



Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 22 November 2023
Please ask for: Marianne Unwin
Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01253 887326

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Wyre Borough Council to be held at the Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde on **Thursday, 30 November 2023** commencing at 7.00 pm.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Huddleston", written over a light grey grid background.

Rebecca Huddleston
Chief Executive

COUNCIL AGENDA

The Mayor will invite the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend John Squires, to say prayers.

1. Apologies for absence

2. Confirmation of minutes

(Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 October 2023.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from any Member on any item on this agenda.

4. Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet, a Chairman of a Committee or the Chief Executive.

5. Public questions or statements

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public under Procedure Rule 9.1.

6. Questions "On Notice" from councillors (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive any questions from Members of the Council to the Mayor, a member of the Cabinet or the Chair of a Committee under Council Procedure Rule 12.1

One question has been received from Councillor Wells.

7. Executive reports

To receive reports from Cabinet Members. (In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.3 Councillors will be able to ask questions or make comments).

(a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Vincent) (Pages 13 - 16)

(b) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor McKay) (Pages 17 - 18)

(c) Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bridge) (Pages 19 - 24)

(d) Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Councillor Le Marinel) (Pages 25 - 28)

(e) Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (Councillor Berry) (Pages 29 - 30)

(f) Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bowen) (Pages 31 - 34)

8. The Council Plan (Pages 35 - 68)

Report of Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive.

9. Mid-Year Treasury Management Activity Report (Pages 69 - 84)

Report of Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources.

10. Localised Council Tax Support Scheme (Pages 85 - 90)

Report of Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources.

- 11. Barton Masterplan - Neighbourhood Plan** (Pages 91 - 150)
 Report of Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities.
- 12. Appointment to committees, panels and groups** (Pages 151 - 154)
 Report of Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive.
- 13. Dispensation for non-attendance at council meetings: Councillor Andrea Kay** (Pages 155 - 158)
 Report of Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive.
- 14. Periodic report - Lead Member for Older People** (Pages 159 - 162)
 Report of Councillor Ian Amos, Lead Member for Older People.
- 15. Notices of Motion**
- The following Notice of Motion has been submitted under Procedure Rule 14 by Councillors Martin, Belshaw, Raynor and Fielding.
- “Wyre Borough Council's own stated corporate priorities include a commitment to "work with partners to reduce anti-social behaviour". In line with this and in order to improve public safety and the quality of life for Wyre residents, this Council resolves:-
- to call upon all local members of parliament to seek a ban on general firework sales, restricting their sale and use in relation to organised public events only
 to request the Chief Exec writes to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation:
- to restrict the sale and use of fireworks in relation to organised public events only
 - to limit the maximum noise
 - to limit the use of fireworks on or close to specific dates and times
 - to licence all public firework displays – and ensuring displays are better advertised to the public”

If you have any enquiries on this agenda, please contact Marianne Unwin, tel: 01253 887326, email: Marianne.Unwin@wyre.gov.uk

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Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 26 October 2023 at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Council members present:

Councillors Robinson, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Baxter, Beavers, Berry, Birch, Blair, Bowen, Cartridge, Collinson, Duffy, Ellison, Fail, Fielding, Higginson, Higgs, Jackson, Le Marinel, Leigh, Martin, McKay, Meekins, Minto, Moliner, Nicholls, Preston, Rendell, Rimmer, Rushforth, Smith, C Stephenson, B Stephenson, Swatton, Swift, Thewlis, Vincent, A Walker, C Walker and Wells

Absent- apologies received:

Councillors Catterall, Amos, Belshaw, Bolton, Bridge, Ibison, Kay, Livesey, Raynor and Sorensen

Officers present:

Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer
Bethan McDonough, Senior Communications Officer
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Temporary)
Daphne Courtenage, Democratic Services Officer
Jane Collier, Human Resources Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Mary Grimshaw, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Officers absent- apologies received:

Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities

One member of the public attended the meeting.

22 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14 September 2023 were **confirmed**, unanimously, as a correct record by those who were in attendance.

23 Declarations of Interest

None.

24 Announcements

The Mayor reminded councillors of her following fundraising events:

- Pre-loved fashion show at Wyrebank Garstang on Saturday 18 November 2023. Tickets were £12 each.
- Wine tasting and nibbles fundraiser at Booth, Poulton on Thursday 23 November 2023. Tickets were £20 each.

25 Public questions or statements

None received.

26 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None received.

27 Executive reports

27a Leader of the Council (Councillor Vincent)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Vincent, submitted a report.

Councillor Vincent introduced his report. He updated members on progress of the Lancashire Devolution Deal.

Councillor Vincent addressed Councillor Fail's concerns about Wyre Council's role in the proposed Lancashire Devolution Deal.

Councillor Vincent responded to a question from Councillor Baxter about the potential benefits of the Lancashire Devolution Deal.

Councillors Cartridge and Vincent welcomed the recent Network Rail appointment of consultants to develop the tram/train option for the Fleetwood/ Poulton rail line.

Councillor Vincent responded to concerns from Councillor Beavers on the Lancashire Devolution Deal.

The report was noted.

27b Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor McKay)

The Resources Portfolio Holder, Councillor McKay, submitted a report.

Councillor McKay introduced her report.

Councillor Fail made comments regarding the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for the council's commercial estate. He requested clarity on the report's reference to the required minimum EPC rating of E, but noted that the Council's draft Climate Change

Strategy referred to a measure of council sites achieving an EPC rating of C by 2027. Councillor McKay assured members that there was a process to achieve the required rating. Councillor McKay agreed to provide Councillor Fail with a more detailed written response to his question.

Councillor Baxter made comments regarding the 2023/24 Pay Award and asked for an update following the closure of GMB's strike ballot. Councillor McKay confirmed that the council was waiting for further information on the result of the strike ballot.

The report was noted.

27c Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bridge)

The Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder, Councillor Bridge, submitted a report.

In the absence of Councillor Bridge, Councillor Vincent introduced the report.

Councillors Cartridge and Vincent congratulated Churchtown in Bloom on winning the village category in the Britain in Bloom Awards.

Councillor Vincent congratulated the Poulton Cemetery Team on winning Gold in the North West Britain in Bloom Awards.

Councillor Fail welcomed the Fixed Penalty Notice figures, particularly in relation to dog fouling outlined in the report. As a deterrent, Councillor Fail suggested that the figures should be posted on the Wyre Council website. Councillor Vincent echoed these comments and thanked officers for the improved reporting. He agreed to consult with officers about the further advertisement of these figures.

Councillor Nicholls made comments about the recent lighting improvements and introduction of LED lighting at Jean Stansfield Vicarage Park, Poulton. Councillor Vincent thanked Councillor Nicholls for his involvement in resolving this issue and welcomed councillors' proposals to help improve the area.

Councillor Rushforth raised her concerns regarding limited patrol hours in the rural areas of Wyre, in particular Rural West. Councillor Vincent agreed to ask officers to investigate increasing the patrol hours in the rural communities.

Councillor Minto raised an issue regarding removal of a wooden post from land near Red March Industrial Estate, Thornton. Councillor Vincent requested that Councillor Minto contact himself and Mark Billington, the Corporate Director Environment, following the meeting.

Councillor Birch updated members on the work to regenerate Cottam Hall community gardens.

The report was noted.

27d Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder
(Councillor Le Marinel)

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Councillor Le Marinel, submitted a report.

Councillor Le Marinel introduced his report.

Councillor Le Marinel responded to a question from Councillor Nicholls regarding the ongoing work to develop the Poulton Centre Regeneration Framework.

Councillor Duffy made several comments about the financial implications for Fleetwood Market stall holders. She asked about the council's efforts to resolve the issue of traders leaving Fleetwood Market. Councillor Le Marinel explained the support provided by the council. He informed members that the council was investigating how the service charge was administered and that results would be presented to members in due course.

Councillor Beavers asked about the impact of future planning developments on the ability for the Fleetwood/ Poulton rail line to reach the centre of Fleetwood. Councillor Le Marinel agreed to provide Councillor Beavers with a more detailed written response to her question.

Councillor Rimmer asked a question regarding other community engagement projects in addition to the ongoing consultations outlined in the report, which councillors could support. She also inquired whether the consultation effort was assisting the council in identifying additional areas that were not previously addressed that could receive funding. Councillor Le Marinel agreed to provide Councillor Rimmer with a more detailed written response to her question.

The report was noted.

27e Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder
(Councillor Berry)

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Berry, submitted a report.

Councillor Berry introduced his report.

Councillor Berry responded to comments from Councillor B Stephenson regarding people cycling without lights on public roads in

Fleetwood.

Councillor Beavers shared a letter of thanks she had received from a visitor to Fleetwood. This letter praised Wyre Council for permitting motorhomes and campervans to park overnight on Central car park, Fleetwood.

Councillor Lady D Atkins raised concerns about the increase of anti-social behaviour incidents in Garstang. Councillor Berry agreed to speak to the Superintendent about these issues.

Councillor Rushforth welcomed the new policing operation in Fleetwood (Clear, Hold, Build). She raised concerns regarding an increase of crime in Over Wyre. Councillor Berry assured Councillor Rushforth that he would share these comments at a future meeting of the Wyre Community Safety Partnership. He also encouraged councillors to report incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to the police. Councillors Rushforth and Berry agreed to continue discussions regarding this matter after the meeting.

The report was noted.

27f Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
(Councillor Bowen)

The Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, Councillor Bowen, submitted a report.

Councillor Bowen introduced her report.

Councillor Bowen responded to a question from Councillor Baxter regarding food safety in businesses across Wyre.

Councillor Cartridge thanked the Portfolio Holder and the officers for the work in making the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) a success. Councillor Bowen echoed these thanks.

Councillor Bowen responded to Councillor B Stephenson's question regarding the future of the Wyre theatres.

The report was noted.

28 Questions and comments from members of the Cabinet to their colleagues

Councillor McKay responded to a question from Councillor Vincent regarding the EPC ratings of the council's commercial estate.

29 Constitution amendments

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Vincent, and the Chief Executive,

Rebecca Huddleston submitted a report to enable changes to be made to the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Vincent introduced his report.

The following recommendations were **approved**, unanimously:

- That the proposed amendment to the Council Procedure Rules be approved.
- That the proposed amendments to the Overview and Scrutiny Article and Procedure Rules be approved.
- That the proposed amendments to the Local Code of Good Practice for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process be approved.

30 Periodic report - Licensing Committee

The Chair of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Birch, submitted a report to inform the Council of the current position on issues dealt with by the Licensing Committee and Licensing Team during the period October 2022 to September 2023 (inclusive).

Councillor Birch introduced the report.

The report was noted.

31 Notices of Motion

None received.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.06 pm.

Date of Publication: 2 November 2023.

Full Council
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Member Name: Victoria Wells

Date of meeting: 30.11.23

Question to: Member of the cabinet/relevant resources portfolio holder.

Portfolio: Executive/Resources

Questions:

Please can the relevant cabinet member/Portfolio Holder confirm whether adequate material consideration was given to the archaeology of Bourne Hill?

- 1) Prior to the inclusion of the site in the 2019 Local Plan housing allocations,
- 2) Prior to the 2019 re-designation from a cemetery or crematorium to development land?
- 3) Prior to the 2021 Cabinet decision to sell the land?

Signed:



Name: Cllr. Victoria Wells

Bourne Ward.

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Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council	Council	30 November 2023

Executive Report: Leader of the Council

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on a number of issues, as set out below.

2. Lancashire Devolution Deal

- 2.1 In recent weeks Jacob Young MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and civil servants who have been working with the upper tier authorities in Lancashire on the devolution deal have met with MPs and separately with district Leaders across Lancashire to update them on and answer questions regarding the Lancashire Devolution Deal.
- 2.2 In the briefing which I attended, Mr Young said that the deal which will see Lancashire taking on powers from Government is an important moment for Lancashire. He outlined key principles of the deal which are that the core adult education budgets, transport and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions will be undertaken by the County Combined Authority (CCA), that the CCA will have Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers and he said that the deal included £20m capital funding to boost growth in and around Lancashire.
- 2.3 He also made it clear that in future, should there be further rounds of funding the CCA will take on responsibility for administering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, but also made it clear that districts would not be giving up any powers or responsibilities under the deal.
- 2.4 He also provided some information about the governance arrangements which are being proposed. In this he explained that there would be two district council representatives on the CCA. They would be non-constituent members but would have voting rights in relation to matters that pertain them. Businesses would also have two representatives, but they would be associate members with no voting rights.

- 2.5 I asked Mr Young about district involvement on CCA sub committees, and he said that there would need to be local decisions made on this and that this level of governance arrangements will not be specified in secondary legislation.
- 2.6 At the time of the meeting none of the district leaders had seen a copy of the Lancashire devolution deal submission. However Mr Young did agree to share a copy with the District Leaders' Chair and Vice Chair but asked that it not be circulated further at this time. An announcement from Government on the deal is expected later this month.

3. Theatres Review and Fleetwood Waterfront Regeneration Plans

- 3.1 The soft market testing exercise for TLT closed on 31 October. The exercise has generated some good interest and an evaluation report is now being prepared which will set out the next steps.
- 3.2 GJG consulting have been working closely with the council to review the operations of the Marine Hall. They have conducted workshops with staff and spoken to key stakeholders and reviewed key documents and financial information. As part of this work, I met with GJG consulting at the end of October to provide them with information on the wider context of the review. I emphasised the value of Marine Hall to our local communities, and we discussed a range of potential options which I hope will enable us to secure a successful future for Marine Hall. Their report and recommendations will be presented to Members for consideration and next steps in the new year.
- 3.3 The public consultation for the seafront received a total of 716 responses. Of these 94% were in the FY postcode and nearly 80% of respondents visited the seafront frequently (either daily or weekly). Most people visited for an activity e.g. dog walking, for the views or for a show at Marine Hall. In relation to Marine Hall, 61% agreed that an alternative provider should be found to safeguard the future of the venue. The top three suggestions for re-designing the space related to the food offering e.g. restaurant, the formal gardens seating areas and the music/theatre/ performance event spaces.
- 3.4 For the TLT consultation there were 320 responses, 83% were in the FY postcode. 73% visited in the last 12 months. The main reason for visiting was to attend a stage play or musical theatre or to attend a community event.

4. Wyre Business Awards

- 4.1 I was pleased to attend the Wyre Business Awards on 7 November at Marine Hall and present the award for Business Person of the year. After successfully restoring this important local celebration of Wyre businesses' achievements and success last year, the awards have been more

popular than ever. The standard of applications has increased once again, and this year saw a record number of applications with 148 entries from 74 different businesses and organisations. The event was hosted by local comedian Steve Royle who did a fantastic job. The full breakdown of winners is listed in the Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder report.

5. Fleetwood Market

- 5.1** The £3.9 million improvement works are nearing completion. There is no doubt the works have been disruptive for all involved, especially the traders, and the council has been doing all it can to support them. This has included a 30% rent reduction and support to cover the cost of VAT. Unfortunately, with rising energy prices and other costs going up this has had an impact on the service charge which has meant that the total bill for traders has gone up around 30%. Many traders have highlighted that this has become unaffordable. Action is being taken which includes a rent appraisal to compare our rents to other markets. We want to ensure that we retain traders so that they benefit from the market improvement project and to safeguard this key council asset for the vitality of Fleetwood.

6. Comments and questions.

- 6.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

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Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 2023

Executive Report: Resources Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Resources Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Finance

- 2.1** The budget preparation for 2024/25 is progressing well. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was approved by Cabinet on 18 October. Any relevant policy changes in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget will now be incorporated into these forecasts as will the Local Government Finance Settlement announcement due in December.
- 2.2** The Portfolio Holders' proposals for any changes to fees and charges were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 20 November and individual Portfolio Holders have been presented with the relevant feedback prior to the final report being issued.
- 2.3** Wyre has opted to remain in the 50% Lancashire Business Rates Retention Pool for 2024/25, as have all the other existing members. The pool allows us to retain the levy payment we would have previously paid over to Central Government, less a 10% contribution to Lancashire County Council. Final confirmation of the pooling arrangements is expected in December as part of the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

3. Governance and Business Support

- 3.1** The 2023/24 pay award has now been agreed and sees an increase of £1,925 to all NJC pay points which covers our Grades 1 to 13. Any pay points above Grade 13 are to be increased by 3.88% which applies to our Grade 14 only. Agreement has also been reached on the Chief Executive's pay award at 3.5%. Agreement was previously reached in May 2023 on the Chief Officers' pay award which was also at 3.5%.

- 3.2** A report will go to Cabinet on 29 November seeking approval to enter into negotiations with the unions regarding proposals to escalate staff on Grades 4 to 13. The lowest three grades have already benefitted to a greater degree from weighting at the bottom end of the pay scale in recent pay awards and are currently excluded. The proposals aim to improve the differential between low or unskilled roles and supervisory and higher skilled roles, address challenges with recruitment and retention and improve the competitiveness of salaries paid to Wyre staff, bringing them more in line with those in neighbouring authorities. Negotiations with the unions will also include proposed changes to mileage rates and utilisation of flexi-time. More detail can be found in the Cabinet report and a report to Full Council will follow in the new year to seek support for any changes agreed.

4. Contact Centre

- 4.1** In the run-up to Christmas, payments totalling £24,000 have been made from the Household Support Fund (HSF) to three foodbanks operating in Wyre in order to help them meet increased demand during the festive season. The Pantry foodbank in Fleetwood received £10,000, while the West View and HelpPKE foodbanks received £7,000 each. In addition a payment of £10,000 has been made to the Fylde Coast Women's Refuge in order to help them meet their food and energy costs.
- 4.2** HSF payments of £200 per household have also been awarded automatically to 430 households receiving a one band council tax reduction owing to having made disabled adaptations to their home. A further 597 households who have at least one household member suffering from Severe Mental Impairment have also received a payment of £200. This means a further £239,400 has been awarded from tranche 4 of the HSF and applications are still being taken via the council's website.

5. Comments and questions

- 5.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.



Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 2023

Executive Report: Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio as set out below.

2. Parks and Open Spaces

- 2.1 Work continues on King George's and Church Road Playing Fields in partnership with Wyre Rivers Trust to improve public access. A section of boardwalk is being constructed over one of the newly created wetlands, adjacent to the improved playing field, with completion anticipated towards the end of November.
- 2.2 The council has hosted a number of Corporate volunteering groups including 60 United Utilities staff from call centres around the North West taking part in a beach clean at Fleetwood and Rossall Point, supported by the local Rossall Point beach care group, Wyre Coast and Countryside Ranger team and the Bay – Blueprint for Recovery Team. The day included a trip to Rossall Point Tower to learn about the protected wildlife and landscape of the Wyre coast and Morecambe Bay.
- 2.3 The Coast and Countryside team have supported the Garstang Soroptimists 50 for 50 celebrations in planting bulbs within open spaces donated by local businesses as they celebrated their 100th anniversary. The team also supported 12 Myerscough College students undertaking work experience at Skippool Picnic Area, clearing back vegetation and opening up the picnic area. The Ranger team continue to support volunteer work parties in managing Wyre Estuary Country Park (WECP) and The Wyre Rivers Trust long term programme of natural flood management along the River Wyre.
- 2.4 The October Wyre Great Outdoor programme included half-term activities, short walks in Garstang, Great Eccleston, Stanah, Carleton

and Pilling and beach cleans with our beach care groups volunteering their time to help keep our coast and estuary clean.

- 2.5** Planning is under way for the 2024 Wyre Great Outdoor Programme, with the Short Walks programme and the Garstang Walking Festival celebrating their 20th Anniversary. Walk leaders, partners, rangers, friends groups and volunteers have been working on a programme of activities and events in support of council objectives to address climate change, health and wellbeing, working together and visitor economy priorities.
- 2.6** The Ranger team have been working with Wyre Rivers Trust in delivering environmental education sessions at WECP highlighting the Saltmarshes of the Wyre Estuary the River Wyre Catchment; most recently hosting Clifton School year 4 class in exploring the ecology around the country park.
- 2.6** Wyre`s in bloom volunteers and community groups have been celebrating great success in the North West Britain in Bloom Awards supported by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). The aim of the awards is to celebrate the RHS three key themes which are: Horticultural excellence, Community involvement and Environmental friendliness. It is non-competitive and aims to support the groups to make positive changes to their local environment through horticultural, environmental and community action. A bumper crop of awards were announced for our Wyre entries at the recent ceremony in Bolton, in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and Britain in Bloom categories:

It's Your Neighbourhood Awards:

- Cancer Help at Croston House, Garstang
- Copp Gardening Community, Great Eccleston
- Demonstration Garden - Memorial Park, Fleetwood
- Garstang Memory Café, Garstang
- Garstang Millennium Green Trust, Garstang
- Great Eccleston Bowling Club, Great Eccleston
- Love the Lane, Catterall
- Stone Cross Gardens Community Garden, Catterall
- The Bungalows, Great Eccleston
- The Woodlands, Oak Road, Garstang
- Thorne Meadows Community Group, Great Eccleston
- Veterans Community Garden, Fleetwood

Discretionary Awards:

- Community Housing Award-The Bungalows, Great Eccleston (Regenda Homes)
- RHS National Discretionary Award - Overcoming Adversity Stone Cross Gardens Community Garden, Catterall

- 2.7** For the Britain in Bloom awards, entries are assessed against the RHS criteria, with constructive feedback and suggestions for future improvements, and classifications of Bronze, Silver and Gold based on size and type of entry: **Page 20**

Britain in Bloom Awards:

- Poulton in Bloom BIB Core Large Town **Gold**
- Garstang in Bloom BIB Core Small Town **Gold**
- Catterall in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Gold**
- Great Ecclestone in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Silver Gilt**
- Hambleton in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Gold**
- Pilling in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Silver Gilt**
- Inskip in Bloom BIB Core Village **Silver Gilt**
- Nateby in Bloom BIB Core Village **Silver**
- Churchtown in Bloom BIB Core Small Village **Gold**
- Care for Cleveleys BIB Core Urban Community **Silver Gilt**
- The Mount Park & Gardens, Fleetwood BIB Core Large Park (LA) **Silver Gilt**
- Wyre Estuary Country Park BIB Core Large Park (LA) **Gold**
- Kepple Lane Park (Garstang) BIB Core Small Park (LA) **Silver**
- Fold House Park Limited, Pilling BIB Regional Caravan Park **Gold**
- Poulton Cemetery, Poulton BIB Regional Small Retail/Commercial/Industrial Park **Gold**
- Myerscough College Plant World and Gardens BIB Regional Small Tourist Attraction/Visitor Centre **Gold**

Discretionary Awards:

- Best Large Village Catterall in Bloom
- Best Caravan Park Fold House Park Limited, Pilling
- Health and Wellbeing Award Wyre Estuary Country Park
- Outstanding Contribution to North West In Bloom Tim Hoyles, Catterall
- Plus, a special award of 5 years of outstanding achievement to Hawthorne Park

2.8 I would also like to congratulate Sandra Byrne, our Cleaner Greener Projects Officer, who has been recognised in the Britain in Bloom Discretionary Awards category for her **Outstanding Contribution to North West In Bloom**, in coordinating and supporting the Wyre entrants in the Britain in Bloom competition over the past few years.

2.9 These awards recognise the great work and achievements of all our volunteers, supported by local businesses, communities and Wyre Council staff, in contributing to environmental improvements and benefits across the whole of Wyre.

2.10 The Activity Development Officer has supported a number of activities at the Mount Pavilion including:

- RNLI Fleetwood session which educated children on the hazards of play by the seaside and looked at how boats navigate the water using buoys
- remembrance poppy workshop with Fleetwood town council

- World War 2 workshop about the dig for victory campaign and Fleetwood's wartime maritime history with Chaucer primary
- tree nursery workshop with Larkholme primary
- gardening demonstration and community gardening events with schools and other groups

2.11 Cottam Hall Community Garden

The ground works and infrastructure to the Community Garden are now complete, which included site clearance and installation of a new polytunnel and raised beds. Unfortunately the site was subject to a serious vandalism attack over the weekend of the 28/29 October, with extensive damage to the pavilion and to the community gardens.

2.12 Cottam Hall UKSPF Masterplan Consultation Stage

Wyre Council has commissioned local consultants to develop a Masterplan of the site. The first stage of the process included a consultation of site users to understand the needs and aspirations and identify priorities. Over 350 consultation responses were received, and key themes highlighted were the condition of the existing pavilion, need for improved sports facilities, poor accessibility, lack of car parking, antisocial behaviour problems, new path creation, as well as improvements to the environment and increased biodiversity.

2.13 Meetings have been held with key stakeholders, user groups, local primary school and Ward Members, and a community event and litter pick were also well attended on site.

2.14 The next stage is to build upon the current community uses and promote key themes in terms of sport and activity, health and well-being, environment and biodiversity, accessibility and security, and broad community benefit to draw up a site master plan for further consultation.

3. Waste and Recycling

3.1 Recycle Now is one of WRAP's (The Waste and Resources Action Programme) high profile brands which aims to motivate more people to recycle more. The annual Recycle Week is their largest national annual recycling campaign. This year, the event celebrated its 20th anniversary with the theme The Big Recycling Hunt (16 – 22 October 2023) focussing on 'missed capture': the items that can be recycled but are commonly missed in the home.

3.2 Local Authorities, including Wyre Council, were encouraged to share this central message which aligns with the corporate objective of a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment. The aims of the recycling campaign were to motivate more people to recycle more and highlighted 'missed capture' items and to drive resident participation in the Big Recycle Hunt.

3.3 The Wyre Communications team supported the campaign through news stories, e-news, social media with a live Q&A session with our Cleaner,

Greener Projects Officer throughout the week. This generated some great engagement and was an opportunity to answer some of our Frequently Asked Questions on Waste and Recycling. Social media communications generated a total combined reach of 8,054 posts throughout the week.

4. Comments and questions

- 4.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with procedure rule 11.5.

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Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Peter Le Marinel Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 2023

Executive Report: Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio, as set out below.

2. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

2.1 Consultations are completed for Cottam Hall Playing Fields, Cleveleys Town Centre and Fleetwood Seafront which have all received a good number of responses. Analysis is underway and will inform delivery plans for 2024/25 projects and support further development of funding bids for the Seafront area. Garstang Town Centre consultation with partners is underway and public consultation is likely to commence early 2024.

2.2 The [Boost Business Lancashire service](#) has commenced providing business advice, dedicated startup, growth and scaleup programme support. Boost presented elements of the programme for the 'Growing Your Business' Wyred Up event, as previously reported, and further events and promotion is planned. Businesses can also find out about the support available and contact a Business Adviser via the Boost website.

2.3 Cleveleys Town Centre Group are continuing to deliver a packed events programme in Cleveleys and started 'Winterval' with a family funday event in October, followed by a remembrance event with music and activities in the town centre.

2.4 Cottam Hall Playing Fields has been selected to be part of the national evaluation programme commissioned by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities at an intervention level. This will take place over the duration of the UKSPF programme.

3. Wyre Business Awards 2023

- 3.1 The eighth Wyre Business Awards took place on 7 November at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood. After successfully restoring this important local celebration of Wyre businesses' achievements and success last year, the awards have been more popular than ever. The standard of applications has increased once again and this year saw a record number of applications with 148 entries from 74 different businesses and organisations.
- 3.2 The event was sold-out and sponsorship has been popular with our larger local businesses and contractors. This has meant that the cost of the awards for the second year running has been met by the income generated.
- 3.3 The winners of the categories are as follows:
1. Boost Growth Business of the Year- Sid Hill Transport Ltd
 2. Business Person of the Year- Sid Hill
 3. Chamber Low-Carbon Climate Action Award- Fox Brothers Group Ltd
 4. Community & Charity Organisation of the Year- Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs
 5. Corporate Social Responsibility Award- Coastal Child and Adult Therapeutic Service Limited
 6. Food & Drink Business of the Year- Pudalicious
 7. Market Trader of the Year- The Wok Box
 8. Micro Business of the Year- Wyreside Mushrooms
 9. New Business Start-Up of the Year- Sustainable Talent Ltd
 10. Rural Business of the Year- A&G Precision Ltd
 11. Small Business of the Year- Sid Hill Transport Ltd
 12. Social Media Award- Glazey Days Ceramic Studio
 13. Team of the Year- Coastal Child and Adult Therapeutic Service Limited
 14. Tourism Business of the Year- Affinity Outlet Shopping
 15. Town Centre Business of the Year- Blackpool Skip Hire
 16. Wyre Business of the Year- A&G Precision Ltd.

4. Wyred Up Network

- 4.1 The network continues to grow with 792 members, an increase of 169 since the network relaunched in June 2022.
- 4.2 The newsletter is well-received with positive anecdotal feedback about the ease of use and layout. The 'open' rate, i.e. how many recipients open it, is approximately 50%, which compares very favourably to the average for peer newsletters that typically have an open rate of 36%.

5. Comments and questions

- 5.1 In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will

respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

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Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 2023

Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio as set out below.

2. Community Safety

- 2.1 At the last Council Meeting, I reported the launch by the Police of - Operation Prosper. Whilst this initially targets organised crime in a specific area of Fleetwood, this will have an impact over the whole of Wyre and should benefit all areas.
- 2.2 Unfortunately when organized crime group’s activity is reduced, there is always the potential for certain individuals to take advantage of the situation, and try and replace the activity. This process can often appear seamless and unfortunately the police working in isolation will not be able to prevent this process using enforcement alone.
- 2.3 The police need the help of the Community to assist them, and I am pleased to be able to advise members that a community engagement event will be held in the new year when I will be able to provide further details.

3. Housing

3.1 Homelessness Prevention

So far this year we have seen a total of 826 homelessness presentations to our Housing Options Service. The team is busy but officers are continuing to provide an effective service focused on preventing homelessness whenever possible. Officers work to find appropriate housing for clients in the social or private rented sectors and to minimise the use of temporary accommodation. However, there is an increasing pressure on the homelessness budgets and a greater use of the homelessness reserve may be necessary. This reflects a national trend and work is ongoing at a strategic level to try and address this.

3.2 Disabled Facilities Grant Funding

Between 1 April and 30 October our Disabled Facilities Grant Service has completed 139 disabled adaptations at a value of over £1.7m to support those with disabilities to live more independently at home. Additional cases have been allocated to officers to deliver against the £181,497 of extra funding we were awarded in September.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

4.1 I am pleased to advise members that phase 1 of the project including the new sea wall are complete ahead of time and below budget. The memorial benches along this frontage are now being reinstated and the road will be opened by end of November.

4.2 Phase 2 of the works is well underway. Rock has continued to be installed in the tank traps area and good progress is being made. Approximately 30,000t of rock of the 140,000t of rock has now been delivered. The rock quarry stockpiles have been formed for Rossall South and the tank trap groynes stockpiling will then commence in the Fleetwood area. The construction of the crossover ramps continues and this work will move into the Cleveleys area shortly.

4.3 The piling platforms for the navigation markers have been delivered and installation has commenced. LCC have completed access works to the Northern Area compound with the compound works due to start this month.

4.4 On the evening of 5 November Lancashire Fire and Rescue attended a fire at the temporary works compound on Jubilee Gardens. There has been some damage to the compound hoarding, stored materials and a couple of contractor vehicles within the compound.

5. Comments and questions

5.1 In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with procedure rule 11.5.



Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 2023

Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Tourism and Events

- 2.1 Last month we hosted two Halloween themed events. 1,400 people attended our family theatre performances of the Nightmare Before Christmas in Poulton and Pilling with both venues being fully booked, plus 150 people came to our pumpkin carving event at Fleetwood Market, bringing new people in and increasing footfall. Feedback from both events was excellent with families really enjoying the chance to get out and have fun for free.
- 2.2 We are working on our calendar of events for 2024. This will include recent new additions such as our older person's festive get together, the coronation walk as part of Garstang Walking Festival and free family theatre. We are also looking at a number of new events including a Family Festival in the summer, Mythic Coast storytelling tours and we will be supporting an annual Star Wars event in Cleveleys. We look forward to publishing full details soon.
- 2.3 Next week is our festive get together for our more senior residents. It is taking place from 2pm to 4pm on Friday 8 December at Poulton Community Hall. Everyone is welcome. There will be carol singing and bingo plus there will be people from the council and other local clubs and organisations to chat to on the day.

3. Fylde and Wyre Health and Wellbeing Partnership

- 3.1 Three priority areas have been identified by the partnership to focus upon; lifestyle support and prevention activity; children and young people's mental health and wellbeing and; supporting older people to keep well. Workshops on each of these areas are taking place to refine

these priorities, to understand what work is already taking place across the Fylde and Wyre Districts and to develop a work plan to oversee collaborative partnership activity. The first workshop focussing on lifestyle support and prevention activity was very well attended by partners and took place on Wednesday 1 November. A second workshop, looking at the other two priority areas, is planned for Wednesday 6 December 2023.

4. Active Lives and Community Engagement

4.1 Support for Rural Community Organisations: The Rural Facilities Fund is funded by the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and we have been working hard to encourage Wyre rural based community organisations to apply to this capital fund over the last few months. The funding is to support community organisations that specifically support the communities of rural east and west Wyre to deliver activities and services that enhance local health and wellbeing and keep people connected in their community. The capital funding will help support important community facilities that bring people together, address isolation and promote community engagement. We have had four applications and have been able to fund two of the bids through the fund. Cloughton Memorial Village Hall and Hambleton Village Hall were both successful. We will work with the two unsuccessful applicants to try to find them alternative funding.

4.2 Voluntary Community and Faith Sector consultation exercise: The Active Lives and Communities Team have consulted with the voluntary community and faith sector in Wyre via a survey offering help to our valued not for profit organisations. The survey was sent to approximately 500 groups and organisations operating in Wyre. There were a number of common subject areas where organisations requested support and information. The most common requests for information were across the following areas:

- fundraising strategy and funding applications
- marketing PR and accounting
- health and safety, food safety and first aid
- GDPR, Governance and Committee Board Rules
- partnership working
- monitoring and evaluating work for presenting to future funders
- Committee or Board roles and responsibilities.

4.3 Active Wyre Awards: Our annual celebration of sporting achievements and community action took place on 17 October at the Active Wyre Awards. We received over 70 nominations for individuals, clubs, schools and community organisations and those who were shortlisted attended the award ceremony here at the Civic Centre. These very popular awards aim to celebrate local community groups and individuals promoting active lifestyles as much as sporting achievements. The awards pay tribute to those who show dedication to perform at the highest level and those who work tirelessly to support their local community, creating an environment where people can be active and thrive. As well as the ten winners, judges decided to highlight ten others as highly commended due to the very high calibre of nominees. Our

winners have since gone on to represent Wyre at the Active Lancashire awards ceremony that took place on Friday 17 November.

5. Leisure Centres

- 5.1 Swimming Pool Support Fund Bid Success:** The government's Swimming Pool Support Fund launched earlier in the year to allow local authorities to bid for a total of £60 million as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools. The funding was split into two phases, Phase I - Revenue: £20m being available to support facilities with swimming pools with increased cost pressures and Phase II - Capital: £40m for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term.
- 5.2** We are delighted to have been awarded £142,107 of Swimming Pool Support Fund funding Phase 1 (revenue funding) which is broken down to £70,156 for Fleetwood pool, £52,183 for Poulton pool and £19,768 for Garstang pool. The funding will help contribute to the rise in utility and chemical costs, both of which have gone up significantly over the past few years. This is a great achievement as not all local authorities were successful in receiving funding and this will make a real difference to help support our swimming pools in Wyre.
- 5.3** In October we submitted a bid for the Phase 2 capital fund, which is for measures that will help reduce energy usage and the carbon footprint of our pools. We await the outcome of this bid.

6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 6.1** Phantom of The Opera performed by Thornton-Cleveleys Operatic Society at Marine Hall in October was a tremendous success with several sold out shows and fabulous reviews. Other amateur productions coming up at our theatres include 'Nativity! The Musical' by Cou Cou Theatre Productions at Marine Hall and Matilda Junior by Starlight Stage School at Thornton Little Theatre.
- 6.2** Professional shows coming up at Wyre Theatres in December include Comedian Ed Byrne at Thornton Little Theatre (sold out) as well as 'The Jerseys' and 'We Three Kings' at Marine Hall.
- 6.3** The Panto at Marine Hall this year is Snow White, and performances will take place between Christmas and New Year on Friday 29 December, Saturday 30 December and Sunday 31 December. Featuring Kerry Katona (as wicked Queen Morgana), the sensational Lilly Sue McFadden (as Snow White) and Ben Sherlock (as Wally). All tickets are £15 and can be bought online at www.wyretheatres.co.uk.

7. Comments and questions

- 7.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	30 November 2023

Council Plan 2024-2028

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval of the Council Plan 2024-2028.

2. Council priorities

2.1 This report sets out updated and new corporate priorities for approval.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To approve the draft Council Plan 2024-2028, as set out in Appendix B.

3.2 To authorise the Chief Executive to make any final amendments, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

4. Background

4.1 The Council Plan provides a clear statement of what the Council aims to achieve over the medium to long term. It sets out not only the Council's vision, priorities, and commitments for the next four years, but also the key activities to be delivered through the Council Plan projects and how we intend to measure success.

4.2 Over recent years the Council has developed a Business Plan document to align with the four year election cycle, with annual reviews taking place to make small changes as required and to update projects and measures.

4.3 The current Business Plan (Appendix A) was approved by Council in March 2023 and now following the elections, is due a more significant review.

- 4.4** Moving forwards the Business Plan will be referred to as a Council Plan. This terminology is more in line with the naming of a councils most strategic and overarching plan across the local government sector and it better describes what it is.
- 4.5** In recent years Wyre's Business Plan has been presented to Council for approval in March. This report and future annual refresh reports will now be brought to Council for approval in November. This will ensure that new priorities, projects and the capacity and skills needed to deliver them can feed into the budget planning process, in advance of annual Budget Council meeting in March.

5. Council Plan Development Process

- 5.1** Work started in July 2023 in preparation for refreshing the Council Plan by developing a 'big issues' briefing paper. The paper provides:
- a snapshot of key national and local policy developments which could impact Wyre over the next twelve months and beyond;
 - useful data on a range of issues such as crime, housing, employment, and resident satisfaction; and
 - references some specific organisational context regarding finance, assets and workforce.
- 5.2** This document provides useful context to understand the issues and opportunities facing the borough. It was used to feed into a workshop with Cabinet members in August to discuss and develop emerging priorities for the Council, over the next four years and beyond.
- 5.3** The emerging priorities were then developed further, alongside the big issues briefing paper and best practice from other Local Authorities, with the outcome being to develop a range of commitment statements for each priority area for the Cabinet to consider.
- 5.4** A second session with Cabinet members in September has refined the priorities and commitments further and these were presented to Overview and Scrutiny in October to enable committee members to feed into the process at a slightly earlier stage than they have been engaged in the process previously.
- 5.5** As well as reviewing the priorities and commitments, Overview and Scrutiny members were also provided with information on the projects which are included in the current plan, together with an initial indication as to whether these may be carried across into the new plan.
- 5.6** A workshop with Directors and Heads of Service also took place in October to get their input into the Council Plan development. At this workshop, proposals for projects and measures were discussed. Existing projects were reviewed against the proposed changes to the commitments. Consideration was also given to whether the projects aligned to the proposed commitments, whether they were still being

delivered or if they had been completed, whether the scope was clearly defined and if they were really more day to day business as usual delivery.

- 5.7** Once the position on existing projects had been considered, options for new projects to support the delivery of the proposed commitments were discussed.
- 5.8** Since meeting with Overview and Scrutiny and the workshop with the Senior Leadership Team, further work has been done to develop the projects and measures which are presented in this report.

6. A vision for Wyre

- 6.1** During the development of the new Council Plan, it was identified that a longer term vision for the borough (10 years+) would be a useful overarching statement of the Council's ambitions and intent for the borough. The Council Plan therefore sets out a vision for Wyre as detailed below.
- 6.2** Wyre is a place where everyone can prosper. We want everyone in Wyre to:
- have access to jobs and share the benefits of economic growth;
 - live in thriving, safe, more environmentally sustainable and welcoming communities; and
 - be healthier and independent for longer.
- 6.3** In addition to the medium-term priorities and commitments and the shorter term projects and measures which will all support the delivery of the vision, we will also:
- Work with partners to deliver on the return of rail or the delivery of light rail to Thornton and Fleetwood;
 - Seek public and private investment into the borough to deliver economic development; and
 - Work with partners to ensure Wyre is healthier, safer and more environmentally sustainable.
- 6.4** Annual updates on the longer term projects will be included as part of the annual Council Plan refresh report.

7. Priorities and commitments

- 7.1** The council's current Business Plan includes the following three priorities:
- People and communities – Empowered, healthier and resilient communities;
 - Growth and prosperity – A strong local economy; and
 - Environment and climate – A cleaner, greener and more sustainable borough.

7.2 These have been reviewed with minor changes made to them and a new priority area which has a more internal organisational focus has been added. The new priorities and a summary of the changes are set out below:

Priority	Changes
People and communities <i>Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives</i>	Clearer/simpler strap line, removing reference to 'empowered' and 'resilient' which not everyone understands
Growth and prosperity <i>A thriving local economy and town centres</i>	Addition of thriving town centres to reflect increased prioritisation on further improving our town centres over the course of the plan
Place and climate <i>A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place</i>	'Environment' replaced by 'Place' to be clearer that this priority is about Wyre as a Place, not just environmental issues.
Innovative and customer focused <i>A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first</i>	The introduction of a fourth priority focused internally on transforming and improving how we work, for example through making more use of digital technology and systems.

7.3 Sitting under each of the priorities are a set of medium term (4 year) commitments. Essentially these are the outcomes that over the medium term and beyond we are aiming to achieve.

Priority	Commitments
People and communities	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to help themselves and live independently in their own homes. • Provide support to those who need it, including our most vulnerable and financially disadvantaged residents and our ageing population. • Improve feelings of safety and work with partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. • Improve our leisure facilities ensuring they meet the needs of our residents and visitors. • Provide opportunities for people to lead healthy and active lifestyles. • Improve the quality of life for individuals by tackling loneliness and isolation.

<p>Growth and prosperity</p> <p>A thriving local economy and town centres</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Wyre’s town centres to be thriving and welcoming places to live, work and visit. • Support and champion Wyre’s growing tourism economy by promoting our coast to countryside offer, tourism businesses, attractions and events. • Grow the local economy through delivering the best support for small businesses and start-ups in Lancashire. • Encourage local people to develop new skills to access better paid work. • Secure external funding and investment to make improvements to places across the borough. • Promote and support low carbon businesses and jobs.
<p>Place and climate</p> <p>A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build pride in our borough by ensuring our town centres and neighbourhoods are clean, attractive and well looked after. • Ensure our towns and villages are supported by integrated infrastructure. • Explore innovative approaches to reduce carbon emissions from council operations and support our communities and businesses to do the same. • Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses across Wyre • Provide high quality parks and open spaces for everyone to enjoy.
<p>A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver high quality, value for money services that meet the needs of our customers. • Use technology to improve how we work and the services we provide. • Use our land and buildings wisely, managing them to appropriate standards, reducing their environmental impact and maximising income to reinvest in improving services. • Use data, business intelligence and research to inform us in making better evidence-based decisions and improve our services. • Build trust in the Council by engaging with our customers and delivering on our promises.

8. Projects

8.1 The projects that will be delivered under each priority, to support the Council to meet its commitments are:

People and communities <i>Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives</i>		
1	Use technology to support older and disabled people to live independently at home	This project will explore how we can support independence and improve the health and wellbeing of older and disabled residents using digital technology and care enabled devices at home. After conducting a scoping exercise that reviews the best practice and options, we will look to install a number of test cases prior to a consideration of incorporating technology into our home adaptations offer.
2	Deliver the Household Support Fund and associated initiatives	Deliver £860,000 in Household Support Funding in 2023/24 including energy bill support to low income households, new school uniform grants and support to charities including foodbanks.
3	Develop and deliver a plan to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough.	Working with the Police and other partners this project aims to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough by increasing council officer visibility through out of hour patrols and targeted visits in identified hot spot areas. This will enable us to strengthen evidence collection and intelligence and through working with multi agency partners we aim to intervene and where possible divert offenders into more positive activity.
4	Procurement of a new contract for our leisure facilities	This project will oversee the necessary work involved for a successful procurement exercise for Wyre's Leisure Centre Services as we prepare for the current contract to end in 2026. The scope of the project will include establishing what outcomes the future services should deliver and for whom; the likely value of the management contract; identifying if/how investment will feature in the future contract and how it will be managed through the procurement process; establishing a fair and balanced risk share and; making the procurement attractive to the market. A cross-directorate officer group will be created to contribute to this work.

5	Work with partners to deliver Wyre's Moving More Strategy to increase the rate of physical activity in Wyre	This project will involve the Council working closely with partners on the Wyre Moving More Project Board to deliver actions within the Wyre Moving More Strategy, to increase physical activity in Wyre.
6	Develop and support a volunteer befriending project	This project will involve the development of a pilot volunteer befriending project in collaboration with NHS social prescribers / Primary Care Networks (PCNs). We will advertise and promote befriending volunteering opportunities and recruit volunteers following our well established volunteer recruitment process (inc DBS). Participating PCNs will then induct the volunteers to their services and oversee/manage their introduction to the supported resident.
Growth and prosperity <i>A thriving local economy and town centres</i>		
7	Develop a programme of town centre improvements	Working with Town Centre Partnerships we will deliver key town centre regeneration framework projects where the council is identified as the lead.
8	Develop and start to deliver an economic development and tourism strategy	We will develop an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and begin delivering year one actions
9	Develop and deliver a comprehensive business support programme for small businesses in Wyre	A new business support programme will be developed around key target sectors identified in the new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and with a specific focus on supporting small independent businesses in the borough.
10	Develop and deliver a programme of support for local people to access education, employment or training	This project will address known skill shortages at the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone and particularly focus on supporting local young people to access the opportunities available.

11	Deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023 – 2025.	We will coordinate successful delivery of UKSPF years two and three projects and identify and progress opportunities to secure further grant funding to support further investment and improvements in the borough from a wide range of other funding sources.
Place and climate <i>A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place</i>		
12	Develop and deliver a community based programme to address the problems of fly tipping and illegally deposited waste.	We will work with partners to target illegal waste carriers and develop a community based programme of work to prevent and deter fly tipping.
13	Complete a full review of the Wyre Local Plan	Deliver the Local Plan to ensure the sustainable development of the borough and creation of investment opportunities.
14	Develop and deliver Wyre's Climate Change Strategy	This project will see the Council's Climate Change strategy being finalised and approved by Council, together with delivery of all year one Council actions.
15	Deliver the Wyre Beach Management Scheme	The Wyre Beach management scheme is the third scheme to be delivered as part of the Wyre Urban Core Strategy for Coastal Defence. It will see the construction of headland rock groynes and sub beach level revetment to raise and secure beach levels to increase coastal flood protection to 11,0000 homes in the urban areas of Cleveleys and Fleetwood by October 2026.
16	Develop and deliver a programme of improvements to parks and open spaces across the borough	Adopt the updated Wyre Play Strategy and start to deliver the resulting investment programme to improve play provision within the borough.
Innovative and customer focused <i>A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first</i>		

17	Develop and deliver an ambitious transformation strategy	We will develop a transformation strategy to effectively co-ordinate and manage organisational transformation to deliver the aims of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, our corporate priorities and improve services. It will bring together all of the different elements of change including a workforce plan, digital transformation strategy and priority driven service plans.
18	LGA Corporate Peer Review	We will work with the Local Government Association (LGA) to arrange a Corporate Peer Challenge for Wyre Council in 2024. The aim is to seek credible, robust and strategic challenge and support. It will focus on reviewing the following: the Council's local priorities and outcomes; its organisational and place leadership; the governance and culture; financial planning and management, and; its capacity for improvement.
19	Develop and deliver an innovative digital and ICT strategy	We will develop a new and ambitious digital and ICT strategy which will focus on developing our use of technology and data to improve our services, make better informed decisions and deliver even better services for our customers.
20	Develop a 3-year asset management strategy and plan	We will develop a three year asset management strategy and plan which will set out how the Council will use its land and buildings portfolio to help deliver its corporate priorities and objectives.

- 8.2** In the next month work will be undertaken to develop project briefs for each project. This will provide information about the project objectives (what we want to achieve and why), the benefits to be achieved, the scope of the project, any assumptions, a high-level project plan with key milestones, budget requirements if applicable and project risks. For some of the larger projects, more comprehensive project documentation and approach to project management may be required.
- 8.3** The project briefs will be used as a basis from which to monitor progress of the project. This will take place each quarter with Council Plan updates being provided to both Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.
- 8.4** Where there are ongoing projects and pieces of work, which have not been carried across into the new Council Plan updates on these will be provided through portfolio briefings to Council. These will include for example updates on supporting business growth and job creation as the accountable body for Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone, leading on

Our Future Coast projects and supporting the Wyre Natural Flood Management projects.

9. Measuring Progress

- 9.1** The current business plan includes performance measures which have been developed to monitor progress against project delivery.
- 9.2** As part of the development of the new Council Plan, performance measures have been selected to monitor progress against our priorities and commitments. This is because project progress will be monitored regularly through highlight reporting against project brief documentation which will be put in place for all Council Plan projects as described in the section above.
- 9.3** This will strengthen our performance monitoring and project delivery approach, enabling us to better track the direction of travel towards our medium-term commitments as well as progress in delivering our current projects.
- 9.4** Also, in a similar way to how project documentation will be developed for each of the projects, written procedures will be developed for each of the Council Plan performance indicators. This will ensure that performance is being measured consistently and to provide transparency to the process. The written procedures will be developed over the next month, alongside setting targets.
- 9.5** The quarterly performance reports will therefore include updates on both Council Plan project delivery and Council Plan performance indicators and the first report on this Council Plan will cover the quarter four period (January – March 2024).

Priority	Indicator
<p>People and communities</p> <p><i>Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives</i></p>	Number of properties where adaptations have been completed
	Increase in the number of children engaged in holiday activities
	Number of homeless cases prevented
	Reduction in the number of violence against the person offences committed
	Reduction in levels of anti-social behaviour
	Increase in the number of people visiting our leisure centres
	Increase in the number of people engaged with our health programmes
	Increase in the volunteering hours facilitated and supported

<p>Growth and prosperity</p> <p>A thriving local economy and town centres</p>	Town centre vacancy rates below the UK average
	Increase the number of visitors to the borough each year
	Increase in the number of businesses supported by the council
	Increase in the number of businesses surviving for more than 24 months
	Number of projected jobs created through Wyre Council support or intervention
	Grant funding secured by the council
<p>Place and climate</p> <p>A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place</p>	Resident satisfaction with keeping public land free from litter
	Fly tipping incidents reported and dealt with
	Reduction in the Council's carbon emissions
	Resident satisfaction with our parks and open spaces
	% of Wyre's parks awarded green flags
<p>Innovative and customer focused</p> <p>A well run, forward thinking council that puts customers first</p>	Resident satisfaction that the Council provides value for money services
	Resident satisfaction with the Council
	% Council tax collected
	% Business rates collected
	Increase in visits to the Council's website
	Increase in the number of residents signed up to use MyWyre Account

10. Equality and Diversity

- 10.1** An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on the Business Plan which is a requirement of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which imposes a legal duty, known as the Public Sector Duty (Equality Duty), on all public bodies, to consider the impact on equalities in all policy and decision making.
- 10.2** A high level assessment is attached at Appendix C which details the number of positive impacts the strategy intends to deliver.
- 10.3** As the strategy is delivered over the next 12 months an equality impact assessment will be undertaken for each project to consider the equality and diversity implications.

11. Alternative options considered and rejected

11.1 The alternative option is to continue to deliver against the existing business plan. However, this would mean that it may no longer reflect the needs of our communities and businesses within the Borough, as well as projects and measures no longer being relevant and therefore this option has been rejected.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Detailed project paperwork including business cases will be developed for each project and approval sought via the Council's Budget setting process or other appropriate approval process in due course.
Legal	There are no legal implications associated with this report. The Council Plan is not a legal requirement but is essential in setting out the Council's overarching strategic framework and priorities.
Climate Change	Addressing climate change is a priority for the council and this is recognised in the Council Plan as part of the 'Place and Climate priority.

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	✓
equality and diversity	✓
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
ICT	✓
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
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Rebecca Huddleston	01253 887500	Rebecca.huddleston@wyre.gov.uk	05/11/2023
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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Big Issues Briefing Note	August	via email on request

List of appendices

- A. Business Plan 2019–2023 (Current Business Plan)
- B. Council Plan 2024–2028
- C. Equality Impact Assessment

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Business Plan 2019-2023

Our Vision: Wyre - proud, ambitious and thriving... Together we make a difference

Last updated: April 2023

People and Communities

OUR AMBITION EMPOWERED HEALTHIER AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WE WILL:

- Collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to 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

HOW:

- 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
- Deliver effective support to our most vulnerable residents including the Household Support fund
- Continue to take a proactive role in delivering the Community Safety Partnership, co-ordinating an action plan for Violence Reduction

OUR SUCCESS MEASURES:

- Increased number of people engaged with our health programmes
- Reduced percentage of adults that are physically inactive
- 600,000 annual visits to our leisure centres
- 20,000 volunteer hours facilitated and supported
- 900 children engaged with holiday activities
- Outcomes from delivering the Household Support Fund
- Proactive actions to reduce violence against the person and Anti-Social Behaviour

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

HOW:

- Continue to support business growth and job creation as accountable body for Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone
- Continue to support town centre recovery and explore investment and sustainable development opportunities for our key town centres and the visitor economy
- Support our business community to establish new start-ups, grow and create jobs through our Wyred Up business support programme
- Explore external funding and investment opportunities for our key council assets including theatres, markets and leisure facilities
- Deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023-2025

OUR SUCCESS MEASURES:

- Support job creation within the Enterprise Zone
- Increase footfall to our town centres
- Reduce town centre vacancy rates to below 11%
- Increase number of businesses supported in Wyre
- 80% of fledgling businesses surviving for 18 months
- Increase number of visitors to the borough each year
- 97% of business rates collected
- 97% of council tax collected
- Successful delivery of our UKSPF projects

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.

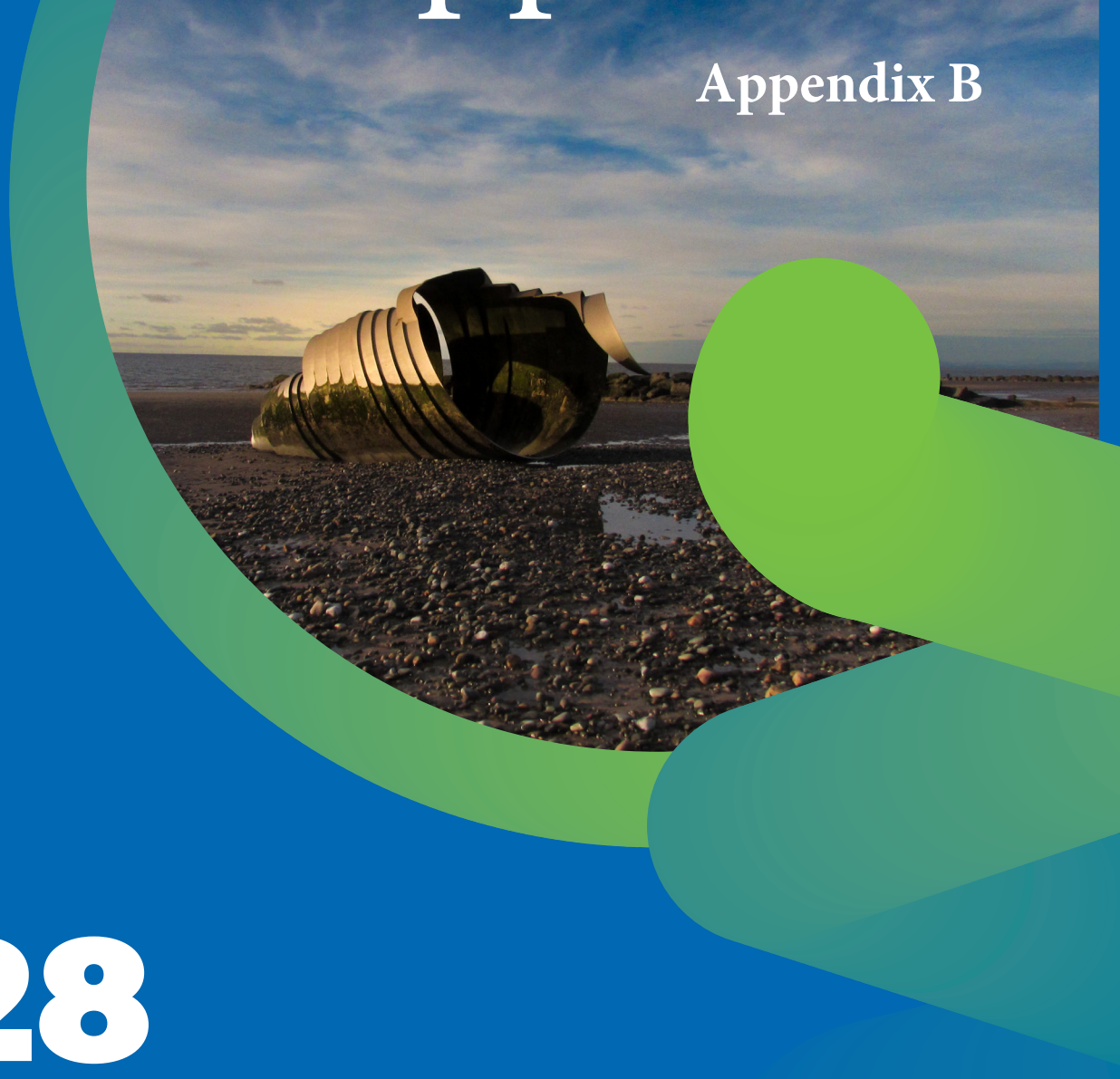
HOW:

- Deliver our Climate Change Strategy including a carbon budget
- Deliver our action plan to reduce the effect of climate change on our borough including the carbon footprint of all council activities and assets
- Collaborate with partners to reduce community energy consumption through retrofitting houses and the delivery of Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHIL)
- Deliver the Wyre Beach Management Scheme to protect 11,000 homes from coastal flooding by October 2026
- Lead on Our Future Coast project and support the Wyre Natural Flood Management project to help prepare communities for coastal change resulting from climate change
- Complete a full review of the Wyre Local Plan by 2024

OUR SUCCESS MEASURES

- 10% reduction in council carbon emissions by May 2023
- Delivery of our Climate Change Action Plan
- Number of domestic energy measures installed under the Cosy Homes in Lancashire, via Government grant schemes
- 11,000 more homes protected from flooding by October 2026

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Council Plan 2024-2028

Our vision

Wyre is a place where everyone can prosper. We want everyone in Wyre to have access to jobs and share the benefits of economic growth; live in thriving, safe, more environmentally sustainable and welcoming communities; and be healthier and independent for longer.

Making our vision a reality

Our commitments in four key areas will support our vision. These commitments form our actions and our plans. Over the next four to eight years we will:

People and communities

- Support people to help themselves and live independently in their own homes
- Provide support to those who need it, including our most vulnerable and financially disadvantaged residents and our ageing population
- Improve feelings of safety and work with partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improve our leisure facilities ensuring they meet the needs of our residents and visitors
- Provide opportunities for people to lead healthy and active lifestyles
- Improve the quality of life for individuals by tackling loneliness and isolation

Growth and prosperity

- Develop Wyre's town centres to be thriving and welcoming places to live, work and visit
- Support and champion Wyre's growing tourism economy by promoting our coast to countryside offer, tourism businesses, attractions and events
- Grow the local economy through delivering the best support for small businesses and start-ups
- Encourage local people to develop new skills to access better paid work
- Secure external funding and investment to make improvements to places across the borough
- Promote and support low carbon businesses and jobs

Place and climate

- Build pride in our borough by ensuring our town centres and neighbourhoods are clean, attractive and well looked after
- Ensure our towns and villages are supported by integrated infrastructure
- Explore innovative approaches to reduce carbon emissions from council operations and support our communities and businesses to do the same
- Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses across Wyre
- Provide high quality parks and open spaces for everyone to enjoy

Innovative and customer focused

- Deliver high quality, value for money services that meet the needs of our customers
- Use technology to improve how we work and the services we provide
- Use our land and buildings wisely, managing them to appropriate standards, reducing their environmental impact and maximising income to reinvest in improving services
- Use data, business intelligence and research to inform us in making better evidence-based decisions and improve our services
- Build trust in the council by engaging with our customers and delivering on our promises

People and communities

Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives

We will achieve our commitments by:

Using technology to support older and disabled people to live independently at home

Delivering the Household Support Fund and other initiatives that support low income families

Developing and delivering a plan to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough

Procuring a new contract for our leisure facilities

Working with partners to deliver Wyre's Moving More Strategy to increase the rate of physical activity in Wyre

Developing and supporting a volunteer befriending project



Measuring success

- Number of properties where adaptations have been completed
- Increase in the number of children engaged in holiday activities
- Number of homeless cases prevented
- Reduction in the number of violence against the person offences committed
- Reduction in levels of anti-social behaviour
- Increase in the number of people visiting our leisure centres
- Increase in the number of people engaged with our health programmes
- Increase in the volunteering hours facilitated and supported

Growth and prosperity

A thriving local economy and town centres

We will achieve our commitments by:

Developing a programme of town centre improvements

Developing and starting to deliver an economic development and tourism strategy

Developing and delivering a comprehensive business support programme for small businesses in Wyre

Developing and delivering a programme of support for local people to access education, employment or training

Delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023 – 2025



Measuring success

- Town centre vacancy rates below the UK average
- Increase the number of visitors to the borough each year
- Increase in the number of businesses supported by the council
- Increase in the number of businesses surviving for more than 24 months
- Number of projected jobs created through Wyre Council support or intervention
- Grant funding secured by the council

Place and climate

A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place

We will achieve our commitments by:

Developing and delivering a community based programme to address the problems of fly-tipping and illegally deposited waste

Completing a full review of the Wyre Local Plan

Developing and delivering Wyre's Climate Change Strategy

Delivering the Wyre Beach Management Scheme

Developing and delivering a programme of improvements to parks and open spaces across the borough



Measuring success

- Resident satisfaction with keeping public land free from litter
- Fly-tipping incidents reported and dealt with
- Reduction in the council's carbon emissions
- Resident satisfaction with our parks and open spaces
- % of Wyre's parks awarded green flags

Innovative and customer focused

A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first

We will achieve our commitments by:

Developing and delivering an ambitious transformation strategy

Working with the Local Government Association to arrange a Corporate Peer review

Developing and delivering an innovative digital and ICT strategy

Developing a 3-year asset management strategy and action plan



Measuring success

- Resident satisfaction that the council provides value for money services
- % council tax collected
- % business rates collected
- Increase in visits to the council's website
- Increase in the number of residents signed up to use MyWyre account
- Resident satisfaction with the council

Longer term commitments

Over the next ten years, we will also:

Work with partners to deliver on the return of rail or the delivery of light rail to Thornton and Fleetwood

Seek public and private investment into the borough to deliver economic development

Work with partners to ensure Wyre is healthier, safer and more environmentally sustainable





EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Defining the Service/Policy

Service/Policy Title	Council Plan 2024 - 2028
What are the aims and objectives or purpose of the policy or service?	<p>The Council Plan provides a clear statement of what the Council aims to achieve over the medium to long term. It sets out not only the Council's vision, priorities, and commitments for the next four years, but also the key activities to be delivered through the key projects and how we intend to measure success.</p> <p>The long term vision, priorities and commitments of the Council are set out below.</p> <p>Vision Wyre is a place where everyone can prosper. We want everyone in Wyre to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have access to jobs and share the benefits of economic growth; • live in thriving, safe, more environmentally sustainable and welcoming communities; and • be healthier and independent for longer. <p>People and communities <i>Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives</i></p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to help themselves and live independently in their own homes. • Provide support to those who need it, including our most vulnerable and financially disadvantaged residents and our ageing population. • Improve feelings of safety and work with partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. • Improve our leisure facilities ensuring they meet the needs of our residents and visitors. • Provide opportunities for people to lead healthy and active lifestyles. • Improve the quality of life for individuals by tackling loneliness and isolation.

Growth and prosperity

A thriving local economy and town centres

We will:

- Develop Wyre's town centres to be thriving and welcoming places to live, work and visit.
- Support and champion Wyre's growing tourism economy by promoting our coast to countryside offer, tourism businesses, attractions and events.
- Grow the local economy through delivering the best support for small businesses and start-ups in Lancashire.
- Encourage local people to develop new skills to access better paid work.
- Secure external funding and investment to make improvements to places across the borough.
- Promote and support low carbon businesses and jobs.

Place and climate

A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place

We will:

- Build pride in our borough by ensuring our town centres and neighbourhoods are clean, attractive and well looked after.
- Ensure our towns and villages are supported by integrated infrastructure.
- Explore innovative approaches to reduce carbon emissions from council operations and support our communities and businesses to do the same.
- Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses across Wyre.
- Provide high quality parks and open spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Innovative and customer focused

A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first

We will:

- Deliver high quality, value for money services that meet the needs of our

	<p>customers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology to improve how we work and the services we provide. • Use our land and buildings wisely, managing them to appropriate standards, reducing their environmental impact and maximising income to reinvest in improving services. • Use data, business intelligence and research to inform us in making better evidence-based decisions and improve our services. • Build trust in the Council by engaging with our customers and delivering on our promises.
Is the policy or service affected by external drivers for change?	<p>Yes, the Council Plan is developed around an understanding of external drivers and big issues for the borough and the Council.</p> <p>This has been done through developing a Big Issues briefing note at the beginning of the process to develop the Council Plan. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a snapshot of key national and local policy developments which could impact Wyre over the next twelve months and beyond; • useful data on a range of issues such as crime, housing, employment, and resident satisfaction; and • references some specific organisational context regarding finance, assets and workforce.
Who implements the policy or strategy?	The Senior Leadership Team together with relevant officers from across the council and external partners.
Who will be affected by the policy and the way the service is delivered?	The Council Plan will affect residents, businesses, public and VCFSE partners visitors, partners, borough, parish and town councillors, local MP's, staff and volunteers.
What outcomes do we want to achieve for whom?	<p>The Council Plan sets out a long-term vision as follows:</p> <p>Wyre is a place where everyone can prosper. We want everyone in Wyre to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have access to jobs and share the benefits of economic growth; • live in thriving, safe, more environmentally sustainable and welcoming communities; and • be healthier and independent for longer. <p>It also includes four priority areas and a number of commitments under each which</p>

	<p>clearly set out what we want to achieve at a high level and over the medium term. The priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and communities – Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives. • Growth and prosperity – A thriving local economy and town centre. • Place and climate – A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place. • Innovative and customer focused – A well run, forward thinking council that puts customers first. <p>The Council Plan then goes on to identify key projects which will be delivered and performance measures which will help us track our performance against our priorities and commitments.</p>
<p>Are other organisations involved in delivery?</p>	<p>Yes, delivery of the plan will involve working with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. These will be identified clearly in the project documentation which will be completed for each Council Plan project. Examples of the organisations we will work with include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancashire Police • Citizens Advice Bureau • Lancashire County Council • Town Centre Partnerships • Local Businesses • Local Government Association • Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board • Fleetwood Town Community Trust • Active Lancashire • Parish and Town Councils • Environment Agency
<p>What are the key performance indicators?</p>	<p>The Council Plan sets out a number of key performance indicators under each priority area.</p> <p>People and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of properties where adaptations have been completed • Increase in the number of children engaged in holiday activities • Number of homeless cases prevented

- Reduction in the number of violence against the person offences committed
- Reduction in levels of anti-social behaviour
- Increase in the number of people visiting our leisure centres
- Increase in the number of people engaged with our health programmes
- Increase in the volunteering hours facilitated and supported

Growth and prosperity

- Town centre vacancy rates below the UK average
- Increase the number of visitors to the borough each year
- Increase in the number of businesses supported by the council
- Increase in the number of businesses surviving for more than 24 months
- Number of projected jobs created through Wyre Council support or intervention
- Grant funding secured by the council

Place and climate

- Resident satisfaction with keeping public land free from litter
- Fly tipping incidents reported and dealt with
- Reduction in the Council's carbon emissions
- Resident satisfaction with our parks and open spaces
- % of Wyre's parks awarded green flags

Innovative and customer focused

- Resident satisfaction that the Council provides value for money services
- % Council tax collected
- % Business rates collected
- Increase in visits to the Council's website
- Increase in the number of residents signed up to use MyWyre
- Resident satisfaction with the Council.

What existing assessments are there?	There is baseline information available for many of the performance indicators and this will be used as a basis for target setting.
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Identify potential equality issues and factors

What do you know already about equality impact or need?	<p>Information about the demographics and key challenges facing the borough are contained in the Big Issues briefing paper and include for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues of inequality of opportunity and of outcomes as a result of poverty and deprivation, predominantly in urban areas. • a disproportionately larger and growing ageing population and resulting increases in health/ disability issues. • issues of rural and social isolation, specifically on particular sections of the community, such as older people • Wyre has a much less ethnic diverse population when compared to Lancashire and England.
Is there any evidence that there is higher or lower take-up by particular groups?	As the Council Plan is a high level strategic document covering such a broad range of projects, this question will be better answered at a project level.
Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally?	<p>The big issues paper highlights a number of demographic changes and projected changes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past decade there has been a 3.9% population increase in Wyre, which is a smaller increase than Lancashire (5.5%) and England (6.6%). • Between 2011 and 2021 the average age in Wyre increased by three years from 47 to 50 years of age. This is higher than England's average (40 years) and the second highest in the Northwest.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyre's population is projected to age considerably by 2043, especially in the age group over 75, which is projected to increase by approximately 8,527 (50%).
Is there any indication that particular policies create problems for specific groups?	<p>Age (No problems identified – positive impact) There are projects and measures within the Council Plan that are specifically targeted at those of a certain age, namely young people and older people. These have been identified as the two specific groups with a level of need within Wyre. Examples include a project to use technology to support older and disabled people to live independently at home and to develop and support a volunteer befriending project, and a measure to increase the number of children engaged in holiday activities.</p> <p>Disability (No problems identified – positive impact) The Council Plan includes a project to use technology to support older and disabled people to live independently at home which specifically targets individuals with a disability.</p> <p>Gender reassignment (No problems identified – neutral impact) The Council Plan will have no specific impact on those with different gender backgrounds in terms of projects or performance measures. However, a key priority of the strategy is for residents to live happier, healthier and safer lives and will therefore have a neutral impact to this community.</p> <p>Marriage or civil partnership (No problems identified – neutral impact) The Council Plan will have no specific impact on those who are married or in a civil partnership in terms of projects or performance measures. However, a key priority of the strategy is for residents to live happier, healthier and safer lives and will therefore have a neutral impact to this community.</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity (No problems identified – positive impact) The Council Plan includes a project to deliver the Household Support Fund and other initiative that support low income families which specifically targets families.</p> <p>Race (No problems identified – neutral impact) The Council Plan will have no specific impact on different races in terms of projects or performance measures. However, a key priority of the strategy is for residents to live</p>

	<p>happier, healthier and safer lives and will therefore have a neutral impact to this community.</p> <p>Religion or belief (No problems identified – neutral impact) The Council Plan will have no specific impact on different sexes in terms of projects or performance measures. However, a key priority of the strategy is for residents to live happier, healthier, and safer lives and will therefore have a neutral impact to this community.</p> <p>Sex (No problems identified – neutral impact) The Council Plan will have no specific impact on those who are married or in a civil partnership in terms of projects or performance measures. However, a key priority of the strategy is for residents to live happier, healthier, and safer lives and will therefore have a neutral impact to this community.</p> <p>Sexual orientation (No problems identified – neutral impact) The Council Plan will have no specific impact on those with different sexual orientations in terms of projects or performance measures. However, a key priority of the strategy is for residents to live happier, healthier, and safer lives and will therefore have a neutral impact to this community.</p>
Where can relevant information be accessed?	N/A
Are there any equality objectives?	As the Council Plan is a high level strategic document covering such a broad range of projects, consideration of equality objectives will be carried at the project level as part of the project planning stage.

Data Gathering and Stakeholders

Does the service have on-going dialogue with relevant interest or user groups?	Yes, the council consults widely on a range of issues and feedback from a range of consultations have been used to feed into the development of the Council Plan and further consultation on specific projects will be carried out as required. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre regeneration plans • Life in Wyre survey • Budget consultation
What groups or individuals have legitimate interests?	Residents, businesses, public and VCFSE partners, visitors, partners, borough, parish and town councillors, local MP's, staff and volunteers will have interested in parts or all of the Council Plan.
What consultation has been done?	As described above the results of previous consultation exercises have fed into the development of the Council Plan, particularly the Life in Wyre surveys and consultation on various town centre regeneration plans. Internally, Cabinet Members, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Leadership Team (Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service) have all been engaged in the process of developing the plan.
What methods do we employ?	Online and paper surveys Face to face consultation events and meetings Communications via website and social media.
What data do we have?	Data from the Life in Wyre survey was incorporated into the Big Issues Briefing Paper.

Consider Options and make Decisions

What needs changing – the policy itself, or how it is implemented – to remove any adverse impact?	No changes are needed to the Council Plan however equality impact assessments should be completed for each of the projects set out in the Council Plan.
If adverse impact will remain, can this be justified in relation to the wider aims of the policy?	n/a

What exactly needs to be done to remove the adverse impact? (set objectives and targets)	n/a
If you do not have enough information to decide whether a change needs to be made – what will you do to gather this information? (set objectives and targets)	As recommended above equality impact assessments should be completed for each of the projects set out in the Council Plan. These will be done as part of completing project documentation for each one.
How will you record your decision and reasons?	The projects documentation and equality impact assessments will be reviewed by the Corporate Management Team.

Arrange to Monitor and Review

Who will be responsible for monitoring and review?	Chief Executive
How will data and other information be collected?	The Council Plan will be monitored quarterly by the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.
How can you build monitoring into your existing processes and forms?	Equality considerations are already incorporated into our committee report templates.
How will progress be reported? How often?	The Council Plan will be monitored quarterly by the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.
Who will have overall responsibility for the monitoring and review of this policy?	Chief Executive

Date of Completion: 05 November 2023

Name of Assessor: Rebecca Huddleston



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources (and S.151 Officer)	Council	30 November 2023

Treasury Management Activity 2023/24 (Mid-year Review)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To report on the overall position and activities in respect of Treasury Management for the first half of the financial year 2023/24, covering the six month period from April to September 2023.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 An informed Council who have an understanding of Treasury Management activity, in line with the approved Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statements and Treasury Management Practices

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Mid-year Review Report on Treasury Management Activity for the first half of the 2023/24 financial year be noted, in line with requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (revised 2021)'.

3.2 That approval be given to increase the 'External Debt – Operational Boundary (Borrowing)' level from £13.452m to £15.925m for 2023/24 and to future years as detailed in the Prudential Indicators (see Appendix 1) and 5.4.3. This will bring the level in line with the Capital Financing Requirement and the current capital programme, taking into account any potential cash flow implications.

4. Background

4.1 Treasury Management

4.1.1 CIPFA has set out a clear definition of treasury management activities:

“The management of the organisation’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

4.1.2 The council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will fund cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, making sure that there is adequate liquidity cover before considering the optimisation of investment returns.

4.1.3 Another function of the treasury management service is the funding of the council’s capital programme. The capital programme provides a guide to the borrowing need of the council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning, to ensure the council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer term cash flow may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet council risk or cost objectives.

4.1.4 This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of CIPFA’s ‘Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (revised 2021)’ (the Code). The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of the Council’s treasury management activities.
- Creation and maintenance of suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.
- Creation and maintenance of Investment Management Practices (IMPs) for investments that are not for treasury management purposes.
- Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement – including the Annual Investment Strategy, Capital Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy – for the year ahead, a Mid-year

Review Report and an Annual Report, covering activities during the previous year.

- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions. For this Council the Corporate Director Resources (and S.151 Officer) is responsible for treasury management.
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.1.5 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first half of the 2023/24 financial year.
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy and prudential indicators.
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2023/24.
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2023/24.
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2023/24 (not applicable).
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2023/24.

5. Key issues and proposals

(The following economic update 5.1 to 5.2 is largely extracted from an update provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Link Group, issued on 7 October 2023).

5.1 Economics Update

5.1.1 The first half of 2023/24 saw:

- Interest rates rise by a further 100bps, taking Bank Rate from 4.25% to 5.25% and, possibly, the peak in the tightening cycle.
- Short, medium and long-dated gilts remain elevated as inflation continually surprised to the upside.
- A 0.5% month on month (m/m) decline in real GDP in July, mainly due to more strikes.
- CPI inflation falling from 8.7% in April to 6.7% in August, its lowest rate since February 2022, but still the highest in the G7.

- Core CPI inflation declining to 6.2% in August from 7.1% in April and May, a then 31 year high.
- A cooling in labour market conditions, but no evidence yet that it has led to an easing in wage growth (as the 3 month year on year growth of average earnings rose to 7.8% in August, excluding bonuses).

- 5.1.2** The 0.5% m/m fall in GDP in July suggests that underlying growth has lost momentum since earlier in the year. Some of the weakness in July was due to there being almost twice as many working days lost to strikes in July (281,000) than in June (160,000). With output falling in 10 out of the 17 sectors, there is an air of underlying weakness.
- 5.1.3** The fall in the composite Purchasing Managers Index from 48.6 in August to 46.8 in September left it at its lowest level since COVID-19 lockdowns reduced activity in January 2021. At face value, it is consistent with the 0.2% quarter to quarter (q/q) rise in real GDP in the period April to June, being followed by a contraction of up to 1% in the second half of 2023.
- 5.1.4** The 0.4% m/m rebound in retail sales volumes in August is not as good as it looks as it partly reflected a pickup in sales after the unusually wet weather in July. Sales volumes in August were 0.2% below their level in May, suggesting much of the resilience in retail activity in the first half of the year has faded.
- 5.1.5** As the growing drag from higher interest rates intensifies over the next six months, we think the economy will continue to lose momentum and soon fall into a mild recession. Strong labour demand, fast wage growth and government handouts have all supported household incomes over the past year. And with CPI inflation past its peak and expected to decline further, the economy has got through the cost-of-living crisis without recession. But even though the worst of the falls in real household disposable incomes are behind us, the phasing out of financial support packages provided by the government during the energy crisis means real incomes are unlikely to grow strongly. Higher interest rates will soon bite harder too. We expect the Bank of England to keep interest rates at the probable peak of 5.25% until the second half of 2024. Mortgage rates are likely to stay above 5% for around a year.
- 5.1.6** The tightness of the labour market continued to ease, with employment in the three months to July falling by 207,000. The further decline in the number of job vacancies from 1.017m in July to 0.989m in August suggests that the labour market has loosened a bit further since July. That is the first time it has fallen below 1m since July 2021. At 3.0% in July, and likely to have fallen to 2.9% in August, the job vacancy rate is getting closer to 2.5%, which

would be consistent with slower wage growth. Meanwhile, the 48,000 decline in the supply of workers in the three months to July offset some of the loosening in the tightness of the labour market. That was due to a 63,000 increase in inactivity in the three months to July as more people left the labour market due to long term sickness or to enter education. The supply of labour is still 0.3% below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.

- 5.1.7** The cooling in labour market conditions still has not fed through to an easing in wage growth. While the monthly rate of earnings growth eased sharply from an upwardly revised +2.2% in June to -0.9% in July, a lot of that was due to the one-off bonus payments for NHS staff in June not being repeated in July. The headline three month average of the annual rate (3myy) rose from 8.4% (revised up from 8.2%) to 8.5%, which meant UK wage growth remains much faster than in the US and in the Euro-zone. Moreover, while the Bank of England's closely watched measure of regular private sector wage growth eased a touch in July, from 8.2% 3myy in June to 8.1% 3myy, it is still well above the Bank of England's prediction for it to fall to 6.9% in September.
- 5.1.8** CPI inflation declined from 6.8% in July to 6.7% in August, the lowest rate since February 2022. The biggest positive surprise was the drop in core CPI inflation, which declined from 6.9% to 6.2%. That reverses all the rise since March and means the gap between the UK and elsewhere has shrunk (US core inflation is 4.4% and in the Euro-zone it is 5.3%). Core goods inflation fell from 5.9% to 5.2% and the further easing in core goods producer price inflation, from 2.2% in July to a 29-month low of 1.5% in August, suggests it will eventually fall close to zero. The really positive development was the fall in services inflation from 7.4% to 6.8%. That also reverses most of the rise since March and takes it below the forecast of 7.2% the Bank of England published in early August.
- 5.1.9** In its latest monetary policy meeting on 20 September, the Bank of England left interest rates unchanged at 5.25%. The weak August CPI inflation release, the recent loosening in the labour market and the downbeat activity surveys appear to have convinced the Bank of England that it has already raised rates far enough. The minutes show the decision was "finely balanced". Five MPC members (Bailey, Broadbent, Dhingra, Pill and Ramsden) voted for no change and the other four (Cunliffe, Greene, Haskel and Mann) voted for a 25bps hike.
- 5.1.10** The Bank of England wants the markets to believe in the higher for longer narrative. The statement did not say that rates have peaked and once again said if there was evidence of more persistent inflation pressures "further tightening in policy would be required". Governor Bailey stated, "we'll be watching closely to see if further

increases are needed". The Bank also retained the hawkish guidance that rates will stay "sufficiently restrictive for sufficiently long". This narrative makes sense as the Bank of England does not want the markets to decide that a peak in rates will be soon followed by rate cuts, which would loosen financial conditions and undermine its attempts to quash inflation. The language also gives the Bank of England the flexibility to respond to new developments. A rebound in services inflation, another surge in wage growth and/or a further leap in oil prices could conceivably force it to raise rates at the next meeting on 2 November, or even pause in November and raise rates in December.

5.1.11 The yield on 10-year Gilts fell from a peak of 4.74% on 17 August to 4.44% on 29th September, mainly on the back of investors revising down their interest rate expectations. After their recent pullback, the rise in Gilt yields has exceeded the rise in most other Developed Market government yields since the start of the year. Looking forward, once inflation falls back, Gilt yields are set to reduce further. A (mild) recession over the next couple of quarters will support this outlook if it helps to loosen the labour market (higher unemployment/lower wage increases).

5.1.12 The pound weakened from its cycle high of \$1.30 in the middle of July to \$1.21 in late September. In the first half of the year, the pound bounced back strongly from the Truss era last autumn. That rebound was in large part driven by the substantial shift up in UK interest rate expectations. However, over the past couple of months, interest rate expectations have dropped sharply as inflation started to come down, growth faltered, and the Bank of England called an end to its hiking cycle.

5.1.13 The FTSE 100 has gained more than 2% since the end of August, from around 7,440 on 31st August to 7,608 on 29th September. The rebound has been primarily driven by higher energy prices which boosted the valuations of energy companies. The FTSE 100's relatively high concentration of energy companies helps to explain why UK equities outperformed both US and Euro-zone equities in September.

5.2 Interest Rates Forecast

5.2.1 The council's treasury advisor, Link Group, provided the following forecasts on 25 September 2023 (PWLB rates are certainty rates):

Link Group Interest Rate View – 25/09/2023						
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25
Bank Rate View	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00
3 Month average earnings	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00
6 Month average earnings	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.10	4.60	4.10
12 Month average earning	5.80	5.70	5.50	5.20	4.70	4.20
5yr PWLB Rate	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.20
10yr PWLB Rate	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.20
25yr PWLB Rate	5.40	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.40
50yr PWLB Rate	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20

5.2.2 The latest forecast on 25 September sets out a view that short, medium and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to squeeze inflation out of the economy.

5.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update

5.3.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2023/24 was approved by this Council on 20 April 2023.

5.3.2 The underlying TMSS approved previously requires revision in the light of economic and operational movements during the year. The proposed changes are set out below and further supporting details are provided in later sections of the report:

Prudential Indicator	2023/24 Original £000	2023/24 Revised £000
External Debt – Operational Boundary (Borrowing)	13,452	15,925

5.4 The Council’s Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

5.4.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

5.4.1.1 The following table shows the updated budget position for capital expenditure and the changes since the 2023/24 capital programme was agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget process. More detail can be found in the Cabinet report dated 18 October 2023 which provided the month 5 update.

	2023/24 Original Estimate £000	Movements 2023/23 Slippage £000	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Decision £000	Current Position as at 31/08/23 £000
Total Capital Expenditure	18,420	3,912	(4,304)	18,028

5.4.2 Changes to the Financing of the Capital Programme

5.4.2.1 The table below shows how the capital expenditure will be financed:

Funding Source	2023/24 Original Estimate £000	Current Position as at 31/08/23 £000
Capital Receipts	14	1,835
Capital Grants and Contributions	18,256	15,624
Revenue/Reserves	150	569
Total	18,420	18,028

5.4.2.2 Whilst the above table shows that the capital programme is fully funded and there is no immediate additional financing need, some of the capital grants and contributions are reliant on the council having initially incurred expenditure which is then reclaimed. Whilst the council has sufficient cash balances, this borrowing is sourced internally, however, should anything change, there may be the requirement to undertake borrowing in the short-term to bridge any funding gaps. Just under 87% of planned expenditure is funded by grants and contributions; with around 13% being funded from a combination of capital receipts and revenue contributions / utilisation of reserves.

5.4.3 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), External Debt and the Operational Boundary

5.4.3.1 The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

Prudential Indicator	2023/24 Original Estimate £000	2023/24 Revised Estimate £000
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	10,780	10,780
Total CFR	10,780	10,780
Operational Boundary:		
External Debt	13,452	15,925
Other Long Term Liabilities	50	50
Total Operational Boundary	13,502	15,975

5.4.3.2 The CFR requirement represents historical capital expenditure which has yet to be financed; there have been no changes to this.

5.4.3.3 There has been a change to the prudential indicator setting out the operational boundary for external debt. The council currently operates well below this operational level and in reality it currently has no external borrowing. The external debt level factors in the council's CFR, as well as current and future year capital schemes for which funding has been approved but is on 'credit'; in these instances the council incurs expenditure and then claims the funding from a third party. Presently when this occurs the council internally borrows from other cash that it is holding to fund this expenditure in the short term; the amendment to the Prudential Indicator is a worst case scenario, should external borrowing be required in the short term to bridge the gap instead.

5.4.3.4 The Operational Boundary is not a limit but it acts as an early warning indicator to ensure that the Authorised Limit is not breached. If external debt levels are close to the operational boundary, they will be monitored closely to ensure that the Authorised Limit, which is the maximum level of external borrowing that the council can incur, is not exceeded. However, the council currently has no external borrowing.

5.4.4 Limits to Borrowing Activity

5.4.4.1 The first key control over treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2023/24 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.

5.4.4.2 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Council. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

5.4.4.3 The approved Authorised Limit for 2023/24 is set at £20.1m; this limit is still sufficient for the council.

5.5 Borrowing

5.5.1 The council's CFR for 2023/24 is £10.780m. The CFR denotes the council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing), or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.

5.5.2 The 2023/24 budget assumed no long-term borrowing with capital schemes funded by grants and contributions, capital receipts, revenue or reserves. It is anticipated that further borrowing will not be undertaken during this financial year.

5.6 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

5.6.1 It is a statutory duty for the council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the half year ended 30 September 2023, the council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24. The Corporate Director Resources reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators, subject to any changes to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which would worsen the current forecast budget gap or significantly increase the draw-down on reserves. Beyond the current MTFP period, this position could change if the budget pressures are not addressed in the interim.

5.6.2 All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's TMPs.

5.7 Annual Investment Strategy

5.7.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), for 2023/24 was approved by this Council on 20 April 2023.

5.7.2 In accordance with the CIPFA's Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the council's investment priorities as being:

1. Security of capital;
2. Liquidity;
3. Yield.

5.7.3 The council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit quality financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.

5.8 Creditworthiness

5.8.1 Following the Government's fiscal event on 23 September 2022, both S&P and Fitch placed the UK sovereign debt rating on Negative Outlook, reflecting a downside bias to the current ratings in light of expectations of weaker finances and a challenging economic outlook. Nothing further has evolved in the first half of 2023/24.

5.9 Investment Counterparty Criteria

5.9.1 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.

5.9.2 Interest receivable on investments for the first half of the year was £1,084,524 compared to an annual budget of £537,610. The level of interest received is expected to increase through the second part of the year and the budget has been updated in line with expectations and reported to Cabinet on 18 October 2023. The driving factor is an increase in the level of interest rates available. As a result, the MTFP forecast has been adjusted upwards to reflect a more realistic target.

5.9.3 The equated investments for the first half of 2023/24 are detailed in the following table:

Counterparty	Equated Investment Principal	Interest Due	Annualised Rate of Return %	Benchmark Return %	No. of days invested
Santander 35 Day Corp Notice	£219,178	£7,847	3.58	4.71	183
Handelsbanken 35 Day Notice Account	£1,989,042	£26,630	5.40	4.71	183
Qatar 3 month	£6,671,232	£162,247	5.38	4.71	183
Qatar 6 month	£361,644	£15,201	4.11	4.71	183
Handelsbanken I.A Account	£123,288	£2,359	4.10	4.71	183
Bank of Scotland (Call Acc.)	£5,977,126	£139,329	4.91	4.71	183
Nat West - Liquid Select	£4,221,024	£35,498	1.05	4.71	183
LGIM	£8,021,918	£188,658	5.02	4.71	183
Insight	£7,561,645	£167,969	5.01	4.71	183
Deutsche	£6,717,807	£149,704	4.92	4.71	183
Prime Rate	£8,021,918	£189,080	5.03	4.71	183
TOTAL	£49,885,822	£1,084,524	4.34		

5.9.4 The investments earned an average return of 4.34% which means that we have underperformed against the benchmark SONIA (Sterling Overnight Interbank Average) 7-day average of 4.71%. and this is the best comparator available at present. However, for noting at outturn, more specific benchmark returns will be utilised depending upon the term of investment. The volatility in the markets has seen the average rate as low as 4.18% up to highs of 5.19%. In line with our investment priorities, at times we have deposited funds in low interest earning accounts in order to maintain security and liquidity of funds and this will be monitored going forward.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 No alternative options have been considered.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	Considered in detail in the report above.
Legal	The noting and approval of the recommendations will ensure that the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and statutory requirements have been complied with.
Climate Change	There are no direct implications on climate change 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	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
Ben Ralphs	01253 887309	ben.ralphs@wyre.gov.uk	03/11/2023

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

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Prudential Indicators 2023/24 onwards

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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	31/03/2026 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	13,452	15,925	16,330	14,360	14,540	12,560
Other Long Term Liabilities (Deferred Liabilities)	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total Operational Boundary	13,502	15,975	16,380	14,410	14,590	12,610

- 3 Actual External Debt

	31/03/23 Actual £000
External Debt-Temporary Borrowing	0
External Debt-PWLB	0
Other Long Term Liabilities	15
Total Actual External Debt	15

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



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources (and S.151 Officer)	Council	30 November 2023

Localised Council Tax Support Scheme

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To confirm the Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme for the 2024/25 financial year.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 Compliance with the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and specifically its provisions for the abolition of Council Tax benefit and replacement with new localised schemes (from 1 April 2013).

2.2 A working-age LCTS Scheme that remains fit for purpose and administratively streamlined as the rollout of Universal Credit Full Service (UCFS) continues.

2.3 A working-age LCTS scheme that provides better support to those on the lowest incomes during the current economic climate and reduces barriers to seeking employment.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the current LCTS scheme for 2023/24 remains unchanged for 2024/25.

4. Background

4.1 As part of the 2012 Welfare Reform Act the national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme was abolished and in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 2012 local authorities were required to introduce Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) schemes from April 2013.

- 4.2** Support for Council Tax is offered as reductions within the Council Tax system with claimants of state pension credit age receiving a discount of up to 100% depending on their circumstances, thereby ensuring that they experience no reduction in support as a direct result of the reform.
- 4.3** Localisation provided local authorities with the flexibility to design LCTS schemes for working age claimants taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups and the importance of supporting work incentives. Following a consultation exercise, the Council agreed at their meeting of 29 November 2012 to adopt a scheme that mirrored the outgoing CTB scheme with one main difference. Under the new LCTS scheme working age claimants previously entitled to 100% CTB would have to meet a minimum 8.5% of their council tax liability from 1 April 2013. This change allowed the council to qualify for transitional grant for one year.
- 4.4** After consultation in 2018, the original scheme was simplified for 2019/20, with the introduction of:
- A “flat” rate of non-dependent deduction of £5 per week per non-dependent, to replace tiered non-dependent deductions based on non-dependent income;
 - An income “cushion” of £10 per week “up or down” in order to minimise the number of changes to claimants’ LCTS awards, and;
 - The discontinuation of the Second Adult Rebate Scheme.
- 4.5** An equality impact assessment was completed prior to the amended scheme being introduced.
- 4.6** The amended scheme was agreed by full Council on 17 January 2019 and this was reconfirmed as the 2020/21 scheme on 9 January 2020. The scheme for 2021/22 was agreed on 12 November 2020 and again remained unchanged as was the case for 2022/23 (agreed 28 October 2021). However, a minor change to the 2022/23 scheme was agreed by full Council on 10 March 2022 to allow for the disregard of the £150 Energy Bill Rebate payments when calculating entitlement to council tax support.
- 4.7** In order to provide better financial support to council tax payers on the lowest incomes and most adversely impacted by the financial crisis, two further changes to the scheme for 2023/24 were agreed at full Council on 26 January 2023:
- the removal of the requirement for working age LCTS claimants to pay a minimum of 8.5% of their council tax, and;
 - the introduction of a “minimum income floor” for self-employed applicants.
- 4.8** In removing the requirement for working age LCTS claimants to pay a minimum of 8.5% of their council tax the council ensured that those in

receipt of “maximum” LCTS would have no council tax to pay, thus relieving at least some of the financial burden on them.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** To date the ongoing financial crisis has not eased significantly, if at all, with many households increasingly struggling to meet their financial commitments.
- 5.2** The removal of the requirement for working age LCTS claimants to pay a minimum of 8.5% of their council tax has had a positive impact in reducing some of the financial pressure on those on the lowest incomes. It has also reduced the number of council tax payers summonsed for non-payment. During the 2022/23 financial year 3,743 summonses were issued in May 2022, 555 in June 2022 and 1,194 in August 2022. In the current financial year 3,318 summonses were issued in May 2023, 554 in June 2023 and 903 in August 2023, a total reduction of 717, with a corresponding reduction in the administrative burden to the council associated with attempting the recovery of council tax debt that is becoming increasingly difficult to collect.
- 5.3** With the continuing impact of the ongoing financial crisis in mind it is considered to be inappropriate to consider making any changes to the LCTS scheme for 2024/25 that would make it less generous.
- 5.4** However, as the crisis is also impacting heavily on council tax payers whose incomes are higher than the thresholds for claiming social benefits, it would be unfair to increase the generosity of the scheme further in 2024/25. This is particularly the case when taking into account that the costs associated with any additional increases in financial support for LCTS claimants are ultimately met by the council tax payer.
- 5.5** It should be noted that working-age LCTS claimants in receipt of UC or other qualifying social benefits are also receiving additional cost of living crisis payments of up to £900 from the DWP during this financial year. In addition, the council have awarded various amounts to LCTS claimants from the first three tranches of the Household Support Fund (HSF) and is planning to make a further payment from HSF Round 4 early in the New Year. In August this year 230 LCTS claimants with dependent children starting senior school in September 2023 received a payment of £150 per child from HSF Round 4 in order to help them pay for new school uniforms.
- 5.6** Despite the current economic situation the working-age LCTS caseload has reduced slightly from 5,090 as at 31 March 2023 to 5,019 as at 31 August 2023. The pension age LCTS caseload as at 31 August is 3,762, the same as it was on 31 March 2023. This is despite minor fluctuations in the number of pension age LCTS claimants during the year.

- 5.7 At the start of the current financial year a total of £10,245,205 was posted on to LCTS claimant’s council tax accounts. This figure represents the full award of LCTS for the year. During the period up to 31 August 2023 the total LCTS payments posted had reduced to £10,152,663, a small reduction of £92,542.
- 5.8 The figures in 5.6 and 5.7 provide some reassurance that the cost of maintaining the current LCTS scheme is not spiralling upwards.
- 5.9 Taking the ongoing financial crisis and information detailed in points 5.2 - 5.8 into account, it is proposed that the current LCTS scheme remains unchanged for 2024/25.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1 For the reasons highlighted in 5.1 – 5.8 no alternative options for changes to the LCTS scheme for 2024/25 have been considered or consulted upon.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	<p>The council was previously reimbursed by the DWP for expenditure in relation to correctly awarded CTB but as part of the welfare reforms, expenditure on Localised Council Tax Support was reduced by 10%. The Local Government Finance Settlement included £8,077,777 for Council Tax Support in 2013/14 and of this, £963,119 was retained by Wyre.</p> <p>The Government claim that the total level of localised council tax support funding remained unchanged in cash terms in 2014/15 although there has been no separately identifiable amount for localised council tax support at local authority level since it was subsumed within the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Baseline Funding. It is also worth remembering that the Council suffered a reduction in grant funding of £1.022m or 13.6% in 2014/15 and stopped receiving RSG between 2019/20 and 2021/22. Only a minor amount of RSG is currently received (less than £2,000).</p> <p>The 2024/25 budgets are not yet known but by inflating the updated 2023/24 anticipated expenditure on LCTS of £10,152,663 by 4.18%, Wyre’s average council tax increase in 2023/24, this indicates that the estimated cost of the scheme for 2024/25 would be approximately £10,577,044.</p>

	Applying these indicative start-up funding allocation of £8,077,777 leaves an unfunded gap of approximately £2,499,267 to be met by each precepting body as follows:																					
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">%</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wyre</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">254,925</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish/Town Councils*</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27,492</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Combined Fire Authority</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.8</td> <td style="text-align: right;">94,972</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police and Crime Commissioner</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11.7</td> <td style="text-align: right;">292,414</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LCC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73.2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,829,464</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">2,499,267</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*This is an average cost and will not necessarily be incurred by individual Parish/Town Councils.</p>		%	£	Wyre	10.2	254,925	Parish/Town Councils*	1.1	27,492	Combined Fire Authority	3.8	94,972	Police and Crime Commissioner	11.7	292,414	LCC	73.2	1,829,464			2,499,267
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		2,499,267																				
Legal	The legal requirements are set out in the body of the report.																					
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications 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	✓
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
Peter Mason	887530	peter.mason@wyre.gov.uk	09/10/2023

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

List of appendices

None



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities	Council	30 November 2023

The Making (Adoption) of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Council of the results of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan referendum.
- 1.2 To present to Council the Barton Neighbourhood Plan and ask Members to 'make' (adopt) the Barton Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Corporate priorities

- 2.1 Collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to maximise opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across our communities.
- 2.2 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. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Barton Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' (adopted).
- 3.2 That powers be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to make minor editorial amendments and corrections to the Barton Neighbourhood Plan prior to publication.

4. Background

The Neighbourhood Planning Process

- 4.1** Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to shape the future of the places where they live and work. The Localism Act 2011 which amended the Town and County Planning Act 1990, introduced the right for local communities to produce neighbourhood plans and the mechanisms for them to do so. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out the detailed arrangements that neighbourhood plans should follow, including the responsibilities of the parish council and the local planning authority in the neighbourhood plan process.
- 4.2** A neighbourhood plan cannot be used to prevent or stifle development. Once a neighbourhood plan is 'made' (adopted) it becomes part of the statutory development plan for that area and is used alongside local and national planning policy and guidance to determine planning applications.
- 4.3** The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) set out key stages in the preparation of such plans and the process for them becoming part of the development plan. The key stages are summarised below.
- a) Designation of a neighbourhood area - The area covered by the neighbourhood plan needs to be agreed by the borough council.
 - b) Preparation of a draft neighbourhood plan - The 'qualifying body' then prepares the draft neighbourhood plan and evidence base.
 - c) Pre-submission publicity and consultation - The Plan is submitted for pre-submission publicity and consultation for a minimum of six weeks.
 - d) Submission of the draft plan - The 'qualifying body' formally submits the neighbourhood plan to the local planning authority. The local planning authority checks whether the plan accords with the relevant legislation, publicises the Plan for six weeks and appoints an Independent Examiner.
 - e) Independent Examination - The neighbourhood plan is examined by an Independent Examiner to assess whether the Plan meets the basic conditions. The Examiner then issues a report, if the report is positive and the borough council agrees with it, the Plan is then subject to referendum.
 - f) Referendum - The borough council organises a referendum, and then publishes the results.
 - g) Adoption – The Plan is 'made' by the borough council.
- 4.4** To provide effective governance arrangements in relation to the neighbourhood planning process, a report was considered by Cabinet on 7 September 2016 to introduce a scheme of delegation (Part 7 of the Council's Constitution) in relation to the various stages of the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan and a neighbourhood development order, to ensure the local planning authority meets the deadlines set by

the regulations and also allow decisions to be made in a timely manner to avoid unnecessary delay.

Barton Neighbourhood Plan

- 4.5** Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council and Barton Parish Council submitted a joint neighbourhood area application to Wyre Council and Preston City Council on 30 March 2017. A six week public consultation on the area application was held between 11 May and 23 June 2017 as the proposed neighbourhood area covered two parishes. After consideration of the consultation responses, Wyre Council and Preston City Council both formally approved the neighbourhood area application on 8 September 2017.
- 4.6** The Barton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Barton Parish Council in association with Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council. The latter formally delegated their right to prepare a neighbourhood plan to Barton Parish Council and its Steering Group in consultation with the local planning authorities for the neighbourhood area - the local planning authorities being Preston City Council and Wyre Council. It was also agreed between the two borough councils, that Preston City Council would be the lead local planning authority. This is owing to the majority of the neighbourhood area falling within the administrative area of Preston City Council and Barton Parish Council.
- 4.7** The Barton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with public consultation and community engagement at the centre of the process and Barton Parish Council have undertaken a number of public consultations, including a statutory public consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. This allowed residents and stakeholders, including Wyre Council, an opportunity to comment on the draft policies and site allocations proposed within the draft plan.
- 4.8** The Barton Neighbourhood Plan was formally submitted to Preston City Council and Wyre Council for examination on 17 November 2022. It was accompanied by supporting evidence, including a basic condition statement and consultation statement.
- 4.9** Upon receipt of the submitted Plan in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (as amended), Wyre Council and Preston City Council publicised the Barton Neighbourhood Plan and sought comments during a six week public consultation that was held between 18 January and 1 March 2023.
- 4.10** Following the Regulation 16 consultation, an Independent Examiner, (Peter Dickson Biggers BSC (Hons) MRTPI AIHBC), was appointed by Preston City Council with the agreement of Barton Parish Council, to conduct an examination of the submitted Plan. All representations that had been received during Regulation 16 consultation were considered by the Examiner.

4.11 The role of the Examiner is to scrutinise the Plan and determine whether it meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and County Planning Act 1990. It is usual for an Examiner to recommend modifications to a plan in order for it to meet the basic conditions before it can progress to the referendum. The relevant basic conditions for the proposed Barton Neighbourhood Plan comprise:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
- The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, retained EU obligations; and
- Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan.

4.12 The examination into the Plan took place through written representations without the need for any hearing sessions. Having considered all the information before him, the Examiner made some additional requests to Barton Parish Council, Preston City Council and Wyre Council to seek clarification.

4.13 The Examiner's Report was received on 6 June 2023 and concludes that subject to modifications, the Barton Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Adopted Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) (incorporating partial update of 2022); has regard to national guidance; would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; and would satisfy the basic conditions and legal requirements. The Examiner's Report included recommended modifications.

4.14 The Examiner's Report recommended that subject to modifications proposed in his report, the Barton Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum. Officers considered the Examiner's report and the proposed modifications and concluded that they were necessary for the Plan to meet the basic conditions and all legal requirements as set out in legislation. The nature of the proposed modifications did not alter the conclusions reached from previous Environmental Screening undertaken. Officers at Preston City Council and Barton Parish Council were also in agreement that the modifications were necessary for the Plan to proceed.

4.15 The Examiner recommended that the Plan, once it has been modified, proceeds to local referendum and the referendum should be based on the Neighbourhood Plan area as approved by Preston City Council and Wyre Council on 8 September 2017.

- 4.16** Barton Parish Council prepared an updated version of the Plan, incorporating the modifications. It was also agreed with Barton Parish Council that the time necessary to consider the Examiner's Report and make the necessary modifications would exceed the normal five week period owing to the amount of modifications necessary.
- 4.17** Following receipt of the Examiner's Report, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (as amended) (Regulation 18(2)) state that a local planning authority must publish what action will be taken in response to the recommendations of an Examiner. This is known as a 'Decision Statement' and outlines how a Plan will be modified in response to an Examiner's Report and the reasoning for such changes.
- 4.18** On 14 September 2023, a report was considered by the council's Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder to formally consider and to:
- Endorse the findings of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report and proposed modifications, and;
 - That the Barton Neighbourhood Plan incorporating proposed modifications meets the basic conditions and legal requirements.
 - That the Barton Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a local referendum and that the draft decision statement can be issued to inform interested parties that the modified Barton Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to Referendum as soon as reasonably possible with a potential Referendum date of 9 November 2023.
 - That powers be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to make minor editorial amendments and corrections to the Barton Neighbourhood Plan prior to referendum.
- 4.19** The council published a formal 'Decision Statement' as required by Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) on 29 September 2023. This Decision Statement agreed the findings of the Examiner's Report and his recommendation a referendum be held. In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Referendum Regulations the referendum must be held within eight weeks of that decision.
- 4.20** Prior to the referendum, as required by the Neighbourhood Planning Referendum Regulations, the council prepared and published supporting documentation including information for voters, and an 'Information Statement' setting out details of the referendum 28 days before polling day. The Information Statement also sets out that the referendum will be conducted based on procedures similar to those used in local government elections. Those who could vote were those who were registered to vote, and entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum Area, and whose qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum Area.

- 4.21** If more than 50% of the votes cast are in favour of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan it is considered the Plan should be 'made' (adopted) by the borough council.
- 4.22** In such instance Wyre Council must formally adopt the Plan within eight weeks of the referendum date.

Impact on EU Obligations/Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainability

- 4.23** There is no legal requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out for a Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body (in this case Barton Parish Council) must demonstrate how a neighbourhood plan would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, as set out in the basic conditions. The draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed as to whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects (often referred to as a screening opinion or assessment). The legislative requirements of this process are set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. A screening report produced by Wyre Council and agreed by statutory consultees was published in 2021.
- 4.24** The government's definition of sustainable development for planning purposes is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and states that 'achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways'. These are an economic objective, a social objective and an environmental objective.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** The referendum was held on 9 November 2023 and administered by Preston City Council. Electors of the Barton Neighbourhood Area were asked "Do you want Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Barton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" The overall turnout was 26.75%. 335 electors voted 'YES' and 19 electors voted 'NO'. So of those electors that did vote which was a total of 355, 94.4% were in favour of the plan. With a result of more than 50% of the votes cast in favour of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan it is recommended that the Plan should be 'made' (adopted) by the borough council.
- 5.2** Following the Barton Neighbourhood Plan referendum Wyre Council must make a decision whether to make (adopt) a neighbourhood development plan under section 38A(4) of the 2004 Act or whether to refuse to make a plan under section 38A(6) of the 2004 Act.

- 5.3** Under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended), Wyre Council must publish its decision on the council’s website and a formal statement, ‘the decision statement’ (on the adoption) must be produced setting out the decision and the reasons for making that decision.
- 5.3** Should the Council decide to ‘make’ a neighbourhood plan it must publish ‘the decision statement’ saying it has been ‘made’ and the reasons why. It must also publish the Neighbourhood Plan and notify those living working and doing business in the neighbourhood area, and any interested parties. Thereafter it becomes part of the statutory development plan for that area and is used alongside local and national planning policy and guidance to determine planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
- 5.4** In accordance with section 61N of the Town and County Planning Act the decision to ‘make’ a neighbourhood plan can be legally challenged before the end of the period of six weeks beginning with the day after the day on which the decision is published.
- 5.5** Should the Council decide not to ‘make’ the neighbourhood plan, ‘the decision statement’ must be published and must explain the reasons why it has not been ‘made’. Such a decision can also be legally challenged.
- 5.6** As the Barton Neighbourhood plan (Appendix 1) is finalised for publication Members are requested to delegate powers to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to make such minor editorial changes as may be necessary before the document is published and printed.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** There are no reasonable alternative options. The Barton Neighbourhood Plan meets the relevant basic conditions and the promotion process is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Modifications made to it post examination address the Examiner’s concerns. If more than 50% of the votes cast in the designated Barton Neighbourhood Plan Area are in favour of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan should be ‘made’ (adopted) by Wyre Borough Council. Officers have reviewed the Plan and consider that making the Plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any retained EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998) .

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	Wyre’s officer time and sundry expenditure is being met from existing budgets. Expenditure on the preparation of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan itself has been incurred by Barton Parish Council.

<p>Legal</p>	<p>A neighbourhood development plan has to be prepared in accordance with procedures required by Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The council can only 'make' a neighbourhood development plan if it meets the relevant basic conditions and legal requirements.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 as amended make provision for the conduct of relevant referendums.</p> <p>If 'made', the Barton Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the development plan, and, in accordance with section 38 of the 2004 Act, planning applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. S38A4(4) provides that a local planning authority to whom a proposal for the making of a neighbourhood development plan has been made (a) must make a neighbourhood development plan to which the proposal relates if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan, and (b) if paragraph (a) applies, must make the plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the referendum is held and, in any event, within 8 weeks of the referendum date. However the authority are not to be subject to the duty under subsection (4)(a) if they consider that the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any retained EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).</p>
<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>The Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared in general accordance with the strategic policies of the adopted Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) (incorporating partial update of 2022). A sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan was undertaken, this considered the economic, social and environmental issues, including climate change.</p>

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 an x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
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
Lucy Embery	01253 887331	lucy.embery@wyre.gov.uk	10/10/2023

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Report to Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council of the examination into the Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan	June 2023	www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/file/1816/barton-np-examiners-report-6-6-23

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Barton Neighbourhood Plan

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Barton Neighbourhood Plan

Plan Period 2019 - 2030

Summer 2023

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- Figure 5 - Local Green Space Barton North
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- Figure 7 - Barton Connectivity
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APPENDICES

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- Appendix 2 - Barton Glossary of Terms

1. FOREWORD

1.1 The rural village of Barton is located along the strategically important A6 highway and is uniquely shared between the administrative boundaries of Preston and Wyre. The history of the parish can be traced back to 1066 when it was first described as four plough- lands. Numerous references exist over time for this predominately agricultural area north of Preston. One such reference was the inclusion of the hamlet of Newsham to the parish in 1894 and this geographically represents the modern-day parish of Barton.

1.2 The principal road through Barton is the A6 which is the primary transport link for many from Preston to Lancaster. This route through the village gives Barton a linear flow with a series of tributary routes diverging to the east and west, creating connections with other local rural villages.

1.3 Barton is a warm, friendly and safe community of approximately 1,200 residents. The village has a very dynamic and engaging demographic, supporting a number of community centric activities throughout the year. There are two churches in Barton which are affiliated to Barton St Lawrence and St Mary and St Andrew Newhouse primary schools which represent the heartbeat of the community. There is a diverse number of award-winning businesses in the village ranging from fine dining and superior accommodation to legal services, agriculture and high end home furnishings. This diversity reflects the character of the village.

1.4 Barton has been subject to significant growth in the last 5 years and the Parish Council alongside the community are looking to work with Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council (Wyre BC) to achieve a sustainable future for the village through the Barton Neighbourhood Plan (BNP). The Localism Act has provided the opportunity for local people to have more say in developing a shared vision for their neighbourhood, choosing where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built, identifying and protecting important local green spaces and influencing what new buildings should look like.

1.5 The Act defines a Neighbourhood Plan as:
“A plan which sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in the whole or any part of a particular neighbourhood plan area specified in the plan”.

1. FOREWORD

1.6 The initial draft version of our NP has undergone a formal 6-week consultation. The BNP has undergone modification to reflect the responses received during the 6-week consultation and at examination. The Neighbourhood Plan once ratified at a local referendum becomes a part of the Development Plan and will be used by Preston City Council and Wyre BC when determining planning applications within the neighbourhood area.

1.7 The BNP will provide the opportunity for us to shape the future for the residents of the neighbourhood area to 2030 and beyond as not only does it help us have a say in where future development should take place, it also sets out how the Parish Council working with other statutory bodies, will undertake investment in and improvement of infrastructure and local facilities through community projects, Parish Precept, the Community Infrastructure Levy funding & other grants.

1.8 The BNP will offer our community a powerful new opportunity to produce a sustainable plan for our village and we hope that you will support us in developing a shared vision for the future growth and development of Barton.

With best wishes

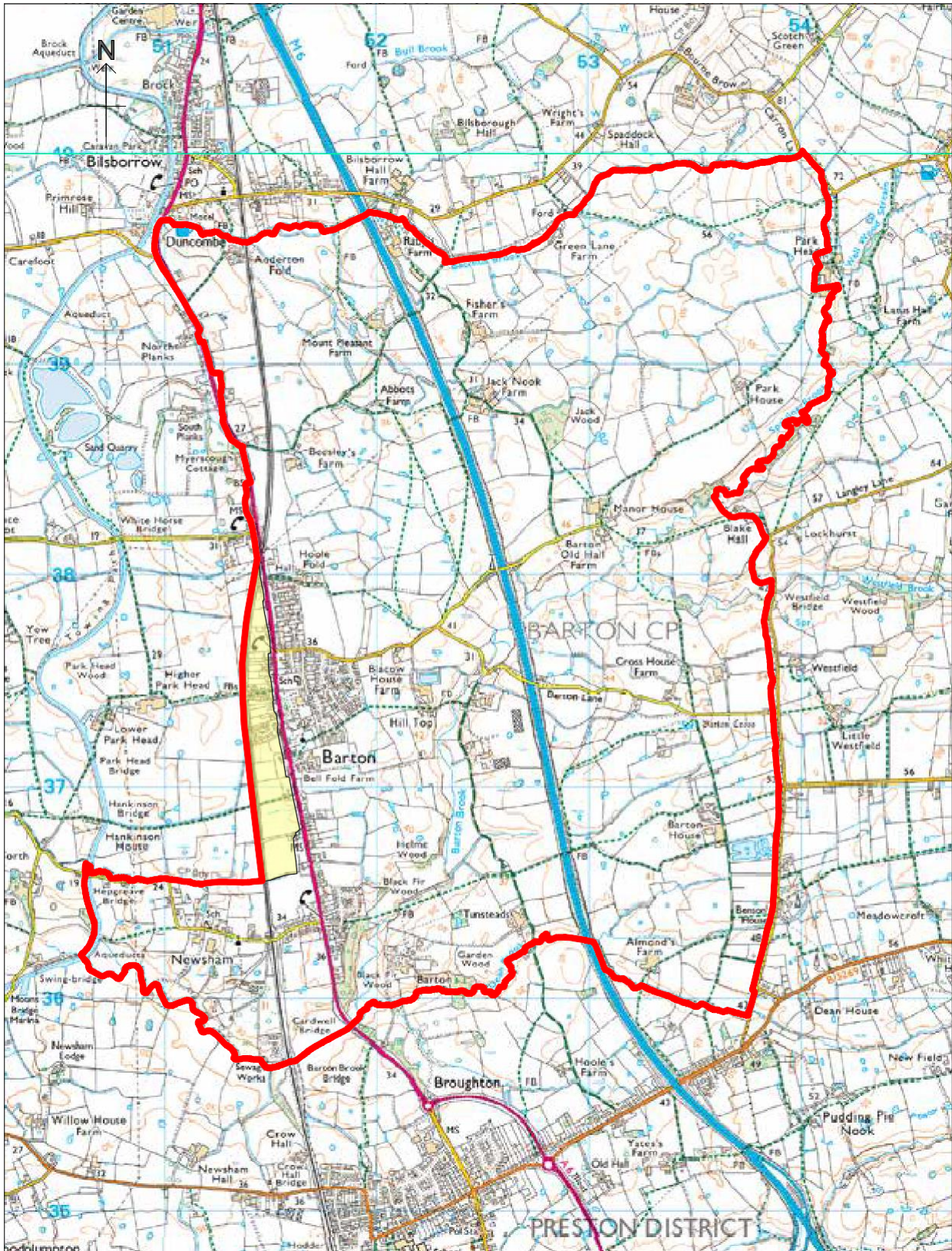
John F Parker
Chair, on behalf of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group June 2022

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced significant reforms to the planning system in England. These reforms gave local communities more say in shaping future development in their area. The most significant reform gave local Parish Councils the power to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for their area. Barton Parish Council (the whole of the Parish contained within Preston City Council) and Myerscough & Bilsborrow Parish (part of Wyre BC) decided it was essential to use this new power.
- 2.2 Jointly, the Parish Councils, as a qualifying body, applied for the whole of Barton Parish and the section of Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish, west of the A6 and east of the West Coast Mainline, to be designated as the neighbourhood planning area (Figure 1). Myerscough & Bilsborrow Parish Council delegated its neighbourhood planning function to Barton Parish Council to prepare the NP. Preston City Council and Wyre BC consulted on the application for 6 weeks and the Councils approved the area as a neighbourhood planning area on the 8th September 2017. This designation allows the local community to come together, through the preparation of this NP to set out how the future development of the area up to 2030 should be shaped.
- 2.3 Barton Parish has a population of approximately 1,150 with 460 households (Figure 1) (Barton figures only and not Wyre) and is a linear village which runs along the A6, approximately 6 miles north of Preston. It falls under the electoral ward of Preston Rural North. The small part of the area which falls within Wyre BC is to the western edge of the boundary, between the A6 and the west coast railway line.
- 2.4 The village is centred around the A6 which passes through the village close to the western edge of the boundary. Beyond the main built-up area of the village is open countryside, with the M6 cutting through the parish. To the east is the parish of Goosnargh, to the south is Broughton and an element of Whittingham with Woodplumpton to the west.
- 2.5 The Neighbourhood planning area has seen a large increase in new homes over the last five years with approximately 335 new dwellings approved, with several applications still under consideration. This figure is across both Preston City Council and Wyre BC from 2015 (refer to housing applications in appendix 2).

¹ Source ONS 2011

Barton Neighbourhood Plan Boundary



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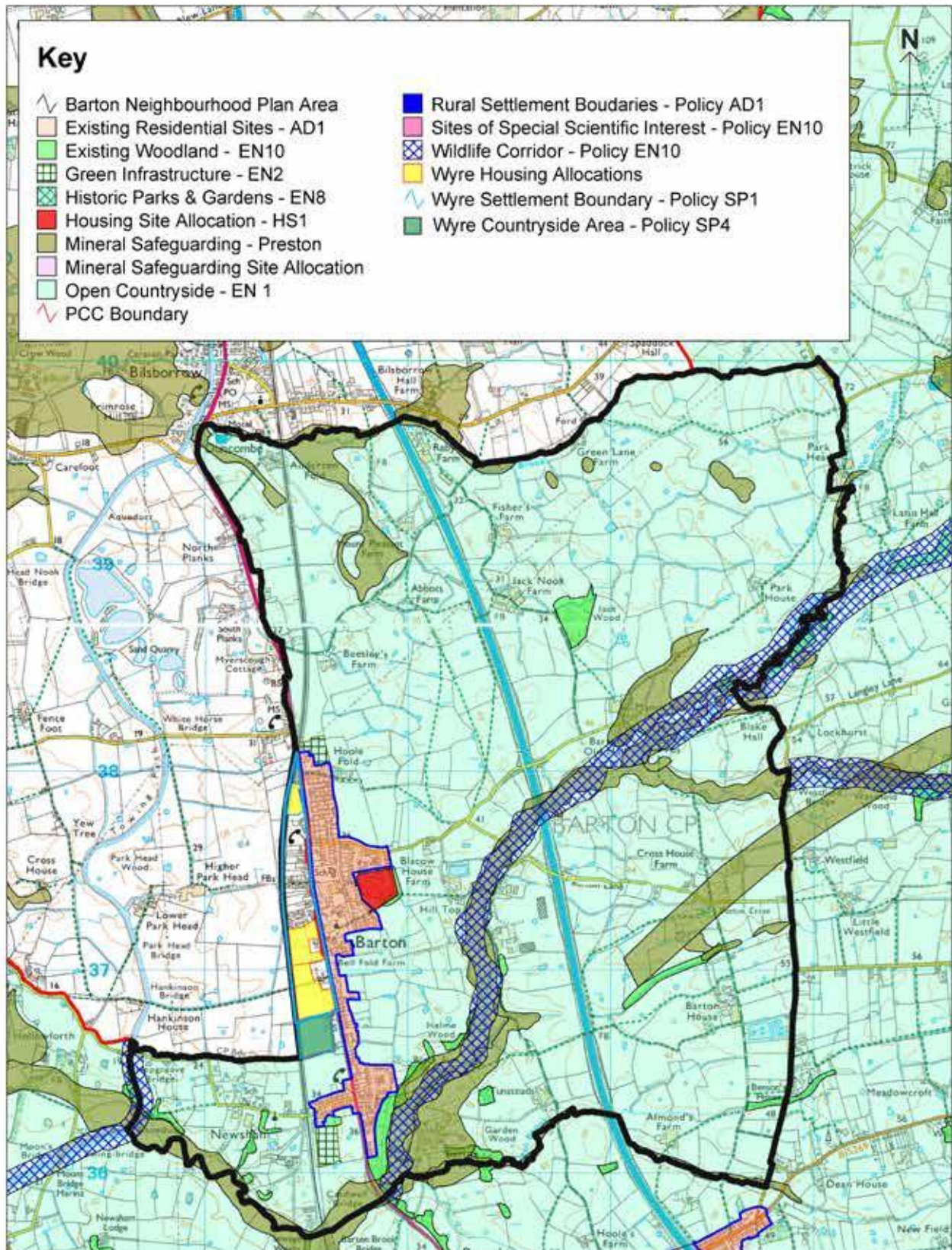


Preston
City Council

Town Hall
Lancaster Road
Preston PR1 2RL

Figure 1: The designated BNP boundary (the yellow shaded area represents that part of the NP boundary which falls within Wyre BC)

Local Plan Allocations within BNP Area



Town Hall
Preston Lancaster Road
 City Council Preston PR1 2RL

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3. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS AND PREPARATION

3.1 NP are part of the statutory development planning system. Introduced in 2011, NP give local communities, through their Parish Councils, the right to prepare a plan for their neighbourhood.

3.2 The significance of this is that when the BNP is finally 'made', it will become part of the development plan for the area. This means planning applications in the Parishes (Barton and Myerscough and Billsborrow), unless there are other material considerations, will be determined in accordance with the NP, Wyre Local Plan, Preston Local Plan and other Development Plan Documents.

The Neighbourhood Plan Process

3.3 The BNP was prepared following a procedure set down by government in The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended. The neighbourhood plan preparation process includes a number of stages. Regulation 14(a) states that a qualifying body must, "publicise in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work, or carry out business in the neighbourhood area". The Regulation 14 consultation was carried out in 2020 over a six week period.

3.4 The Parish Council submitted Regulation 15 to Preston City Council (PCC) in November 2022. PCC ran a further 6 week public consultation period from January - March 2023. Jointly PCC and the Parish Council appointed an independent examiner who was presented with comments from the Regulation 16 consultation and all other submission documents.

3.5 At the examination the examiner will assess whether the plan meets the basic conditions of paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B of Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is something all neighbourhood plans must comply with if they are to be formally made part of the development plan. The basic conditions are met if:

3. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS AND PREPARATION

- a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
- b) having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order;
- c) having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order;
- d) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- e) The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority;
- f) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
- g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan.

3.6 If the examiner decides that the BNP is compliant then it will be subject to a local referendum. The referendum will give all registered voters in the Parish the opportunity to vote and decide if the BNP should in future be used to help determine planning applications. The final decision, therefore, rests with the people of Barton and will be by a straightforward majority of those voting in the referendum.



3. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS AND PREPARATION

BARTON CLIMATE CHANGE

- 3.7 This NP is set in the context of the ‘Climate Emergency’ declared by both Preston and Wyre Councils. Preston City Council pledged that its own activities would be net zero by 2030 and Wyre is pledging to reduce its own emissions by at least 78% by 2035.**
- 3.8 The NP seeks to reflect the new climate commitments and aims to have climate change as a central theme running through the plan.
- 3.9 The NP seeks to promote connectivity of the new and existing green spaces (green infrastructure) and water spaces (blue infrastructure) in BNP01, identifying and protecting Local Green Spaces in BNP02, promote active travel and offer safe alternative modes of transport ultimately reducing the need to travel, promoting social cohesion, health and wellbeing in policy BNP03, tighter requirements in line with the NPPF on effective surface water drainage measures including SUDS in BNP 04 and new housing to use nationally recognised housing quality standards through policy BNP05.
- 3.10 As Preston and Wyre Councils review and update policies in response to the Climate Emergency, so this NP will be reviewed.

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4.1 Early work on the NP has been moved forward by a Steering Group, which was established in 2017. The group signed up to a Terms of Reference and have an elected chair and vice chair.

- 4.2 The main public engagement on the NP began in August 2018 with a scoping questionnaire document which was sent out to residents and workers in the Parish to gather views and options from local people. Responses needed to be received back by 30th September 2018. An excellent response rate was achieved, with 241 completed questionnaires submitted by people who resided or worked in the village.
- 4.3 Some of the main findings from the questionnaire were:
- when asked to identify Barton’s assets as a village, the open nature of the village, availability of greenspace and access to the countryside were all highlighted.
 - Barton was identified as a friendly and safe environment by many of the respondents.
 - In terms of areas of concern, over 80% of respondents thought the volume of traffic in Barton was a particular issue and two thirds were concerned about the speed of traffic.
 - Two thirds of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that speeding traffic was unacceptable on the A6, Station Lane and Jepps Lane.
 - Three quarters of respondents also identified the lack of a convenience store as one of the village’s weaknesses
- 4.4 Informal public consultation on an emerging policies plan was carried out in April 2020 amid the national covid lock down restrictions.
- 4.5 Regulation 14 consultation was carried out for a 6 week period September – November 2020.
- 4.6 The Parish Council website plays a vital role in sharing information to residents, businesses and other organisations within the plan area. An updated parish website was created and all documents related to the NP are available at www.barton-pc.org.uk as well as regular updates on the Facebook page.

Date Activity	
August 2018	Scoping Questionnaire document sent to all parishioners
April 2020 - May 2020	Informal Public consultation on ‘emerging policies’ plan
Sep 2020 - November 2020	6 week consultation on Reg 14

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Strategic Environmental Assessment

4.7 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report was carried out in September 2020. This was consulted upon for a period of 5 weeks. The aim of the consultation process was to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it sought to:

Ensure the Screening is both comprehensive and sufficiently robust to support the NDP during the later stages of full public consultation

Seek advice on the completeness of the plan review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate;

Seek advice on the suitability of key sustainability issues;

Seek advice on the suitability of the sustainability objectives.

4.8 Comments on this Screening Report were invited from the three consultation bodies as required by the SEA regulations:

The three consultation bodies are as follows

- Natural England
- Historic England
- Environment Agency

The outcome of the process is that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4.9 A number of key issues came out of our survey in 2018. These were reinforced within the emerging policies draft in April 2020 and this subsequent final version.

Environmental Protection & conservation of green spaces

- Better access to green space
- Enhanced utility services (flood management & drainage – top water/foul)

Infrastructure

- A comprehensive traffic management strategy (traffic calming measures/ cycle paths/ safe crossings)
- Enhanced community facilities (Sports/Leisure/Medical/Retail)
- Enhanced public transport infrastructure
- Fibre optic broadband

Development & Planning

- Conservation of the current housing stock character within Barton village
- Visual impact & design
- Sustainable development (high % of self-build options on allocated land)
- Affordable homes for local residents
- Provision for sheltered accommodation
- Heritage and Conservation

Commercial

- Better opportunities for local businesses to grow and develop

5. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

‘Our vision is for Barton to be a safe and welcoming community that retains its identity as a village and is inclusive for all. We will achieve this by welcoming limited sustainable development that meets the needs identified by our residents, for quality and diverse affordable homes.’

5.1 Objectives

- Maintaining a friendly environment representing the character of the village.
- Creating a development plan which is sympathetic to the character of the village including appropriate infrastructure provision, respecting the needs and wishes of all residents and having climate change at the heart of all future decision making.
- Enhancement of transport links with safe traffic management and connectivity through the village, including a series of Public Rights of Way (PROWs) routes for walking and cycling.
- The promotion of Health and Wellbeing within the village by encouraging greater health care provision and outdoor exercise, including sports facilities and activities for all ages.
- The creation of a Barton information hub, allowing residents the visibility to easily access information. Where to go for help and an awareness of what is available
- Enhancing our valued community assets, such as the Village Hall, Places of Worship, King George V playing fields along with other open green spaces.
- Promotion of open green spaces and ecology within the village by encouraging and preserving a rich and diverse variety of wildlife, trees and flowers.
- Support & promotion of local businesses and community groups to achieve their full potential.

6. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

National and Strategic Planning Policy

6.1 NPs must have regard to national policies and advice and be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area. In this case the following Development Plan Documents are relevant:

- Preston Local Plan (2012 – 2026)
- Central Lancashire Core Strategy (July 2012)
- Wyre Local Plan partial review 2011 - 2031 (incorporating partial update of 2022)

6.2 It is therefore important that BNP policies reflect this higher-level planning policy framework.

6.3 National planning policy is set out in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021. The NPPF sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

6.4 The NPPF sets out the scope of policies that can be used in NPs. These can be “more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development” (paragraph 28), this can include “allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies.” More specifically for neighbourhood plans the NPPF states at paragraphs 29 and 30:

“Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies.

Once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area, where they are in conflict; unless they are superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies that are adopted subsequently.”

6. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT



- 6.5 The BNP has also been prepared by taking into account guidance in the National Planning Practice Guide (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>).
- 6.6 A full assessment of the planning policies that have been taken into account and have informed the preparation of the BNP are to be found in the Neighbourhood Planning Policy Background and Evidence Base Review which is available on the Parish Council website at: www.barton-pc.org.uk



7. BNP POLICIES



7.1 The following section of the BNP sets out the planning policies to be used alongside those in the Preston Local Plan and Wyre Local Plan. This is the real heart of the plan. Each policy is set out under the corresponding BNP objective and is accompanied by supporting evidence in a “Background/Justification” section.

Policy	Description	Page
BNP01	Green Infrastructure	18
BNP02	Local Green Spaces	21
BNP03	Active Travel	26
BNP04	Drainage and Water Management	29
BNP05	New Housing	32
BNP06	Areas of Separation	37
BNP07	Supporting Businesses	39



7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP01– GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

1. The network of paths, fields, watercourses and water features, woodland, grassland and other green infrastructure features within the parish should be maintained and enhanced for their recreational and ecological value (Refer to figure 3 showing existing GI).
2. Development proposals should seek to:
 - a) maintain this green infrastructure network and, where possible, should enhance the green infrastructure network by creating new connections and links in the network;
 - b) improving the quality and connectivity of existing green infrastructure;
 - c) introduce features that enhance the existing green infrastructure network.
3. Development that would disrupt or sever this network will not be permitted unless suitable compensatory provision can be provided to establish a new network connection within the immediate vicinity of the site.

7. BNP POLICIES

Background / Justification

7.2 Green infrastructure (GI) is the network of multi-functional green spaces and water features that delivers a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for residents and visitors. The extent of such networks can be seen on figure 3.

NPPF paragraph 179 states:

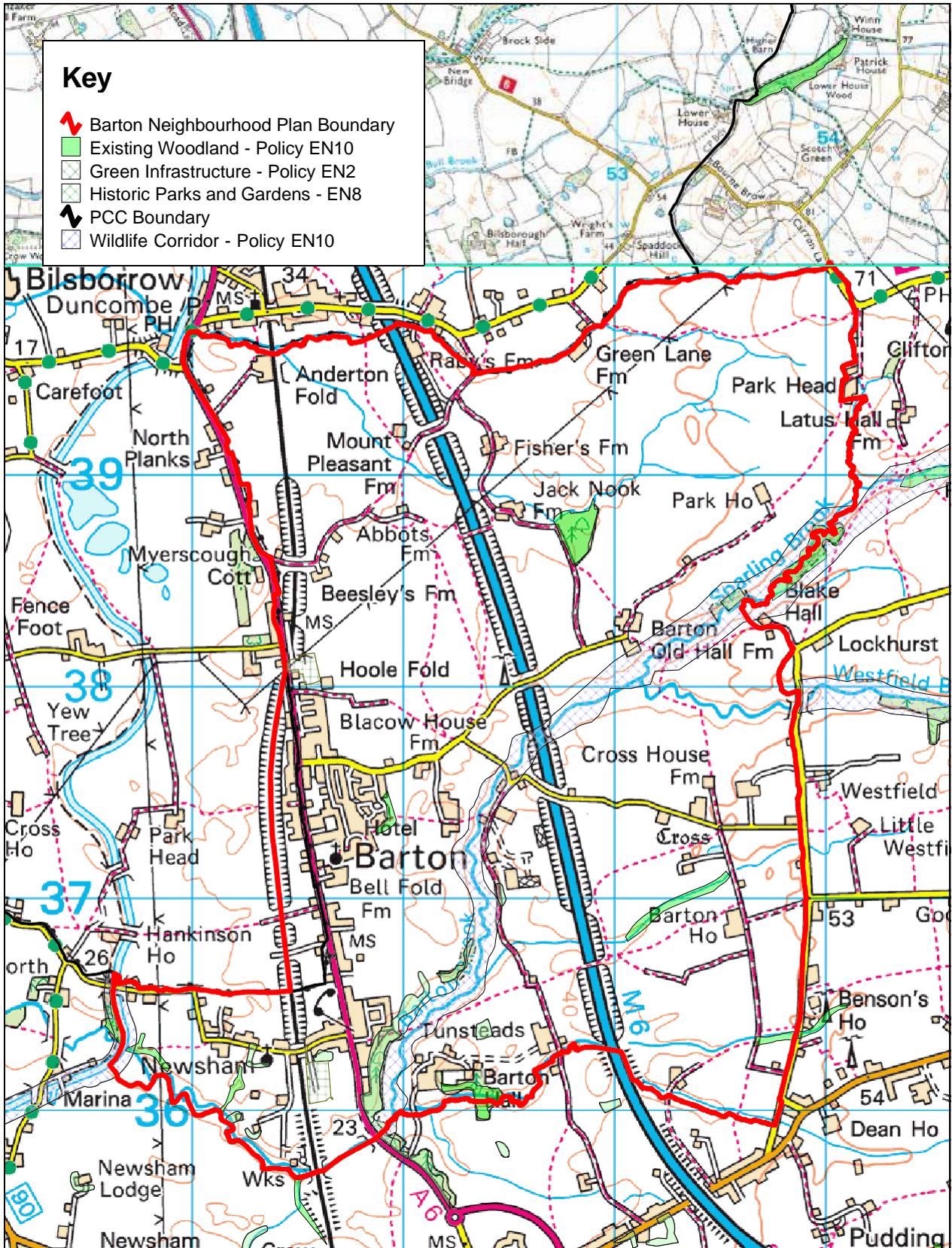
“To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

7.3 The key attribute of GI is its continuity and connectivity, linking various GI assets to create a network of natural areas that support biodiversity and enable species to move within and between habitats.

7.4 Policy BNP01 encourages a comprehensive and integrated way of planning for GI when considering site design and future management. This includes identifying and retaining existing on-site green infrastructure and the functions it performs; restoring degraded and neglected on and related off-site GI; and incorporating new GI or creating new links to the existing GI network.

Green Infrastructure Map of BNP Area



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Figure 3: Green Infrastructure

7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP02– LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The following open spaces shown on figures 5 and 6 below will be protected as local green spaces.

1. St. Lawrences School Field, Jepps Avenue.
2. Forest Grove and Jepps Avenue green space and wildlife corridor.
3. St. Lawrence’s Church Cemetery and regimental graves
4. St. Marys Church and Cemetery, Station Lane
5. King George Playing Field, Station Lane

7. BNP POLICIES

Background / Justification

7.5 The NPPF allows communities to protect significant local green spaces.

7.6 Paragraph 101 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that local communities can use the Local Green Space (LGS) designation “to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them”. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.

7.7 Paragraph 102 sets the criteria for designation of Local Green Spaces; such designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

7.8 The spaces identified in policy BNPO2 have been assessed against the criteria in National Planning Policy Framework (table figure 4 and associated maps). In total, 5 potential Local Green Spaces were assessed against the NPPF criteria for the designation as LGS.

7. BNP POLICIES

Figure 4: Local Green Space assessment table

Name of site & Ref	Distance from local community (size in ha)	Demonstrably special to a local community?	Local in Character and not an extensive tract of land?
1. St. Lawrences School Field, Jepps Avenue	In Village	Preservation of existing school playing field and amenity value as a local green space on the main road through the village.	Not extensive, a contained piece of open space enjoyed by children at school.
2. Forest Grove and Jepps Avenue green space and wildlife corridor	In Village	This space combines the local green spaces in recent developments and links with a wildlife corridor. Includes the new play area on Forest Grove.	This space already exists as green space in recent housing developments, this nomination links the existing spaces with a narrow wildlife corridor.
3. St. Lawrence's Church Cemetery and regimental graves	In Village	Existing village green space and infrastructure at threat from adjacent developments to the Boars Head public house and car park. Preservation of land as a valuable historic churchyard.	Contained piece of land which adds to the character and historic past of Barton.
4. St. Marys Church and Cemetery, Station Lane	In Village	Preservation of land surrounding St. Mary's church and cemetery and open green space between Barton and Newsham.	Contained piece of land.
5. King George Playing Field, Station Lane	In Village	Existing playground and sports facilities and the importance this provides as open green space between the settlements of Barton and Newsham.	Playground and sports facilities already exist although the sports pitch would benefit from some improvement.

Local Green Space - Barton North



Key

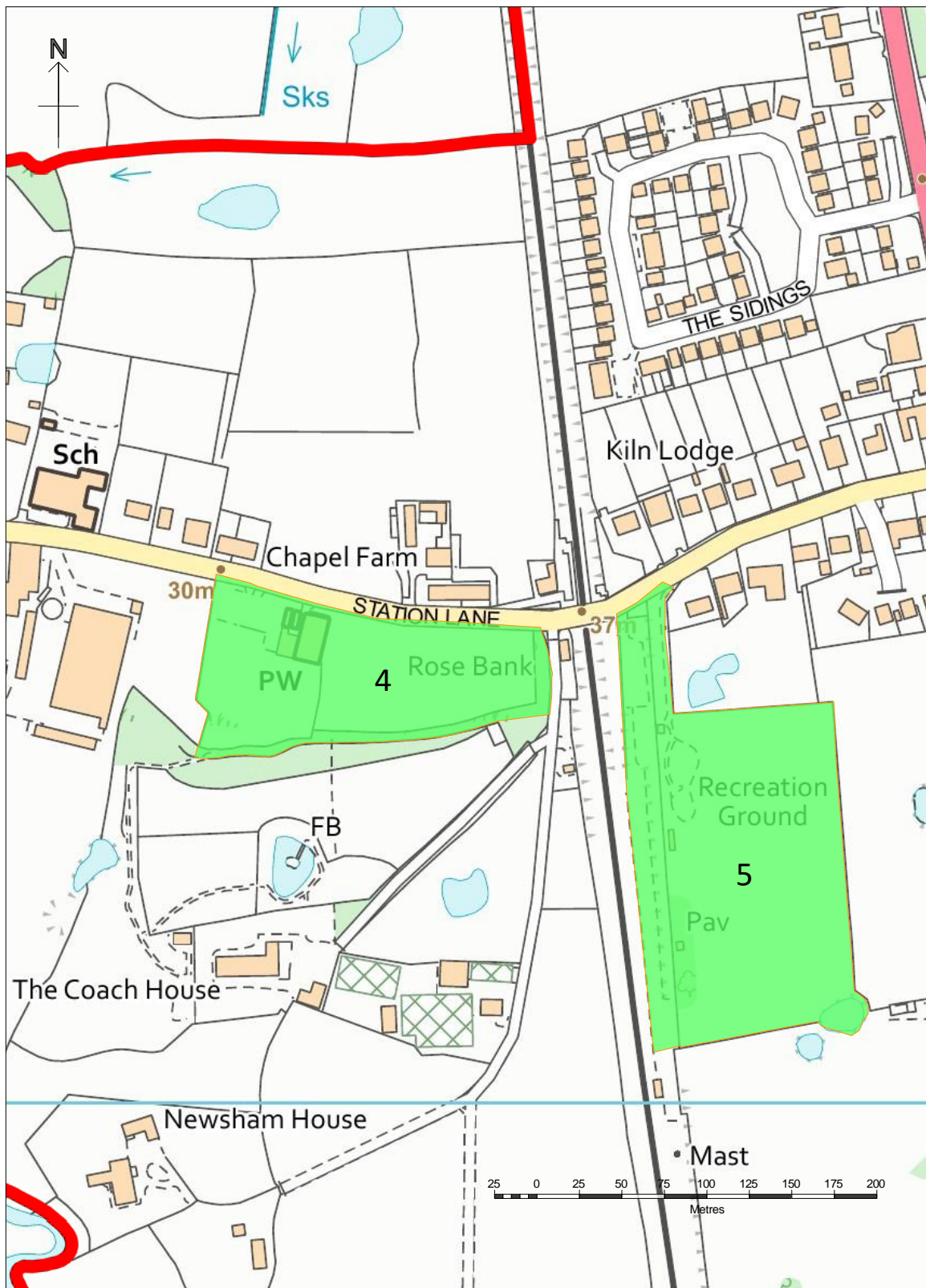
1. St. Lawrence's School Field, Jepps Avenue
2. Forest Grove and Jepps Avenue green space and wildlife corridor
3. St. Lawrence's Church Cemetery and regimental graves



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Figure 5: Local Green Spaces North Map Page 124

Local Green Space - Barton South



- Key
- 4. St. Marys Church and Cemetery, Station Lane
 - 5. King George Playing Field, Station Lane



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Figure 6 – Local Green Spaces South Map Page 125

7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP03 – ACTIVE TRAVEL

1. New development should seek to reduce reliance on the private car and increase opportunities for active travel (use of public transport, walking and cycling) by incorporating measures that improve facilities and infrastructure such as bus stops, signage and cycle storage for all users.
2. Proposals will be assessed in terms of the following:
 - Measures that seek to reduce the need to travel;
 - Measures that maximise and enhance the use of non-car and public transport use;
 - Suitable inclusion of off-street car and other vehicle parking
3. The Parish Council will work with Preston City Council, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, and other bodies as appropriate to deliver the following projects through the use of Planning Agreements (Section 106) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or successor mechanisms such as Local Infrastructure Tariff (LIT) gained through the permitting of development within the Neighbourhood Plan Area:
 - a) Improvements and new connections to existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) and bridleways will be supported as identified on figure 7.
 - b) Safe crossing points, refuge islands or Toucan crossings along the A6

The Parish Council will work with LCC Highways in making use of opportunities to support the provision of improvements to public transport, walking and cycling within the village.

7. BNP POLICIES

Background / Justification

7.9 To promote active, healthy lifestyles, a safer environment and reduce congestion and vehicle emissions, thereby improving air quality and reducing climate change impacts, Policy BNP03 seeks to reduce private vehicle use.

7.10 As part of the questionnaire in 2018, people were asked about the rights of way in and around Barton. Many respondents said they would be much more likely to cycle if the cycle lanes through Barton were improved, especially if there was a dedicated cycle track away from the traffic.

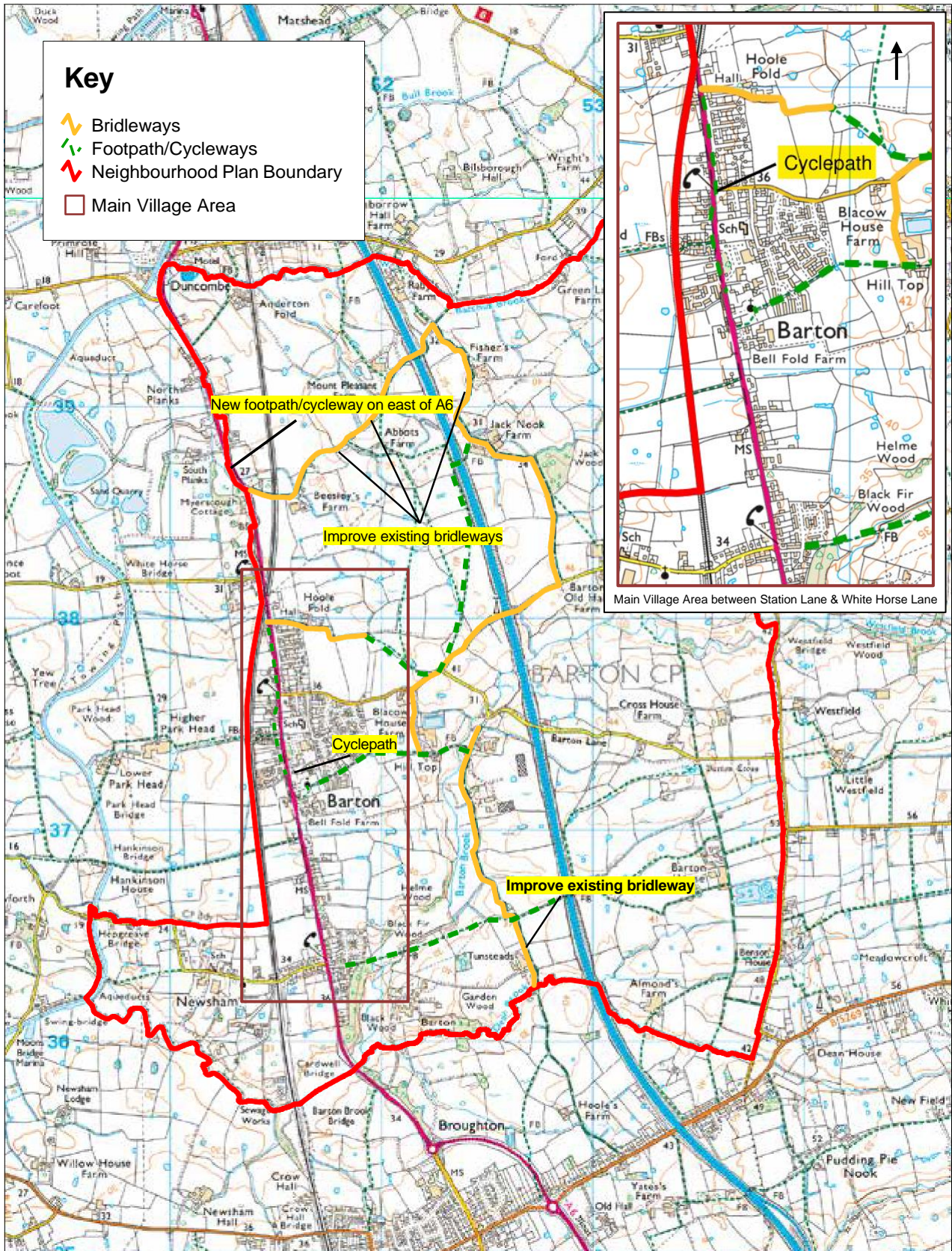
7.11 Better facilities for walking, cycling and improved public transport, allied to shared transport, can reduce the number of private car journeys both within and out of Barton.

7.12 Two thirds of respondents thought that Barton needs additional crossings and refuge islands in the village.

7.13 Many also said they would consider using public transport if there was a better bus service. Suggested improvements included: cheaper fares; buses running on time; services that ran earlier in the morning and later at night; and a quicker service to Preston Station with fewer stops. These matters relating to bus services are not something which can be taken forward as part of the formal Neighbourhood Plan but the Parish Council will pursue these as separate projects



Barton Connectivity Plan



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7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP04 – DRAINAGE AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Development proposals will be expected to make suitable provision for surface water drainage and water management which does not exacerbate surface water flooding beyond the site and takes all opportunities to provide a betterment. Developers should adhere to the hierarchy of drainage options stipulated in paragraph 056 of the PPG or any future revisions to it. In determining proposals the following will be assessed:

- a) Development proposals will be required to provide effective surface water drainage measures to protect existing and future residential areas from flooding. New development should be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on the development site and to minimise runoff. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be implemented in accordance with DEFRA Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems, paragraph 056 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and paragraph 169 of the NPPF or future versions of these documents.
- b) New developments should ensure that existing features of value in relation to drainage such hedgerows, trees and verges are retained and where possible enhanced further with Blue – Green Infrastructure which would help to promote SUDs into high quality place making which will have amenity, biodiversity and water quality benefits as well as managing surface water quantity.
- c) Flood risk should be managed during construction, and drainage should be installed at the earliest possible opportunity. Construction can expose loose materials and drainage networks downstream can be vulnerable to pollution and blockage from such materials. Applicants will be required to submit a drainage strategy. A construction drainage management plan will also be required to be submitted for all major developments and for minor developments where surface water flooding is an issue. Further guidance on pollution prevention during construction phase can be found in Chapter 31 of the CIRIA SuDS Manual C753.
- d) All surface water sustainable drainage systems should be designed to SuDS adoptable standards in accordance with The SuDS Manual and the Sewerage Sector Design and Construction Guidance. On major development sites, applicants will be required to incorporate multi-functional sustainable drainage systems that meet the “four pillars” of sustainable drainage, as set out in The SuDS Manual and Building for a Healthy Life.

7. BNP POLICIES

- Opportunities for the inclusion of treatment trains, biodiversity net gain and blue-green infrastructure in the design of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be explored.
- e) All new developments to achieve greenfield runoff values in accordance with DEFRA Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage systems;
 - f) New development should avoid and minimise culverting watercourses wherever possible and should seek to promote daylighting of culverts where possible, as well as the requirement to seek permission to alter or carry out works to a watercourse or water body from the relevant body (LCC LLFA for ordinary watercourses, Environment Agency for main rivers, Canal and Rivers Trust for any canals).
 - g) All sources of flood risk must be considered by applicants with the sequential and exceptions tests applied as necessary.
 - h) The detailed design of a site must be resilient to flood risk through, for example, finished floor and ground levels and careful consideration of flow paths from existing drainage systems and future exceedance paths;
 - i) All new residential developments must achieve, as a minimum, the optional requirement for water efficiency set through Building Regulations Requirement G2: Water Efficiency or any future updates.
 - j) Sections of the public rights of way (the use of which is deterred by poor drainage) should be identified within development proposals and work should be undertaken with landowners to agree and implement solutions to overcome these barriers to their full use and enjoyment by the local community.
 - k) In addition to the above requirements of development proposals Barton Parish Council will:
 - i) Work proactively with Lancashire County Council and statutory undertakers to achieve action where drainage problems are the consequence of damage to public drainage infrastructure.
 - ii) Actively engage with Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council consulting on planning applications to ensure the local impacts of surface water flooding are given significant weight in decision making.

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/larger-developments/wastewater/sustainable-drainage-systems/>

7. BNP POLICIES

Background / Justification

7.14 Surface water flooding is influenced by features in the landscape, particularly buildings and roads and occurs when intense rainfall overwhelms the drainage systems and there is emerging evidence that the frequency and extent of surface water flooding has increased in recent years.

7.15 Whilst the majority of BNP area appears to cope with normal levels of rainfall, there are times during extended periods of heavy rain when large areas of standing water appear and can be problematic. There are numerous locations along the roads of Barton that are affected by flooding when surface water flows from the surrounding areas.

7.16 In planning terms, the relevant Local Plan policies Preston Local Plan (2012 – 2026), Central Lancashire Core Strategy (2010-2026), Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) already contain a suite of policies addressing issues such as flood risk, flood risk assessments, surface water run-off and culverting of water courses in relation to new development. As such, Barton’s flood risk issues in this area is largely adequately addressed and there is nothing that this plan can do to strengthen these existing provisions. On the subject of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) however, the plan recognises a legitimate opportunity to add to current policy provision which has been consulted over with Lancashire Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) and United Utilities on the latest national policies, technical guidance and best practice.

7. BNP POLICIES

The Provision of Housing in Barton

7.17 As the BNP boundary takes in part of Wyre BC, then the housing position and relevant planning policies from Wyre must be considered alongside those of Preston City Council.

Wyre BC - housing position and current allocations

- 7.18 This BNP document is supported by a full policy assessment document which is available on the parish council website. The report shows that within Wyre BC there are 3 housing allocations which fall within the NDP area; SA1/23 (approval for 74 dwellings) SA1/24 (land to rear of Shepherds Farm 34 dwellings) and SA1/25 (up to 39 dwellings which has previously been withdrawn).
- 7.19 Wyre BC has recently submitted a Local Plan Partial Review to Government for Examination. The review has amended six policies and deleted one policy from the Wyre Local Plan (2011 – 2031). The examination hearing closed in September.
- 7.20 Wyre BC submitted its Local Plan Partial Update to Government for Examination in April 2022. The Examination hearing sessions closed on 28 September and following a six week public consultation on the main modifications the Inspector’s final report was received in late 2022. The Partial Update was adopted by the Full Council in January 2023.
- 7.21 The current policies in the Wyre Local Plan (2011 – 2031) that have been superseded by the adopted Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) (incorporating partial update of 2022) and that are relevant to Barton Parish include: SP1 Development Strategy; SP4 Countryside Areas; HP1 Housing Land Supply; HP3 Affordable Housing, HP4 Rural Exceptions. All other policies and site allocations remain unchanged.
- 7.22 The Inspector considered all the evidence presented to the examination and in respect of housing supply concluded that to ensure the Plan is positively prepared and consistent with national policy, a backdated requirement of 479 dwellings per annum should be factored into the housing requirement calculations between 2011 and 2018/19 and the standard method figure of 296 dwellings per annum employed from 2019/20 onwards.
- 7.23 The five year housing land supply calculation has been modified to reflect this recommendation and establishes an updated deliverable housing land supply position of 10.63 years at base date 31 March 2022.

Preston City Council - housing position and current allocations

7. BNP POLICIES

- 7.24 As allocated in Preston's Local Plan, there was one housing site within Barton HS1, off Forest Grove which has since been built out with 62 units. The other sites which have come forward within the NP are set out in appendix 1.
- 7.25 Policy 4 of the Core Strategy seeks to deliver a total of 22,158 new dwellings across the three Central Lancashire districts during the plan period of 2010-2026, which sets a requirement of 507 dwellings per annum for Preston. Up to January 2020 the Council used the Core Strategy housing requirement to assess its housing land supply. However, following continued monitoring of the situation in the period of time following publication of the revised Framework in 2018, 2019 and 2021 the Council stopped using the figure in Policy 4(a) of the Core Strategy in January 2020, as it was considered the introduction and application of the standard methodology represented a significant change in circumstances in Preston, rendering the housing requirement figure in Policy 4, as well as the evidence base which underpinned it, out of date.
- 7.26 At March 2022 the local housing need figure calculated using the standard methodology is 279 dwellings per annum. Against this figure, at March 2022 the Council can demonstrate a 14.6 year supply of deliverable housing land.
- 7.27 The Council's reliance on the standard methodology has been contested by appellants at a number of public inquiries during 2021, and on 3 February 2022 the Planning Inspectorate issued its decisions relating to six appeal sites adjacent to the village of Goosnargh, one appeal site close to Longridge and one appeal site adjacent to the village of Barton. On the specific issue of housing land supply and the calculation of it, the appeal decisions relating to sites at Goosnargh and Longridge are of particular relevance.
- 7.28 In determining the appeals the Inspector observed that:
- (i) The evidence which supported the housing requirement in Policy 4 was based on housing and demographic trends from the period 1998 – 2003 and the methodology for calculating housing need has changed materially since this time.
 - (ii) The practical implementation of the standard methodology in Preston almost halves the housing requirement for Preston when compared to that contained in Policy 4.
- 7.29 As a result the Inspector determined that a significant change in circumstances has occurred and this renders Policy 4 out of date, and that this conclusion is supported by the Framework and Planning Practice Guidance when read as a whole.

7. BNP POLICIES



- 7.30 Consequently, the Council considers that the most appropriate figure to use in assessing housing land supply is the local housing need figure of 279 dwellings per annum and not the Core Strategy Policy 4(a) figure.
- 7.31 The housing allocations in Barton (make an appropriate contribution to meeting the identified housing needs in both Council areas (Preston City and Wyre) and as such the BNP does not propose any housing site allocations. Instead, through Policy BNP05, it will support the development of small sites within the settlement boundaries which are close to and can be served by infrastructure and facilities.

7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP05 – NEW HOUSING IN BARTON

Within Barton new housing development will be supported when it is within the development boundaries for the village defined in the Preston Local Plan and Wyre Local Plan. (See Figure 2).

Most importantly all new housing development should help to contribute to an improved quality of place and community for Barton with the provision of good connectivity to the wider village and green spaces which help link development together. Proposals will be assessed against all of the following criteria a) to k):

- a) Are of good quality design supported by a robust design and access statement justifying amongst other things; layout, appearance, scale, density and most importantly how they respond to the existing rural character and built form;
- b) Safe and suitable access for all road users, with clear links to the wider highway network;
- c) Do not have an adverse impact on the Neighbourhood Development Area rural landscape;
- d) Do not have an adverse impact on existing and future residential amenity;
- e) New dwellings should be supported by capacity in physical and social infrastructure and appropriately located to allow access to local facilities and services;
- f) Should be a mixture of type and tenure catering for all members of the community;
- g) Any new on site affordable units should be ‘pepper-potted’ around the development and should have equal space standards, parking and garden space to that provided in market housing;
- h) Encourage 1 and 2 bedroom properties for the elderly to be able to downsize whilst staying within the village;

7. BNP POLICIES

- i) Not exceed 2.5 storeys in height;
- j) Opportunities are created, by applying the principles of Sport England's Active Design Guidance (or any successor document), in new housing, to enable healthy lifestyles and communities;
- k) Housebuilders are encouraged to register for assessment under the Home Quality Mark.

Infill developments in existing gardens

New dwellings should not lead to the inappropriate development of residential gardens that would cause harm to the village by reason of over-development, significant loss of useable garden spaces for both existing and proposed new properties, and loss of off-street car parking;

New housing outside development boundary

Outside of the development boundary new housing development will only be permitted for small scale affordable rural exception housing or otherwise in accordance with relevant local and national planning policies.

Minor Applications for Housing Development

All applications (including outline) for minor housing development (including infill) must be supported by drainage proposals which investigate the hierarchy for surface water management including infiltration tests. The need to maximise dwelling units on small sites will not be an acceptable reason for not including infiltration systems for the management of surface water on minor applications. Minor housing applications will be required to incorporate permeable surfaces, water butts and rain gardens for the management of surface water.

Refer to Paragraph 130, f) of the NPPF
<https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/>
<https://www.bregroup.com>

7. BNP POLICIES

Background / Justification

- 7.32 Paragraph 126 of the NPPF is clear in the Government’s aim to create ‘high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and spaces’. This is echoed in local plan policies at PCC Local Plan (EN9 Design of New Development) and Central Lancashire Core Strategy (Design Guide SPD and policy 17 Design of New Buildings). The relevant policies in the Wyre Local Plan being CDMP3 Design. Whilst this suite of policies supports and champions good design, it was important for the BNP to contain policy direction of its own, especially the importance of designing new homes that respect its rural character.
- 7.33 Early consultation on the BNP raised concerns over the volume and speed of traffic through the village. This informed one of the key objectives of the BNP with the enhancement of transport links with safe traffic management and connectivity through the village. As the village is linear in nature, the parish needs safe and accessible pedestrian links through and out of the new housing developments. See linking Policy BNPO3 Active Travel.
- 7.34 Barton is a rural village and whilst the majority of housing is concentrated on and off the A6, there is a strong connection to the surrounding open countryside. The NP designated area lies within National Character Areas (NCA) 32 and 33. NCA 32 marks the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain which stretches east to Morcombe Bay. This area consists of low lying landscape types, lowland farming and productive coastal plains in contrast to NCA 33 Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill. Glimpses of the Bowland Fells can be viewed from the NP area from locations such as Jepps Lane, and serves as a reminder of the wider rural landscape and the importance this has to Barton.
- 7.35 An appropriate level of new housing in the form of smaller windfall sites is important for the village. This needs to be balanced with the resources to public providers of infrastructure which are already under pressure and it is important that the most effective use is made of those resources available. For example, earlier consultation responses identified a lack of a convenience store as being a weakness and access to medical facilities.
- 7.36 Paragraph 45 of National Planning Practice Guidance allows neighbourhood plans the scope to consider what infrastructure needs to be provided in their neighbourhood area. This element of Policy BNPO5 seeks to ensure that where additional infrastructure is needed to enable sustainable development to take place in Barton, it is identified and incorporated in proposals. To meet current and future emerging demands, the Parish Council, working with PCC and WBC and other partners, are keen to ensure that there is a strategic approach to commissioning new services and facilities for Barton. Reference will be made to PCC and WBC Infrastructure Delivery Schedules as appropriate.
- 7.37 New housing developments should offer a range of housing sizes, types, and tenures to meet identified local needs, including provision for vulnerable communities such as older people and people with disabilities.

7. BNP POLICIES

Developers should engage with PCC and WBC at an early stage to establish the most up to date evidence base documents regarding Housing Need and to address what is required in developing future applications.

- 7.38 Barton recognises the importance of not only creating a mix of type of properties but also tenures with a proportion of affordable housing where required. It is key that affordable units are located evenly around a site (i.e. not all clustered together) and should not be distinguishable from any of the market houses in terms of materials or architectural style.
- 7.39 There is a greater proportion of larger 3 and 4 + bedroom homes in the village, but there is a recognised older population who wish to have the option of staying within the village and being able to downsize. This was recognised in the early work on the NP in the form of a detailed questionnaire in 2019 which reported that there should be a choice for existing residents to downsize and stay in the village.
- 7.40 Barton is a rural settlement, and its sense of place and character is influenced by its surrounding open countryside. Whilst the BNP recognises the need for effective use of land, it is important that the surrounding context is reflected in the design of new dwellings. For this reason it is important for the village that no development exceeds 2.5 storeys. It is considered that anything greater than this will be much too urban and would not be sensitive to and respect the rural character.
- 7.41 Home Quality Mark (HQM) helps house builders to demonstrate the high quality of their homes and to differentiate them in the marketplace. At the same time, it gives householders the confidence that the new homes they are choosing to buy, or rent are well designed and built, and cost effective to run. HQM are based on the latest scientific research into issues such as energy and water efficiency, effective insulation, noise reduction, lighting and air quality and the wellbeing of occupants, along with wider environmental issues such as climate change and carbon reduction.
- 7.42 It is important for the village that the any new housing development is sustainable and is built to the highest possible standards and it is considered that the HQM would be beneficial to future housing schemes in the village.
- 7.43 Sport England's Active Design focuses on increasing physical activity throughout the built and natural environment supporting physical activity and enabling people to build long term active habits and behaviours. The Design focuses on 10 key principles, and these link to local and national planning policies and are referred to in Policy BNP05.
- 7.44 One of the key objectives of the BNP is the promotion of health and well being within the village by encouraging greater health care provision and outdoor exercise, including sports facilities and activities for all ages. Other objectives such as enhancement of transport links and promotion of open spaces play a key role in achieving this part of the housing policy requirement. See linking policies BNP 01, 02 and 03 which all seek to improve and enhance safe connecting routes within the village.

7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP06 – AREAS OF SEPARATION

Development will not be permitted within the Areas of Separation as defined on Figure 8, if individually or cumulatively it would result in increasing the coalescence between Barton and Bilsborrow to the north and Barton and Broughton to the south of the BNP area.

All forms of development outside the main settlement boundary and within an Area of Separation will also need to meet policy EN1 of the Preston Local Plan or whatever policy supersedes it together with the NPPF policy on development within the Open Countryside.

Background / Justification

- 7.45 The village is very linear in its character following the A6 with development concentrating more to the east of the village, being constrained to the west by the West Coast main railway line. To the north of the village is Bilsborrow, a separate village which falls under the Wyre Council. To the south is the village of Broughton which shares a closer relationship with the edge of the main built-up area of Preston.**
- 7.46 The nature of Barton as a linear village means that the pressures for development are largely to the north and to the south. The Parish Council and the community are concerned that these pressures if continued will result in further change to Barton's character and erosion of its sense of place and inevitably, if unchecked, result in the coalescence of 3 villages and the loss of countryside setting between each of them.
- 7.47 Whilst the BNP Steering Group are well aware of the existing Preston Local Plan Policy EN1 controlling development in the countryside it is considered that a complementary policy is required relative to Barton which will work with Policy EN1 to specifically safeguard against coalescence between Barton and Broughton to the south and Barton and Bilsborrow to the north.
- 7.48 The policy applies to a northern and southern Area of Separation. The original proposed Areas have been subject to several changes over the course of preparing the Plan.

7. BNP POLICIES



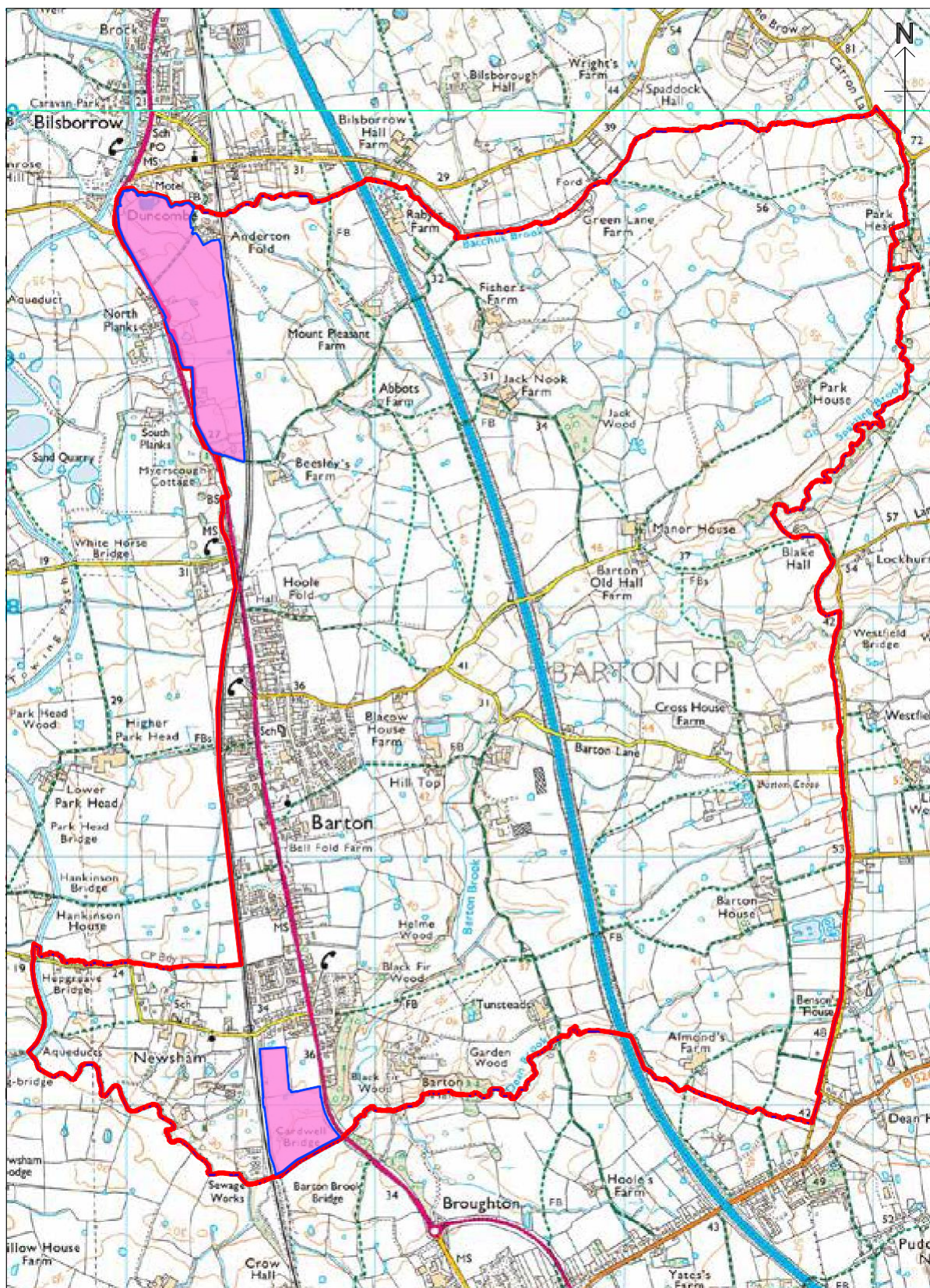
7.49 Northern Area

At the pre-submission draft stage of the plan the Northern Area of Separation extended from the M6 in the east across to the A6. However, as a result of consultation and the fact that the area between the M6 and the West Coast mainline was considered to be largely landlocked it was considered appropriate to reduce the area further, focussing on the land from the A6 east to the line of the West Coast Mainline as the area where development would most likely result in coalescence with Bilsborrow and a consequent erosion of the character of Barton as an independent settlement in its countryside setting.

7.50 Southern Area

At the Pre-Submission Draft stage of the Plan the southern Area of Separation extended across the southern boundary of the neighbourhood area east and west of the A6 and as far east as the M6. As a result of consultation, it was considered appropriate to further reduce the southern area given that a large section east of the A6 was occupied by Barton Hall. The protection afforded by the Area of Separation could limit the potential for Barton Hall's expansion as an existing employment site and prevent it from growing and developing as a local business which would be contrary to the objectives of the neighbourhood plan. As the topography and physical features of Barton Brook and Black Fir Wood constrain the land immediately east of the A6 it was decided to limit the Area of Separation to the west side of the A6 where again development was more likely to result in further coalescence with Broughton.

Areas of Separation for BNP Area



- Area of Separation
- BNP Area



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Figure 8. Area of Separation Plan Page 141

7. BNP POLICIES

POLICY BNP07– SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

1. The expansion of existing businesses and new business development within the BNP area will be supported where the proposal conforms with national guidance and local policies and specifically:
 - a) Includes satisfactory means of access to the site and adequate parking including cycle storage and low vehicle emission charging points
 - b) Does not have a detrimental impact on the amenities of neighbouring uses
 - c) The development is appropriate in terms of size, scale, design and character, to its locality

7. BNP POLICIES

Background / Justification

7.51 The objective of this policy is to provide guidance and support to allow business within the village to grow in a structured manner which reflects the needs of both business and residents.

7.52 Barton is well known for being home to a number of small and medium successful businesses, many of which are family owned and run. Some of the existing businesses include (this list is not exhaustive)

Gavin Jones Limited	The A6 Jaguar Garage
Barton Manor Hotel	Barton Bangla restaurant
JJ Sandhams Cheese	Barton Chinese Takeaway
The Kopper Kettle	Barton Car Sales & A6 Garage
Tangled Hair Room	Brooks Gelato
Simply Puds	Bentham Developments Ltd
The Pickled Goose Restaurant	Garden Centre Plants

7.53 Supporting the future of these businesses is important for the sustainability of the neighbourhood plan area as well as attracting new businesses. Policy BNP07 sets out the basis on which development will be acceptable and in particular the need for workable access arrangements, that the relationship to neighbouring uses has been carefully considered and that the scale and design reflects the surrounding context.

7.54 To assist in supporting new and existing businesses in the neighbourhood area Barton Parish Council proposes to set up a register of businesses within a Barton Community Hub to allow greater visibility to business and the local economy and provide networking potential in the neighbourhood area.

8. MONITORING & REVIEW

8.1 Barton Parish Council will regularly monitor progress in implementing the BNP. When new issues are identified, policies are found to be out of date or in need of change (for example due to changing national or strategic planning policy), the Parish Council, in consultation with Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council, may decide to update part or all of the plan. In carrying out any review of the neighbourhood plan Barton Parish Council will follow the regulations and advice relating to the review of neighbourhood plans applicable at the time.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Recent planning approvals within the BNP boundary

Planning Ref	Address	Units	Decision
06/2020/0485	Inglemere, Station Lane,	5	Full application, Approval - 28/07/2020
06/2022/0332	Land opposite The Old School House, Garstang Road	1	Reserved matters application - Approved - 26/07/2022
06/2021/0503	Boggart House Farm, Station Lane,	1	Full application, Refused - 24/06/2021
06/2021/0542	Land to the rear of the (former) Boars Head Inn, Garstang Road	5	Full application - Approved - 21/10/2021
06/2021/0587	Garden Centre Plants Ltd , Barton Lane	4	Permission in Principle - Refused - 08/06/2021
06/2021/1074	Reserved matters consent application for the erection of 55no. dwellings with associated works pursuant to planning permission 06/2018/0238 (appearance, layout, scale and landscaping applied for)	55	Reserved matters application - Approved - 09/12/2021
06/2022/0363	Boggart House Farm, Station Lane, Preston, PR3 5DY	2	Full application - Approved - 14/06/2022
06/2022/0644	Land at Cardwell Farm, Garstang Road, Preston	"Full App: 47 Outline App: 104"	HYBRID: Full & Outline - Decision Awaited
06/2020/0614	Land at Cardwells Farm, Garstang Road- resubmission	151	Refused
06/2020/0167	Land off Garstang Rd Wainhomes	68 Affordable	Approved 21/2/2020
06/2020/0397	Land adjacent, Kiln Lodge , Station Lane	1	Approved 24/9/2020
06/2020/0367	639 Garstang Road, Preston, (Kopper Kettle)	5	Outline approved 9/6/20
06/2020/0140	Former Boars Head Inn, 724 Garstang Road	2	Conversion of former public house including demolition of existing extension to form 2 new dwellings Approved 16/6/20
06/2019/1407	Former Boars Head Inn, 724 Garstang Road.	8	Planning in Principle Approved 16/6/20
06/2019/0866	Jepps Lane (Story Homes)	125	Refused 6/3/20
06/2019/1305	Brookside Cottage, Barton Lane	1	Approved 14/01/2020
06/2019/1244	Land off Garstang Road, Garstang Road, Bilsborrow (Seddon Homes)	105	Refused 7/2/20
06/2019/0782	Brookview House, Barton Lane	1	Approved 15/8/19

APPENDICES

Planning Ref	Address	Units	Decision
06/2019/0752	Land at Cardwell Farm, Garstang Road	151	Refused 6/3/20
06/2019/0595	Burrow House, Barton Hall , Garstang Road	5	Approved 5/9/19
06/2019/0274	Land at Station Lane, Preston	1	Refused 29/10/19
06/2019/0203	Land off Garstang Road and south of Station Lane, Barton	45	Reserved Matters Refused 10/9/19
06/2019/0090 (Outline)	Land opposite The Old School House	1	Approved 16/4/19
06/2019/0075	Barton Old Hall Farm , Jepps Lane,	1	Approved 19/3/19
06/2019/0057 Change of use	The Old School, 730 Garstang Road,	1	Approved 18/4/19
06/2018/1360	Brookside Cottage , Barton Lane	1	Approved 12/2/19
06/2018/0954	Anderton Fold Farm, 980 Garstang Road,	2	Approved 15/1/19
06/2018/0588	Brookview House , Barton Lane,	1	Approved 23/8/18
06/2018/0242	Land off Garstang Road, Preston (Wainhomes)	45	Outline 21/12/18
19/01020/REM MAJ & 21/00554/FUL	Land off Garstang Road, Barton, PR3 5DQ,	74 (Wyre)	Approved 20/01/20 & 10/02/22. Development commenced.
06/2018/0238	Cardwells Farm, Garstang Road,	55	Outline approval 18/9/18
06/2018/0224	Land at Garstang Road,	2	Approved 1/5/18
06/2016/0626	Inglemere, Station Lane,	5	Approved
15/00072/FUL	The Linnets, Garstang Road	29 (Wyre)	Approved and Completed
06/2015/0306	Land at Garstang Road, (The Sidings Wainhomes)	72	Allowed on appeal 11/8/16
18/00746/REM MAJ	Land to the Rear Of Shepherds Farm 771 Garstang Road Barton	34 (Wyre)	Approved 21.11.18. Technical commencement made.
06/2013/0837 RM 06/2012/0823 Outline	Land off Forest Grove	65	Approved Appeal allowed 13/8/13
18/00926/FUL and 19/00770/FUL	Shepherds Farm, 771 Garstang Road, Bilsborrow	1	Approved 14/11/18 and 17/09/19. Sub division of single dwelling to 2 dwellings (net gain of 1 dwelling). 19/00770/FUL Completed in 2020.

BARTON GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adoption – The final confirmation of a development plan by a local planning authority.

Conformity - There is a requirement for neighbourhood plans to have appropriate regard to national policy and to be in conformity with local policy

Development Plan - Includes the adopted Preston Local Plan (2012 – 2026), Central Lancashire Core Strategy (July 2012) Wyre Local Plan (2011 - 31) (incorporating partial update of 2022) and any future adopted Local Plan which may replace these, and Neighbourhood Development Plans which are used to determine planning applications.

Evidence base - The background information that any Development Plan Document is based on and is made up of studies on specific issues, such as housing need for example.

Green Infrastructure - A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.

Green-space - Those parts of an area which are occupied by natural open space, parkland, woodland, sports fields, gardens, allotments and the like.

Independent Examination - An assessment of a proposed Neighbourhood Plan carried out by an independent person to consider whether a Neighbourhood Development Plan conforms with the relevant legal requirements.

Infill Development – small scale development filling a gap within an otherwise built up frontage.

Infrastructure – Basic services necessary for development to take place, for example, roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities

Legislation - The Acts of Parliament, regulations and statutory instruments which provides the legal framework within which public law is administered

Local Plan – the Plan for future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority. This forms part of the Development Plan..

BARTON GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Localism - Shifting power away from central government controls to the local level. Making services more locally accountable, devolving more power to local communities, individuals and councils.

Local Lead Flood Authority - Prepares and maintains a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas, coordinating views and activity with other local bodies and communities through public consultation and scrutiny, and delivery planning. Lancashire County Council is the LLFA for the area.

Local Planning Authority - Local government body responsible for formulating planning policies and controlling development; a district council, metropolitan council, county council, a unitary authority or national park authority. For Barton this is Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council.

Made – terminology used in neighbourhood planning to indicate a Plan has been adopted.

National Planning Policy Framework – sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The current version of the NPPF was published in February 2021.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – A plan prepared by a Town or Parish Council (or Forum) for a particular Neighbourhood Area, which includes land use topics. Once made this forms part of the Development Plan.

Previously Developed Land - Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.

Public Open Space - Open space to which the public has free access and which fulfils, or can fulfil, a recreational or non-recreational role (for example, amenity, ecological, educational, social or cultural uses).

BARTON GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Public Right of Way – Paths on which the public has a legally protected right to pass and re-pass.

Section 106 Agreement – Planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, secured by a local planning authority through negotiations with a developer to offset the public cost of permitting a development proposal

Stakeholder – People who have an interest in an organisation or process including residents, business owners and national organisations and government departments

Sustainable Communities – Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

Sustainable Development – An approach to development that aims to allow economic growth without damaging the environment or natural resources. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs..

Sustainability Appraisal – An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a Plan to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.

Urban Creep - The increasing density of development, due to the development of roads, buildings, paving over garden areas and other permeable areas which increases the impermeability of developed areas and causes rates and volumes of run off to rise.





Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	30 November 2023

Appointments to Committees, Panels and Groups
--

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To enable changes to be made to the membership of committees and other panels and groups for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 Effective arrangements to carry out the Council's non-executive decision making and advisory functions.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Councillor Rushforth of the Wyre Independent Group be appointed to the Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor Sorensen, formerly of the Wyre Independent Group.

3.2 That Councillor Rimmer of the Wyre Independent Group be appointed to the Councillor Development Group in place of Councillor Sorensen, formerly of the Wyre Independent Group.

4. Background

4.1 Following the elections in May 2023 a Wyre Independent Group was established with three members. Committee places were allocated according to the political balance calculations, in line with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act which requires that places on non-executive Committees of the Council be allocated according to specific criteria.

4.2 On 15 November 2023 Councillor Rushforth, Leader of the Wyre Independent Group, informed the Chief Executive that Councillor Sorensen was no longer a member of the Group with immediate effect in

accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 The political balance calculations have been reviewed following this change in the membership of the Wyre Independent Group, and there is no significant change. Consequently, it is proposed that the overall allocation of committee seats to the respective Groups is unaltered, as follows.

	Con	Lab	Ind
Audit & Standards Committee (12)	7	4	1
Licensing Committee (12)	7	4	1
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12)	7	5	0
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (8)	5	3	0
Planning Committee (12)	7	4	1
Employment & Appeals Committee (4)	3	1	0
Senior Officers Appointments Committee (4)	3	1	0
Senior Officers Disciplinary Committee (4)	3	1	0
	42	23	3

Councillor Development Group (12)	7	4	1
Planning Policy Working Group (12)	7	4	1

5.2 The statutory political balance rules relating to the allocation of places on committees do not have to be applied to panels and groups, although, the proposed allocations in this report do comply with those rules.

5.3 According to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989, which are expressly specified in paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, a single Member does not constitute a 'group', and any Independent unaligned Councillor is not automatically entitled to any committee seats. They can only be allocated a place (or places) if nominated by one of the groups.

5.4 The recommendations set out in Paragraph 3 reflect the changes required.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 No alternative options have been considered.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The allowance for the Wyre Independent Group Leader has been recalculated to reflect the reduction in group members by one (a reduction of £94.56 in a full year based on 2023/24 allowances). This will result in a small

	saving (part year in 2023/24 and ongoing) against the Special Responsibility allowances budget.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as referred to in section 4.2 and 5.3 of 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	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
Marianne Unwin	01253 887326	marianne.unwin@wyre.gov.uk	15.11.2024

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

List of appendices

None.

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Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	30 November 2023

Dispensation for non-attendance at council meetings: Councillor Andrea Kay

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To approve a dispensation to enable Councillor Andrea Kay to continue to act as a councillor for a specified period of time without having to attend meetings.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 To prevent Councillor Kay from being disqualified as a councillor.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Councillor Andrea Kay be granted dispensation to continue to act as a councillor without attending meetings until the Annual Meeting of Council on 16 May 2024.

4. Background

4.1 Members will be aware that Councillor Andrea Kay has suffered from ill health in recent months and has been unable to attend any meeting since a meeting of Full Council on 6 July 2023. In order to continue to be a councillor, she will need to be granted dispensation at this meeting to avoid breaching the provisions of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972. This section states that “if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of that Authority.”

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 Councillor Andrea Kay has been unable to attend meetings in recent months owing to adverse health. As a result, she has delegated particular

ward duties to neighbouring ward councillors (Councillors Amos and Rendell), who have supported and helped her during this time.

5.2 It is therefore proposed that the Council accepts that there have been valid reasons for her non-attendance at meetings and passes the necessary resolution to grant her dispensation to continue as a councillor until 16 May 2024. Hopefully Councillor Kay will be able to attend meetings again before this date. If she has not been able to do so, any extension to the dispensation for Councillor Kay will be subject to further approval at the time, in accordance with paragraph 4.1.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 That the Council refuses Councillor Andrea Kay dispensation to continue to act as a councillor without attending meetings until the Annual Meeting of Council on 16 May 2024, in which case she will cease to be a councillor with effect from 6 January 2024.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	Councillor Andrea Kay will continue to be eligible to receive Basic Allowance payments in accordance with the Council’s Members Allowances Scheme, for which there is already budget provision.
Legal	The legal issues associated with this report are detailed in paragraph 4.1 of 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	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
Marianne Unwin	01253 887326	marianne.unwin@wyre.gov.uk	25.10.2023

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

List of appendices

None.

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Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Ian Amos, Lead Member for Older People	Council	30 November 2023

Periodic report - Lead Member for Older People

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To update the Council on some of the activities I have been involved in since being appointed the Lead Member for Older People.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 The work that the lead member for older people undertakes links to the ambition to empower healthier and resilient communities.

3. Recommendation

3.1 To raise awareness of the activities of the Lead Member for older people as outlined in appendix 1.

4. Background

4.1 During the course of the year there has been a change in the lead member for older people with the new lead taking up their position in July 2023.

4.2 The lead member acts as a champion for older people in the community, if contacted they will raise any concerns with the relevant organisation.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 My work has initially focussed on an initiative to increase participation and promote, the opportunities amongst older individuals that walking football and netball provide. The walking aspect allows people of different health constraints to participate, and by participating in regular exercise improve individual's health and quality of life. The team aspect of both these sports allows people of a similar age group to mix and socialise which help combat feelings of loneliness

- 5.2** To help promote the sports a leaflet has been produced and distributed initially throughout the Cleveleys ward area with wider circulation to follow.
- 5.3** The Council's Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities Team support older people in Wyre by offering a variety of activities including Just Reminiscing, Tea Dances at Marine Hall, Harmony and Health Singing groups and Fun Arts. All these activities help to address loneliness and isolation and support the recovery of our older person community after the pandemic.
- 5.4** A key part of staying healthy as you age is keeping active and Wyre Council promote the "Great Outdoors Programme"
www.wyre.gov.uk/greatoutdoors Many of the well-being walks, cycling and activities promoted are suitable for older people to start on their fitness journey.
- 5.5** The Short Walks programme, Accessible Walks and Trampers, Gardening opportunities at both Memorial Park Fleetwood and Cottam Hall Poulton, Wyre Wheels, Low impact Exercise classes, accessible beaches and parks are all eminently suitable for older people to use and keep active.
- 5.6** Volunteering is a great way for older people to keep physically and mentally active, make friendships and feel a sense of achievement. You can volunteer for as little or as much time as you want. You can apply to become a volunteer using the following link.
- [Volunteering – Wyre Council](#)
- 5.7** The housing team administer Disabled Facilities Grants, which make homes more suitable for living in and enable older and disabled people to live more independently at home. A total of 240 homes were adapted in 2022/23. The Wyre Care and Repair service works with older and disabled clients to help keep them safe by carrying out repairs and minor adaptations that prevent accidents, such as falls. The team also supports improvements and repairs to heating systems and helps households to maximise their household incomes by conducting benefit checks
- 5.8** The team are also part of the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) which is a partnership of the 15 Local Authorities in Lancashire, offering eligible residents in the region access to free first time central heating, gas connections, affordable heating solutions, energy advice and support on a range of money saving energy measures to help keep homes warm and save money.
- 5.9** Rhea Energy manage the CHiL scheme and the Administration Hub on behalf of the Lancashire Local Authorities.

The Lancashire Authorities have recently secured Green Homes Grant (Home Upgrade Grant) from Central Government which is available to owner-occupiers and tenants and will cover the cost of larger insulation measures and renewable heating technologies. It is only available to properties which do not have gas central heating at the present time.

View the full range of energy measures available via the following link <https://www.chil.uk.com/>

- 5.10** The Council are also encouraging the building of suitable homes for older people as part of the planning process.

Policy HP2 of the Local Plan adopted in 2019 requires that:

- a). New housing development will be required to widen the choice of housing types available in Wyre.
- b). Proposed developments should provide an appropriate mix in terms of size, type, tenure of housing, to meet identified housing need and local market demand that accords with the most up-to-date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Rural Affordable Housing Needs Survey.
- c). In order to help meet the needs of an ageing population and people with restricted mobility, at least 20% of dwellings within developments of 20 dwellings and above should be of a design suitable or adaptable for older people and people with restricted mobility. Where housing for older people and people with restricted mobility is provided as part of a Wyre Local Plan (2011 – 2031) larger scheme, this should, where appropriate, be located within the scheme in the most accessible location for services and facilities.

- 5.11** Older people may qualify for an assisted bin collection service if they have mobility or health problems and there is no one else in the home who can put the bins out. An application form must be completed and if the application is successful your address will be added to our assisted collections list and shared with contractors. A home visit may be required to confirm your circumstances. On your normal collection day the crew will collect the bin or sack, empty it and return it to where they found it.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** The lead member is appointed by the Leader of the Council and no other options have been considered at this point.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report
Legal	None arising directly from this report

Climate Change	None arising directly from this report
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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	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.

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

List of appendices

None.