



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Wyre Borough Council  
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Please ask for : Peter Foulsham  
Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01253 887606

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday, 6 February 2017  
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 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 January 2017.

**4. 2030 Vision for Health and Care in Wyre - an update on progress**

(Pages 15 - 20)

The Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have submitted a report. Representatives from the CCG will attend the meeting to present information about the way in which the strategy (*2030 Vision for Health and Care*), which was published three years ago, is being delivered.

Members of the committee will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

**5. Local Plan - report on progress**

(Pages 21 - 26)

Rea Psillidou (Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager) has submitted a report. Ms Psillidou and Councillor Pete Murphy (Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder) will attend the meeting to present the report and respond to questions from councillors.

**6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17 - update report** (Pages 27 - 34)

The Service Director Performance and Innovation, Marianne Hesketh, has submitted a report.

**7. Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 6 March 2017 at 6pm.



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Notes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 9 January 2017 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

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### Committee members present:

Councillor I Amos  
Councillor R Amos  
Councillor E Anderton  
Councillor Hodgkinson  
Councillor Ibison

Councillor Ormrod  
Councillor Robinson  
Councillor Matthew Vincent  
Councillor Michael Vincent

### Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive (for item 4 on the agenda)  
Clare James, Head of Finance  
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

### Others present:

Councillor Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council (for item 4 on the agenda)

### OS.53 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fail, Jones and Reeves.

### OS.54 Declarations of interest

None.

### OS.55 Minutes of last meeting

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 5 December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

## OS.56 Business Plan 2015-19 (2017 update)

The Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report which was presented to the committee by Councillor Peter Gibson (Leader of the Council) and Garry Payne (Chief Executive).

Councillor Gibson emphasized three points which he said were of particular significance:

- Working with partners to improve performance.
- Maximising the return on our assets and generating income, which was particularly important as it was likely that there would be no grant from Government to local authorities by 2020.
- Although areas of deprivation were often successful in generating grants the Plan was intended to address the needs of all areas of the borough.

In response to a question about how the council will deliver its priority to “protect our communities from flooding” Councillor Gibson said that, in addition to the Rossall Sea Defences the council was encouraging communities to work much more closely together and with the Flood Forums. Mr Payne added that, at an operational level, Service Plans would address protection from flooding on a more localised basis.

The committee suggested a number of amendments to the Draft Plan which were accepted by Mr Payne and Councillor Gibson. They included:

- A new project to focus on working with partners to protect communities from flooding
- To develop a new measure that was flooding-related
- To include the number of Universal Credit claimants as a measure in addition to the number of Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants
- To consider duplicating the measure “% of people satisfied with where they live” under the theme ‘Healthier Wyre’ as well as under ‘Engaging Wyre’

Councillor Gibson concluded by saying that he welcomed the contribution that the committee continued to play in developing the council’s Business Plan, which was greatly appreciated.

### **RESOLVED** that

- (i) A number of proposed amendments to the draft Business Plan be considered for inclusion in the final version, and
- (ii) Councillor Gibson and Mr Payne be thanked for their attendance at and contribution to the meeting

## OS.57 Cost profiles: Benchmarking results 2016/17

A report of the Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor Alan Vincent) and the Head of Finance (Clare James), which had been presented to the Cabinet on 30 November 2016, was considered by the committee, having been introduced by Ms James.

Ms James explained that this annual report was often used to help identify areas for review as it made comparisons of service costs with other local authorities in our family group, ultimately leading to better value for money services for local people.

Ms James highlighted several key areas of the report.

The council's total expenditure per head was forecast to reduce by approximately 5% in 2016/17 while the population had increased by approximately one thousand. The council's total expenditure per head of population for 2016/17 placed Wyre as the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest spender in the group.

Wyre was the most expensive in the family group for highways and transport services, which was partly explained by accounting differences. Wyre had a residents' parking scheme, which was quite unusual, a consequence of which was that the capacity to increase income was restricted compared with other local authorities. For example, Wyre expected to earn £2.04 per head of population for car parking compared with £3.52 reported by Fylde Council. The Parking Strategy was to be reviewed soon, which might assist the council in better understanding the council's relative position.

Regarding highways costs, the council had a public realm agreement with Lancashire County Council, to undertake certain work on their behalf. This agreement covered verge maintenance, leaf sweeping, weed-spraying and other activities and was only partly met from the funding allocation provided by Lancashire County Council (in 2016/17 this was £71,230). This was an area for future review by the relevant Service Director.

Wyre was the fourth highest spender for culture and related services, accounting for approximately 23% of the total cost per head, most of which were non-statutory. This too was an area to be reviewed by the relevant Service Director.

**RESOLVED** that Ms James be thanked for her report and that the report be noted.

**OS.58 Treasury management strategy and policies – questions and answers**

Clare James, Head of Finance, gave a verbal report, based on a series of questions and answers, which highlighted the way in which the council carried out its treasury management responsibilities. Ms James' report is attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

**RESOLVED** that Ms James be thanked for her report.

**OS.59 Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2016-17**

The Chairman, Councillor Michael Vincent, presented a verbal report.

The two current ask groups on domestic abuse and food hygiene respectively would be concluded shortly, with the reports likely to be presented to the March meeting of the committee.

Councillor Michael Vincent advised members that there was capacity for new task group reviews to be carried out over the next three months and invited councillors to suggest topics. He reminded the committee that the cost profiles report, which had been presented by the Head of Finance earlier at the meeting, had previously been a helpful source of relevant topics for review.

The Chairman informed the committee that there was a possibility that he would be unable to attend the next meeting on 6 February 2017, in which case the meeting would be chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Councillor Jones, or in her absence as well, by the election of another member.

It was noted that an update report on the Local Plan had been requested for the meeting on 6 February. The committee agreed that the Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager (Rea Psillidou) and the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Councillor Pete Murphy) should also be invited to attend the meeting to present the report and to answer questions from members.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager and the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be invited to attend the meeting to be held on 6 February 2017, and
- (ii) any suggestions for subjects for future task group reviews be made to the Chairman or the Scrutiny Officer for further consideration

**OS.60 Date and time of next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the committee be held at 6pm on Monday 6 February 2017 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 7.21pm.

## Scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies – Questions and Answers (Overview and Scrutiny Committee 9 January 2017)

The following questions and answers will help to demonstrate that the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Policies were subject to robust member scrutiny and demonstrate compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

First some questions on the day to day process.

### Question No. 1

**On a daily basis, how do you work out whether we need to borrow money or have spare cash available that we can lend out?**

Cash flow projections are prepared annually and daily. The annual cash flow projections are prepared from the previous years' cash flow records, adjusted for known changes in levels of income and expenditure and also changes in payments and receipts dates. These details are supplemented on an ongoing basis by information received on new or revised amounts to be paid or received as and when they are known and the Council downloads data from its bank on a daily basis.

### Question No. 2

**If I have understood this correctly, in essence you are estimating what you expect the end of day position to be at the bank when all the pending transactions, including payments to suppliers and the clearance of cheques or direct debits into our account, have been processed – what happens therefore if you get it wrong?**

This does happen on occasions and we monitor the end of day balance to improve our understanding with a view to ensuring that it happens infrequently. An example of where we had more in our account was in June this year when an investment was not made before the submission cut off which resulted in an underinvestment of funds overnight. There has been one occasion within the last year where we have had substantially less than predicted in our account, and this was due to an incorrect value being entered on the bank transfer which resulted in an overdrawn balance, this was corrected the following day.

From 1 September 2011, and following a cost/benefit analysis, we took a decision to cease the formal overdraft facility. The formal overdraft facility used to cost the Council £2,000 plus 1% over the base rate for overdrawn net balances over £500,000. The new arrangement now incurs charges at 4% over the current base rate for net overdrawn balances with no annual arrangement fee. There were two instances when the Council's net bank account position was overdrawn during the first six months of 2016/17.

### Question No. 3

**Is there one person who does the day to day dealing and what happens if they are away on leave?**

Within the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices that is approved annually by Council in April there is a list of all the different functions and a table showing which officers can do what. For example, the day to day dealing can be done by, either of the three Senior Account Managers (Penny Jones, Julie Woods and Joanne McCaffery) and either of the two Account Managers (Louisa White or Louise Rowland). Authorisation of short term borrowing or investing falls to the Head of Finance (Clare James), the Deputy Head of Finance (Paul Harrison), the Senior Accountant (Serena Armstrong), the Head of the Contact Centre (Peter Mason), the Head of Governance (Joanne Billington), the Head of Business Support (Liesl Hadgraft) or the Senior Solicitor (Mary Grimshaw).

**Question No. 4**

**So what do you have to do if you want to invest some money?**

The Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices states that the Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Capita Asset Services who are our Treasury Management Consultants. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach combining credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks (see Appendix 1) in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS (Credit Default Swaps) spreads for which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. They provide us with this weekly credit list and supplement it with emails for any changes to counterparty credit ratings. Lending is only made to counterparties within the Council defined colour bands according to the colour coded creditworthiness list.

In addition, the Practices say that the Council will also look at other market information in order to establish a full investment strategy; such as up to date market information, which includes Sovereign and individual counterparty ratings, together with a wide range of relevant economic data. In reality, other than day to day news headlines/reports, no further challenges are made to the treasury advisors guidance.

If we are using the Council's bank, the NatWest, for investments in the Liquidity account we make an inter-account transfer on the Nat West website. If we are using the Money Market Funds then this is entered on to the SunGard System and an email is sent prompting the authorising officer to agree the transfer. All transactions on the SunGard System must be authorised before, either 1pm, 1.30pm or 2pm dependent on the fund, in order for them to be actioned that day



If we are using the Bank of Scotland or Nationwide we ring up to obtain the rate for the amount and length of time we want to invest and using this information we complete a temporary lending form detailing the amount to be invested, the interest rate and the term. Once this form is authorised we phone the Bank of Scotland or Nationwide back to confirm the deal and give notice if necessary and a bank transfer is made from the Council's banks. If we are using Svenska Handelsbanken or Santander again a temporary lending form is completed and once authorised a bank transfer is made from the Council's bank.

(Scenario)

### **Question No. 5**

#### **What about if you need to borrow money – what happens then?**

The Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices clearly states that the Council must access temporary loans through approved brokers on the London money market. The approved borrowing limit for short term debt has been set at £13.743m in 2016/17.

In essence, we telephone the brokers and ask them to find somebody who can lend us the amount we need and for the required term, for example, are we happy for the money to be called back at any time or do we want to fix it to a particular date. We aren't fussy about who lends us the money and the brokers currently charge commission at 1% of interest due. There is no commission charge for undertaking investment transactions via the brokers.

The last time we borrowed via the brokers was back in 2009/10.

### **Question No. 6**

#### **So what guarantees do we have that somebody in the finance team isn't going to disappear to the Caribbean with a significant amount of the Council's money – presumably there are sufficient checks and balances?**

Firstly, I'm not good in places with extreme temperatures but on a more serious note, there are a number of controls in place including;

- ✓ All lending is only made to institutions on the Capita Creditworthiness Weekly List.
- ✓ All loans raised and repayments made go directly to and from the institutions bank account.
- ✓ Authorisation limits are set for every institution.
- ✓ Brokers have a list of named officials authorised to perform loan transactions.
- ✓ There is adequate insurance cover for employees involved in loan management and accounting.
- ✓ The control totals for borrowing and lending are regularly reconciled with the ledger balance sheet codes by the Financial Services team.
- ✓ There is a separation of duties in the Section between the processing and authorisation of transactions.
- ✓ The Council's bank holds a list of Council officials who are authorised signatories.
- ✓ No member of the Treasury Management team responsible for borrowing and lending is an authorised signatory.

A key aim of the Treasury Management Policy Statement is that the Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.

And if you are still worried, then it is worth noting that the Council has 'Fidelity' insurance cover with Zurich Municipal (ZM). This covers the loss of cash by fraud or dishonesty of employees. This cover is limited per transaction as follows:

- ✓ 14 designated officers (Head of Finance, Head of Contact Centre, Head of Governance, Head of Business Support, Senior Solicitor, Deputy Head of Finance, 2 x Senior Accountant (systems x 1, non-systems x 1), Senior Account Manager x 3, Systems Administrator/Customer Focus Officer and Account Manager x 2 are indemnified for £3m.
- ✓ All other employees are indemnified for £250,000.

### **Question No. 7**

#### **How do you know if you are doing a good job – what measures do you use to assess your performance?**

We do an annual report in June each year showing the overall position and activities for the previous year. The report includes the following issues, where relevant:

- ✓ total debt and investments at the beginning and end of the financial year and average interest rates;
- ✓ borrowing strategy for the year compared to actual strategy, including interest paid;
- ✓ investment strategy for the year compared to actual strategy, including interest received;
- ✓ explanations for variance between original strategies;
- ✓ debt rescheduling done in the year;
- ✓ actual borrowing and investment rates achieved through the year;
- ✓ comparison of return on investments to the benchmark 7-day LIBID rate (London Interbank Bid Rate); and
- ✓ compliance with Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

We also complete a half yearly Report on Treasury Management which is submitted to Council in December which reviews the performance of the debt and investment portfolios. This report contains the same information as the annual report but only includes information for the first 6 months of the year.

Last year investments earned an average return of 0.53% against a benchmark LIBID (London Interbank Bid Rate) 7-day average of 0.36% whilst the Bank of England base rate remained at 0.5%.

In the six months to 30 September 2016 investments have achieved an average return of 0.51% against a benchmark LIBID 7-day average of 0.27%.

#### **And now just a couple of other questions concerning the wider Treasury Management arrangements**

### **Question No. 8**

**I understand that we are with the NatWest bank and have been for some time – do we ever consider switching?**

Whilst we have been with NatWest for nearly 30 years, banking services have traditionally been re-tendered or renegotiated every 3 years to ensure that the level of prices reflect efficiency savings achieved by the supplier and current pricing trends. The Council retendered for Banking Services using the Government Framework earlier this year. This resulted with our present providers NatWest being awarded the contract which resulted in considerable savings for the Authority 2016.

### **Question No. 9**

**And whilst we are talking about the costs of treasury management – do we have other advisors that we use and how much do they cost?**

When the Council lost its debt free status during 2007/08 Capita Asset Services (previously known as Capita Treasury Services) was engaged as the Council's treasury advisor. The initial appointment was for one year and was considered to be value for money having sought other quotations. The service has recently been benchmarked and further benchmarking exercises will be conducted every three years to ensure value for money is maintained. The cost of the service is £7,750 per year.

### **Question No. 10**

**I know you've mentioned the half yearly and annual performance reports to Council but are there other reports that we need to produce to ensure compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management?**

Yes, there are a number of reports that we are required to complete and we probably take more to Council on an annual basis than we need to but find it useful to review the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices each year. The specific requirements ask for the following:

- ✓ The Treasury Management Strategy Statement- sets out the specific expected treasury activities for the forthcoming financial year and is submitted to the Cabinet in March and then full Council in April. It involves determining the appropriate borrowing and investment decisions in the light of the anticipated movement in both fixed and shorter-term variable interest rates. For instance, the Council may decide to postpone borrowing if fixed interest rates are expected to fall, or borrow early if fixed interest rates are expected to rise. It covers a number of items including:
  - Prudential and Treasury Indicators
  - current Treasury portfolio position
  - borrowing requirement
  - prospects for interest rates
  - borrowing strategy
  - policy on borrowing in advance of need
  - debt rescheduling
  - investment strategy

- creditworthiness policy
  - policy on the use of external service providers
  - any extraordinary treasury issue
  - the MRP strategy
- ✓ The Annual Investment Strategy – is received at the same time as the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and sets out the following:
- The Council's risk appetite in respect of security, liquidity and optimum performance
  - The definition of 'high credit quality' to determine what are specified investments as distinct from non- specified investments
  - Which specified and non-specified instruments the Council will use
  - Whether they will be used by the in house team, external managers or both (if applicable)
  - The Council's policy on the use of credit ratings and other credit risk analysis techniques to determine creditworthy counterparties for its approved lending list
  - Which credit rating agencies the Council will use
  - How the Council will deal with changes in ratings, rating watches and rating outlooks
  - Limits for individual counterparties and group limits
  - Country limits
  - Cash balances
  - Interest rate outlook
  - Budgeted investment return
  - Use of a cash fund manager (if applicable)
  - Policy on the use of external service providers (if applicable)
- ✓ The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement - is received at the same time as the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and sets out how the Council will make revenue provision for repayment of its borrowing using the four options for so doing. Our adopted policy is that all expenditure reflected within the debt liability at 31 March 2008 will under delegated powers be charged over a period which is reasonably commensurate with the estimated useful life applicable to the nature of expenditure, using the equal annual instalment method (Asset Life Method).
- ✓ Policy on Prudential and Treasury Indicators – the limits are approved by Council before the beginning of each financial year and, in addition to being presented with the Revenue and Capital Estimates in March, are incorporated into the Annual Treasury Management Strategy.

### **Question No. 11**

#### **I'm interested in what our advisors said about the prospects for interest rates?**

The advisors indicated for the Annual Investment Strategy that the base rate would not rise from its position of 0.5% until March 2017 when it would rise to 0.75%, increasing to 1% in September 2017 and 1.25% in March 2018. The most recent September 16 update indicates that the base rate would fall to 0.10% in December 2016 and only increasing to 0.25% in June 2018.

### **Question No. 12**

**And if we wanted to borrow to fund some of the capital works that are currently being assessed, what would the costs be?**

If we borrowed £2m in March 2017 the interest rate is currently projected to be 2.3% and if we used the money to fund assets with lives of 25 years then the cost for principal and interest repayments would be £126,000pa.

We currently have debt of £1.552m and incur debt charges of £164,389 – this isn't expected to fall until 2024/25 when the assets with a 15 year life span drop out of the MRP calculation.

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance aims to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that must be used and requires local authorities to set relevant limits and ratios. As the Council is currently projecting a gap between expenditure and income of £2.2m in 2019/20 further borrowing is not considered to be affordable, prudent or sustainable.

**And finally, if there are any burning issues that we haven't addressed or any further questions, please feel free to do so now.**

## **Treasury Management Definitions**

**Credit Rating** – Credit ratings are assigned to counterparties by Credit Rating Agencies, the main ones being Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch's. Their ratings are based on detailed analysis and result in lettered ratings from A to C. Higher grades such as AAA represent a lower probability of default.

**Credit Watches** – These are lists used by rating agencies to signal that they may downgrade a company's credit rating because of a declining business environment characterised by declining sales, profits or increased competition.

**Credit Outlook** – These indicate the potential direction of a rating over the intermediate term, typically 6 months to 2 years. When determining a credit outlook, consideration is given to any changes in the economic and/or fundamental business conditions.

**Credit Default Swap** – This is a financial instrument for swapping the risk of debt default. The price of a CDS for a particular company is often used to measure the creditworthiness of a company, since the price of the CDS will vary quickly in response to the market's assessment of the company's creditworthiness; by contrast, changes in credit ratings issued by credit rating companies, such as Moody's or Standard & Poor's, can take weeks or months.

Treasury Management Investment Scenario Question

Which option/s would you choose to provide the best investment on **£7m** for the Council taking account of the below interest rates and the guidance provided below taken from the Treasury Management Strategy? Assume the monies will be invested for the full 6 month period.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Interest Rate %</u>	<u>Credit Rating Colour</u>
NatWest Liquidity	0.25	<b>0-6 months (red)</b>
NatWest 95 day notice	0.22	<b>0-6 months (red)</b>
Santander 60 day notice	0.50	<b>0-100 days (green)</b>
Co-operative Bank 95 day notice	0.62	<b>No colour</b>
Prime-rate MMF	0.32	<b>AAA</b>
Goldman Sachs IB 6 month fixed	0.60	<b>0-100 days (green)</b>
Standard Chartered 6 month fixed	0.52	<b>0-6 months (red)</b>

Treasury Management Strategy Extract

Maximum maturity periods, credit colour ratings and maximum amounts to be placed in different types of institutions are as follows:-

	<u>Colour Credit Rating</u>	<u>Money Limit</u>	<u>Maturity Period</u>
Banks and Building Societies	<b>purple</b>	£6m	2yr
Banks - part nationalised	<b>blue</b>	£6m	1 yr
Banks and Building Societies	<b>orange</b>	£6m	1 yr
Banks and Building Societies	<b>red</b>	£6m	6 mths
Banks and Building Societies	<b>green</b>	£6m	100 days
Limit 3 category – Council’s banker	<b>blue</b>	£6m	1 yr
Local authorities	<b>yellow</b>	£6m	5yrs
Money market funds	<b>AAA</b>	£6m	liquid

The Council will not invest in a counterparty with no colour rating other than money market funds which have to be AAA rated.

Treasury Management Investment Scenario – Answer

£7m cannot be invested in one institution as TM limit is £6m.

Despite the best interest rate we cannot invest in Co-operative Bank 95 day notice as it has no colour coded credit rating

Despite offering a good interest rate (due to the length of investment), we cannot invest for more than 100 days with Goldman Sachs International Bank.

The investment I would choose would be £6m in the Standard Chartered 6 month fixed.

For the remaining £1m you could chose to invest for the full 6 months with Prime-rate MMF or if you were flexible about investing for a shorter period then you could invest £1m in the Santander 60 day notice account.

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# Wyre Council Briefing



## Introduction

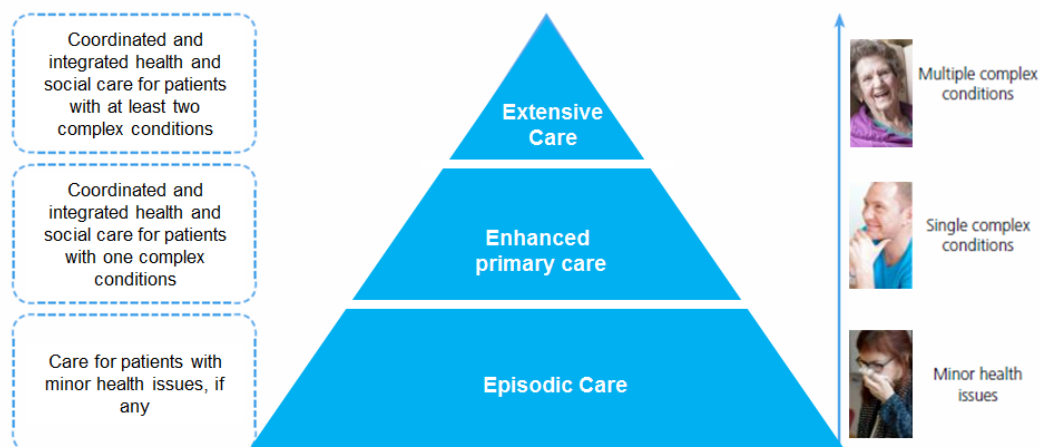
It has been three years since we published our *2030 Vision for Health and Care* following an extensive public engagement exercise, and we are starting to see our vision become a reality. The pace of change has been rapid; largely thanks to the tremendous support we have had from patients, the public and our partners. New models of care are transforming health services across Fylde and Wyre and we have begun to see measurable improvements in patient experience and outcomes. In addition to this, as one of five technology ‘test beds’ nationally, we are at the forefront of innovation and, through a collaboration with academia and the private sector, are offering patients the opportunity to use new technology to help them better manage their conditions. Our four neighbourhoods (groups of practices in geographical areas) are now working together effectively to ensure joined-up care tailored to the needs of their local populations. In the future, these neighbourhoods will be the bedrock of community-based health service provision.

To ensure these new ways of delivering services are sustainable, we were awarded ‘Vanguard’ status by NHS England. This has given us the flexibility, as one of a select few sites nationally, to develop and test these models further as well as develop a new provider of community health services. Work to shape this ‘multi-specialty community provider’ is ongoing with partners, patients and the public across Fylde and Wyre, and it is hoped it will be in shadow form by April 2017.

The 2030 Vision deliberately takes a long-term view of local health services because we felt a long-term plan was needed to tackle some of the very significant challenges we face. Importantly, the vision has acted as a guide to help us navigate an ever-changing environment.

## Care model development

The care models we outlined in our 2030 Vision and accompanying five-year strategic plan have been the cornerstone of local health service developments.



In the past three years, we have made substantial progress implementing these three care models. In March 2015, the Fylde coast was named as one of a select few ‘vanguard’ sites by NHS England. This status and the funding associated with it has allowed us to speed up

the development and introduction of the models for the benefit of local people and also the wider healthcare system across England. As a vanguard site, our learning is being shared to help other areas across the country adopt their own new models of care.

### **Extensive Care**

Launched in July 2015, Extensive Care provides more proactive and better coordinated care for people aged 60 and older with two or more long-term conditions.

By October 2016, all GP practices across Fylde and Wyre could refer eligible patients into the service. Operating from Lytham Primary Care Centre and Wyre Civic Centre, the service aims to support those people who often need the most help to stay well by improving their knowledge and confidence to self-manage their conditions and lifestyle. In turn this is helping to reduce their likelihood of an unplanned visit to hospital, their GP and other healthcare services. The evidence shows the service is indeed helping to reduce this group of patients' demand on healthcare services. We also know that people's experiences of the care they receive from the service has been extremely positive with 99 per cent of patients saying they would recommend it to a friend or family member.

To support the service, Lancashire is one of five areas nationally to be awarded 'test bed' status to trial the use of technology to improve patient care. The partnership includes other NHS bodies, technology firm Philips and Lancaster University who have come together to pilot wearable technology, home sensors and other gadgets to support four patient cohorts; the Fylde coast cohort being 1,500 extensive care patients.

### **Enhanced Primary Care**

We have also introduced a new model called Enhanced Primary Care across Fylde and Wyre. This sees locally-based care teams working within each of the four neighbourhoods to complement existing community services and enhance the support available for patients. The team works alongside GPs and includes wellbeing support workers, care coordinators, nurses and healthcare assistants. They provide support to people aged 18 and older who are deemed to need some extra help to stay well. This could be because they have a long-term condition which isn't managed particularly well, or it could be because of other factors in their life (for example, they live with a carer who appears to be under pressure).

### **Episodic Care**

Many people require healthcare services very rarely and when they do it can often be for a one-off minor ailment. We call this Episodic Care and have been working hard to make sure that when people do occasionally need healthcare advice or treatment they can access this in a timely fashion and through the most appropriate source.

To this end we have launched the Pharmacy+ Clinic service which allows anybody living within Fylde and Wyre to access advice and treatment for a range of minor ailments at their local pharmacy instead of needing to book a GP appointment. To date, 26 local community pharmacies have signed up to this scheme and are now offering the service across the area.

GP services are now also being offered in the evenings and at weekends. A range of appointments with GPs, nurses or healthcare assistants are available in Fleetwood with full

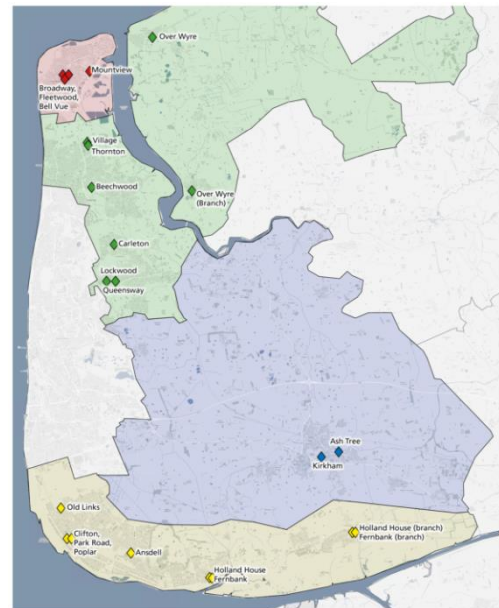
access to patients' medical records, just like their normal GP surgery. Extended services are being rolled out in other Fylde and Wyre practices by the end of March.

In addition, we are working with a range of partners, including Wyre Council, to develop a comprehensive Fylde coast directory of health and care services which people will be able to access through the Internet. It will be able to signpost people to services which they might not otherwise have known about.

## Neighbourhoods

When we published our 2030 Vision, our neighbourhoods were being established. Neighbourhoods are geographical areas across which practices work together to coordinate health and care services. Three years later and all four of our neighbourhoods have become very effective, with practices working together to develop new health services tailored to the needs of their communities. The neighbourhoods have the ability to deliver system-wide service changes alongside small scale, rapid improvements in their locality.

NHS England has recently awarded £4.3m to the Fylde coast to progress our vanguard ambitions. Around £300,000 of this funding will be used by the neighbourhoods (including those in Blackpool) to progress the health and wellbeing improvement agenda by empowering people and communities.



## Next steps

In order to make sure these new care models are sustainable, as part of our vanguard status we have been given the flexibility to design a new provider of community health services. The new way of working will bring together a range of different community health services with neighbourhood teams at the centre. The aim is to make sure community-based healthcare is better coordinated. Work to shape this 'multi-specialty community provider' is ongoing and we hope it will be in shadow form by April 2017.

Benefits to patients include the following:

- Care and support will be more coordinated.
- Patients will only need to tell their 'story' once.
- Patients will know who to contact for advice.
- Diagnostics and specialist clinics will be offered in community settings.
- With a focus on wellness and self-care, people will stay well for longer.
- Better use of technology, e.g. mobile apps, telehealth, telecare, telemedicine.

As part of our engagement activity, we are talking to the public about how the quality of community services should be measured in the future. This insight will directly inform the development of the multi-specialty community provider.

The events are detailed below. To book a place, please email [enquiries@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk) or call 01253 956400 by Friday 10 February 2017.

<b>Thornton Methodist Church</b> Victoria Road East, Thornton, FY5 5HQ Wednesday 22 February 2017 2pm-4pm	<b>YMCA Lofthouse Building</b> London Street, Fleetwood, FY7 6JL Thursday 23 February 10am-12pm
<b>NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG</b> Derby Road, Wesham, PR4 3AL Monday 27 February 2017 2pm-4pm	<b>St Annes United Reformed Church</b> St George's Road St Annes, FY8 2AE Tuesday 28 February 2017 10am-12pm

### For more information

For more information please visit [www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk](http://www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk) or email Kate Hurry, head of communications and engagement, at [kate.hurry@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk](mailto:kate.hurry@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk).

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## Wyre Borough Council

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### Wyre Local Plan Preparation Update

#### 1. Update on current Progress on the Local Plan

##### i. Housing Requirement and distribution.

It was reported last June that the unconstrained housing Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) figure of 479 dwellings per annum was reported to full Council in April through the Portfolio Holder's Executive Report. This equates to 9,580 dwellings over the plan period (2011-2031).

As reported previously, the next stage is to establish the housing requirement in the Local Plan i.e. what scale of housing can be delivered over the plan period taking into account physical, environmental and policy constraints. The main constraining factors are highways capacity and flood risk. Although flood risk has now been established, highways capacity remains outstanding and is delaying the preparation of the Local Plan.

There are continuing delays in LCC completing the general evidence on highway capacity and consultants completing the evidence with regards to Poulton-le-Fylde. Although much progress was achieved in November/December last year a meeting arranged for the 9 January had to be rescheduled for the 26 January. The consultants submitted a draft report in relation to Poulton-le-Fylde before Christmas, however there were serious concerns with the quality of the report and comments were sent to LCC accordingly. At the time of writing this report it is not known whether the evidence will be completed by the end of January. More detail is given below in the 'Evidence' section. As reported previously, until the highways evidence is complete it is not possible to establish the scale and distribution of housing or to progress other certain areas of work which depend upon it.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level II and its Addendum (incorporating an assessment of potential development sites) was scheduled to be completed in October. The main Report was completed at the end of October and work is progressing with Council Engineers to finalise the Addendum.

It was reported previously that as a 'guesstimate' the Local Plan will at best only make provision for about 7,300 of the 9,580 dwellings needed. Based on the latest emerging highways evidence it is likely that the scale of housing that can be delivered in Wyre is likely to be less than 7,300.

##### ii. Draft Local Plan

As reported in September, although the evidence is not complete, a draft Local Plan was prepared in order to progress work on Sustainability and Habitat Regulation Assessments and Local Plan Viability Assessment. Progress on these studies is covered in the 'Infrastructure and Viability Work' and 'Evidence Base' sections.

As the latest highways evidence has changed substantially, the draft Local Plan will need major revisions in particular with regards to the growth on the A6 corridor, over

Wyre, Thornton and Poulton-le-Fylde.

As reported previously the draft Local Plan prepared last summer was used as the basis for further engagement with Infrastructure Providers and stakeholders such as ward Members, Parish and Town Councils and two of the three MPs<sup>1</sup> between August and October. Substantial changes to the draft Plan arising from substantial changes to highway evidence will require further engagement with Council Members, Parish and Town Council, MPs and infrastructure providers.

As reported in the September Report the draft Local Plan comprises –

1. Draft Vision and Objectives which have been revised taking into account comments received during the public consultation on the 'Issues and Options' document in summer 2015.
2. Draft Development Management Policies which have been finalised and circulated to ward Members and PC/TC representatives during the briefings in August - October.
3. Draft Site Allocations and Designations as shown on the draft Policies Map. The draft allocations for housing, employment and mix uses will need to be revised based on the final highways evidence. Consequently the maximum number and distribution of dwellings that could be accommodated subject to highways constraints being resolved showed in the draft Plan of around 7,300 dwellings over the plan period 2011-2031 may change.

### **iii. Infrastructure Planning and viability work**

The draft Local Plan prepared last summer was used as the basis for engaging with Infrastructure providers. As previously reported further meetings with infrastructure providers are necessary where there are issues arising from the level of growth in a particular area. These meetings cannot take place until the final scale and distribution of development is established. This can be a lengthy exercise and depends on how quickly we can meet with service providers and in particular the Local Education Authority and CCGs and how quickly they can respond to the final scale and distribution of growth. These meetings are necessary in order to finalise the Infrastructure Plan which is required to accompany the Local Plan.

The draft Local Plan had been forwarded to the Council's viability consultants in order to progress the Local Plan Viability Assessment. In order to complete the work it is necessary to confirm the allocations and any mitigation requirements for highways and flood risk. Flood risk mitigation requirements have now been determined with the Council's engineers but as reported above, the highways evidence is not yet complete. There is a risk that the generic viability work may need to be updated before the evidence can be completed.

### **iv. Evidence Base**

1. As previously reported the following pieces of evidence are now complete and published on the Council's website:
  - Employment Land Review (ELR) update including sensitivity testing;
  - Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and Addendums I and II;
  - Green Belt Study;
  - Rural Affordable Housing Needs Study.
  - Green Infrastructure Study

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that it has not been possible to meet with Paul Maynard MP.



- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1
- Settlement Study
- Settlement Profiles

Since the last report the following evidence has been published on the Council's website:

- Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (GTAA) Study Update.
2. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level II and its Addendum was scheduled to be completed in October. The SFRA Level II main Report is now complete and has been endorsed by the Environment Agency, LCC Flood Authority and UU.

Work is progressing with Council Engineers to finalise the Addendum which will need to be endorsed by the EA before it is published.

3. As indicated above there are continuing delays in completing the general highways evidence by LCC and also the specific highways study for Poulton-le-Fylde. Further to the Highways Report received at the end of August, LCC submitted a further report at the end of October. The October Report did not resolve the issues raised in respect of the August report and furthermore raised additional issues. At conference, the barrister advised that the October report did not represent robust evidence. Lengthy meetings were held with LCC Officers in November and December considering in detail the report and making necessary amendments. That process was due to be finalised at a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 which however had to be re-scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

As previously reported, LCC advised in June that it was it has been necessary to commission more detailed work with regards to the local highway network in Poulton-le-Fylde. The work was commissioned in August and was scheduled to be completed mid-December, (originally scheduled to be completed first week in November). A draft report was received in the last week before Christmas and comments on it were sent to LCC. The main concern is that the report does not comply with the study brief which required looking at the local highway network at Poulton and establishing what level of growth can be supported with deliverable mitigation.

As previously reported, Highways England provided the Council with evidence regarding the A585 including a spreadsheet tool to assist in assessing future capacity on the A585. Although in October HE advised that they were intending to supplement their evidence in January following further modelling for the A585 Scheme, HE advised in December that they will not be submitting any further evidence and Wyre should use the spreadsheet tool previously provided to the Council in preparing the Local Plan.

Discussions with HE also cover additional improvements to the A585 that are needed to support growth in Wyre.

As noted above and already reported in previous reports, highway capacity is a significant constraint to the delivery of development in Wyre and until the evidence is complete it is not possible to confirm the scale and distribution of housing development in the Local Plan.

4. It was reported last February that consultants have been commissioned jointly with Blackpool and Fylde Councils to update the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) in light of new Government Policy and in particular the new

definitions of a 'Gypsy' and 'Travelling Showperson' published in 2015. The Study is now complete and has been published on the Council's website.

5. Work has progressed on the Local Centre Study update. The boundaries of all town, district and local centres have been reviewed and have been taken into account in preparing the draft Local Plan. This work is not yet ready for publication.
6. The draft Local Plan is being used as the basis for heritage and ecology assessments of draft allocations. The final list of allocations is not known however and so additional work may be necessary.
7. As reported in November there will not be a bespoke Health Impact Assessment, (HIA) on the Local Plan. The Local Plan process does not require HIA and in any event the Sustainability Appraisal covers health issues. Undertaking HIA could potentially delay the process. At this stage it is necessary to concentrate on completing the required evidence/assessments.

v. **Duty to Co-operate Meetings**

As previously reported, meetings have now been held with all adjoining local authorities to establish strategic cross boundary issues. The possibility of Wyre not being able to meet in full its Objectively Assessed Needs for housing because of constraints has been raised with all adjoining authorities. A formal letter from our Chief Executive has been sent to the Chief Executives of all adjoining Local Authorities (except Ribble Valley) requesting assistance in meeting housing need in Wyre. The matter was also discussed in the Fylde Coast Joint Officers and Members MoU meeting in June. No Local Authority has indicated that they are able to assist. As previously reported further collaboration is needed with adjoining authorities and in particular with Fylde and Blackpool who share responsibility for housing needs within the joint Housing Market Area once the highways evidence is complete.

vi. **Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) & Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)**

As reported previously the draft Local Plan prepared last summer was used to progress this work which could take six to eight weeks. An interim Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report on the emerging local plan was received last October. The Report cannot be finalised until housing allocations are confirmed. Some revisions may be necessary once the final highways position is known and the scale and distribution of housing is confirmed.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening on the emerging Local Plan was carried out in September and Natural England (NE) have agreed with the conclusions for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in relation to draft allocations. A Technical Note to engage with NE was received before Christmas. A meeting is scheduled with NE on the 24 January to discuss the AA requirements of potential allocation and the need for any mitigation/compensation. Following the meeting with NE there will be additional work which might take a number of weeks. It is expected that the scope of this work will be clarified and agreed at the meeting. The approach to dealing with issues relating to Pink Footed Geese (PFG) may not be agreed. Legal advice was sought regarding NE's approach to dealing with PFG elsewhere. Further legal advice may be necessary if agreement with NE is not reached on the 24 January.

**2. Issues affecting progress**

- a) As previously reported establishing the Local Plan housing requirement has been affected by delays in progressing the highways and flood-risk evidence. Consequently progress on

other work has been affected. Further work in relation to the infrastructure Plan and Duty to Co-operate cannot be undertaken until the scale and distribution of housing to be delivered in the Local Plan is known. Furthermore various Local Plan Assessments cannot be finalised and may require additional work once allocations are confirmed.

- b) As previously reported, the 2016 Housing and Planning Act covers further planning reforms. As yet there has not been any major impact on the Local Plan process. As measures are introduced through regulations there might be implications for the work of the team in terms of diverting resources.
- c) As previously reported progressing the Local Plan requires engagement with various organisations including the County Council, adjoining local authorities and infrastructure providers. These are time consuming tasks and depend on a timely response from the various stakeholders. The draft Local Plan prepared last summer has been used as the basis of working with external organisations, however once allocations are confirmed further engagement with and input from various external organisation will be required in order to finalise the Local Plan, Infrastructure Plan and Duty to Cooperate Statement.
- d) As previously reported an application for a Neighbourhood Plan Area designation at Dolphinholme had been received. The Neighbourhood Plan at Dolphinholme will straddle the boundary with Lancaster. The application was processed and a decision confirming the Neighbourhood Area boundary was made in Wyre before Christmas. There are delays at Lancaster in confirming the boundary.

Since the last meeting, there has been various communications with the Parish Council regarding a Neighbourhood Plan for Barton. An application for Neighbourhood Plan Area designation at Barton has not yet been received but it is expected shortly.

To date neighbourhood planning work has not had a significant impact on Local Plan work. This is partly due to both neighbourhood plans at Barton and Dolphinholme being joint plan straddling the boundaries of Preston and Lancaster respectively and the adjoining authorities being the lead authority. The Council will have to comply with Neighbourhood Planning regulations as necessary and as previously indicated potentially this could divert resources from the Local Plan.

### **3. Critical Work in the next three months**

- Completing the highway evidence work and confirming the Local Plan housing requirement and the distribution of housing remains the top priority.
- Completing in draft form the Sustainability Assessment / Strategic Environmental Assessment, (SA/SEA); Habitat Regulations Assessment, (HRA); Viability Assessment, and Equality Impact Assessment, (EIA).
- Progress work towards finalising the Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Progress compliance with the duty to co-operate with regarding to OAN requirement in Wyre.
- Complete other Evidence work including background papers

### **4. Overall Programme**

As previously reported the Government has indicated its intention to intervene in LAs that have not progressed their Local Plan to a certain stage by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. There has not been any further detail on that proposal. Officers are in contact with DCLG who are aware that delays in the process are caused by delays in LCC completing the highways evidence. DCLG were also made aware of potential issues arising with NE with regards to Pink Footed Geese.

As referred to in the last Report the published Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is essentially the Local Plan project plan was revised by Full Council in July in order to expedite the preparation of the Local Plan. The published LDS indicates

Publication of Local Plan for public consultation	December 2016
Submission Plan to Inspector for Examination	March 2017
Hearing Sessions	Summer 2017
Adoption	Early 2018

In view of the delays in completing highway evidence which is critical in the preparation of the Local Plan it is necessary to revise the timetable.

Provided the highways evidence is completed end of January, the revised date could be

Publication of Local Plan for public consultation	mid-June 2017
Submission Plan to Inspector for Examination	October 2017
Hearing Sessions	January 2018
Adoption	June 2018

Réa Psillidou  
Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 February 2017	6

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/17 – update report</b>
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## 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the committee identifies any new work, and specifically scrutiny reviews, that it would like to undertake.
- 1.2 That the committee agrees whether and how it will respond to the Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government.

## 2. Current work

### 2.1 Domestic abuse task group

The domestic abuse task group has very nearly completed its review. A draft report is being prepared and will be considered by the group at their final meeting, when the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder will also be in attendance. The task group’s conclusions and draft representations will be presented and discussed.

It is anticipated that the task group’s report will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 6 March 2017, prior to submission to the Cabinet.

### 2.3 Food hygiene task group

The task group has met three times and is drawing its work to a close.

The task group’s conclusions and draft recommendations will be presented to the Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder on 13 February 2017, the report then being considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 March 2017, before going to Cabinet.

### 3. Future task group work

3.1 The current arrangements for council's waste collection service have been in place since 2012. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee might wish to be involved in reviewing future service delivery by setting up a task group. Such a review would operate alongside an officer review of the waste collection service that will be taking place at the same time. The Service Director People and Places and the Portfolio Holder are aware that this issue will be under consideration by the committee and are pleased that non-Executive members will have an opportunity to play a role and make recommendations.

3.2 There is currently capacity for the committee to commission another task group. In the absence of a structured Work Programme for 2016/17 the committee is reminded of a list of potential task group topics that was considered by the committee on 6 June 2016, which is attached at Appendix 2.

### 4. Other issues

4.1 On Tuesday 24 January 2017 the Communities and Local Government Committee launched an inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government. The Committee will consider whether overview and scrutiny arrangements in England are working effectively and whether local communities are able to contribute to and monitor the work of their councils (see Appendix 3).

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer	01253 887606	<a href="mailto:peter.foulsham@wyre.gov.uk">peter.foulsham@wyre.gov.uk</a>	26 January 2017

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules	7 July 2016	Council's website

### Appendices

Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme May 2016 – April 2017 – Summary
Appendix 2	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme topics 2016/17 (previously submitted to the O&S Committee on 6 June 2016).
Appendix 3	Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme May 2016 – April 2017 - Summary</b>										<b>Updated 25 January 2017</b>			
	06-Jun	04-Jul	01-Aug	12-Sep	10-Oct	07-Nov	05-Dec	09-Jan	06-Feb	06-Mar	10-Apr		
Work Programme update report													
Community Safety Partnership (to include PCC)													
Performance review (quarterly)													
Local Plan progress report													
LCC Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee													
<b>Holding the Exec to account for forthcoming decisions</b>													
Leader (Strategic Narrative, Business Plan)													
Planning and Economic Development PH													
<b>Task Groups Reporting to Committee</b>													
Localised council tax support													
Libraries (consultation)													
Domestic abuse													
Food hygiene ratings													
Citizens advice													
<b>Other work and reports to committee</b>													
Food hygiene ratings													
Waste contract annual performance plan													
Council tax discounts													
LCC - supporting people consultations													
Fleetwood market													
Left Coast													
Fees & charges													
Head of Finance:VFM profiles; Treasury Management													
Review Engaging with Communities TG recs													
Shaping Your Neighbourhood review													
Review CCGs TG recs													
Review Town and Parish Councils TG recs													
Sport England grant funding / YMCA													
Changing energy suppliers													
Dementia in Wyre													
CCG - update													

## DRAFT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME TOPICS 2016-17

TO BE INCLUDED AS TASK GROUPS	
Domestic violence	O&S Committee on 18 April 2016 agreed to set up task group. To commence in May/June 2016. Focus on a couple of very specific issues that relate to services in Wyre.
Food hygiene	Proposed by Cllr Jones. Supported by O&S Committee on 18 April 2016. Concern about 36 establishments in Wyre having 0-1 star. Food establishments need to be helped to improve their standards. Report to committee in June 2016. To commence in June/July 2016.
Citizens Advice Bureau	Review of current provision needs to be carried out in Oct/Nov for recommendation about further funding with effect from May 2017 (see scrutiny review report to Cabinet 21 January 2015).
Left Coast	Review the three years of the three-year agreement What were the objectives? What were the intended outcomes? Have these been achieved? What have we committed to by agreeing to continue to fund? What do we expect to get out of it? Start by requesting report to committee (July 2016?), and follow up with scrutiny review.
Review of resident parking permit scheme	Needs to be done as soon as there is sufficient data from new car parking machines and fobs. Plan to commence review six months after implementation of new machines.
Review of customer complaints process	See report to Cabinet, 15 June 2016



TO BE INCLUDED AS REPORTS TO COMMITTEE	
Review of council tax discounts and exemptions	Cllr Fail's proposal. Report to committee July 2016.
Audit report - safeguarding	Report awaited from Phil Threlfall. PF to check current progress and status with HR before requesting report to committee.
Review of council's treasury management arrangements	Statutory requirement. November/December 2016.
Budget scrutiny - fees and charges, capital growth bids	Annual consideration – likely to be considered by reports to committee in October/November 2016
Value for money profiles	Review of the comparative profiles previously produced by the Audit Commission. October/November 2016.

Revised 25 May 2016

Monday 6 February 2017

### **Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government**

1 On Tuesday 24 January 2017 the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee launched an inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government. The Committee will consider whether overview and scrutiny arrangements in England are working effectively and whether local communities are able to contribute to and monitor the work of their councils.

2 Overview and scrutiny arrangements were introduced by the Local Government Act in 2000 as a counterweight to increasing decision-making powers of Leaders and Cabinets or directly elected mayors. Shortcomings have been exposed, however, following a number of high profile cases.

3 Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Communities and Local Government Committee, said:

“This inquiry is long overdue. Local authority executives have more powers than ever before but there has not been any review about how effectively the current overview and scrutiny arrangements are working since they were introduced in 2000.

Local authorities have a considerable degree of discretion when it comes to overview and scrutiny. We will examine these arrangements and consider what changes may be needed to ensure decision-makers in councils and local services are better held to account.”

4 The Committee invites written evidence on:

- Whether scrutiny committees in local authorities in England are effective in holding decision-makers to account
- The extent to which scrutiny committees operate with political impartiality and independence from executives
- Whether scrutiny officers are independent of and separate from those being scrutinised
- How chairs and members are selected
- Whether powers to summon witnesses are adequate
- The potential for local authority scrutiny to act as a voice for local service users
- How topics for scrutiny are selected

- The support given to the scrutiny function by political leaders and senior officers, including the resources allocated (for example whether there is a designated officer team)
- What use is made of specialist external advisers
- The effectiveness and importance of local authority scrutiny of external organisations
- The role of scrutiny in devolution deals and the scrutiny models used in combined authorities
- Examples where scrutiny has worked well and not so well

The deadline for written submissions is Friday 10 March 2017.

5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be advised about the inquiry at their meeting on 6 February 2017.

6 CMT is asked for their views about how best to compile and agree a response to the inquiry from Wyre Council.

Peter Foulsham  
Scrutiny Officer  
26 January 2017

arm/o&s/cr/17/0602pf1 Appendix 3

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