



## Cabinet Agenda

Wyre Borough Council  
Date of Publication: 11 October 2016  
Please ask for : Duncan Jowitt  
Democratic Services and Councillor  
Development Officer  
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**Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 19 October 2016 at 6.00 pm  
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde**

**1. Apologies for absence**

**2. Declarations of interest**

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

**3. Confirmation of minutes**

(Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 September 2016.

**4. Public questions**

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

Public questions can be delivered in writing to Democratic Services or sent by email to: [publicquestions@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:publicquestions@wyre.gov.uk). Public questions for this meeting must be received by noon on Thursday 13 October 2016. Questioners should provide their name and address and indicate to which Cabinet member the question is to be directed.

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

**5. Together we make a difference in Wyre**

(Pages 5 - 8)

Report of the Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder and the Service Director Performance and Innovation.

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## Cabinet

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday 7 September 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

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### **Cabinet members present:**

Councillor Peter Gibson (Leader of the Council)  
Councillor Roger Berry (Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Lynne Bowen (Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor David Henderson (Street Scene, Parks & Open Spaces Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Pete Murphy (Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Vivien Taylor (Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Alan Vincent (Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader)

### **Apologies:**

None

### **Officers present:**

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)  
Mark Broadhurst (Service Director Health and Wellbeing)  
Marianne Hesketh (Service Director Performance and Innovation)  
Paul Harrison (Deputy Head of Finance)  
Duncan Jowitt (Democratic Services Officer)

### **Apologies:**

Mark Billington (Service Director People and Places)

### **Non-members of the Cabinet present:**

Councillor Matthew Vincent (Chairman of the Libraries Task Group)

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

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**CAB.06 Declarations of Interest**

None

**CAB.07 Minutes**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

**CAB.08 Public Questions**

None.

**CAB.09 Lancashire County Council Property Strategy - consultation response**

The Chairman of the Libraries Task Group and Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report seeking the Cabinet's formal endorsement of the Libraries Task Group's response to Lancashire County Council (LCC)'s property strategy consultation, with specific reference to the proposed closure of three libraries in Wyre.

Cllr Matthew Vincent said that following Wyre's response, LCC had already decided to make no changes to the proposals originally set out in the consultation. He informed Cabinet that the task group had effectively been prevented from seeking the views of the public as it would have wished, due to the short timescale that LCC had given for a response to the proposals and that the group had also been unhappy that libraries staff had been issued with instructions to refrain from any discussion about the closures.

The Resources Portfolio Holder asked whether the entire task group had been unanimously in support of the response and Cllr Matthew Vincent informed him that the Labour members of the task group had voted against it.

The Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder thanked the members of the task group for their work and censured LCC's decision to leave the proposals largely unaltered despite all the responses it had received to the consultation. Cabinet echoed Cllr V. Taylor's thanks to the task group

**Decision taken**

Cabinet formally endorsed the response which had been submitted to Lancashire County Council by the task group in time for the consultation deadline on 14 August 2016.

## **CAB.10 Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2016**

The Leader of the Council and Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report asking Cabinet to consider the Annual Review letter from the Local Government Ombudsman for 2015/16, which was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Leader praised the staff of Wyre stating that it was a great tribute to them that only 12 complaints had been made and that none had been upheld, whilst by way of comparison, Lancashire County Council in the same period had received over 150 complaints of which 33 had been upheld. The Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder stated that this endorsed how hard and diligently Wyre's staff worked and suggested that other authorities might learn from them.

### **Decision taken**

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

## **CAB.11 Capital Programme Review and Monitoring Report**

The Resources Portfolio Holder and Head of Finance submitted a report asking Cabinet to consider the summary of the Spending Officers' (April to end June 2016) review of the 2016/17 Capital Budget and its impact on the Capital Programme thereafter.

### **Decision taken**

Cabinet agreed that the Capital Programme and its funding be updated to reflect the changes indicated in the report and that the impact on the Revenue Budget be reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan and future revisions of the Revenue Estimates.

## **CAB.12 Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20**

The Resources Portfolio Holder and Head of Finance submitted a report asking Cabinet to consider the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the financial years 2016/17 to 2019/20.

### **Decision taken**

Cabinet

- approved the Medium Term Financial Plan and the consequential action required in order to address the issues resulting from the 3 year Financial Forecast;

- noted the revised expenditure projections incorporating the slippage from 2015/16, and the resulting impact on the level of the Council's Reserves and Balances at 31st March 2016
- agreed the top-up and use of all Reserves and Balances as indicated in Appendix 4 to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

### **CAB.13 Neighbourhood Planning Delegation Arrangements**

Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive submitted a report requesting that Cabinet consider a scheme of delegation for Neighbourhood Planning.

#### **Decision taken**

Cabinet approved the delegations in relation to the various stages of the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and a Neighbourhood Development Order, set out in Appendix A of the report and agreed that Part 7.02 of the Council's Constitution (Scheme of Delegation) be updated accordingly.

The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 6.09pm.

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**Date of Publication:** 8 September 2016

#### **Options considered but rejected**

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

#### **When will these decisions be implemented?**

All decisions will be put into effect five working days from the date of publication, unless a decision is "called-in" by any four Members of the council within that period. The "call-in" procedure is set out in [Part 4 of the Council's Constitution](#) (Paragraph 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules). If a decision is "called-in", the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may decide that the original decision should be upheld or ask Cabinet to reconsider the decision.

arm/ex/cab/mi/16/0709



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
Councillor Vivien Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Engagement and Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Cabinet	19 October 2016	5

**Together we make a difference in Wyre**

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the findings and recommendations following a review of the Council's 'Shaping Your Neighbourhood' (SYN) approach.
- 1.2 To outline a new approach to neighbourhood engagement for the Council.

## 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Improved community ownership and a shared responsibility for improving our neighbourhoods.
- 2.2 To support Elected Members and Parish and Town Councils to improve neighbourhoods through empowering communities and encouraging active citizenship.

## 3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 That Cabinet agree to disestablish the SYN programme including all grant functions and the Lead Member role.
- 3.2 That a new approach to neighbourhood engagement in Wyre be agreed as outlined in this report, which provides sustainable, cohesive and place based solutions to resolve identified community priorities.
- 3.3 That community development and engagement technique training is provided for all Elected Members.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1** In April 2012, the Council agreed the SYN initiative. The purpose of the project was for Members to engage better with communities so that local people were more involved in shaping future service delivery to meet local needs and priorities. Wyre was split into 6 areas – Fleetwood, Cleveleys, Thornton, Poulton, Rural West and Rural East.
- 4.2** The initiative was led by six neighbourhood lead Members who were responsible for engaging with local Parish and Town Councils, resident and community groups and business groups. The focus was intended to be around allocation of funding to deliver community projects which addressed local needs and priorities.
- 4.3** Over the last few months, a review of SYN has been undertaken. As part of the review, all lead Members, Town and Parish Councils and relevant Heads of Service were interviewed and asked for feedback. All existing reports, relevant performance measures and all related overview and scrutiny papers were also reviewed.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

### **5.1 SYN review findings**

During the review a number of issues were revealed:

SYN has been highly regarded by Elected Members and project beneficiaries and had a positive reputational impact for the Council across the borough.

Partnership working had not been central to projects funded through SYN and this encompassed working with internal and external services and the identification and delivery of projects.

£521,978 has been spent over the life of SYN to date and key officers dedicated significant time to facilitating meetings, project managing and reporting on the programme. In addition to this, considerable time was spent by support services for example to monitor budgets and facilitate payments, councillor engagement and public relations.

SYN has in the main worked well and rewarded community spirit and innovation. However this was linked to SYN being a grant programme rather than a tool for long-term and meaningful community development and engagement.

Whilst the funded projects have been well received by the community, the funding has perhaps not, in most cases, been used to tackle long standing community issues and producing sustainable results. However there is some valuable learning from a number of projects such as the Willow Garden and Cook & Eat projects both of which have had a significant impact in their local communities.



The programme looked at an interest base in the community. This meant match funding and partner interest was not consistent.

Some Elected Members felt that they already undertook the role of developing their community as part of being a councillor and that the lead Member role was confusing.

It was widely felt that funding decisions had not been made in an open forum and had excluded both Borough and Town and Parish Councillors.

## **5.2 Recommendations from review**

Based on the issues which have been highlighted as a result of the review, the following recommendations are proposed to ensure that the council has a mechanism in place to effectively engage with communities in Wyre to resolve identified community priorities:

- SYN to be disestablished in its current format including the lead member role and areas. Any outstanding grant funded projects to be completed by March 2017.
  
- SYN to be replaced with a more collaborative approach which provides sustainable, cohesive and place based solutions to resolve identified community priorities. A 'Together we make a difference' network will be established to oversee the delivery of the approach and membership of the network will include relevant Wyre Council officers, partner agencies and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Engagement. This network will not be a formal board but instead members will be brought together as and when necessary and would be dependent on the current issues.
  
- The 'Together we make a difference' network will be led by the Policy & Engagement manager and will operate with the following remit:
  - To co-ordinate community action on community priorities;
  - To accept areas of work through a referral process open to all Wyre Council officers, elected members and partners;
  - To oversee council led community development work to establish community priorities.
  
- To establish a place based community development referral process for community concerns and issues with a lead community development officer in the following role:
  - Receive and investigate the validity of referrals;
  - To work up and evidence any referrals received;
  - Identify any resources that may be needed and liaise with the external funding team accordingly;
  - Present referrals to the network for discussion, decision and project planning;
  - Plan and project manage subsequent agreed projects.

- To establish a programme of community development and engagement support for Elected Members:
  - Plan and deliver bespoke training for Members on developing community projects;
  - Supporting Members to use digital engagement methods such as social media.

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	There are no immediate financial implications to this report. However it is proposed that any Performance Reward Grant (PRG) remaining from the SYN programme, be made available in order to resource community activity as required and evidenced by the appropriate officers. This would be a one-off allocation with no facility for ongoing support.
Legal	There are no legal 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	✓
equality and diversity	✓
sustainability	X
health and safety	X

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection