Process. In addition, every year, Overview and Scrutiny review the schedule showing planned investment in our assets and this last took place on 24 April 2023. This ensures that, often difficult, decisions are taken in consideration of the council's duty to promote the wellbeing of the community, as well as service specific needs.
- 3.5** Before detailed business cases are submitted for consideration however, there must be:
- A clear rationale for the project and identification of the corporate priority to which the request relates;
 - Identification of stakeholders;
 - An options appraisal which also considers the impact on the organisation, staffing, technology etc.;
 - Consideration of the benefits, both tangible and intangible that the project could achieve and how these will be measured;
 - Consideration of the financial impact of the expenditure e.g. one off and recurring financial consequences
 - Awareness of the risks attached to the project and how these could be mitigated and/or managed.
- 3.6** Ordinarily, capital receipts can only be used to fund capital expenditure or be set aside to repay debt. However, as part of the multi-year 2016/17 local government finance settlement, greater flexibility to allow council's to use these receipts to generate ongoing revenue efficiencies was announced although published guidance must be followed. This flexibility has been extended several times and now includes every financial year to at least 2024/25.
- 3.7** This guidance advises that: "The Secretary of State believes that individual authorities and groups of authorities are best placed to decide which projects will be most effective for their areas. The key criteria to use when deciding whether expenditure can be funded by the capital receipts flexibility is that it is forecast to generate ongoing savings to an authorities', or several authorities, and/or to another public sector body's net service expenditure."
- 3.8** The Guidance also recommends that the Strategy setting out details of projects to be funded through flexible use of capital receipts be prepared prior to the start of each financial year and/or should be presented to full Council or the equivalent at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 3.9** At the present time, there is no intention to make use of this flexibility owing to the significant schedule of works required to maintain and invest in our assets and as such no Strategy has been approved by Council.

- 3.10** The council is keen to strengthen the link between investment and return by encouraging the development and reporting of indicators that can demonstrate how individual schemes have contributed to the achievement of its priorities, i.e. what the community can expect the investment to achieve in terms of outputs and outcomes.

4. Budget Management and Monitoring

- 4.1** In order to ensure that the council is able to demonstrate an effective approach to managing its financial performance, monitoring reports, highlighting any significant deviations from the plan, are submitted to the Executive on a regular basis in respect of both revenue and capital expenditure. This information is informed by regular budgetary reviews undertaken by Spending Officers and the Financial Services Team. Any changes to the phasing of capital schemes and any significant variations to scheme costs are formally reported to Cabinet throughout the year. This process balances the need for a consistent and corporate approach to programme management generally with the responsiveness and flexibility required to manage, often complex, schemes.
- 4.2** The release of funds from the Capital Budget, following a scheme's inclusion in the Capital Programme, is subject to a comprehensive report to the appropriate Portfolio Holder, by the relevant Corporate Director who is responsible for managing the scheme from development through to implementation and review. (This requirement may be relaxed for those schemes where the delay between the date of inclusion in the capital programme and the project start date is less than 9 months and the exact nature of the capital investment requires no further Member approval). The Members' role in performance management and monitoring is supported by the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules which state the key controls surrounding the capital programme as follows:
- a) a scheme and estimate, including project plan, progress targets and associated revenue expenditure is prepared for each capital project, for approval by the executive
 - b) specific approval by the full Council for the programme of capital expenditure
 - c) expenditure on capital schemes is subject to the approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder prior to scheme commencement
 - d) proposals for improvements and alterations to buildings must be approved by the Corporate Property Officer
 - e) schedules for individual schemes within the overall budget approved by the full council must be submitted to the relevant Portfolio Holder for approval (for example, Refurbishment of Playgrounds)
 - f) the development and implementation of asset management plans
 - g) accountability for each proposal is accepted by a named manager
 - h) monitoring of progress in conjunction with expenditure and comparison with approved budget.
- 4.3** Capital costs must be within approved budgets, the tender process being conducted in accordance with Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules which set out the circumstances for reporting overspends to the Executive.
- 4.4** The Prudential Code for Capital Finance aims to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that can be used and requires local authorities to set relevant limits and ratios. These include a three year forward

looking estimate of financing costs to the net revenue stream ratio as well as a backward looking prior year actual financing costs to the net revenue stream ratio. Responsibility for setting and agreeing the prudential indicators rests with the full Council further reinforcing the Members' role in the management of the Capital Programme.

- 4.5** In December 2021, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued a revised Treasury Management Code and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes and a Revised Prudential Code. These two statutory and professional codes are important regulatory elements of the capital finance framework within which local authorities operate and the council is required by regulation to 'have regard to' their provisions.
- 4.6** A particular focus of the revised Prudential Code was to remind local authorities of the limits on commercial activities and the importance of proportionality, not borrowing for debt-to-yield purposes and that capital strategies are required to report investments under the following headings: service, treasury management and commercial investments. All of these changes have limited impact on the council.
- 4.7** The main changes to the updated Treasury Management Code and the accompanying guidance for local authorities related to the treatment of non-treasury investments. They included the introduction of the Liability Benchmark as a treasury management indicator for local government bodies; that Environmental, Social and Governance risks are incorporated into Treasury Management Practice 1 (Risk Management); and the purpose and objective of each category of investments should be described within the Treasury Management Strategy. For these and any changes in the Prudential Code, full implementation was required from April 2023.

5. Basis of Budgetary Forecast

- 5.1** The projections incorporate the final position in respect of the 2022/23 financial year with the Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) approved by Audit Committee on 26 September 2023. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 require the council's responsible financial officer to certify that the accounts 'present a true and fair view of the financial position' for the 2022/23 financial year by 31 May 2023 which was achieved. The council is then formally required to approve and publish the audited Statement of Accounts no later than 30 September 2023. However our external Auditors have indicated that they will not meet this deadline and we are expecting sign-off by 31 March 2024. It is the role of the Audit Committee, independent from the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions, to 'review the annual Statement of Accounts considering whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council'. At the time of writing, the audited accounts and the report from the External Auditor, referred to as the ISA260 Report are still outstanding for the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 accounts owing to delays caused by a lack of resources at Deloitte and a national issue relating to the valuation of infrastructure assets, although it is hoped that these will be signed off in 2023/24.
- 5.2** The Local Government Association (LGA) has yet to confirm the Pay Award for the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for 2023/24 (£1,925 on each

spinal point in 2022/23), apart from Chief Officers who received 3.5%. For 2023/24 an estimated £2,000 pay award on every spinal point has been included in the forecast. This reflects the current Employer's offer of £1,925 which they have stated is full and final, with a modest headroom for negotiation. A % has been applied thereafter in 2024/25 (5.5%) with 4.5% applied thereafter.

- 5.3** Provision for inflation has been included where it is considered to be a contractual obligation and tailored assumptions have been made where known inflationary pressures exist. In preparing a prudent budget, the council should also reflect the current economic climate and its potential impact; this has been considered as part of the Risk Assessment at Appendix 5. Currently we are still experiencing levels of high inflation with energy and fuel costs being impacted in particular. Some certainty over the longer term has been achieved through fixed price contracts. However consumption is variable and we are improving our meters and analytics to obtain better quality data to be able to support site managers and users to reduce wastage going forward.
- 5.4** Although the income projected from fees and charges should follow the principles of the Audit Commission publication "The Price is Right", the objective being to maximise support to the Revenue Budget, it has been assumed that additional income generated during 2023/24 will be offset by similar increases in other costs. However, where a specific policy decision has already been taken in relation to future levels of charging, this has been reflected in the plan. The council's Charging Policy is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.5** The financial projections reflect all known implications arising from published strategies and plans across the council and joint plans agreed with partners and other stakeholders which include the following:
- Business Plan 2019-2023;
 - Waste Management Strategy 2008-2020 (refresh still pending);
 - Digital Transformation Strategy 2022–2025;
 - Disabled Facilities Grants Policy; and
 - Local Plan
- 5.6** As part of the annual budget cycle, and in determining the MTFP, the council continues to identify actions that will improve efficiency, quantifying the expected gains that assist the council in effectively prioritising its finite resources. These efficiency targets, detailed within the council's 'Annual Efficiency Programme' which is published along with the Revenue Budget papers considered by Cabinet, will assist the delivery of the council's corporate priorities supporting the continued improvement of services for our residents. Savings and efficiency gains identified for the year are monitored throughout the period by the Executive to ensure their achievement. Target efficiency savings will only be reflected in the MTFP, however, as they are realised.
- 5.7** Owing to the global pandemic and changes in central government, we are still awaiting the delayed outcome of the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Reform and depending on the outcome of these changes a significant re-prioritisation exercise, whereby all services are subject to a critical evaluation, will be undertaken to alleviate serious financial problems in future years. The financial projections, included at Appendix 2, currently indicate that further annual savings will be required in future years. This has worsened significantly owing to current levels of high inflation, National Living Wage pressures and the accompanying

'cost of living crisis'. However, there is also a high level of uncertainty in the forecast owing to the absence of a multi-year settlement and the residual impact of the pandemic and funding reforms are not expected before 2025/26, following a General Election. As such, it is important that the council considers its future budgets and continues to monitor closely the MTFP.

5.8 From February 2023, the MTFP now assumes that there will be a minimum annual draw down on the Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation Reserve of £1,000,000 to fund increased revenue spending pressures ongoing. This reserve is normally topped-up from the Lancashire Business Rates Pool retained levy and S.31 grants so these levels will need to be monitored going forward to ensure the reserve remains at a healthy level, after the draw-downs are taken into account.

5.9 From 1 April 2014 the accounting arrangements for pensions changed and rather than a single percentage contribution rate being calculated to determine the employers' payment into the scheme, the charges are split with a future service contribution rate being set and charged to services together with a cash deficit recovery contribution being charged to Non Distributed Costs. The employers' equated superannuation rate, effective for the financial year commencing 1 April 2023, is 13.5% and reflects a future service contribution rate of 13.5% and a deficit recovery contribution of nil. The past service deficit contribution was originally meant to increase by 4.1% per annum. However, the outcome of the latest triennial review for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and the decision to pre-pay our pension contribution has resulted in an overall estimated surplus position which is helping to offset the future service cost %. This option to pre-pay the council's pension contribution for the three years, delegated to the s.151 Officer, and thereby pay a reduced amount, is estimated to save over £226,000 over the period. The next triennial review by the Actuary will be based on data at 31 March 2025 and will be effective for the three years commencing 1 April 2026 (discussions are under way to modify future review periods but this remains the current position). The government have been consulting on extending the review period to up to five years but the outcome of this is not yet known. The plan assumes a future service rate of 14%. This is based on the estimated rate of 13.5% provided by the actuary in January 2023 plus a 0.5% provision for the impact of the McCloud judgment which may increase costs. The Pension Fund have indicated that our rates should remain stable over the next triennial review.

5.10 With effect from the 2007/08 financial year, the council become reliant on borrowing to support capital expenditure. The council borrowed £3.552m and this value is used to calculate the minimum revenue provision (MRP) which must be reflected in the accounts. The borrowing was as follows:

Date	Loan Ref	Value (£)	Period	Rate (%)	Maturing
05.03.08	494403	1,000,000	3	4.18	Sept' 2010
05.03.08	494404	552,000	30	4.48	Sept' 2037
05.03.08	494405	1,000,000	50	4.41	Sept' 2057
09.03.09	495360	1,000,000	4	2.05	Sept' 2012

5.11 However, in October 2023, the council repaid the outstanding £1,552,000 at a discount and became debt free once again. Whilst there is no interest paid on the four loans that have matured or been repaid early, the charge to the revenue account reflecting the principal element of the repayment is calculated based on the number of years that the asset will be in operation. Interest paid on long term borrowing in 2023/24 is therefore nil and MRP is £95,559. This cost will not reduce until 2024/25 when assets with a 15 year life span fall out of the MRP calculation

and the MRP reduces to £89,994. The MRP calculation then reduces again to £79,703 in 2025/26 where it remains until 2034/35.

- 5.12** In an effort to reduce the council's reliance on borrowing and following concerns about the sustainability of continuing to borrow in the current economic climate, a Capital Investment Reserve was created as part of the 2009/10 closure of accounts. The balance remaining on this reserve at 31 March 2023, totalling £1,930,309 is substantially committed.

6. Basis of Resources Forecast

- 6.1** The extent of the growth in the tax base of the authority obviously has an impact on the projections of future Council Tax income. An increase of between 1.4% and 1.5% has been anticipated over the MTFP period.
- 6.2** New provisions for council tax referendums were introduced by the Localism Act with effect from 2012/13 to replace capping. The council increased its share of the council tax in 2023/24 by £5 or 2.33%. As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, the Government announced a 3% trigger for local referenda on council tax increases but also allowed any shire district council to charge a de-minimis £5 more in council tax without triggering the referendum. For the purpose of the MTFP a 2.99% increase in council tax has been assumed in 2024/25 and beyond. If the 3% threshold were withdrawn then the forecast position would worsen. Conversely, if the 3% or £5 threshold was increased and members were supportive of this increase, the position would improve.
- 6.3** The current Business Rates Retention Scheme was introduced in 2013/14 and essentially allows councils to keep a share of any business rate growth. A baseline level of funding has been set which, in effect, replaces the grant support that would otherwise have been awarded. Under the national scheme, the council is allowed to keep 40% of any additional funds that it generates (with 50% being paid to the Government, 9% to Lancashire County Council and 1% to the Fire Authority) but this is normally regulated by the payment of a levy at 50%.
- 6.4** Following a one-year 75% retention pilot pool in 2019/20, with effect from 1 April 2020, the council was again designated as belonging to the 50% Business Rates Pool of Lancashire. This results in the County Council being paid 10% of the retained levy (prior to the cost of administering the pool) with Wyre retaining 90% of the levy previously payable.
- 6.5** A consequence of being part of the Pool arrangement is that the council will no longer be eligible to receive a safety net payment should the business rate base in the area decline and fall below 92.5% of the baseline funding level. The entire Pool would have to drop below the safety net level of 92.5% for any additional support to be paid over.
- 6.6** The council receives a negligible revenue support grant and the forecast assumes that our baseline funding level will increase by a modest 3% in 2024/25 and 2% thereafter pending further information on the Local Government Finance Settlement in December and future funding reforms generally.
- 6.7** The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires billing and precepting authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure

when calculating the budget requirement. The council's minimum prudent level of balances, calculating the requirement at 5% of net expenditure before other government grants (£797,337) together with the element of the reduction in business rates that authorities must meet before the Government would consider any safety net payment (£265,263 in 2023/24), is now £1,062,600. Balancing the annual budget by drawing on general reserves may be viewed as a convenient short-term option but where reserves are deployed to finance recurrent expenditure this should be made explicit by the Section 151 officer. **Members must note that the continued use of balances is not sustainable and dependent on future local government finance settlements, a significant re-prioritisation exercise, whereby all services are subject to a critical evaluation, will need to be undertaken to alleviate serious financial problems in future years. A high level review of statutory and non-statutory services has been carried out. The financial projections indicate that further annual savings will be required in future years.** It is important that the council considers its future budgets and continues to monitor closely the MTFP. The value of reserves and balances at the end of March 2023, and projected for the future, can be seen at Appendix 3. The identification of earmarked reserves often takes account of risk assessments and contingency planning with funding being provided for known events such as the Borough Election and the rolling replacement of ICT equipment and vehicles. The level of general balances also supports contingency planning and recognises anticipated future financial pressures on revenue resources and the difficulties of securing immediate savings. The council's Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances is included at Appendix 4.

- 6.8** The council's capital spending is constrained by the availability of appropriate resources including capital receipts, capital grants, borrowing and revenue funding. The council has previously adopted a policy of ensuring that assets with the shortest charge life are financed from capital receipts rather than borrowing to minimise the revenue impact. The council submits a variety of external funding bids, many of which are coordinated by the Engineering, Parks and Open Spaces and Economic Development Teams and all funding bids are agreed with Financial Services prior to submission. The council has an excellent track record of securing external grants and continues to seek funding to facilitate investment in the borough.
- 6.9** On 23 March 2020 the coronavirus pandemic resulted in the first of a series of national lockdowns. Between March 2020 and April 2022 the imposition of local and national restrictions had a significant impact on people's lives, the economy, statutory deadlines and service priorities to name a few. The financial impact on the council continues to be felt in areas such as leisure and tourism which was particularly hard hit. There is now an ongoing residual impact in the wider economy known as the 'cost of living crisis' which is resulting in rising inflation and interest rates, both of which have an impact on the forecasts. Despite a commitment from the government last summer, another one-year settlement was delivered in December and with a General Election due to be held by January 2025, there is a very limited level of forecasting certainty in the MTFP.
- 6.10** Earmarked Reserves and General Balances showed an improved position at outturn. However, the improvement on General Balances was entirely as a result of deferred revenue expenditure, so not a true saving. The improved Earmarked Reserves position was primarily a result of in-year revenue savings and additional income. Top-ups to several reserves were made with the largest amounts going into the ICT Strategy Reserve and Capital Investment Reserve in anticipation of

increased costs. It should be noted that the Council Tax Base Equalisation Reserve was created to allow for a cushioning arrangement in the forecast following successive years in the 2010s of taking advantage of the then government's council tax freeze grant. This policy meant that the tax base was frozen and this created a 'cliff edge' in the forecast. The reserve will be fully utilised in 2026/27.

7. Risk Assessment

7.1 An assessment of the risks associated with the MTFP has been carried out. This includes the likelihood, severity and level of risk together with the risk management procedures in place to control and monitor them. The guidance framework for Corporate Governance in local authorities highlights the need to have these risk management procedures in place.

The table below explains the scoring matrix that is used to calculate the level of risk.

Likelihood	Severity	Risk = Likelihood x Severity
Low (1)	Low (1)	1 – 2 = Low
Medium (2)	Medium (2)	3 – 4 = Medium
High (3)	High (3)	6 – 9 = High

Action to be taken after scoring is as follows:

- High = Review existing practices/proposed recommendations and act.
- Medium = Review control mechanisms.
- Low = Limited immediate action; continue to monitor.

7.2 Appendix 5 lists the major risks associated with the MTFP and the controls in place to alleviate the risks.

8. Executive Summary

8.1 Aims

- To improve the quality of services through the strategic planning process and the targeting and prioritising of investment to meet local and national objectives.
- To provide a clear and consistent framework for financial decision-making and management at both the corporate and service level, subject to continuous monitoring to ensure its effectiveness.

8.2 Delivery

The council strives to ensure that its resources:

- Continue to be guided by the key principles underpinning our corporate objectives and contribute effectively to their achievement, through Corporate Service and Financial Planning.
- Are robustly reviewed on a regular basis identifying potential efficiency savings.

- Add value to those provided by partners and other agencies in the Borough to provide joined up solutions.
- Optimise opportunities for corporate working across services and operational strategies, to achieve wider, defined objectives.
- Are not accepted as the only source of funding for services and continues to explore the possibility of attracting funding from external sources.
- Are supported by the achievement of maximum income levels in relation to fees and charges levied for services provided.
- Maximise and make best use of the council's assets.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Detailed Business Case Template

Appendix 2 – Charging Policy

Appendix 3 – Summary Financial Forecast (including Reserves and Balances)

Appendix 4 – Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances

Appendix 5 – Risk Assessment



Detailed Business Case

Topic Name: <Insert Topic Name Here>
Prepared by: <Insert Name>
Date: <Insert Date>

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Change Description
0.1	<Date>	<Name>	<First Draft – Not yet for publication>

Distribution List

Name	Role
<Insert Name 1>	<Insert involvement in this work, not necessarily job title>

Executive Summary

[Insert a summary of the contents of this document – usually this section is completed last]

Background

[Insert the background of the project, aimed at readers who may not know much about the topic]

Reasons for Project

[Insert information on why the project is needed]

Stakeholders

[Use the table below to list the internal and external stakeholders of this project]

Stakeholder	Interest and Involvement

Options Appraisal

[Typically, there will be a number of options available. Insert details, including an economic appraisal, of the different options available. Often doing nothing is included as the first option to show remaining as-is will NOT be a good way forward. One option will then be selected and used in the rest of the business case. In some cases, the benefits, saving, risks and costs will vary depending on the option chosen. In which case, these can be incorporated into each option, rather than included in the separate sections below. If there are not multiple options, this section can be deleted and the information can be incorporated within the Reasons for Project section above.]

Equipment and Technology Considerations

[This section should explain any considerations with regards to technology. Many new initiatives rely on technology to manage or monitor various business functions. Key features of any contract should be included, such as contract terms, payment mechanism and procurement.]

Organisation and Staffing

[With many new products or services there may be a need for additional staffing or for a restructure in order to accommodate the change.]

Benefits Realisation

[Insert the project benefits. These can be tangible and intangible. Where possible, include details of suitable measures, so the reader is clear on how you will know when you have achieved the objective. Typically, many of the benefits will not be realized until long after the project has closed. For example, if the project was to build a children’s play area, user numbers could not be measured until it has been open for a number of months.]

The benefits the project will bring are:

No.	Benefit Description	Measure
1	<Insert>	<Insert>
2	<Insert>	<Insert>
3	<Insert>	<Insert>

Financial Assessment

[Insert details of the cashable and efficiency saving which can be made (if applicable). Please remove sections and rows which are not required. Work out the savings over one year and then over many years. The number of years chosen will differ depending on your project, but will typically be between 3-10 years. You may wish to include a representative from Finance at this point to help you financially model a number of scenarios.]

A summary of the potential savings are shown in the tables below.

Cashable Savings - Item	Savings P.A. £	Savings over <X> years £
TOTAL	<Total>	<Total>
Efficiency Savings - Item	Savings P.A. £	Savings over <X> years £
TOTAL	<Total>	<Total>
OVERALL TOTAL	<Total>	<Total>

Cost

The main costs for this project are summarised below:

ITEM	Costs in year 1 £	Costs over <X> years £
TOTAL COST	<Total>	<Total>

Anticipated savings less costs =	<Savings - Costs>
---	--------------------------------

Risks

The risks associated with delivering the business case are as follows. These will be transferred to the project issues and risks log for ongoing management purposes.

Risk	Potential Impact	Mitigation
<Insert the nature of the risk>	<Explain the potential impact>	<Explain the steps taken to reduce the risk>

Recommendations

[Insert the business case recommendations, including the recommended option from those stated above]

Timescales

[Insert a brief project timetable, or alternatively use the document '[2 Project Plan](#)' or the 'Project In a Box' software to draw a timeline which can then be attached as a link to this document]



Charging Policy 2023/24

Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde

October 2023

Charging Policy 2023/24

1. Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet last formally considered its charging policy at its meeting on 19 October 2022.
- 1.2 In September 1999 the Audit Commission published “The Price is Right” which advised councils to focus attention on charges and addresses the following issues:
 - Establish clear principles for charging;
 - Integrate charging into service management and forge links with corporate objectives;
 - Set clear objectives and targets to qualify success in charging;
 - Build an understanding of users and markets;
 - Improve decision making by taking into account the likely impact of changes to charges; and
 - Innovate via imaginative use of charging structures.
- 1.3 In January 2008, the Audit Commission published a further report entitled “Positively Charged”, which identified how different councils' use their powers to charge for services and draws conclusions that support their earlier publication in that:
 - Charging for local services makes a significant contribution to council finances and for district councils charges make the greatest contribution to service delivery;
 - Councils use charges to influence individuals' choices and to bring benefits to local communities. Charges can be set to encourage or discourage people to use services and through concessions to pursue local objectives; and
 - Councils need to understand better the likely impact of charges on users and on patterns of service use.
- 1.4 The report recommends, amongst other things, that where there is a subsidy to provide a service, this is transparent as part of the decision making process; that service managers should be aware of both users and non-users of the service being charged for; to engage service users and taxpayers more in decisions about charging levels and that there should be regular debate on charges and charging policy.
- 1.5 A new briefing entitled ‘Income from Charging’ was issued by the Audit Commission in September 2013 which uses data from the value for money profiles and presented a high level analysis of councils' income from charging and the contribution it makes to service spending and allowed comparisons to other councils of the same type and changes over time. The data was the subject of a value for money review undertaken as part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme and was considered at the meeting 15 December 2014. Having fully explored and investigated the variances, it was felt that the value of the research was limited with the additional benefit not being sufficient to justify the exercise being repeated.

- 1.6 The level of income generated by fees and charges, and in particular projected increases which the council can influence, forms a key part of the council's financial planning and is therefore reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

2. The Council's Policy

- 2.1 The council needs to maximise its income whilst ensuring that its services are not compromised, taking into account competition from other providers. Indeed, if services are subsidised purely to maintain a competitive price then a fundamental review of the service should be carried out resulting in the justification of the approach or recommending alternative action.
- 2.2 The council is keen to encourage a shared responsibility for improving neighbourhoods and wherever possible will consult local people and communities on charging policies. Information obtained from satisfaction surveys can also help to monitor performance.
- 2.3 The reasoning behind both service provision and the charge levied should be justified each time that charges are re-assessed. For example, there may well be a desire to use a charging policy to meet other objectives such as increasing usage of recreational assets.
- 2.4 Decisions regarding pricing should be taken in the full knowledge of the pricing policies of alternative providers and information should be provided to ensure that Members are sufficiently briefed.
- 2.5 Clear targets should be set for income levels in advance of any review of pricing and achievement of these targets should be monitored using the council's established performance management arrangements.
- 2.6 When considering pricing policies Service Managers should be encouraged to be innovative and flexible in determining the basis for the charge.

3. Impact

- 3.1 The table attached identifies the range of services for which the council currently levies a charge and the value of the income estimated for the current year. The table also details those areas where the fee is externally set, as is currently the case with Planning Fees, or where we must ensure a break-even position, with the charge being set at a level sufficient to recover associated costs.

APPENDIX 2 - Charging Policy

Service Area	Determined by WBC ✓ or X	Original Estimate 2023/24 £	Able to Influence £	Unable to Influence £
Resources				
Electoral Services	Y	1,800	1,800	-
Other Legal Fees	Y	30,000	30,000	-
National Non-Domestic Rates (Court Costs)	Y	13,000	13,000	-
Photocopying	Y	100	100	-
Council Tax (Court Costs)	Y	334,750	334,750	-
Street Nameplates and Numbering	Y	13,760	13,760	-
Hire of Committee Rooms	Y	8,100	8,100	-
	Sub Total	401,510	401,510	-
Communities				
Planning	N	600,000	-	600,000
Development Control	Y	8,600	8,600	-
Estates use of land for commercial events	Y	3,000	3,000	-
Building Control #	Y/N	236,600	1,500	235,100
Renovation Grants (Fee Income)	Y	264,150	264,150	-
Houses in Multiple Occupation	Y	5,550	5,550	-
Land Charges #	N	75,790	-	75,790
Care and Repair/Handyperson Service	Y	179,630	179,630	-
Alley Gates	Y	50	50	-
Marine Hall	Y	154,300	154,300	-
Thornton Little Theatre	Y	56,000	56,000	-
Mount Grounds	Y	1,000	1,000	-
Marsh Mill	Y	-	-	-
Poulton Market*	Y	20,000	20,000	-
Fleetwood Market*	Y	534,480	534,480	-
Cleveleys Market*	Y	3,000	3,000	-
Market House Studios	Y	120	120	-
Leisure Centres (including pools) **	Y	-	-	-
	Sub Total	2,142,270	1,231,380	910,890
Environment				
Animal Licensing #	Y	8,000	8,000	-
Taxi Licensing #	Y	78,980	78,980	-
Licensing Act #	N	86,500	-	86,500
Gambling Act Licensing #	N	25,800	-	25,800
Other Licensing *** #	Y	6,130	6,130	-
Pest Control	Y	37,810	37,810	-
Private Water Supplies	Y	870	870	-

Service Area	Determined by WBC ✓ or X	Estimated Value 2023/24 £	Able to Influence £	Unable to Influence £
Food Safety	Y	6,090	6,090	-
Contaminated Land	Y	100	100	-
Pollution Prevention Control	N	7,940	-	7,940
Car Parking	Y	514,550	514,550	-
Residents Parking Permits	Y	12,200	12,200	-
Penalty Charge Notices (Off street parking)	N	50,990	-	50,990
MOT Test Centre	Y	28,480	28,480	-
Cemeteries	Y	296,230	296,230	-
Countryside	Y	2,030	2,030	-
Wyre Estuary Country Park	Y	950	950	-
Rossall Point	Y	-	-	-
Dog Warden Service	Y	3,700	3,700	-
Street Cleansing	N	27,500	-	27,500
Public Conveniences	Y	70,870	70,870	-
Outdoor Leisure	Y	7,910	7,910	-
Bulky Household Waste	Y	99,000	99,000	-
Green Waste Removal	Y	830,100	830,100	-
Waste Container Delivery Administration Costs	Y	51,000	51,000	-
	Sub-Total	2,253,730	2,055,000	198,730
	GRAND TOTAL	4,797,510	3,687,890	1,109,620

* Fleetwood, Poulton and Cleveleys Market Rents are set under Officer Delegated Powers.

** Involved in agreeing charges but income retained by contractor.

*** WBC is able to influence some licences including ear piercing, performance of plays, public entertainment, second hand goods dealers, scrap metal operators' and street trading licences.

Indicates a break even position over a set period is required.

Revenue Budgets	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Base Borough Requirements, increased for prior year inflation, but excluding Use/Top-up of Balances (shown below)	15,940	15,986	17,019	17,856	18,711
<u>Inflationary Assumptions on the above Base</u>					
Pay: Officers - see assumptions below; Member Allowances - from 24/25 3.88% ongoing		707	612	646	675
Prices, Specific Contracts and Other Costs (Variable)/Energy	46	326	225	209	195
<u>Expected Future Changes on the above Base</u>					
Revenue slippage	1,285	0	0	0	0
Employee (incl. Member Allowances) and related cost - NI changes; Pension contributions; Protection; FTCs; long service awards and restructures	4	(501)	(503)	(502)	(501)
Capital Programme revenue implications		1	1	1	1
External Grant and Grant Aided schemes		14	14	14	14
Other Services including - National Fraud Initiative, Citizens Advice Bureau; Marine Hall; Borough Elections; Foreshore/Promenade Fleetwood; Marine Lake; Memorial Park; Contaminated Land; Licensing; Asset Maintenance Review; Leisure Centre Subsidy	444	(868)	(849)	(951)	(747)
Regeneration/Economic situation changes - Local Plan; Depots and Fleetwood Market		(46)	(166)	(203)	(203)
Cost of Borrowing and Investment Income	(1,000)	(256)	(16)	(16)	(16)
Capital Programme - Revenue Funding Contributions	419	153	66	255	157
Reserve Contribution Changes	41	(751)	(702)	(839)	(351)
Baseline Funding - External Government Grant (all per prov. Local Government Finance Settlement)	(3,537)	(3,643)	(3,716)	(3,790)	(3,866)
Revenue Support Grant	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Funding Guarantee Grant	(457)				
Service Grant	(138)				
New Homes Bonus - Government Grant	(982)				
Non-Domestic Rates - Government Grant	(5,606)				
NDR income different to Baseline Funding	1,358				
Non-Domestic Rates - Levy	927				
Non-Domestic Rates - Retained Levy (Lancashire Pool)	(834)				
Collection Fund Adjustment - Council Tax prior year	(467)				
Collection Fund Adjustment - Non-domestic Rates re prior year	1,534				
Enterprise Zone growth (to be transferred to a ringfenced reserve)	(161)				
Net Wyre Requirement met by Council Tax and Balances	8,815	11,121	11,984	12,679	14,068
Base and Forecast Cost met by Council Tax	<u>8,459</u>	<u>8,843</u>	<u>9,240</u>	<u>9,653</u>	<u>10,082</u>
Net Spending change i.e. need to Use/Top Up (-) Balances	356	2,278	2,744	3,026	3,986

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Balances as at 1 April	14,517	14,161	11,883	9,139	6,113
Add Top Up of Balances	0	0	0	0	0
Less Use of Balances	(356)	(2,278)	(2,744)	(3,026)	(3,986)
Estimated Balances Surplus/(Deficit) at 31 March	<u>14,161</u>	<u>11,883</u>	<u>9,139</u>	<u>6,113</u>	<u>2,127</u>
NB Prudent level of Balances £1,062,600					

Tax base	38,495.60	39,074.81	39,643.23	40,213.16	40,781.26
Forecast Council Tax £	£219.74	£226.31	£233.08	£240.05	£247.23
Annual Council Tax Increase £	£5.00	£6.57	£6.77	£6.97	£7.18
Annual Council Tax Increase %	2.33%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%
Council Tax Income	£8,459,023	£8,843,020	£9,240,044	£9,653,169	£10,082,351
Additional Annual Council Tax Income		£383,997	£397,024	£413,125	£429,182

<u>Assumptions - Net Service Expenditure</u>	
Inflation - Pay Award:	24/25 5.5%, 25/26 onwards 4.5%
Inflation - Other costs: (refer to main MTFP report)	rebasings has occurred for a number of key areas and assumptions have been tailored according to category of spend
<u>Assumptions - Financing Sources</u>	
Govt Support: Baseline Funding	3% in 24/25, 2% in years thereafter
Council Tax:	referendum levels set at higher of £5 or 2.99%
Council Tax Base:	Dec 2022 tax base calculation (97% collection rate)
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	Reflects RSG only elements, other rolled in grants (i.e. Family Annexe, LCTS Admin) reflected in Base Budget Requirements



Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances

Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde

October 2023

Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances

1. Legislative/Regulatory Framework

- 1.1 The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. Sections 31A, 32, 42A and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require billing and precepting authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement.
- 1.2 There is also a requirement reinforced by section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which requires the chief financial officer to report to all the authority's councillors if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget. This would include situations where reserves have become seriously depleted and it is forecast that the authority will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year.

2. Role of the Finance Director

- 2.1 Within the existing statutory and regulatory framework, it is the responsibility of the finance director (Corporate Director Resources) to advise the local authority about the level of reserves that should be held and to ensure that there are clear protocols for their establishment and use.
- 2.2 There are no statutory minimum levels imposed and it is not considered appropriate or practical for the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), or other external agencies, to give prescriptive guidance on the minimum, or maximum, level of reserves required either as an absolute amount or a percentage of the budget.

3. Types of Reserves

- 3.1 Reserves can be held for three main purposes:
 - A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing – this forms part of general reserves and is commonly referred to as 'balances';
 - A contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies – this also forms part of general reserves or 'balances';
 - A means of building up funds, often referred to as earmarked reserves, to meet known or predicted requirements – earmarked reserves are accounted for separately but remain legally part of the General Fund.
- 3.2 For each reserve held by a local authority there should be a clear protocol setting out:
 - The reason for/purpose of the reserve;
 - How and when the reserve can be used;
 - Procedures for the reserve's management and control; and
 - A process and timescale for review of the reserve to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

4. Principles to Assess Adequacy

- 4.1 In order to assess the adequacy of unallocated general reserves when setting the budget or the MTFP, the Chief Finance Officer should take account of the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the authority. The assessment of risks should include external risks, such as flooding, as well as internal risks, for example, the ability to deliver planned efficiency savings. The following factors should be considered:

Budget Assumptions	Financial Standing and Management Assessment/Impact
The treatment of inflation and interest rates	The overall financial standing of the authority (level of borrowing, debt outstanding, council tax and business rate collection rates, etc.), commodity prices e.g. fuel, the cost of borrowing and anticipated investment returns
Estimates of the level and timing of capital receipts	The authority's track record in budget and financial management including the robustness of the medium term financial plans
The treatment of demand led pressures	The authority's capacity to manage in-year budget pressures
The treatment of planned efficiency savings/gains	The strength of the financial information and reporting arrangements
The financial risks inherent in any significant new funding partnerships, major outsourcing arrangements or major capital developments	The authority's virement and end of year procedures in relation to budget under/over spends at authority and directorate level and any contract provisions, designed to safeguard the authority's position
The availability of reserves, government grants and other funds to deal with major contingencies and the adequacy of provisions	The adequacy of the authority's insurance arrangements to cover major unforeseen risks
The general financial climate to which the authority is subject.	External factors such as future funding levels, referenda principles/limits and the authority's ability to replenish reserves once used

- 4.2 The council's minimum prudent level of balances, calculating the requirement at approximately 5% of net expenditure before other government grants (£797,337) together with the element of the reduction in business rates that authorities must meet before the Government would consider any safety net payment (£265,263 in 2023/24), is now £1,062,600. This is reviewed annually as part of the budget process.

- 4.3 A review of the level of earmarked reserves is also undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation and as part of the closure of accounts process. The council does not regularly monitor the opportunity costs of maintaining its levels of earmarked reserves as these are generally not held as a form of investment but to meet a recognised need.

5. Reporting Framework

- 5.1 The level and utilisation of general and earmarked reserves is determined formally by Cabinet in October (November in 2020 owing to pandemic), with the approval of the MTFP, and in February, at the annual budget setting meeting, informed by the advice and judgement of the finance director.
- 5.2 Both reports include a statement showing the estimated opening general and reserve fund balances for the year ahead, the additions/withdrawals, and the estimated end of year balances. A statement is also included commenting on the adequacy of the general and earmarked reserves in respect of the forthcoming financial years.

6. Reserves Protocol

Reserve as at 31.03.23	Purpose	How and When Used	Procedures for management and control	Timescale for review
Building Control	Fundamental principle of the Building Regs. Scheme introduced 1 April 1999, subsequently amended by the 2010 Regulations.	3 to 5 year rolling accounting period over which costs should equate with charge income.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, updating the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process. Also subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Capital Investment	To fund capital investment avoiding the need to borrow.	Used to finance the council's capital investment needs.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, updating the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process. Also subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Elections	To meet the cost of the Borough Election.	Used to smooth the impact of the Borough Election which occurs every four years and is next due in May 2027.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.

Reserve as at 31.03.23	Purpose	How and When Used	Procedures for management and control	Timescale for review
Enterprise Zone (EZ) Growth	Established in 2018/19 to hold business rates growth from the EZ	Ring-fenced for supporting investment in the EZ, primarily for infrastructure improvements	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, updating the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process. Also subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Homelessness	Established in 2020/21 to hold a number of Homelessness related external funding streams and one off grants.	Used to fund initiatives to support homelessness prevention, mitigate the problem of rough sleeping and contribute to the general provision of Housing Options services.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, updating the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process. Also subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Insurance	To meet the cost of insurance claims.	Used to fund the cost of insurance excess and any associated costs not covered by any premium.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
ICT Strategy	Established to renew ICT equipment on a rolling replacement in accordance with the ICT Strategy.	Used to smooth the revenue impact of ensuring that the ICT infrastructure and equipment remains 'fit for purpose'.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, updating the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process. Also subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Land Charges	Compliance with guidance issued by the Lord Chancellor (Section 13A, LLCA 1975).	Councils are required to assess the cost of providing a service, the projected take-up of that service and thus the charge that should be made over a period of between one and three years.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.

Reserve as at 31.03.23	Purpose	How and When Used	Procedures for management and control	Timescale for review
Council Tax Base Equalisation	To delay the impact on successive tax base freezes in the 2010s	Supports the shortfall in income, resulting from the decision to freeze the level of council tax, through to the end of 2026/27.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation	To protect against volatility associated with the new Business Rate (BR) Retention Scheme.	S. 31 grant receipts, net of NDR levy, used to cushion the council against future reductions in business rate income, including the financial impact of successful appeals as notified by the VOA. From 2022/23, the retained levy, from being a member of the Lancashire BR Pool, is being released to fund revenue spend.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Property Investment Fund	Established in 2018/19 initially as a two year pilot to explore investing in commercial property.	A Property Investment Board is responsible for making decisions on how the fund is utilised.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources in conjunction with the Property Investment Board	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP, as part of the closure of accounts process and is subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Value For Money	Invest to save projects	Originally created to fund VFM initiatives, which may incur up-front costs and now incorporates supplementary grants awarded for the administration of council tax, NDR, housing benefit and LCTS.	Managed by the Corporate Director Resources	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process. Also subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Vehicle Replacement /	Replacement of the council's	Funding to meet current and anticipated vehicle/	Managed by the Corporate	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation,

Street Cleansing Maintenance	vehicle fleet and smoothing the maintenance cost for the street cleaning vehicles.	plant requirements - ultimately charging the cost to revenue over the life of the asset. Also includes maintenance of street cleansing vehicles and set-up costs for MOT station.	Director Resources	the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process as well as subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
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Risk Assessment

Appendix 5

Type of Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Level of Risk	Control	Review	Responsible	Reports To
Financial Forecast is wrong.	Low (1)	High (3)	Medium (3)	Review the base budget and adjust for known and likely variations impacting on the forecast.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board; Cabinet
Expenditure greater than budget.	Low (1)	High (3)	Medium (3)	Budget monitoring of revenue spend. Budget monitoring of capital spend. 5-Year Financial Forecast.	Monthly Quarterly 6 Monthly	Cost Centre Managers; Financial Services Spending Officers and Head of Finance	Management Board; Cabinet Management Board
Unforeseen expenditure, new schemes/initiatives.	Low (1)	High (3)	Medium (3)	Maintenance of a general contingency and review of priorities.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board
Over dependence on use of reserves and balances.	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (4)	Compliance with CIPFA guidance on local authority reserves and balances. Adequacy assessed as part of budget process, MTFP and closure of accounts.	Ongoing	Corporate Director Resources (S151 Officer)	Cabinet; Council
Income targets not achieved owing to economic climate impacting on demand.	Low (1)	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Risk assessment of major income generators during budget preparation – realistic targets built into budget. Regular monitoring of income as part of budget monitoring.	Annually Monthly	Financial Services	Management Board; Cabinet
Efficiency savings not achieved.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Regular review as part of budget monitoring.	Monthly	Management Team	Management Board
Income from investments is lower than expected.	Low (1)	Low (1)	Low (1)	Budget monitoring.	Monthly	Head of Finance	Management Board; Cabinet
Changes in Government Funding e.g. Business Rates Base Funding Level and cessation of New Homes Bonus.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Limit reliance on this type of funding and review other options, highlighting sensitivities in the MTFP.	Ongoing	Corporate Director Resources (S151 Officer)	Management Board

Type of Risk (Cont'd)	Likelihood	Severity	Level of Risk	Control	Review	Responsible	Reports To
Changes to Local Government Finance resulting from Business Rates Retention Scheme e.g. unfavourable variations in reliefs, decline in RVs, growth, collection rates, beneficial impact of pooling is not realised, etc.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Close monitoring of current and any new arrangements and establishment of an earmarked reserve to cushion against volatility.	Ongoing	Corporate Director Resources (S151 Officer) and Head of Finance	Management Board
Potential volatility of the fuel/energy market adding further increases to fuel (including HVO), heating and lighting.	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (4)	Close monitoring of revenue spend. Re-negotiation of energy contracts when they fall due.	Monthly	Head of Finance	Corporate Management Team
Capital receipts are not realised from asset disposals.	Low (1)	Medium (2)	Medium (3)	Prioritisation of disposals and effective marketing of sites.	Ongoing	Corporate Director Communities	Corporate Management Team
Potential volatility concerning aspects of the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme in conjunction with the Universal Credit rollout e.g. caseload, collection rates, etc.	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (4)	Close monitoring of new arrangements.	Monthly	Corporate Director Resources (S151 Officer) and Head of Finance	Management Board
New cost pressures are devolved by Central Government as part of the Fair Funding Review, 75% or 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme without the necessary funding.	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (4)	Early monitoring of situation allowing the development of plans to mitigate financial impact.	Ongoing	Corporate Director Resources (S151 Officer) and Head of Finance	Management Board
Significant sources of revenue income cease.	Medium (4)	Medium (4)	Medium (4)	Early monitoring of situation allowing the development of plans to mitigate financial impact.	Ongoing	Corporate Director of Resources (S151 Officer) and Head of Finance	Management Board

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Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Lesley MacKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources (and S.151 Officer)	Cabinet	18 October 2023

Capital Programme Review and Monitoring Report

Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To consider the review of the 2023/24 Capital Programme and progress of schemes for the five month period covering the period from April 2023 to 31 August 2023, undertaken by spending officers. Noting amendments to the Capital Programme since it was last reported to Cabinet and the financial impact over the term of the Programme, through to the end of 2027/28.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 The delivery of the Capital Programme and its monitoring will demonstrate good financial management by ensuring that the Programme is soundly based and designed to deliver the Council's strategic priorities.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the 2023/24 Capital Programme, and its funding, totalling £18,027,390 be noted.

3.2 That re-profiling of multi-year schemes detailed below are approved.

3.3 That additional funds allocated to the capital programme through Portfolio Holder reports be noted.

3.4 That the progress of, and expenditure incurred on, capital schemes for the first five months of the 2023/24 financial year is noted.

4. Background

- 4.1** As part of the council's Performance Management process, spending and financial officers review the progress of capital scheme expenditure against the approved Programme. These reviews are carried out at least three times a year to coincide with key budget planning cycles. The summary results of this first review of the 2023/24 programme, as at 31 August 2023, are contained in Appendix 2.
- 4.2** The Original Capital Budget for 2023/24 was set at £18,419,984 (see Cabinet report 15/02/23). Details of the changes to funding since then can be found in the appropriate Cabinet, Audit Committee and Portfolio Holder reports. Details concerning spend to date, commentary and budget changes can be found in Appendix 2.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Appendix 1 shows actual costs and commitments by Portfolio totalling £13,933,280 and variations up to the end of August against the current updated full year budget of £18,027,390, representing an aggregate spend of 77.29%.
- 5.2** The current 2023/24 Capital Programme includes 20 schemes that have been slipped from 2022/23. These schemes were reported to the Audit Committee on 26 September 2023.
- 5.3** Commentary supporting the latest position on individual capital schemes can be found in Appendix 2, highlighting expected completion times for schemes and if expected to complete in year whether completion will be within budget. For delayed projects, which are not completed at the end of the financial year, there is a mechanism in place to carry forward funds into future years.
- 5.4** Appendix 3 shows the in-year capital programme by Portfolio and Directorate, illustrating the proposed sources of funding for each scheme.
- 5.5** Appendix 4 shows the in-year capital programme by Portfolio and Directorate and the forward plan of proposed capital schemes up to 2027/28. Proposed funding of these schemes can be found in Appendix 1 and Appendix 5 summarises the schemes by the recurring/one-off/multi-year nature of the scheme.

5.6 Multi-year scheme re-phasing

Wyre Beach Management

The project experienced delays early in the programme as progress was hinged on the awarding of a licence by the Marine Maritime Organisation. This has now been approved and the expenditure for the scheme has been re-profiled to reflect the re-programming of works.

Our Future Coast

The programme has experienced delays owing to ongoing discussions with third parties and approvals of proposed schemes within the project. It is hoped expenditure will be accelerated during the second half of the year to make up lost ground.

5.7 Additional allocations

Further allocations to the capital programme have been approved after agreement of the original budget 2023/24. These are detailed below:

Wyre Beach Management

Inflationary pressures have increased the overall cost of the scheme by £10,174,557. The Environment Agency have approved this additional funding through Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA). The scheme now has a reserved allocation of £52,741,491.

Disabled Facilities Grants

In September 2023 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced further funding totalling £50m for the Disabled Facilities Grants programme of which Wyre received £181,497.

Fleetwood Market Improvements

£357,000 has been allocated to the capital programme from capital receipts to cover the costs of roof replacements works originally scheduled for 2024/25. The benefit of bringing the works forward being that disruption at the market is contained alongside the ongoing renovation project.

Roofing works at Redmarsh Industrial Estate

£131,488 has been allocated to the capital programme from capital receipts to re-roof the complete block. This will ensure both improved weather tightness and insulation to current standards, improving the unit's internal environment.

Memorial Park Playground Equipment

The Friends of Memorial Park Group have donated £20,050 to acquire and install play equipment at the park.

Pheasants Wood, Thornton Improvement Scheme

£106 monies relating to planning application 17/00469/FULMAJ have been added to the capital programme totalling £14,648 to undertake improvement works at Pheasants Wood.

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

The council has received £400,000 to be spent over two years, with £100,000 allocated to 2023/24. The planned expenditure is detailed in the Portfolio Holder report of 6 April 2023.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The 2023/24 budget has been amended to bring the budget in line with the submission presented to DLUHC on proposed timing of expenditure. On 7 June 2023, Cabinet approved an upgrade to the council's CCTV town centre network. This is now progressing to the final procurement. The updated budget reflects the financial implications in the Cabinet report.

5.8 Capital grants, contributions and receipts

Since the original capital programme was approved for 2023/24, there have been additional grants and contributions received, or added to the 2023/24 programme as per the table below:

Funding Source	Amount	Capital scheme
Friends of Memorial Park Group	£20,050	Memorial Park Playground equipment
S106	£14,648	Pheasants Wood, Thornton - Improvement Scheme
DLUHC	£181,497	Disabled Facilities Grants
DLUHC	£100,000	Rural England Prosperity Fund
DLUHC	£69,210	UK Shared Prosperity fund
Police and Crime Commissioner	£25,000	Upgrade CCTV Network
Environment Agency	£10,174,557	Wyre Beach Management Scheme

5.9 Section 106

As at the 31 August 2023 the council had on account the following amounts in relation to income received through Section 106 agreements:

Description	Amount
General (includes public open space, flood remediation schemes etc.)	£373,422
Affordable Housing	£1,285,463
Other Entities (held temporarily on behalf of a third party)	£88,660

6. Prudential Indicators

- 6.1 The Prudential Indicators required by the Prudential Code are designed to support and record local decision making. A number of treasury indicators, which previously formed part of the Prudential Code are now contained within the Treasury Management Code and Guidance. Local authorities are required to have regard for these indicators and report them on a quarterly basis. Given the links between these indicators and capital financing they are reported in Appendix 6.

7. Alternative options considered and rejected

7.1 No alternative options considered.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The Capital Programme through to 2027/28 is fully funded utilising external grants and contributions, capital receipts and funding from earmarked reserves. The Capital Programme expenditure, following the review as at the end of August 2023, requires use of Capital Receipts, the Vehicle Replacement Reserve, the Capital Investment Reserve and the Property Investment Reserve.
Legal	None arising directly from this report
Climate Change	None arising directly from this report

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Ben Ralphs	01253 887309	Ben.ralphs@wyre.gov.uk	22/09/2023

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Capital Programme by Portfolio 2023/24 to 2027/28

Appendix 2 – Capital Programme in-year financial position 2023/24

Appendix 3 – Capital Programme funding by scheme 2023/24

Appendix 4 – Capital Programme forward plan 2023/24 to 2027/28

Appendix 5 – Total Scheme Budget as at 2023/24 Update

Appendix 6 – Prudential and Treasury Indicators

CAPITAL PROGRAMME BY PORTFOLIO - 2023/24 TO 2027/28

	2023/24					Proposed budget			
	Original budget	In year changes	Updated budget	Actuals + Commitments	Variance Updated budget - (Actuals + Commitments)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
EXPENDITURE									
<i>By Portfolio</i>									
Leisure Health and Community Engagement	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	£17,489,950	-£2,609,854	£14,880,096	£11,671,100	£3,208,996	£18,875,305	£20,051,968	£9,213,754	£2,079,964
Planning Policy and Economic Development	£681,656	-£35,112	£646,544	£441,134	£205,410	£774,222	£0	£0	£0
Resources	£248,378	£2,135,676	£2,384,054	£1,803,097	£580,957	£302,500	£215,000	£404,500	£306,700
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	£0	£116,696	£116,696	£17,949	£98,747	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL BY PORTFOLIO	£18,419,984	-£392,594	£18,027,390	£13,933,280	£4,094,110	£19,952,027	£20,266,968	£9,618,254	£2,386,664
FUNDING									
Grants and Contributions	£18,256,086	-£2,632,502	£15,623,584			£19,649,527	£20,051,968	£9,213,754	£2,079,964
Revenue - Capital Investment Reserve	£0	£10,215	£10,215			£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - IT Strategy Reserve	£0	£38,476	£38,476			£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Vehicle Replacement Reserve	£149,500	£341,917	£491,417			£302,500	£215,000	£404,500	£306,700
Revenue - Value For Money Reserve	£0	£0	£0			£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Property Investment Reserve	£0	£28,839	£28,839			£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Insurance Reserve	£0	£0	£0			£0	£0	£0	£0
Capital Receipts	£14,398	£1,820,461	£1,834,859			£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL BY SOURCE OF FUNDING	£18,419,984	-£392,594	£18,027,390			£19,952,027	£20,266,968	£9,618,254	£2,386,664

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME - IN YEAR FINANCIAL POSITION

Period 5 2023/24

Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Original Budget 2023/24	Council/ Cabinet/ PH decision 2023/24	Slippage/ advanced spend 2023/24	Updated budget 2023/24	Actuals to date 2023/24	Commitments 2023/24	Actuals + Commitments 2023/24	Commentary
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	Communities	Disabled Facilities Mandatory Grants	£2,079,964	£181,497	£734,702	£2,996,163	£1,266,424	£0	£1,266,424	Budget is expected to be utilised fully in year, including the slippage brought forward from 2022/23.
		Empty Homes Delivery	£0	£0	£17,049	£17,049	£0	£0	£0	This scheme has not been started and is forecast to underspend at outturn.
	Environment	Cell Eleven Monitoring	£23,410	£0	£0	£23,410	£9,625	£99	£9,724	Ongoing coastal monitoring works. Year 3 of a 5 year contract with Sefton Council.
		Rossall Sea Wall Improvement Works	£0	£0	£208,432	£208,432	£0	£0	£0	Further works to be completed on concrete capping. Expected by Q4 2023/24.
		Wyre Beach Management Business Case	£13,195,576	-£3,490,781	£314,976	£10,019,771	£2,358,515	£7,661,257	£10,019,771	Planning and licensing issues have been resolved and additional funds have been allocated from the EA to cover inflationary pressures. Balfour Beatty are progressing well with the scheme, which will continue in to future years.
	Our Future Coast (formerly Innovative Resilience Fund ECO-CoBS)	£2,191,000	-£1,342,435	£644,706	£1,493,271	£64,912	£310,268	£375,181	Work is ongoing to develop schemes alongside partners and secure contracts for works. Programme will be delivered over the life of the project to 2026/27.	
	Upgrade to CCTV Network	£0	£122,000	£0	£122,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	The scheme is in the early stages of identifying suitable suppliers. It is not anticipated that there will be any issues at this stage. This scheme is partly funded by UKSPF.
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Total			£17,489,950	-£4,529,719	£1,919,865	£14,880,096	£3,699,476	£7,971,624	£11,671,100	
Planning Policy and Economic Development	Communities	Fleetwood HAZ	£214,656	£0	£63,082	£277,738	£168,410	£10,260	£178,670	The project is progressing and within budget. Project closure and evaluation is expected in Q4.
		UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects	£467,000	-£397,790	£199,596	£268,806	£42,964	£219,500	£262,464	Funding awarded over a 3 year period. Schemes progressing in line with the UKSPF programme of works agreed with DLUHC.
	Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	£0	£100,000	£0	£100,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	Delivery of a two year capital programme of interventions within rural areas of the borough.
Planning Policy and Economic Development Total			£681,656	-£297,790	£262,678	£646,544	£211,374	£229,760	£441,134	
Resources	Communities	Acquisition of fish and food processing commercial units	£0	£0	£28,839	£28,839	£0	£0	£0	Slippage was carried forward to be used towards completing the project.
		Fleetwood Market Improvement Works	£0	£357,000	£1,109,566	£1,466,566	£419,710	£1,025,677	£1,445,387	Works are ongoing and practical completion is now due Q3 of 2023/24 owing to additional works required than that in the original specification.
		Fleetwood Market Security Improvements	£0	£0	£10,215	£10,215	£0	£1,387	£1,387	Work will be completed during Q3 once the major renovations at the market have finished.
	Roofing works at Redmarsh Industrial Estate	£0	£131,488	£0	£131,488	£0	£127,786	£127,786	Works started toward the end of August and are due to be completed in Q3 2023/24, within budget.	
	Environment	Changing Places Facilities - Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton	£98,878	£0	£2,974	£101,852	£25,579	£58,680	£84,259	Planning permission has been awarded and works are to begin soon. Completion is expected by March 2024 and within the budget allocation.
		Copse Road Depot VMU Roller Shutter doors	£0	£0	£11,840	£11,840	£1,560	£0	£1,560	The scheme has been completed within budget.
		Public Sector Decarbonisation at Fleetwood Market	£0	£0	£103,361	£103,361	£100,453	£9,340	£109,793	The installation date for the Air Source Heat Pumps is expected to be undertaken during Q3 of 2023/24.
	Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Mtnce	£149,500	£0	£341,917	£491,417	£0	£0	£0	£0	Ongoing geopolitical issues continue to cause delays in the supply chain of vehicles. Options are being considered and alternative manufacturers may need to be sought in future.

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Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Original Budget 2023/24	Council/ Cabinet/ PH decision 2023/24	Slippage/ advanced spend 2023/24	Updated budget 2023/24	Actuals to date 2023/24	Commitments 2023/24	Actuals + Commitments 2023/24	Commentary
Resources	Resources	Replacement of Core IT Network Infrastructure	£0	£0	£38,476	£38,476	£31,624	£1,300	£32,924	The server was acquired within budget with the balance being underspend.
Resources Total			£248,378	£488,488	£1,647,188	£2,384,054	£578,926	£1,224,171	£1,803,097	
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	Environment	Hawthorne Park, Thornton - Playground improvements	£0	£0	£3,206	£3,206	£0	£0	£0	This project will be developed alongside Trustees to attract wider external funding and create a more meaningful scheme.
		King George's Playing Field Phase 3	£0	£0	£10,678	£10,678	£0	£0	£0	Contractors are currently on site after delays starting the programme. Works expected to be completed by March 2024.
		Preesall Playing Fields Environmental Improvements	£0	£0	£21,180	£21,180	£1,790	£0	£1,790	Budget is for retainers on the scheme. Any surplus to be carried forward in to 2024/25.
		Restoration of the Mount	£0	£0	£39,934	£39,934	£0	£0	£0	Draft options, costings and timescales are currently being considered and prioritised to ensure the remaining capital is spent by the end of the financial year.
		Tebay Playground Refurbishment	£0	£0	£7,000	£7,000	£0	£0	£0	Works to begin soon and expected to completed by March 2024.
		Memorial Park Playground Equipment	£0	£20,050	£0	£20,050	£0	£16,159	£16,159	Contractors are currently on site. Works expected to be completed by March 2024 withing budget.
		Pheasants Wood, Thornton - Improvement Scheme	£0	£14,648	£0	£14,648	£0	£0	£0	Invitations to Quote (ITQ) is in progress to award the contract. Works are expected to complete by March 2024.
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Total			£0	£34,698	£81,998	£116,696	£1,790	£16,159	£17,949	
Grand Total			£18,419,984	-£4,304,323	£3,911,729	£18,027,390	£4,491,566	£9,441,714	£13,933,280	

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - FUNDING BY SCHEME

2023/24

Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Grants and Contributions 2023/24	Revenue - Capital Investment Reserve 2023/24	Revenue - IT Strategy Reserve 2023/24	Revenue - Vehicle Replacement Reserve 2023/24	Revenue - Property Investment Reserve 2023/24	Capital Receipts 2023/24	Updated budget 2023/24
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	Communities	Disabled Facilities Mandatory Grants	£2,996,163	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2,996,163
		Empty Homes Delivery	£17,049	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£17,049
	Environment	Cell Eleven Monitoring	£23,410	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£23,410
		Rossall Sea Wall Improvement Works	£208,432	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£208,432
		Wyre Beach Management Business Case	£10,019,771	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£10,019,771
		Our Future Coast (formerly Innovative Resilience Fund ECO-CoBS)	£1,493,271	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,493,271
		Upgrade to CCTV Network	£25,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£97,000	£122,000
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Total			£14,783,096	£0	£0	£0	£97,000	£14,880,096	
Planning Policy and Economic Development	Communities	Fleetwood HAZ	£277,738	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£277,738
		UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects	£268,806	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£268,806
		Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	£100,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£100,000
Planning Policy and Economic Development Total			£646,544	£0	£0	£0	£0	£646,544	
Resources	Communities	Acquisition of fish and food processing commercial units	£0	£0	£0	£0	£28,839	£0	£28,839
		Fleetwood Market Improvement Works	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,466,566	£1,466,566
		Fleetwood Market Security Improvements	£0	£10,215	£0	£0	£0	£0	£10,215
	Environment	Roofing works at Redmarsh Industrial Estate	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£131,488	£131,488
		Changing Places Facilities - Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton	£87,454	£0	£0	£0	£0	£14,398	£101,852
		Copse Road Depot VMU Roller Shutter doors	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£11,840	£11,840
		Public Sector Decarbonisation at Fleetwood Market	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£103,361	£103,361
		Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Mtnc	£0	£0	£0	£491,417	£0	£0	£491,417

Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Grants and Contributions 2023/24	Revenue - Capital Investment Reserve 2023/24	Revenue - IT Strategy Reserve 2023/24	Revenue - Vehicle Replacement Reserve 2023/24	Revenue - Property Investment Reserve 2023/24	Capital Receipts 2023/24	Updated budget 2023/24
Resources	Resources	Replacement of Core IT Network Infrastructure	£0	£0	£38,476	£0	£0	£0	£38,476
Resources Total			£87,454	£10,215	£38,476	£491,417	£28,839	£1,727,653	£2,384,054
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	Environment	Hawthorne Park, Thornton - Playground improvements	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3,206	£3,206
		King George's Playing Field Phase 3	£10,678	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£10,678
		Preesall Playing Fields Environmental Improvements	£21,180	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£21,180
		Restoration of the Mount	£39,934	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£39,934
		Tebay Playground Refurbishment	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£7,000	£7,000
		Memorial Park Playground Equipment	£20,050	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£20,050
		Pheasants Wood, Thornton - Improvement Scheme	£14,648	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£14,648
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Total			£106,490	£0	£0	£0	£0	£10,206	£116,696
Grand Total			£15,623,584	£10,215	£38,476	£491,417	£28,839	£1,834,859	£18,027,390

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - FORWARD PLAN 2023/24 TO 2027/28

APPENDIX 4

Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Original Budget 2023/24	Updated budget 2023/24	Original budget 2024/25	Original budget 2025/26	Original budget 2026/27	Original budget 2027/28
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	Communities	Disabled Facilities Mandatory Grants	£2,079,964	£2,996,163	£2,079,964	£2,079,964	£2,079,964	£2,079,964
		Empty Homes Delivery	£0	£17,049	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Environment	Cell Eleven Monitoring	£23,410	£23,410	£23,410	£23,410	£0	£0
		Rossall Sea Wall Improvement Works	£0	£208,432	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Wyre Beach Management Business Case	£13,195,576	£10,019,771	£15,385,433	£16,214,919	£5,226,527	£0
		Our Future Coast (formerly Innovative Resilience Fund ECO-CoBS)	£2,191,000	£1,493,271	£1,386,498	£1,733,675	£1,907,263	£0
		Upgrade to CCTV Network	£0	£122,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Total		£17,489,950	£14,880,096	£18,875,305	£20,051,968	£9,213,754
Planning Policy and Economic Development	Communities	Fleetwood HAZ	£214,656	£277,738	£0	£0	£0	£0
		UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects	£467,000	£268,806	£474,222	£0	£0	£0
	Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	£0	£100,000	£300,000	£0	£0	£0	
Planning Policy and Economic Development Total		£681,656	£646,544	£774,222	£0	£0	£0	
Resources	Communities	Acquisition of fish and food processing commercial units	£0	£28,839	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Fleetwood Market Improvement Works	£0	£1,466,566	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Fleetwood Market Security Improvements	£0	£10,215	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Roofing works at Redmarsh Industrial Estate	£0	£131,488	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Environment	Changing Places Facilities - Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton	£98,878	£101,852	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Copse Road Depot VMU Roller Shutter doors	£0	£11,840	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Public Sector Decarbonisation at Fleetwood Market	£0	£103,361	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Mtnce	£149,500	£491,417	£302,500	£215,000	£404,500	£306,700	
	Resources	Replacement of Core IT Network Infrastructure	£0	£38,476	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Resources Total		£248,378	£2,384,054	£302,500	£215,000	£404,500	£306,700
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	Environment	Hawthorne Park, Thornton - Playground improvements	£0	£3,206	£0	£0	£0	£0

Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Original Budget 2023/24	Updated budget 2023/24	Original budget 2024/25	Original budget 2025/26	Original budget 2026/27	Original budget 2027/28
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	Environment	King George's Playing Field Phase 3	£0	£10,678	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Preesall Playing Fields Environmental Improvements	£0	£21,180	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Restoration of the Mount	£0	£39,934	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Tebay Playground Refurbishment	£0	£7,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Memorial Park Playground Equipment	£0	£20,050	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Pheasants Wood, Thornton - Improvement Scheme	£0	£14,648	£0	£0	£0	£0
		Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Total		£0	£116,696	£0	£0	£0
Grand Total			£18,419,984	£18,027,390	£19,952,027	£20,266,968	£9,618,254	£2,386,664

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - TOTAL SCHEME BUDGET AS AT 2023/24

APPENDIX 5

Allocation	Portfolio	Directorate	Scheme name	Total capital scheme budget	Prior year expenditure on current scheme	Actuals + Commitments 2023/24	Funded by Grants and contributions	Funded by Revenue	Funded by Capital Receipts
One off	Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	Communities	Empty Homes Delivery	£17,050	£0	£0	✓		
		Environment	Upgrade to CCTV Network	£122,000	£0	£0	✓		✓
	Resources	Communities	Fleetwood Market Security Improvements	£55,439	£45,224	£1,387		✓	
				Roofing works at Redmarsh Industrial Estate	£131,488	£0	£127,786		✓
		Environment	Changing Places Facilities - Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton	£101,852	£0	£84,259	✓		✓
			Copse Road Depot VMU Roller Shutter doors	£53,340	£41,500	£1,560			✓
		Resources	Replacement of Core IT Network Infrastructure	£125,996	£87,520	£32,924		✓	
	Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	Environment	Hawthorne Park, Thornton - Playground improvements	£17,000	£13,794	£0			✓
				King George's Playing Field Phase 3	£10,678	£0	£0	✓	
			Memorial Park Playground Equipment	£20,050	£0	£16,159	✓		
			Pheasants Wood, Thornton - Improvement Scheme	£14,648	£0	£0	✓		
			Preesall Playing Fields Environmental Improvements	£74,069	£52,889	£1,790	✓		
			Tebay Playground Refurbishment	£7,000	£0	£0			✓
One off Total				£750,610	£240,927	£265,865			
Annual/Recurring in nature	Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	Communities	Disabled Facilities Mandatory Grants	£2,996,163	£0	£1,266,424	✓		
		Environment	Cell Eleven Monitoring	£23,410	£0	£9,724	✓		
	Resources	Environment	Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Mtnce	£491,417	£0	£0		✓	
Annual/Recurring in nature Total				£3,510,990	£0	£1,276,148			
Multi year	Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	Environment	Our Future Coast (formerly Innovative Resilience Fund ECO-CoBS)	£6,791,000	£270,293	£375,181	✓		
			Rossall Sea Wall Improvement Works	£208,432	£0	£0	✓		
			Wyre Beach Management Business Case	£52,741,491	£5,894,841	£10,019,771	✓		
	Planning Policy and Economic Development	Communities	Fleetwood HAZ	£1,474,690	£1,196,952	£178,670	✓		
				Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	£400,000	£0	£0	✓	
			UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects	£923,431	£180,403	£262,464	✓		
	Resources	Communities	Acquisition of fish and food processing commercial units	£4,194,917	£4,165,933	£0	✓	✓	
				Fleetwood Market Improvement Works	£2,367,295	£812,589	£1,445,387		✓
		Environment	Public Sector Decarbonisation at Fleetwood Market	£1,102,829	£999,468	£109,793	✓		✓
	Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	Environment	Restoration of the Mount	£1,962,440	£1,922,506	£0	✓		
Multi year Total				£72,166,525	£15,442,985	£12,391,266			

Prudential Indicators

Indicator No.

- 1 The actual capital expenditure incurred in 2022/23 and the estimates of capital expenditure for the current and future years that are recommended for approval are:

	2022/23 Actual £000	2023/24 Estimate £000	2024/25 Estimate £000	2025/26 Estimate £000	2026/27 Estimate £000	2027/28 Estimate £000
Housing	2,182	3,013	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080
Sea Defences	3,560	11,745	16,795	17,972	7,134	0
Fleetwood regeneration	2,754	1,858	0	0	0	0
Levelling Up	180	369	774	0	0	0
Project Neptune	4,166	29	0	0	0	0
Vehicle replacement	171	491	303	215	405	307
Other	104	367	0	0	0	0
ICT	88	38	0	0	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	152	117	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	13,357	18,027	19,952	20,267	9,618	2,387

- 2 Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years, and the actual figures for 2022/23 are:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ratio	-7.12%	-8.12%	-5.19%	-3.28%	-3.17%	-3.06%

The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in the budget report.

- 3 Estimates of the end of year capital financing requirement for the authority for the current and future years and the actual capital financing requirement at 31st March

	31/03/2023 Actual £000	31/03/2024 Estimate £000	31/03/2025 Estimate £000	31/03/26 Estimate £000	31/03/2027 Estimate £000	31/03/2028 Estimate £000
Total Capital Financing Requirement <i>(Expenditure less capital grants & use of usable/set-aside receipts)</i>	10,877	10,780	10,696	10,633	10,558	10,483

The capital financing requirement measures the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

To ensure that debt over the medium term is only for capital purposes, debt should not, except in the short term, exceed the Capital Financing Requirement for the previous, current and next two financial years.

Treasury Management Indicators

Wyre Borough Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

Indicator No.

- 1 External Debt - Authorised Limit

The maximum level of external borrowing on a gross basis (i.e. excluding investments) for the Council. This is a statutory limit determined under the local Government Act 2003 and must not be exceeded during the year.

	2022/23 Limit £000	2023/24 Limit £000	2024/25 Limit £000	2025/26 Limit £000	2026/27 Limit £000	2027/28 Limit £000
Borrowing	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Other Long Term Liabilities	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Authorised Limit	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,100

- 2 External Debt - Operational Boundary (Reasonable Limit-day to day)

The reasonable limit for external debt (excluding investments) focussing on day-to-day treasury management activities.

	2022/23 Limit £000	2023/24 Limit £000	2024/25 Limit £000	2025/26 Limit £000	2026/27 Limit £000	2027/28 Limit £000
Borrowing	14,878	14,914	15,889	16,679	17,485	17,485
Other Long Term Liabilities (Deferred Liabilities)	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total Operational Boundary	14,928	14,964	15,939	16,729	17,535	17,535

- 3 Actual External Debt

	31/03/23 Actual £000
External Debt-Temporary Borrowing	0
External Debt-PWLB	0
Other Long Term Liabilities	11
Total Actual External Debt	11

It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the authorised limit or operational boundary, since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in

4 Fixed Interest Rate Exposures

	2022/23 Actual %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %	2027/28 Estimate %
Principal sums outstanding in respect of borrowing at fixed rates	100	100	100	100	100	100
Principal sums outstanding in respect of fixed rate investments	25	25	25	25	25	25

5 Variable Interest Rate Exposures

	2022/23 Actual %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %	2027/28 Estimate %
Principal sums outstanding in respect of borrowing at variable rates	25	25	25	25	25	25
Principal sums outstanding in respect of variable rate investments	100	100	100	100	100	100

Borrowing at fixed rates will be between 75% - 100% of the total portfolio
 Borrowing at variable rates will be between 0% - 25% of the total portfolio
 Investments at fixed rates will be between 0% - 25% of the total portfolio
 Investments at variable rates will be between 75% - 100% of the total portfolio

6 Maturity Structure of Borrowing

It is recommended that the Council sets upper and lower limits for the maturity structure of its borrowing as follows.

Amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a % of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate at the start of the period.

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	100	0
12 months and within 24 months	45	0
24 months and within 5 years	75	0
5 years and within 10 years	75	0
10 years and above	100	0

7 Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

	2022/23 Actual £000	2023/24 Estimate £000	2024/25 Estimate £000	2025/26 Estimate £000	2026/27 Estimate £000	2027/28 Estimate £000
Total principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Report of:	Meeting	Date
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities and Councillor Richard Rendell, Chair of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group	Cabinet	18 October 2023

The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group – Final Report
--

Key decision: No.

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To report the work of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group to the Cabinet.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 To improve the health and wellbeing of residents and to support vulnerable and ageing residents within the community.

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix 1) arising from the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Overview and Scrutiny Task Group which are as follows:

3.1 That the council continues to promote its ongoing work with its primary care networks, local GP practices and other link/community organisations; that the council supports these groups by continuing to advertise its services via different methods.

3.2 That the council should ensure that its health and wellbeing services and offers are well promoted on its website and social media. The council's services and offers should also be specifically promoted to local NHS social prescribing teams. If and when an opportunity to refresh a local directory of services presents itself, it is recommended that the council supports this work.

- 3.3** That the work of the council in relation to social prescribing be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and be made a strategic priority.

4. Background

- 4.1** Following an update to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2022 on the Integrated Care Board structure for Lancashire and South Cumbria, the committee agreed to commission a task group to look at health and wellbeing in Wyre, specifically related to reviewing further opportunities for social prescribing.

- 4.2** The group's review aims were:

1. To understand what the council offered regarding health and wellbeing.
2. To understand the council's involvement and engagement with local Social Prescribing Networks.
3. To investigate the value for money and outcomes of the current offer.
4. To strengthen links, as a District Council, with the new Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnerships.
5. To identify and recommend opportunities for improvement.

- 4.3** The review was carried out over four meetings in 2023 held on 12 January, 23 February, 14 March and 30 March. The review group heard evidence from the following witnesses:

- Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
- Mark Broadhurst, Head of Housing and Community Services
- Carol Southern, Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager
- Keith Potter, Social Prescribing Team Leader, Volunteer Centre for Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
- Dr Mark Spencer, Clinical Director of Fleetwood Primary Care Network

- 4.4** The group also requested an up to date contact list of all GP practices in the borough and sent out a consultation, with the questions agreed by the group. The Democratic Services Officer updated the group with the consultation's responses. The consultation and response can be seen at Appendix 1.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 The task group acknowledged that social prescribing was not a statutory function of the council and in general it is not responsible for public health. It was also a very broad topic and there was a risk of not being able to agree realistic recommendations.
- 5.2 However, the task group acknowledged that district councils such as Wyre not only provided key services which could have an impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, but had a duty to collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to support and promote opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across the community.
- 5.3 The task group also acknowledged the work already ongoing by the council's Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities team and that social prescribing as a service was still relatively new within the healthcare sector.
- 5.4 The group therefore recommend that the council continue the work it is currently undertaking. In particular with social prescribing to be given greater importance, given the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents that Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis is having. They recommended that this be a priority in the refreshed Business Plan and for Overview and Scrutiny to monitor the work of the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities team.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1 No alternative options were considered.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, should recommendation two be agreed and developed, there could be future financial implications should demand increase. If an in-house directory of local services is commissioned, then this too could result in costs which may not be covered by existing budgets and would require a further report.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Climate Change	None arising from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	✓

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Daphne Courtenage	01253 887476	Daphne.courtenage@wyr e.gov.uk	27.09.2023

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None.		

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group report – final.



**THE PROMOTION OF
SELF-CARE AND SOCIAL
PRESCRIBING IN WYRE
TASK GROUP
Draft Report**

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Richard Rendell

TASK GROUP MEMBERS

(at the time of review)

Councillor Lady Dulcie
Atkins

Councillor Peter Cartridge

Councillor John Ibison

Councillor Phil Orme

Councillor Richard Rendell

Councillor Holly Swales

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Chairman: Councillor Peter Cartridge**

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Introduction

The promotion of self-care and social prescribing in Wyre is a key priority for Wyre Council as part of its Business Plan in improving the health and wellbeing of residents and supporting vulnerable and ageing residents within the community.

District Councils have a vital part to play within their communities despite the fact that they are not formally responsible for public health. Regardless of this, district councils' role within their communities in relation to housing, planning, leisure, recreation and environmental health all directly impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

District Councils also have a new part to play; primary care networks (PCNs) were established in 2019 to deliver day-to-day care for areas of up to 30-40,000 people. The PCNs have been tasked to commission with social prescribing services, either externally or in-house, in order for these services to refer residents to local groups or council services that would help to ensure they stay well in the community.

Social prescribing is defined by NHS England as “an approach that connects people to activities, groups and services in their community to meet the practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing”. The link workers that form local organisations, charities and health services work closely on an individual basis with residents who are experiencing issues with their physical or mental health, and refer them to community groups, services and activities to improve their health and wellbeing outside of the NHS.

Wider social determinants of health have the largest impact on residents' health and wellbeing, and so ensuring a joined-up approach between health services, social prescribers and councils would enable residents to stay well and independent.

Following a meeting in October 2022 with Hilary Fordham, the then Integrated Place Lead for North Lancashire, and Dr Adam Janjua, Clinical Director Place, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were inspired to commission a task group to review further opportunities in the borough to encourage and support social prescribing. This task group was officially agreed in November 2022 with a draft scoping document setting out its review focus.

The purpose of the review was to understand the contribution of district councils in supporting healthy communities through the promotion of self-care and the use of social prescribing in the borough.

This report provides a summary of evidence the group gathered and it has been analysed to frame three conclusions and recommendations.

Aim of review/Terms of reference

1. Understand what the council offers regarding health and wellbeing.
2. Understanding the council's involvement and engagement with local Social Prescribing Networks
3. Investigation of the value for money and outcomes of the current offer.
4. To strengthen links, as a District Council, with the new Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnerships.
5. Identify and recommend opportunities for improvement.

The review process

Following each meeting and a review of their scoping document, the group called for evidence and witnesses as appropriate.

For the first meeting, the group had asked the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Health and Community Engagement, Councillor Lynne Bowen, the Head of Housing and Community Services, Mark Broadhurst, and the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager, Carol Southern, to submit a report giving context for the review with a specific focus on council services that had an impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. They also provided responses to further questions at the third meeting of the task group, as well as attending the final meeting to comment on the emerging draft recommendations.

At the second meeting, the group heard evidence from Keith Potter, the Social Prescribing Team Leader from the Volunteer Centre for Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde. They also heard from Dr Mark Spencer, the Clinical Director of Fleetwood's PCN. The group also sent out a consultation, with a list of three questions, to all GP practices in the area which the council had contact details for; they were also invited to attend the Over Wyre Medical Centre Open Day on the 9 March 2023 to see how a GP practice would bring social prescribing in-house. All interviews, as well as the consultation and further questions to the relevant officers, were prepared for through discussions and pre-prepared questions which allowed for more detailed discussion with the representatives and questions.

The Chair, Councillor Richard Rendell, would like to thank all expert witnesses, those who responded to the consultation as well as the officers for their time and the information they provided.

Summary of evidence provided by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Health & Community Engagement, Lynne Bowen, the Head of Housing and Community Services, Mark Broadhurst, and the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager, Carol Southern

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Health and Community Engagement, Lynne Bowen, the Head of Housing and Community Services, Mark Broadhurst, and the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager, Carol Southern, attended the first meeting to introduce the group members to the context of the review and to give them information on services the council already provided in this area.

The Head of Housing and Community Services, Mark Broadhurst, introduced the report and highlighted the importance of district councils in the running of key services that have an impact on the social determinants of health such as housing, leisure, environmental health, pollution and planning. In addition, district councils were more recently involved in preventative-based approaches to health and wellbeing, one example was working with social prescribers.

Mark provided the group with more detail regarding the different services Wyre Council provided to assist to improve resident's health and wellbeing such as housing those impacted by homelessness through initiatives like Changing Futures, home adaptations through disabled facilities grants, heating homes via affordable warmth initiatives and facilitating residents attending the borough's leisure centres. In addition to the membership-led approach at the leisure centres, Wyre Council had developed new initiatives for those residents less inclined to join a gym.

He highlighted the importance of individual responsibility to ensure self-care and provided members with the World Health Organisation definition of self-care, "the ability of individuals, families and communities to promote their own health, prevent disease, maintain health, and to cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a health worker". He added that the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities team were providing innovative health and wellbeing initiatives and projects by utilising partnership links and attracting external funding. This was resulting in improved health and wellbeing of residents, specifically the most vulnerable, and preventing people from presenting at GP Surgeries for non-clinical matters. Mark explained the work of social prescribers and how Wyre Council worked closely with them to refer people to the relevant offers provided by the council.

The Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager, Carol Southern, provided members with an overview of the report submitted. She explained that her team had recently produced a physical activity and sports strategy called Wyre Moving More. This was alongside the ongoing KKP Leisure Consultant's review of the YMCA leisure centres. She added that Wyre Council worked with key partners both strategically and operationally to help people connect within their local community and stay healthy and well. These included:

- Lancashire County Council – public health team and the communities team
- Active Lancashire – sport and activity partnership

- NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
- University of Central Lancashire
- Fleetwood, Torrentum, WIN and WREN Primary Care networks in Wyre
- 15 GP Surgeries
- Fylde Coast YMCA
- Fleetwood Town Community Trust
- Healthy Heads
- Wyre & Fylde School Sport Partnership
- Healthier Fleetwood
- Many local community groups across Wyre

Carol explained that there were four Primary Care Networks (PCN) in Wyre all with teams of social prescribers, which the council met with regularly. Listening to these teams, helped identify gaps and opportunities to work collaboratively to improve residents' lives. Some examples were on issues such as befriending support, cost of living support, care and repair, exercise referral programmes (Your Move) and computer literacy courses. Carol added that her team worked closely with the Communications team in the council to promote their programmes and offers. They also produced a regular newsletter that went out to over 400 community groups as well as their Healthier Wyre social media platform hosted on Facebook. She stressed the importance of key weeks such as mental health and self-care week and promote specialised initiatives where possible.

Carol explained to members several services the council were commissioned to provide by Lancashire County Council, these were:

- Adult weight management – commissioned up to 750 places, 528 people accessed in 2022, 12-week free places at Slimming World in Wyre, the biggest adult weight management programme in Lancashire.
- Children's weight management – commissioned the Play Activity Skills at Tea Time (PASTA) programme in Wyre to Healthy Heads and Fleetwood Town FC Community Trust, worked with Charles Saer and Larkholme Primary Schools, six-week programme, awarded another 12 months funding, looking to expand to additional schools.
- Holiday activity and Food programme, (HAF) – commissioned up to ten different local providers to provide HAF at Easter, Summer and Christmas, places for children on benefits related free school meals and vulnerable children, reached 718 individual children in 2022 (excluding December 2022), looking to expand to High School aged children.

Carol also explained to members several services Wyre Council commissioned or provided internally, there were:

- TRY Sport - Fleetwood Town FC Community Trust, commissioned to provide up to ten activity and sport sessions for inactive children per week, 282 young people attended so far in 2022/23
- Arts and Health activities – commissioned local artists to provide four weekly sessions and another four arts and health courses throughout the year

- Wyre Wheels – provided a weekly session for people with disabilities to access Wheels for All bikes in partnership with Cycling Projects, (a national charity)
- Volunteering programme – promoted, recruited and supported the Council’s volunteering programme, 221 active volunteers, 14,401 volunteer hours
- Beginners activity sessions – funded or supported up to nine low impact activity physical activity and dance sessions across Wyre for people who were currently inactive
- Supported the four Harmony and Health singing groups for the past five years

Carol explained to members that the reduction in the ‘Your Move’ physical activity referral initiative was a result of funding cuts from Public Health at Lancashire County Council. She reassured members that her team were continuing to share the benefits of the scheme with Lancashire County Council and they were also exploring alternative models to bring it back but potentially in a different way. The group acknowledged the benefits of the ‘Your Move’ initiative and supported a revival of the scheme if funding were made available.

Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, praised Carol, Mark and their teams for their continuous commitment to finding funding and resources for new health and wellbeing initiatives. The task group echoed this.

In conclusion, Mark Broadhurst updated members that a new fund had been launched to help local groups and community organisations who were supporting people with the cost of living. Bids were invited for funding to support either existing or new projects in Wyre. The funding was provided by the NHS via the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Following the second meeting of the task group, the Head of Housing and Community Services and the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager were asked to provide further evidence to the group. The following questions were agreed and circulated to officers, with a response included in the agenda for the third meeting:

Q1: Can you give more information on your meetings with PCNs in the borough and other organisations?

Fleetwood PCN

Healthier Fleetwood – we are very involved in the leadership of this successful partnership with the community. Monthly multi-agency partnership meetings are very well attended by both statutory and VCFSE sector agencies

We attend Fleetwood Neighbourhood Multi-Disciplinary Leadership Meetings – Bi-monthly

We attend the Future Fleetwood / Fleetwood Regeneration Partnership – the Fleetwood PCN are very well represented and engaged in the Regeneration Framework. Quarterly meetings are held attended by a range of statutory and community organisations.

Examples of engagement sessions with the Fleetwood social prescribers:

- 10th March – coffee morning with the SP's
- 28th Sept – meeting with the whole SP Team
- 8TH Feb - workshop event looking at children's wellbeing with the children's SP
- We work closely with the SP's at the Market House studios delivering art sessions – 2 x 8 week groups

Torentum PCN

Digital Sessions for the community held in partnership with the PCN in 2022

Torrentum meetings/public events attended include:

- 23rd May – attended coffee afternoon with the SP's
- 6th September – meeting with the manager of the SP team and the wider team
- June – attended a GP practice meeting
- We support the Patient Participation Group at Thornton Medical practice
- Regular attendance at monthly coffee mornings held by the SP's

WIN PCN:

WIN meetings/public events attended include:

- 15th March meeting with the manager of the SP team and wider SP team
- 23rd March attended social prescribing event at Lockwood Surgery
- 30th June meeting with WIN SP team and Poulton library staff
- 13th September – coffee morning with the SP Team / public at Poulton Library
- 18th October – coffee morning with the SP Team / public at Poulton library
- 15th November – coffee morning with the SP Team / public at Poulton library

WREN PCN

WREN meetings/public events attended have included:

- 7th June – coffee afternoon with the SP's / public
- 5th July – coffee afternoon with the SP's / public
- 3rd August - meeting with SP manager and team
- We work closely with the SP team delivering Fun Arts sessions every Monday at Knott End library

- We have attended the Front Room at Over Wyre Medical Centre on 3 occasions to run arts activities for local people to attend

Q2: What kind of grants does the council have or has applied for? How does the process work in searching for grants and the distribution of them?

Recent grant funding rounds have been held/facilitated using external funding streams. These include:

NHS funded Cost of Living Grants supporting VCFSE organisations supporting residents during the cost of living crisis. The Council hosted and administered this fund that has supported 13 local groups.

We delivered funding support for VCFSE organisations supporting community work during Covid.

We have recently supported Homes for Ukraine Community Grants using Government funding to support local organisations helping to support and integrate Ukrainian refugees.

We support the Walney Extension Community Fund Panel.

We have close links with Lancashire County Council and support / share any grant funding rounds they hold or host.

We regularly promote any opportunities we become aware of for funding etc and if we are contacted by groups we will work with them, when we are able, to support them to develop projects, for example the beach wheelchair project, Thornton Church etc. We have to be careful that we don't stretch the Active Lives and Communities Team too thinly as we are all very busy, but we certainly make groups aware of the support and opportunities there are available and offer help whenever we can.

Q3: What other community groups, such as faith groups, does the council work/engage with?

We work with a number of local faith groups and share information / opportunities whenever appropriate. Promotion of the identification of potential clients for the social prescribing teams is however something that is led by the social prescribing teams themselves.

Q4: Is there an existing list of all community groups/outreach groups/organisations that work with the borough?

We have our own master list of community groups, sports clubs, schools and faith groups that we review every year. This is just our list so we can communicate with key contacts and make them aware of opportunities, such as funding via newsletters, emails etc. We send regular updates to the groups on this list.

The upkeep of a directory of services as such is a larger task. When we had the Fylde and Wyre CCG we worked closely with them in populating an online Directory of Services called FYI. FYI is still in existence but it's probably fair to say it isn't maintained as it once was due to the current reorganisations going on in health services. Whilst there is some Wyre information on FYI currently much of the information is Blackpool focussed as Blackpool Council largely fund and maintain the directory. You can view the FYI directory at:

<https://www.fyidirectory.co.uk/directory?term=wyre>

Summary of evidence provided by Keith Potter, Social Prescribing Lead for the Volunteer Centre for Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde

Keith Potter, the Social Prescribing Team Leader from the Volunteer Centre for Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde attended the meeting to answer questions from the group on social prescribing and the relationship between link organisations and the council.

Four questions agreed by the group had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

1. **What is the work of the Volunteer Centre, in particular relating to social prescribing?**
2. **How is Wyre Council involved in this process and what is your experience of this involvement?**
3. **What other organisations do you work with, through the Council or through the organisation?**
4. **How could the Council's involvement and engagement with your work be improved?**

Mr Potter explained that the Volunteer Centre, in particular his social prescribing team, covered most parts of Blackpool and Fylde and particularly the Wyre Rural Extended Neighbourhood (WREN) primary care networks (PCNs) which included the areas of Garstang, Great Eccleston and Over Wyre. He explained that their contract with these PCNs had started in August 2020 and was set to end in June 2023, with upcoming meetings to review it.

He said that in relation to social prescribing, they worked mostly in Blackpool but highlighted a few projects in the borough of Wyre that they linked with.

Mr Potter explained that funding came from each PCN. Some funding also came via the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS), however this meant that there were restrictions on how they could use that funding but this had allowed them to provide funding for additional roles in the social prescribing team including on health and wellbeing and mental health.

He continued that with social prescribing in general, there were two models of how this worked: one, which related to the work of the Volunteer Centre, was the work of the third sector in partnership with local PCNs, sometimes including working within those practices, including those in Fleetwood, Cleveleys and Thornton. The alternative model was the NHS model, which he explained would often experience issues due to being caught in other roles. With the third sector model, he said that with their background and resources, they would have more time, flexibility and connections to the community to support PCNs in social prescribing referrals.

The Volunteer Centre's referrals primarily were made from those within the PCNs, and Mr Potter told the group that they were currently promoting more self-referrals by engaging more with the community, and would hopefully alleviate some of the pressures on GP practices. Once a referral had been made, it would get allocated to a team member who would contact the patient and establish their goals and how to work towards these in a way that would empower people to meet these goals as much as they could by themselves. They would help them to work towards their

clinical goals by referrals to GPs, whilst the Volunteer Centre would focus on holistic needs. Mr Potter gave an example of an elderly resident he had recently worked with, who had an underlying health condition and other personal issues which had affected his physical and mental health. He told the group how he had worked with the gentleman and the referrals they had made for him to organisations within the community and how well these had worked for him.

Mr Potter explained that when looking at gaps in Blackpool and the WREN area, the rural areas had been identified as having gaps in service delivery. He explained that feedback often repeated the points that there were transport issues in the rural areas and that there were limited activities available for residents. He said that his organisation also found it difficult to find services to link patients to, and would want to know if there were more options to refer residents to. Mr Potter did say that he had worked with the council before and had been in contact with the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager.

The group raised concerns over the overlap of responsibilities, as well as the need for guidance in understanding the issues of social prescribing and how they could best make a positive impact. They also asked questions relating to specific causes of loneliness in the older population of Wyre, the use of faith groups and whether councillors could be more involved in engaging residents in the promotion of social prescribing services.

The Chair asked Mr Potter how the council's involvement and engagement with the Volunteer Centre could be improved.

He responded that despite previous contact, they had not sat down properly with council staff responsible for this service and would appreciate frequent meetings with them to know what activities were happening in the area. Mr Potter said that in order to fill the gaps in the WREN areas, they would want to build up partnerships and work closely with the council.

The group raised the point that there was a multi-agency partnership that met with the council, and whether there may be a seat for organisations such as the Volunteer Centre at the table. They suggested that the task group could, as a recommendation, lobby this group and raise awareness for the need to include organisations such as the Volunteer Centre.

Mr Potter summarised that the main issue for organisations such as his was funding; there was more work within the communities he wished his team could do, but had other priorities and deliveries to manage. He gave an example of a patient who later became a volunteer with them which could help with resourcing issues. He also told the group that there was a new national initiative called Enhanced Health Checks which would contact residents and ask them to attend their GP practices for a general health check which could be a way of addressing the issue of residents who were being missed.

Summary of evidence provided by Dr Mark Spencer, Clinical Director of Fleetwood PCN

Dr Mark Spencer, Clinical Director of Fleetwood PCN and General Practitioner at Mount View Practice, attended the meeting to answer questions from the group on social prescribing from a clinical perspective following requests at the last meeting.

Four questions agreed by the group had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

- 1. What is the work of the Fleetwood PCN, in particular relating to social prescribing?**
- 2. How is Wyre Council involved in this process and what is your experience of this involvement?**
- 3. What other organisations do you work with, through the Council or through the organisation?**
- 4. How could the Council's involvement and engagement with your work be improved?**

Dr Spencer began by explaining to the group the history behind Primary Care Networks (PCNs). He informed the group that they were a part of the new reorganisation of the NHS since 2019, and were meant to cover certain geographical areas, with approximately 30-40,000 residents within them. Within the PCNs, the GP practices were to agree to work together to address the health issues of those specific communities, which would allow for flexibility for their individual community needs.

As he worked in Fleetwood, he gave examples of the individual needs in this area to the group; he said that the health outcomes of the town were significantly worse than the England average, with life expectancy around 8-9 years below the average with the most disadvantaged ward of Pharos being 10 years below the average. The main long-term health conditions of the town included: issues relating to mental health; addiction; obesity; diseases relating to smoking; heart disease.

He explained that the objective of the PCNs, the NHS and the Council were to help residents manage their illnesses, both acute and long-term; however, the NHS was not able to invest both time and resources into improving residents' overall health and wellbeing and specifically looking at preventative care. He said that supporting residents to stay healthy was an important aspect of social prescribing, as well as looking for alternatives to traditional treatment for certain conditions – such as encouraging residents to take up a social activity – so that they could avoid residents being prescribed unnecessary medications.

Dr Spencer explained to the group that the term “social prescribing” was a similar concept to prescribing medication, in that prescribing a social activity would act as an

adjunct to traditional treatment. One of the biggest causes of illness was loneliness and isolation – it affected both mental and physical health, and the impact of prescribing a social activity showed an improvement in residents' self-confidence and gave people self-motivation to look after themselves and take control of their lives. This would lead to better physical health and less strain on the NHS.

He said that PCNs had been supported by the NHS for four years by that point, and were receiving funding to employ link workers, who would work closely with residents to 'link' them with social activities in their area. Those working in Fleetwood had been doing something like this for the last 10 years, with Healthier Fleetwood – a community organisation run by residents volunteering – for the last 8 years. He showed the group a promotional video, explaining some of the activities run by Healthier Fleetwood in the area and their impact on residents. He said that there were 68 different activities being run in the community, including those for children and families.

The Chair asked Dr Spencer why PCNs were not attached to constituency boundaries. He responded that the size of PCNs was important; the staffing levels needed meant that the size could not be too big, and 30-40,000 residents in one was the standard size. There were 4 within Wyre: Fleetwood; WIN (Wyre Integrated Network); WREN (Wyre Rural Extended Neighbourhood); and Torentum.

He responded to the second question from the group, stating that Wyre Council had been very supportive going back a decade; some of the activities run by Healthier Fleetwood were funded and run by the council and they also helped to promote awareness of other activities in the area. He said the council worked with all of the PCNs, and stressed the good work of Mark Broadhurst and his team in Fleetwood. The offer from the council was already extensive, he responded.

The Chair asked whether the council's involvement could be improved. Dr Spencer said that things could always be improved, but highlighted the positive impact of the council's regeneration programme. He mentioned the significant community work of Mark Broadhurst and Sara Ordonez, the UKSPF Programme Manager, in the production of the regeneration programme. He hoped that more external funding might be sought.

He stressed to the group that his experience in Fleetwood highlighted the different needs of each community in Wyre, as the health outcomes were worst there and so had greater needs.

The group asked Dr Spencer whether there was a specific direction for them to recommend the council take, and his plans for the future of Fleetwood. He told the group that the partnership between the PCNs, the NHS and the council was very important, with Fleetwood benefitting from this close relationship through Mark Broadhurst. The council had just started hosting meetings for all PCNs, and supporting the rest of the borough should be key. For Fleetwood, they wanted to keep focusing on children, families and the growing obesity problem with life expectancy in the area still dropping. Despite advances in medications, there was still a need to do something in parallel to help support the community.

Consultation with GPs in Wyre

The group had put together a handful of questions which they would like to put to GP practices in the borough to help them with their recommendations to Cabinet on how the council can improve its services and working relationships with GPs.

- 1. Does your practice link to and work with (possibly via your primary care network team) with Wyre council? Y/N**
 - a. If no, why not?
 - b. If yes, how would you define the working relationship between your GP practice and Wyre Council?
- 2. Do you think Wyre council works well with GP practices on social prescribing matters?**
- 3. What more could the council do to work better together to improve the health and wellbeing of residents/social prescribing matters?**
- 4. Would you be willing to have an update at one of your practice meetings by an officer from Wyre Council?**
- 5. Who is the best person for Wyre Council to liaise with in the future? What are their contact details?**

Only one GP practice in the borough responded to the consultation. The answers are copied below.

1. Yes. We have had a very good relationship with Wyre Borough from the start, with teams meetings with Carol Southern, Mark Broadhurst. We as social prescribers get immense support from you all.
2. Absolutely. You are always open to suggestion, and definitely take our views into account, along with the other social prescribing teams. You are always keen to get our feedback about what people in this area want. Also helping us out with problematic patients.
3. You are already looking into the possibility of setting up a befriending service, which is a huge problem for us, as we are no longer able to refer in to Lancashire Volunteer Partnership, and struggle to find anywhere else for our lonely, housebound patients. Something like the old GP referral scheme would be advantageous, as we can only refer to Active Blackpool.
4. I am sure those on the meetings wouldn't object.
5. As far as we are concerned, our manager Lisa Banks, for our Torentum PCN. Lisa.banks12@nhs.net

Torentum PCN, Cleveleys Group Practice

The group discussed the lack of responses at their third meeting and questioned how best to improve communications with GPs.

Supporting documents

Elected members were presented with a number of additional documents that supported them in their work.

The documents are hyperlinked below. If you require any assistance with accessing these documents please email: democratic.services@wyre.gov.uk

- Document 1 – [Leisure, healthy Lifestyles and Communities Team update](#)
- Document 2 – [Social Prescribing Link Workers' Report, May 2022 – July 2022](#)
- Document 3 – [Written response from officers](#)
- Document 4 – [GP Consultation response](#)
- Document 5 – [Full minutes pack of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group](#)

Conclusions and recommendations

The group recognises that the council already provides many key services in relation to the promotion of self-care and works closely with social prescribers in the borough. They praise the work of the Healthy Lifestyles and Community Engagement team and pass on the positive feedback that they also received from their expert witnesses.

The group also acknowledge that social prescribing is still a new phenomenon, and that it will take time for the joint operations between local organisations, the council and health services to be fully operational to the best of their ability. They also recognise that this is not a statutory council function.

However, the group know from interactions with their residents how important the physical and mental health and wellbeing is of residents, particularly those who are vulnerable and ageing. In a post-pandemic world, with growing strains to health services, it is vital that district/borough councils and local organisations step in where possible to help alleviate this pressure and take care of vulnerable groups in ways which benefit them the most.

The task group concludes that the following recommendations be made to the Cabinet:

Recommendation One

The council continues to promote its ongoing work with its primary care networks, local GP practices and other link/community organisations; that the council supports these groups by continuing to advertise its services via different methods.

The group acknowledges the work the Healthy Lifestyles and Community Engagement team already undertakes in relation to the promotion of self-care and social prescribing within the borough.

The group heard from representatives of the council's PCNs/link organisations and wants to ensure that all relevant organisations are connected to the council and are aware of what services the council provides and who the council's named contact is. This is in order to ensure that communication between the council, local social prescribing teams and clinical groups continues to develop closer working relationships with these organisations.

Recommendation Two

The Council should ensure that its health and wellbeing services and offers are well promoted on its website and social media. The Council's services and offers should also be specifically promoted to local NHS social prescribing teams. If and when an opportunity to refresh a local directory of services presents itself it is recommended that the Council supports this work.

The group recognises that social prescribing is still a relatively new phenomenon and that it is not a statutory district council function. Social prescribing is a part of the NHS Long Term Plan and a relatively new introduction into primary care services. However, considering that social prescribing is essentially based on linkages to non-medical community-based activities, district councils ought to have a much larger part to play, particularly in an area like Wyre which covers a large area including more rural, hard to reach areas. A more collaborative approach, sharing information and joining up services, would help to more effectively target residents who were in need of these services. In particular more comprehensive and readily accessible information on the services available within the borough would be useful, potentially via a new refreshed Directory of Services. Until such time as a refreshed Directory of Services is commissioned (by health/ social care or other place based partners) the Council should ensure its own services are effectively promoted via its own website and social media. Our health and wellbeing services and offers should also be specifically promoted to local NHS social prescribing teams.

Comments received from link organisations and local GP practices echo needs from residents to know what type of groups and activities are being offered by the council and in the borough. This is particularly important post-pandemic for vulnerable and elderly residents. Comments from the expert witnesses interviewed by the group highlighted the need to improve communications within the rural areas, as some organisations had trouble working in areas such as the Over Wyre area. Dr Mark Spencer emphasised the particular need for social prescribing interventions in Fleetwood due to its high health inequalities.

Recommendation Three

The work of the council in relation to social prescribing be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and be made a strategic priority for the next intake of councillors.

Social prescribing is still a relatively new concept, with PCNs only established in 2019; therefore the work of these teams, the NHS and District Councils is still developing to understand the needs of residents and what part councils have to play.

Post-pandemic, the physical and mental wellbeing of residents ought to be prioritised by councils and to ensure that particularly those in vulnerable groups are taken care

of, but are also empowered and encouraged to take care of themselves so they can stay well in their communities and that NHS resources are protected.

As part of its work programme priorities, the O&S Committee is asked to include social prescribing when considering review topics for task groups, using the recommendations of this task group as a foundation to go into greater detail about social prescribing and self-care. They also proposed that during the process of reviewing the council's Business Plan, the O&S Committee should emphasise the relevance of social prescribing. This would assist the council in achieve its corporate objective to empower healthier and more resilient communities.

Councillors' attendances

There were four meetings of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group. It should be noted that many of the councillors on this task group were not re-elected in May 2023.

Name of Councillor	Meetings attended (maximum)
Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins	3
Councillor Peter Cartridge	3
Councillor John Ibison	3
Councillor Phil Orme	3
Councillor Richard Rendell	4
Councillor Holly Swales	1

List of appendices

Appendix A – The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group – draft scoping document

References

Shaping healthy places: exploring the district council role in health, 2019

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/shaping-healthy-places-exploring-district-council-role-health>

Social Prescribing, NHS England

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing/#:~:text=What%20is%20social%20prescribing%3F,affect%20their%20health%20and%20wellbeing.>

APPENDIX A



The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre

Task Group - Scoping Document

Review Topic	<p>To understand the contribution of District Councils in supporting health and healthy communities.</p> <p>In particular to investigate how the council contributes to the promotion of self-care and social prescribing in Wyre.</p> <p>Self-care describes a conscious act a person takes in order to promote their own physical, mental and emotional health.</p> <p>Social prescribing is a way for local agencies to refer people to a link worker. Link workers give people time, focusing on 'what matters to me' and taking an holistic approach to people's health and wellbeing. They connect people to community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support.</p>
Chair	Councillor Richard Rendell
Group Membership	Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins Councillor Peter Cartridge Councillor John Ibison Councillor Phil Orme Councillor Richard Rendell

	Councillor Holly Swales
Officer Support	Daphne Courtenage, Democratic Services Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services
Purpose of the Review	<p>District Councils are well connected and collaborative and can link up local service provision; they work in partnership with social care services, the NHS, local voluntary and charity sector groups, businesses and other agencies such as the police to support public health. In short, district councils make a very important contribution to weaving the social fabric of their areas and seeking to create and sustain healthy places for people to be born, grow, live, work and age well.</p> <p>With this in mind, the review aims to identify areas of improvement to promote and facilitate self-care to residents, this will ensure that people stay well in their community and assist with reducing time spent in primary care settings such as GPs for non-clinical issues. In addition, the review aims to identify how the council can support the wellbeing of residents through social prescribing.</p>
Essential Criteria (at least one must be marked)	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A council priority (as set out in the Business Plan)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A matter of significant, demonstrable public concern, as raised through ward councillors, local media etc.</p>
Role of Overview and Scrutiny in this Review (mark all that apply)	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Holding Executive to account – Key Decision</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holding Executive to account – performance based</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community champion</p>

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution to policy development <input type="checkbox"/> Policy review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory duties / compliance with codes of practice
Aims of Review / Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what the council offers regarding health and wellbeing. • Understanding the council’s involvement and engagement with local Social Prescribing Networks • Investigation of the value for money and outcomes of the current offer. • To strengthen links, as a District Council, with the new Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnerships. • Identify and recommend opportunities for improvement. <p>Suggested key areas of focus:</p> <p>Independence</p> <p>Have an understanding of the different types of support the council provides to ensure residents can live safely and comfortably in their own homes, including home adaptations and handyperson services, affordable warmth and energy efficiency and how these services help residents to have more control over their health and wellbeing. Understand the new pilot project (Health and Housing Coordination) operating from Care and Repair into local hospitals / social care services.</p> <p>Physical activity and mental health</p> <p>Have an understanding of the leisure and green spaces and health programmes the council organise or contributes to.</p>

	<p>Community outreach and advice services</p> <p>Have an understanding of how the council works with organisations, specifically regarding the contribution to social prescribing and what the referral process looks like.</p>
<p>What specific value can Scrutiny add to this work area?</p>	<p>District councils are not formally responsible for public health as detailed in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, but they still have a huge role in it. They are providers of key services, which have a direct impact on the social determinants of health, such as housing, planning, leisure, recreation and environmental health that directly affect the health of the population. District councils are the closest level of local government to their communities.</p> <p>The review will identify areas of strategic focus to assist the council to achieve its corporate objective (as set out in the Business Plan). The council has the ambition to empower healthier communities, which involves collaborating with residents and local stakeholders to support and maximise opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across the community. This review should assist with how this could be explored and identify additional opportunities to achieve this ambition.</p>
<p>Methodology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview expert witnesses • Comparative research • Site visits • Consultations • Written submissions
<p>Limits of Review</p>	<p>The review should be limited to investigating the services Wyre Council provides and/or its work with organisations regarding health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The review will exclude looking at matters relating to planning and housing stock.</p>
<p>Potential Expert Witnesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder • Corporate Director Communities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Housing and Community Services • Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager • Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board representative • Wyre Primary Care Network Lead(s) • Local Social Prescribing Network leads
Documents to be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Council's Business Plan • Shaping Health Places: Exploring the District Council Role in Health – LGA 2019 • The District Council Contribution to Public Health – Kings Fund • Just What the Doctor Ordered: Social Prescribing a Guide for Local Authorities – LGA 2018 • Wyre Council Website – wellbeing activities, sport and fitness opportunities, care and repair, disabled facilities grants, housing options and homelessness, affordable warmth and home energy insulation, environmental health information including pest control and pollution. • State of Wyre Report 2021 • Life in Wyre Survey 2018
Risks	<p>The topic may become too broad.</p> <p>Unrealistic recommendations.</p>
Level of Publicity	Low.
Indicators of a Successful Review	<p>A clear recommendation to Cabinet influencing future decisions regarding the provision of health and wellbeing services.</p> <p>In addition, the review will investigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Council continues to purposefully engage in the promotion of health and wellbeing. • That the council does all it reasonably can to ensure residents stay independent and well in their communities to help reduce the numbers of people

	<p>presenting at health care settings for non-clinical matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the council has a collaborative and harmonising approach that results in co-ordinated and preventative action.
Approximate Timeframe	2 – 3 months
Projected Start Date	January 2023

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