



**ARTICLE NO: 1A**

**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE:**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2013/14  
ISSUE: 3**

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**Article of: Borough Solicitor**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Sudworth**

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**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S HEALTH SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

- 1.1** To keep Members apprised of developments in relation to Health Overview and Scrutiny in Lancashire.

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1** The Health and Social Care Act (2001), subsequently superseded by the National Health Service Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012, extended the powers of Overview and Scrutiny Committees of local authorities responsible for social services functions to include the power to review and scrutinise matters relating to the health service in their areas.
- 2.2** The Health Scrutiny Committee at Lancashire County Council exercises the statutory functions of a health overview and scrutiny committee. The Membership of the Committee includes twelve non-voting Co-opted district council Members, West Lancashire's representative is Councillor Mrs Stephenson.
- 2.3** To ensure that Members receive regular updates on the work being undertaken by the Committee and to provide an opportunity to feed back

any comments via the Council's representative, a copy of the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee minutes are attached.

### **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this update.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial and resource implications associated with this item except the Officer time in compiling this update.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee

1. 22 October 2013

**Lancashire County Council**

**Health Scrutiny Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 22 October, 2013 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

**Present:**

County Councillor Steven Holgate (Chair)

**County Councillors**

M Brindle	A Kay
Mrs F Craig-Wilson	Y Motala
G Dowding	B Murray
N Hennessy	M Otter
M Iqbal	N Penney
A James	B Yates

**Co-opted members**

Councillor Brenda Ackers, (Fylde Borough Council Representative)  
Councillor Julia Berry, (Chorley Borough Council Representative)  
Councillor Paul Gardner, (Lancaster City Council Representative)  
Councillor Bridget Hilton, (Ribble Valley Borough Council Representative)  
Councillor Mrs D Stephenson, (West Lancashire Borough Council Representative)  
Councillor Betsy Stringer, (Burnley Borough Council Representative)  
Councillor David Whalley, (Pendle Borough Council Representative)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Liz McInnes (Rossendale Borough Council), Julie Robinson (Wyre Borough Council), and Dave Wilson (Preston City Council).

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None disclosed

**3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10 September 2013**

The Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 10 September 2013 were presented

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee held on the 10 September 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. North West Ambulance Service**

The Chair welcomed Peter Mulcahy, Head of Service, Cumbria and Lancashire and Tim Butcher, Assistant Director of Performance, both from the North West Ambulance Service (NWS).

They delivered a presentation which set out a summary of current developments within the NWS which included an estates review, performance data and details of their community first responder (CFR) provision. A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes. Additional background on the review of the Trust's estate was set out at Appendix A to the report now presented.

It was explained that the NWS was continually working with partners to gather information to try to understand why demand was changing. Careful, predictive analysis determined the location of vehicles parked and waiting for their next call.

It was no longer possible to send an ambulance to every 'emergency'. The priority was to ensure that the patient received the appropriate level of care, at the right time, and this could be from one of a number of sources including the GP, Urgent Care or the Emergency Department. A scheme was about to be trialled in Preston whereby ambulance crew could contact a dedicated GP by telephone for clinical advice to enable crew to take a clinically safe, informed decision. This initiative had already been trialled in Greater Manchester where it had worked well. NWS would monitor carefully and report back to the Committee.

The NWS extended an invitation to members to visit the ambulance control room at Broughton.

Members were invited to comment and ask questions and a summary of the main points of the discussion is provided below:

- In response to a question about the amount of time and energy spent by ambulance crews dealing with alcohol and drug related issues, it was confirmed that significant time and resources were used dealing with such matters. The ambulance service was the service most likely to be called in situations where drink and/or drugs were suspected because it was difficult and unsafe to assume that drink or drugs was the cause of a person appearing unwell; the symptoms displayed determined the response-the cause could be one of many different things. For example the symptoms of a brain bleed were similar to those of drunkenness.
- There was a dedicated 'safe haven' ambulance located in Blackpool at night and weekends specifically for people so badly affected by alcohol /drugs that they required temporary care. Similar problems / provision existed in other parts of Lancashire also.

- There had been approximately 260 cases of violence and verbal abuse against ambulance crew this year, resulting in lost working time owing to sick leave and the process of easing staff back to work.
- It was confirmed that the NWAS was working closely with the British Heart Foundation to provide defibrillators at a range of locations. The NWAS acted to some extent as a 'broker' and offered appropriate training. They also maintained a log of all defibrillators and their location, and provided appropriate coaching in their use.
- It was confirmed that ambulances were provided on a cross-border basis, for example an ambulance required in Halsall or Sefton could be dispatched from Burscough, Southport or Skelmersdale. A call would be answered in whichever control room had an available operator who would then select one of six available vehicles as displayed on their screen.
- It was acknowledged that patient transport services would adjust provision to respond to the increasing centralisation of specialist clinical services. The decision about who would be entitled to a patient transport journey would rest with the commissioners and would be based on clinical need not patients' convenience. The NWAS would continue to provide transport as requested by commissioners.
- It was confirmed that there was no intention to have just one 'hub' ambulance station for the whole of Lancashire. The hub and spoke model could work well in areas such as Fylde and East Lancashire, but not necessarily in areas such as Lancaster. There was a need to understand the diverse geography covered by NWAS and develop appropriate, cost effective solutions.
- The Committee was assured that previous problems relating to delays and the 'stacking' of ambulances at Royal Lancaster Infirmary had significantly improved. The new Emergency Department was about to open and RLI had recently funded a dedicated ambulance manager to control ambulances through the winter. One member asked that this Committee be notified if delays and 'stacking' again reaches unacceptable levels.
- Regarding a question about standardisation of the ambulance fleet, it was confirmed that, whilst the ambulance fleet was not part of this review, NWAS had a Vehicle Design Group which was working in partnership with the unions, and also taking account of patient experience about the kit, for example there had been complaints about the uncomfortable stretcher mattresses used which were now being changed. Whilst it was intended to continue with a mixed fleet, because it would be unwise to have just one vehicle provider, it was pointed out however that the interiors and equipment on whichever manufacturer of ambulance were identical.
- It was explained that a 'community first responder' (CFR) was a person trained by the NWAS to a national standard to deal with life threatening situations such as heart attacks. Their role was to provide immediate care whilst the ambulance was on its way. CFRs would not be asked to attend incidents involving paediatrics, traffic collisions or mental health matters. The on-call CFR would carry a pager, and would be provided with a medical kit. There was no obligation on the CFR to attend when asked; an ambulance would always be requested at the same time. The Chair noted that CFRs provided much

added value and he suggested that the county council might help support the CFR initiative in some way.

- The reasons for call-outs of CFRs were carefully monitored; it was recognised that different types of calls could be expected at different times of the year, for example the number of falls would increase over the winter months. Much planning was carried out on that basis. The address of those people who frequently called for an ambulance would be flagged and appropriate action taken, for example if the patient had mental health problems a multi-agency team would come together to support the patient.
- It was confirmed that the NWAS met on a regular basis with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer to discuss shared issues including joint use of premises, however, the point was made that NWAS was obliged to first consider using available NHS properties.
- One member raised concern about "creeping privatisation". It was explained that there was a requirement locally and nationally to adopt a market approach and to follow European procurement legislation – functions had to be put out to competitive tender.
- Regarding what sometimes appeared to be poor ambulance response times in more remote areas such as those in Pendle, it was explained that it was important to consider the context and not just the statistics, which could sometimes be misleading at face value; the example cited involved just four calls and as such the average response could be significantly skewed by just one slower response. It was important also to ensure that complementary resources were in place. The NWAS was shortly due to meet with the Pendle Scrutiny Committee.
- It was explained that the NWAS, like every public sector organisation, was under pressure to deliver a significant cost improvement programme whilst maintaining performance standards and quality of service. The priority was to spend money on ambulances and staff rather than on buildings. There had been a substantial investment in 170 paramedics in the last year. Sale of buildings would generate a one-off sum which would be re-invested into front line services and to support the building of 'hubs'.
- It was confirmed that information about the consequences arising from those occasions when ambulances did not meet their target response time was available in the NWAS Board Papers which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.nwas.nhs.uk/about-us/how-we-are-run/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/agendas-minutes/board-of-directors-2013/>

- The eight minute target response time for Red1 calls was an arbitrary figure and a response time of plus or minus one minute would make very little difference. It was very difficult to judge whether outcomes would have been different if the ambulance had arrived earlier.
- The point was made that expectations were sometimes unrealistic and that people might have to wait for an ambulance if there were other priorities.
- It was acknowledged that there had been a rise in the number of incidents involving people with mental health problems and for the transfer of patients to specialist facilities outside the North West. Training for staff required to deal

with such situations focussed on Mental Health Legislation and elements of the Mental Health Act relating to transport. Within NWAS there was mandatory training each year which would include new, relevant subjects - changes in Mental Health Legislation would be included in the training as it was rolled out. The NWAS was confident that its staff, whilst not having specialist clinical skills did have the skills to manage transportation of mental health patients.

- It was confirmed that the NWAS had attended a number of Health and Wellbeing Boards and also regularly provided much information to all partner agencies.
- The NWAS was informed when planning applications were submitted / being considered. it was considered essential that the NWAS be kept informed about new developments and road layouts; a team based in Carlisle was responsible for maintaining the information technology relating to street names etc
- The point was made that people living on their own can struggle to provide information to an attending ambulance about their medical history and medication. NWAS agreed that it would be most helpful if they were able to electronically access a patient's medical records; they did have the facility to transmit information electronically from the ambulance to the Emergency Department, but the national roll out of electronic access to medical records had faltered.
- Certain patients' addresses were / could be 'flagged' to inform the ambulance service about important information such as information about end of life care, domestic abuse and other matters which potentially made the resident vulnerable.

### **Resolved:**

It was agreed that:

- i. The Health Scrutiny Committee accept the Trust's invitation to visit the NWAS ambulance control centre at Broughton.
- ii. The Steering Group of the Health Scrutiny Committee receive further information about Community First Responders and consider how members may contribute to the roll out of this scheme.
- iii. The NWAS would inform this Committee regarding any proposed changes to its estate as soon as possible.
- iv. The NWAS would provide a further report in the New Year about the pathfinder scheme and progress with the GP pilot scheme currently being trialled in Preston.

## **5. Report of the Health Scrutiny Committee Steering Group**

On 16 August the Steering Group had met with Fylde & Wyre CCG to discuss the commissioner's role following the outcome of the 'Improving Patient Care' consultation. A summary of the meeting was set out at Appendix A to the report now presented.

On 6 September the Steering Group had met with Tony Pounder, Head of Commissioning from the Adult Services & Public Health Directorate to discuss the review of the domiciliary care market in Lancashire. A summary of the meeting was set out at Appendix B to the report now presented.

**Resolved:** That the report of the Steering Group be received

## **6. Recent and Forthcoming Decisions**

The Committee's attention was drawn to forthcoming decisions and decisions recently made by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members in areas relevant to the remit of the committee, in order that this could inform possible future areas of work.

Recent and forthcoming decisions taken by Cabinet Members or the Cabinet can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

**Resolved:** That the report be received.

## **7. Urgent Business**

No urgent business was reported.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at 10.30am at County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher  
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall  
Preston





**ARTICLE NO: 1B**

**CORPORATE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2013/14  
ISSUE: 3**

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**Article of:** Borough Solicitor

**Relevant Managing Director:** Managing Director (People and Places)

**Contact for further information:** Mrs. J Brown (Extn 5065)  
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**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – THEMATIC GROUPS**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1 To present to Members the remaining notes/minutes of meetings of various LSP Thematic groups.

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership was dissolved on 31 March 2013 and its successor partnership arrangement 'One West Lancashire' was established. Minutes of the Thematic Groups will continue to be received by the One West Lancashire Board and reported to Members via future issues of this Members' Update.

2.2 The Thematic Group notes/minutes submitted to the former West Lancashire LSP are attached to this Members' Update and any outstanding notes/minutes will also be included in future editions of the Members Update.

## **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

3.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this article and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The Thematic Groups were established in order to achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this article.

## **5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this article.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The Article does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

1. Minutes of Better Environment Thematic Group held on 4 October 2011.
2. Minutes of Better Environment Thematic Group held on 24 May 2012.
3. Minutes of Better Environment Thematic Group held on 23 August 2012.
4. Minutes of Integrated Transport Thematic Group held on 15 May 2012.
5. Minutes of West Lancashire Partnership Board for Older People held on 28 January 2011.
6. Minutes of Older Persons Partnership held on 16 April 2012.
7. Minutes of Older People's Partnership held on 18 July 2012.
8. Minutes of Older People's Partnership held on 11 October 2012.
9. Minutes of Older People's Partnership held on 10 January 2013.
10. Minutes of Older People's Partnership held on 14 March 2013.

## Better Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

### Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Present: Richard Small (Chair) – Liverpool John Moores University  
Tina Iball – WLBC, Environment  
Lindsay Beaton – Wildlife Trust  
Dominic Rigby – LCC, Environment  
Jill Antrobus – WLBC, Environmental Health

#### 1. Introductions and apologies

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Apologies had been received from:

Dave Dunlop – Wildlife Trust  
Steve Kent, WLBC, Leisure  
Tim Graham – Wildlife Trust  
Laura Gee – WLBC, Housing  
Pat Burgess – WLBC, Waste and Recycling  
Pam Brandwood – Edge Hill University

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meetings were agreed to be a true record.

A letter of thanks has been sent to Groundwork Pennine Lancashire on behalf of the group. Groundwork has replied with interest in undertaking a further project in the near future, dependant on funding availability.

#### 3. ETG Progress Updates

Please see Progress Report June 2011 to October 2011 for details of the progress made over this quarter.

#### 4. Local Nature Partnership

The group had a brief discussion with regards to Local Nature Partnerships and Lancashire's bid to participate. TI to find further information, provided below.

TI

To aid the set up of LNP's DEFRA have set up a LNP Fund to support partnership development works in areas where no partnership currently exists and enable existing partnerships to aspire to become LNP's. A bid has been submitted to DEFRA, on behalf of Lancashire, by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Initial priorities in the bid are to develop a Lancashire wide service to offer advice on priority action, revitalise the Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy, build local partnerships with Natural Economy Northwest and Lancashire LEP over green economy developments, produce a new landscape scale delivery plan for Lancashire's BAP, enable volunteer and community involvement and integrate cross border issues into the delivery plan.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust has received a conditional offer of funding from DEFRA with an opportunity to fine tune the application and submit an amended budget proposal excluding activities that fall outside of the capacity building objectives. This is soon to be resubmitted.

Further information about LNP's and the Lancashire bid can be found here:

[http://www.vsnw.org.uk/files/Publications/Briefing\\_64\\_Local\\_Nature\\_Partnerships\\_-\\_draft.doc](http://www.vsnw.org.uk/files/Publications/Briefing_64_Local_Nature_Partnerships_-_draft.doc)

DR suggested that the West Lancs estuary and mosslands could be eligible as this would benefit significantly if groups worked together to link attractions and investigate linking sites for biodiversity e.g. the water vole network. TI to feedback on the success of the bid and future works.

TI

#### 5. **Lancashire Environment Forum**

TI informed the group that the Lancashire Environment Forum has recently reformed and the first meeting had been held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011, chaired by John Wells from InBev.

The outcome of the meeting saw the forum have two main functions. Firstly to be an overarching strategic partnership for environmental issues and secondly as a broader network and information giving body. Suggested functions include the natural environment, water, energy and climate change and strategic planning and development. The group will also incorporate the Lancashire Climate Change Partnership. Relevant feedback from these meetings will be relayed back to the group.

#### 6. **New Chair for the ETG**

RS informed the group of his plans to retire in the not too distant future and whilst his departure is not imminent, we need to consider a new chair for the group.

TI is to enquire of the formal procedure for appointing a new chair with the LSP Secretariat. Meanwhile, expressions of interest would be welcomed from Members, either for themselves or others.

TI

TI suggested that as the group normally meets as two sub groups for the natural and built environment, two chairs could be an option.

7. **Any Other Business**

No other items were raised.

8. **Date of next meeting**

TI to arrange electronically for Mid January

TI

# Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

## Progress Report February 2001 to June 2011

### Natural Environment Sub Group

#### **Action 1.b – Natural Environment Service**

The efforts of the NES partnership has increased the number of Local Sites in Lancashire (Biological Heritage Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites) in positive management from 15% in 2009 to 26.3% as of March 2011, exceeding the annual target increase of 3%.

The Environment Agency (EA) has managed to secure funds for their contribution to the Local Records Centre over the next few years. DEFRA funding will be maintained at a reduced level.

#### **Action 2.b - Mosslands**

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust has provided consultation advice to the Planning Authority opposing the extension of further peat extraction at Simonswood Moss. They are currently seeking a meeting with LCC to ensure the damaging impact of carbon emissions from peat extraction is given serious consideration and to provide further advice with regards to alternative management and revision of aftercare proposals.

#### **Action 2.d – Brown Hare**

The Brown Hare Conservation and Recording Project started in January 2011 and the first round of analysis of recorded sightings is underway.

#### **Action 2.i – Mere Sands Wood**

Revision of the nature reserves 5 year management plan is currently underway to establish the future priorities of the site in terms of both habitats and species and the role in which it plays in education and tourism.

#### **Action 3.a – Water Vole**

The NW water vole project has now finished its 3 year term but some water vole work is continuing at Hesketh Outmarsh. The findings have identified a water vole stronghold within the agricultural drainage ditch network of West Lancashire, and it is hoped this will help secure further funding for future plans to deliver habitat creation and develop corridors between isolated populations so they can breed and spread.

The Alt & Crossens river catchment in West Lancashire stood out as being of potential national importance. The area supports widespread water vole populations with high levels of connectivity between colonies. More information can be found at this link:

<http://www.lancswt.org.uk/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=159&cntnt01returnid=15>

#### **Action 4.a – Salt Marsh**

The salt marsh created at Hesketh West has developed salt marsh vegetation well, and is attracting a wide range of birds. The RSPB reserve is open to visitors and the managed realignment is working well. The RSPB have purchased an additional 52 hectares of land in Hesketh East with plans to create more salt marsh habitat, working in partnership with the Environment Agency.

### **Action 5.b – Lowland Grasslands**

The Forever Meadows project is working on a number of sites in the West Lancashire constituency including Beacon Country Park, Tawd Valley Park, Hunters Hill Delph, Elmers Green Common and Clough, some privately owned sites, Haskayne Cuttings and Chapel Lane Fields owned by Parbold Parish Council.

These sites have/will be surveyed using rapid condition assessment providing baseline data to measure the success of any management options put in. The capital investment is to improve the condition of the sites and secure the long term positive management of them.

### **Action 7.b – School Grounds**

Edge Hill University is utilising an overgrown, unused area to create a small area of woodland, providing a small natural habitat for wildlife. The University also do educational work with local schools and were recently visited by Westhead Lathom School to do a project on trees.

## **Built Environment Sub Group**

### **Action 1.a – Recycling**

West Lancashire BC are currently undertaking changes to streamline the waste and recycling collection service. This will reduce the mileage undertaken by collection vehicles, reducing fuel consumption and associated emissions.

### **Action 2.b – Schools and Universities**

Edge Hill University is progressing with their Carbon Management Plan. Recent actions include the implementation of sub metering to individual buildings, high efficiency boiler replacements, a solar PV installation and a reclaimed heat system from a server room.

Regular awareness raising events are also held to promote energy efficiency, financial well being (which includes reducing your energy bills), love food hate waste, car sharing and recycling.

**West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership  
Environment Thematic Group**

**Natural Environment Action Plan for West Lancashire**

**Introduction**

This document has been produced by members of the Natural Environment sub-group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership. It aims to address some of the key issues affecting wildlife in the District of West Lancashire and to complement the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan.

The document is reviewed and updated quarterly, and builds upon the issues identified by partners during the development of an earlier Wildlife and Landscape Action Plan published in May 2002. The key issues identified are:

- The maintenance and enhancement of key habitats and species
- The influence of water management practices
- The impact of coastal changes and their management
- The fragmentation and isolation of habitats and elements of the landscape
- Increased public access to the countryside and green spaces
- The consideration of wildlife and landscape issues in land use planning
- Increased public awareness of biodiversity and the effects people's lifestyle choices have on the natural environment.

The impact of agricultural practices was also highlighted as a key issue in the 2002 Plan, though action points were not developed in previous issues of the Plan. Instead these relevant actions relating to agricultural practices have been incorporated within Section 2 (The maintenance and enhancement of key habitats and key species). The current update also includes a new section considering urban habitats. This fits with the development and launch of the Urban Habitat Plans by Lancashire's Biodiversity Partnership. While many urban biodiversity issues could fit



into sections 5 (fragmentation and isolation) and 6 (land use planning), its increasing relevance and the development of the habitat plans for Lancashire mean that they need separate consideration.

All the species and habitats that are explicitly referred to in this action plan are recognised in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as being amongst those under the greatest threat. Most are also the subject of action plans in the Lancashire BAP. They have been selected for inclusion in this action plan because they fall into at least one of the following categories:

- They are represented within the Borough and are declining in either population size or area or, in the case of habitats, declining in quality;
- The Borough either holds important populations of the species or areas of the habitats on a regional, national or international basis;
- The habitat or species is particularly characteristic of the Borough;
- The organisations that have contributed to this action plan are in a position to have a positive impact upon population size, habitat quality or extent, or awareness amongst the general public.

Arable farmland birds have been included here because a dramatic decline in the populations of many farmland bird species was observed from the mid 1970s and the proportion of land used for arable cropping in West Lancashire is well above the average for the county and the UK as a whole. Such species will of course benefit indirectly from actions included in the Habitat Action Plan for Arable Farmland within the Lancashire BAP.

Progress on all the actions contained in this Plan will be monitored and reported annually to the Environment Thematic Group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) by the Lancashire Biodiversity Manager, and then to the full West Lancashire LSP.

Many of the actions in the Plan contribute to actions contained in the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, and these are indicated with an asterisk. Progress on these particular actions will also be reported on the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS; [www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk](http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk)), which is a publicly accessible website.

This action plan will be updated every two years by organisations on the Environment Thematic Group along with other delivery partners.

**Objective 1: To provide a system for sharing and storing ecological data throughout the county of Lancashire and develop services for Local Authorities to meet statutory obligations.**

One of the most frequently-encountered barriers to the conservation of wildlife is a shortage of appropriate ecological data. Often it simply isn't possible to answer basic questions such as: What kinds of wildlife do we have? Where are they? Are populations increasing, stable or declining? Is habitat quality improving, unchanging or deteriorating? If the necessary information were readily available, it would enable wildlife enhancing schemes and projects to work more effectively, facilitate better-informed planning and policy decisions, and highlight both localised and wider threats and opportunities for species and habitats. It would also allow us to monitor the effects of our actions, adding to our understanding of what works and what doesn't.

**General**

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>1.a. LOCAL RECORD CENTRE</b> <i>Maintain a county wide local record centre through the Lancashire Environment Recording Network (LERN)</i>	Secure a sustainable funding stream.	LCC, NE, TWT, EA, RSPB.		Sept' 2011
<b>1.b.LANCASHIRE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE</b> <i>Continue provision of the Lancashire Natural Environment Service to monitor BHS sites and increase the number in positive management</i>	Support delivery of Lancashire's Natural Environment Service and aid positive management of sites.  Secure a sustainable funding stream.	LCC, WLBC, TWT, LBP		Sept' 2011

## Objective 2: To maintain and enhance the quality, quantity and awareness of West Lancashire’s key natural habitats and species.

Important wildlife sites are areas of land which are closest to their ‘wild’ state, where the influence of human activities has been minimal or where traditional farming and other sympathetic land management practices have survived. These sites support a rich variety of wild plants and animals. Other kinds of site that can have a high biodiversity value are those that have been developed in the past and are now derelict, neglected or underused, such as disused railway lines or urban ‘wasteland’.

West Lancashire is a stronghold for a number of key habitats and species identified both nationally and locally in Biodiversity Action Plans. These habitats may suffer from inappropriate management or a lack of awareness of their benefit for wildlife, and basic information on species numbers and distribution is often lacking. However, this can be addressed through practical tasks, awareness raising activities, survey work and the promotion of advisory services.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>2.a BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE ISSUES</b> <i>Attend or hold annual event to promote project work or issues in West Lancashire area.</i>	Attend West Lancashire Green Fayre or hold other event annually.	WLBC TWT		Annually
<b>2.b. MOSSLANDS*</b> <i>Promote and review opportunities to acquire and restore mossland sites in West Lancashire.</i>	Engage with Landowners to encourage take up of agri-environment grants.  Provision of consultation advice to planning authorities.	WLBC EA TWT LCC		March 2012
<b>2.c. ARABLE FARMLAND BIRDS (Lapwing, Grey Partridge, Barn Owl etc.)*</b> <i>Promote and encourage the take up of measures to help farmland birds.</i>	Encourage arable landowners to join the <a href="#">Environmental Stewardship Scheme</a> . 40% of land under Entry Level and 5% of land under Higher Level Agreement (% of total area of farmed land in West Lancs) with ELS/HLS management secured on 8 farms in West Lancashire.	FWAG NFU RSPB WWT NE		March 2012

	Encourage farmers to join the <a href="#">Volunteer and Farmer Alliance Project</a> (farmers grant access for volunteers to survey their land for birds).		
	Encourage farmers to join the <a href="#">Corn Bunting Project</a> to use farming practices that benefit farmland bird assemblages, using Stewardship application.		
<b>2.d. BROWN HARE*</b> <i>Brown Hare Conservation and Recording Project.</i>  <i>Develop a project to deliver habitat for Brown Hare conservation across wider region.</i>	Organise & deliver training for the annual formal Brown Hare survey.  Encourage public participation in the <a href="#">Lancashire Brown Hare Survey</a> to record Brown hare sightings (8 volunteers from West Lancs participating. 20 records from West Lancs submitted).  Analyse the results from casual web-based recording of sightings. Deliver habitat for Brown hare conservation across the region.	TWT FWAG LCC BTO WLBC BAP Partners	March 2012
<b>2.e. PURPLE RAMPING FUMITORY*</b> <i>Investigate possible demonstration or reintroduction sites using seed produced through current projects.</i>	Identify potential sites identified and establish viable populations.  Update associated section of the Lancashire BAP.	WWT LL NE	March 2012
<b>2.f. GREAT CRESTED NEWTS</b> <i>Investigate populations at Pond Close, Tarleton.</i>	Conduct population assessment.  Completion and implementation of pond management plan.	WLBC LJMU	May/ June 2011  March 2012
<b>2.g. INCREASE/ ENHANCE ACCESS - HUNTERS HILL</b> <i>Designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) at Hunters Hill local nature conservation site.</i>	Implementation of the Hunters Hill Management Plan, as set out in the action plan timetable.	WLBC	March 2012

<b>2.h. INCREASE/ ENHANCE ACCESS - <a href="#">RIBBLE COAST &amp; WETLANDS REGIONAL PARK</a></b> <i>Increased provisions for visitors/ tourism.</i>	Completion of Access Strategy.  <b>Improvements to the section from Martin Mere to Mere Sands Wood an MSW to Rufford station.</b>	RCW partnership	Partners time  Funding – bids pending	March 2012  March 2012
<b>2.i. <a href="#">MERE SANDS WOOD</a></b> <b>Increased provisions for visitors/ tourism.</b>	Improve education and interpretation facilities.  Commence re-development of the visitor centre with improved visitor and educational facilities.  Revision of the management plan, in consultation with stakeholders.	TWT	Funding	March 2012
<b>2.j. DOUGLAS LINEAR PARK</b> <i>Development of a linear park between Tarleton and Hesketh Bank.</i>	Provide support for the development of a linear park.  Complete the feasibility study and produce initial cost proposals and implementation plan e.g. access works, landownership etc.	Douglas Linear Park Partnership WLBC	Funding	March 2012

**Objective 3: To ensure that water and riparian habitat management practices are carried out that benefit both water quality and species that inhabit aquatic habitats.**

The wetlands of West Lancashire include sites of regional, national and international importance, hosting a valuable wildlife resource. These wetlands form a landscape of distinctive character, formerly dominated by the historic Martin Mere. Thousands of kilometres of drainage ditch now criss-cross the District and form an important network, with the canal and river corridors linking these wetlands. Some sections of these networks are in poor condition and fragment the populations of the species which inhabit them. Many of the water habitats in West Lancashire are threatened by run-off and eutrophication, abstraction, in-filling and neglect.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
<b>3.a. WATER VOLE*</b> <a href="#">NW England's Lowland Water Vole Project.</a>  <i>Implement water vole friendly catchment management works.</i>	Habitat Management Workshop held annually.  Advise landowners and managers of water bodies and watercourses in the project area (incl. Douglas and Mersey catchments) on water vole-friendly management practices when opportunities arise.  Investigate BHS designation at appropriate agricultural ditches in West Lancashire. Continued training and volunteer support.  <b>Restore existing riparian and bankside habitat specifically for water voles at dedicated works within Alt Crossens and Douglas Catchments.</b>	<b>EA</b> <b>TWT</b> <b>FWAG</b> <b>UU</b> <b>BAP</b> <b>Partnerships</b>	Funding	March 2012
<b>3.b. DRAGONFLIES</b> <b>Support development and promotion of Atlas Survey of dragonflies in Lancashire.</b>	Data available for several key sites in the borough.	TWT WWT Volunteers	Funding	March 2012

**Objective 4: To undertake projects which support and enhance natural coastal systems and habitats across West Lancashire.**

The inherently dynamic nature of coastal systems, the impact of climate change on sea levels and the coincidental balancing by geological processes, all influence the internationally important Ribble Estuary and its marshes. Policy decisions regarding managed retreat, sea wall defences and tidal barriers will have a major impact on the marshes and mosslands immediately inland of these. Furthermore, loss of land and habitat on the coast could lead to a squeeze on land uses further inland.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
4.a. SALT MARSH* <i>Restoration of further arable land to salt marsh.</i>	Hectares restored.	RSPB EA NE RCW		March 2012

**Objective 5: To identify suitable sites and initiate habitat creation projects, and to manage urban sites in ways that benefit wildlife.**

The fragmentation of habitats (and therefore the species that inhabit them) can arise from a variety of causes, such as development, inappropriate land management or changes in land use. This has adverse effects on the continuity of landscape character and reduces the quality of habitats within it. Wet woodland provides vital stepping stones between many of the aquatic environments described in sections above, and supports populations of species important both locally and nationally. Some urban sites also have the potential to be beneficial for wildlife. If managed appropriately they can act as stepping stones for the movement of species within and between urban and more rural areas of the District.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>5.a. WOODLAND (WET)*</b> <i>Identify sites and initiate restoration or creation.</i>	Woodland restored.	WWT TWT EA FC NE		March 2012
<b>5.b. LOWLAND GRASSLAND*</b> <i>Support the development of <a href="#">Forever Meadows Project</a> to bring grassland sites into beneficial management within the Borough.</i>	Number of surveys conducted, management plans produced and successful management agreements in place.	TWT WLBC NE FWAG		March 2012
<b>5.c. <a href="#">GORSE HILL NATURE RESERVE</a></b> <i>Heathland and grassland restoration.</i>	Hectares of Heathland and grassland restored. Hectares of woodland established.	NWET		Ongoing
<b>5.d. <a href="#">RUFFORD OLD HALL</a></b> <i>Grassland restoration.</i>	Hectares of improved grassland brought into wet grassland management.	NT		Ongoing
<b>5.e BURSCOUGH COMMUNITY WOODLAND</b> <i>Creation of a community woodland at <a href="#">Platts Lane, Burscough</a>.</i>	Conduct site investigations and, dependant on findings, produce a woodland design.	WLBC LCC Global Renewables	Findings of site investigations Funding	March 2012



**Objective 6: Improve the quality of wildlife information available to planning authorities and raise awareness of applicants/ developers and planning case officers of the needs and protective legislation concerning particular species of wildlife.**

Land use planning is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development and planning authorities are required to balance economic, social and environmental considerations when allocating land for particular kinds of development and when considering development proposals. Often, however, the needs of wildlife are in conflict with people’s need for development to provide employment or new homes (for example). At a local level, proper protection of wildlife species and habitats in land use planning relies on both strong local development policies (based on sufficient and up to date information concerning the distribution and status of wildlife in the area) and on the informed application of those policies at the development control stage to ensure that the best possible planning decision is made in each case. Greater awareness by applicants/developers, planning case officers and councillors of the sensitivity of particular habitats and species, and of the protection afforded by legislation, will help to minimise the adverse effects of development on wildlife whilst maximising opportunities for biodiversity gains.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>6.a. ECOLOGICAL GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPERS</b> <i>Produce and make available guidance on ecological impacts of development proposals for developers and Local Planning Authority case officers.</i>	Development of Core Strategy incorporating biodiversity policies in line with National Planning Policy Framework.	WLBC and consultees		March 2012
<b>6.b. RED SQUIRREL*</b> <i>Adhere to the objectives of the red squirrel buffer zone i.e. planting guidelines etc.</i>	Buffer zone officially recognised by WLBC and principles applied to that part of the zone within West Lancs.  Ongoing monitoring and recording of sightings.	WLBC LCC FC	Funding	March 2012
<b>6.c. NEW AND BUILT STRUCTURES</b> <i>Encourage the inclusion of biodiversity</i>	Encourage take up in relevant new developments. 1 case study development for	WLBC LCC	Resources of BAP	March 2012

<b><i>elements into new developments (e.g. bat tiles, swallow eaves, green roofs, living walls and rain gardens).</i></b>	locally relevant best practice (to be delivered through Urban BAP Update).	TWT RSPB	Partnership
<b>6.d. NEW AND BUILT STRUCTURES</b> <b><i>Enforce appropriate management, survey and mitigation for nesting birds and bats in existing buildings and conversions.</i></b>	Develop a Green Infrastructure Policy within the Core Strategy. Follow best practice in terms of planning application and enforcement.	WLBC LCC	March 2012

**Objective 7: Improve the quality of wildlife information available to Local Authorities and relevant groups in urban areas to promote the conservation of urban biodiversity and manage urban habitats for wildlife and people together with promoting wider adoption of biodiversity elements into the designed landscape.**

Urban areas can hold significant sites for biodiversity conservation, and are particularly important due to the fact they are the areas in which most of the public interact with their natural environment. This also adds impetus through potential interaction of the BAP with education, greater access to the public, and in policy and planning agendas. Significant community work and benefits to wider agendas, such as sustainable communities, identity and place, health and well-being, can be made through biodiversity work in urban areas. Many actions may fall between sections 5, 6, and 7, and where this may happen it is intended that actions be included in the section that covers the major elements of the action. For example small number of sites may be managed for conservation and included in section 7, until this action develops to aiming to counteract isolation and fragmentation specifically, when it would move to section 5.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>7.a. PARKS AND GREENSPACE</b> <i>Promote the management for, and integration of, biodiversity within parks and urban green spaces. Manage and create urban wildflower meadows in relevant areas.</i>	Support events for parks/greenspace management and biodiversity.  Inclusion of green infrastructure within Local Development Framework.  Coronation Park wildflower meadow managed to maximise biodiversity.	WLBC TWT GS LCC LBP		March 2012
<b>7.b. SCHOOL GROUNDS</b> <i>Promote maintenance and creation of wildlife areas for biodiversity and education.</i>	Minimum of 1 school annually.	TWT WLBC LCC		March 2012
<b>7.c. COMMUNITY WOODLAND AND ORCHARDS</b> <i>Monitor and assess contribution of Traditional Orchard site to urban biodiversity.</i>	Survey and monitoring of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve.  Aid creation of community woodland	NWET WLBC LCC		March 2011

	and orchards.			
	Orchard at Scutchers Acres, Burscough		LTWiGS grant	Sept 2011.
<b>7.d. ALLOTMENTS</b> <i>Support development of community schemes and promote to local residents.</i>	Improve provision of community food growing initiatives.	WLWG WLBC		March 2012
	Improve management of existing sites e.g. water provision, access etc.			
<b>7.e. GREEN PARTNERSHIP AWARDS</b> <i>Support for community environmental projects.</i>	Encourage community support. Financial support and technical advice for 10 community environmental projects annually.	LCC WLBC	Applications	March 2012

## ***Abbreviations of Partners***

ARGNM	The Amphibian and Reptile Group for North Merseyside
ARGSL	The Amphibian and Reptile Group for South Lancashire
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BW	British Waterways
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GLW+W	Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan
GPL	Groundwork Pennine Lancashire
GS	GreenSpace
LCC	Lancashire County Council
LL	Landlife
LRF	Lancashire Rural Futures
LJMU	Liverpool John Moores University
MBC	Mersey Basin Campaign
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NT	National Trust
NWET	North West Ecological Trust
RCW	Ribble Coast & Wetlands Regional Park
PCs	Parish Councils
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
TWT	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside
WLBC	West Lancashire Borough Council
WLEN	West Lancashire Environmental Network
WWT	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

**West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership  
Environment Thematic Group**

**Built Environment Action Plan for West Lancashire District**

***Introduction***

**This document has been produced by members of the Environment Thematic Group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership. It aims to address some of the key issues related to the built environment and communities of the borough of West Lancashire and to complement the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy, at a local level.**

**The document is reviewed and updated quarterly, and builds upon the aims identified by partners during the development of earlier Environment Thematic Group action plans. These are:**

- The reduction of pollution to air, land and water.
- To reduce the amount of waste generated and the amount of which goes to landfill.
- To encourage and support local businesses and individuals to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change and encourage a low carbon, sustainable future.
- To ensure the Borough is well adapted to the risks that the changing climate may pose.
- To raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues

**Objective 1: To reduce pollution to air, land and water. To reduce the amount of waste generated and increase recycling and composting. To improve street cleanliness.**

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
<b>1.a. RECYCLING</b> Increase recycling and composting of household waste.	Increase the percentage of waste that is recycled or composted.	WLBC, Lancashire Waste Partnership		March 2012
<b>1.b. AIR QUALITY</b> Improve air quality to achieve National air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide.	Implement air quality action plan in partnership with stakeholders.	WLBC LCC PCT GMPTE		March 2012
<b>1.c. FLY-TIPPING</b> Reduce fly-tipping and littering	5 prosecutions for fly-tipping  20 interviews in relation to fly-tipping incidents  50 fixed penalty notices for littering/bin bags.  12 talks delivered in schools.	WLBC	Staff resources	March 2012
<b>1.d. NOISE</b> Reduce noise pollution	75 installations of noise monitoring equipment.  40 out of hours visits in relation to noise.	WLBC		March 2012

**Objective 2: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change and encourage a low carbon future. To adapt to the risks posed by a changing climate at a local level.**

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
<b>2.a. ENERGY EFFICIENCY</b> Reduce carbon emissions related to Council operations	Year on year reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions to meet the overall reduction target of a 25% reduction from 2006/07 baseline by 2020.	WLBC		March 2012
<b>2.b. SCHOOLS/ UNIVERSITIES</b> Work in partnership with schools, colleges and universities to reduce energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	Carbon savings from delivery of energy efficiency/ low carbon projects.	LCC WLBC Edge Hill University		March 2012
<b>2.c. COMMUNITIES</b> Work in partnership with Parish Councils and community groups to reduce energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	Engage with community groups and Parish Councils to advise on energy saving initiatives.	WLBC		March 2012
<b>2.d. BUSINESSES</b> Work in partnership with West Lancashire businesses to reduce energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	Engage with businesses to advise on energy saving initiatives and signpost to advisory services.  Encourage SME's to join the <a href="#">Lancashire Resource Efficiency Club</a> .	WLBC		March 2012
<b>2.e. WEST LANCASHIRE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY</b> Develop a West Lancashire specific action plan for actions to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions borough wide.	Engage with stakeholders to develop a West Lancashire Sustainability Strategy and co-ordinate Borough wide action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work towards a low carbon economy.	All partners, lead by WLBC.		March 2012



<b>2.f. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION</b> <b>Develop climate change adaptation plans to address the risks to local communities.</b>	Finalise the comprehensive assessment and action plan to minimise the Councils vulnerabilities to climate change and share with interested parties.  Engage with businesses and encourage consideration of their own vulnerabilities.	WLBC, LCC	Dec 2011
<b>2.g. RENEWABLE ENERGY</b> <b>Develop a Renewable Energy Policy for West Lancashire.</b>	Utilise the findings from the <a href="#">Renewable Energy Capacity Study</a> to influence renewable energy developments through the Local Development Framework.  Investigate the potential for a district heating scheme at larger residential development sites.  Establish the Community Energy Fund through development of pilot renewable projects on Council buildings.	WLBC	March 2012
<b>2.h. ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ FUEL POVERTY</b> <b>Reduce fuel poverty and increase affordable warmth.</b>	Provide advice and guidance to residents on energy efficiency in the home. Promote the take up of <a href="#">Warm Front</a> and <a href="#">discount insulation scheme</a> .  Aid the implementation of a Lancashire fuel poverty referral scheme.  Investigate the Council's role in delivery of the Green Deal.	WLBC, LCC, PCT.	March 2012



# Better Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

## Minutes of Meeting Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Present: Richard Small (Chair) - Liverpool John Moores University  
Tina Iball - WLBC, Environment  
Lindsay Beaton - Wildlife Trust  
Dominic Rigby - LCC, Environment  
Dave Dunlop - Wildlife Trust  
Tim Graham - Wildlife Trust

### 1. Introductions and apologies

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Apologies had been received from:

Steve Kent - WLBC, Leisure  
Dominic Carr - WLBC, Planning Policy

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meetings were agreed to be a true record.

RS informed the group that we have not received any expressions of interest for the position as new Chair for the group; however this will be his last meeting. RS intends to announce his intention to step down at the LSP Executive group meeting the following day.

A discussion regarding individuals who may be interested in joining the group, or possibly chairing the group followed. TI to make contact with those mentioned. TI

It was suggested that the Natural Environment sub group should continue in its present form but the Built Environment sub group could be considered for amalgamation into another Thematic Group. TI to investigate. TI

### 3. ETG Action Plan 2012-13 and Progress Updates

The group worked through the action plan, providing progress updates against actions and updating the action plan document for the 2012/13 period.

Please see Progress Report October 2011 to May 2012 for details of the progress made over the last two quarters. The revised 2012/13 action plan is also available.

Actions that came out of this exercise include:

- TG agreed to investigate progress of action 2.e: Purple Ramping Fumitory, as updates have not been received through BAP. TG
- TI to investigate if Green Partnership Awards could be utilised to help provide volunteers to help with pond clearance works at Pond Close, Tarleton. TI

4. **Local Nature Partnership**

The Lancashire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was founded last June and successfully secured funding to continue engagement works in late September. The partnership then applied to become an official LNP in April 2012 and have held a number of events to promote their work. To date, the LNP are still awaiting confirmation that the group is recognised as an official LNP.

Results from preliminary engagement highlights the groups priorities as:

- Development of an ecological framework for Lancashire
- Climate change
- Catchment management projects
- Green infrastructure
- Water and coastal issues
- Opportunities to access the natural environment
- Support for volunteers
- Health and wellbeing

The next stage of works will identify specific projects and joined up working with partners, at both strategic and lower level delivery.

Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region are also going through a similar process to achieve official LNP designation.

More information can be found by following this link:

<http://www.lancswt.org.uk/index.php/local-nature-partnerships>

5. **Second Homes Funding**

The following applications were successful in their application to the last round of the Second Homes Fund:

- Enhancing the Wetland for Waders and Watchers, The Wildlife Trust.
- The Spark Lane Bridge Project, British Waterways.

This years Second Homes Fund has been shared equally between all Thematic Groups, to spend on projects that will help implement our action plan and the LSP Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Group therefore has £1,690 to spend in 2012-13. The relevant forms were signed and subsequently returned to the LSP Exec to gratefully accept this funding.

The group were asked to consider projects they would like to put forward for consideration.

TI to enquire with regards to application forms and allocation procedures.

6. **Any Other Business**

Cath McNamara has now left the Council. Sue Griffiths is the new contact for the LSP Secretariat.

8. **Date of next meeting**

**To be arranged electronically for Mid August time.**

ALL

TI

TI

# **Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP**

## **Progress Report October 2011 to May 2012**

### **Action 2.h – Increase/ enhance access - Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park.**

Access works between Martin Mere and Mere Sands Wood are nearing completion. Enabled through receipt of a Local Sustainable Transport grant, partners have been established and most actions are underway. Various other projects within the regional park are in the planning stages for the next year, including the final link to Rufford. However, this still needs to secure funding to go ahead. An application to DECC's Parks for Communities fund may be submitted, if deemed eligible.

### **Action 2.i – Mere Sands Wood**

LCC Gateway funding has been secured to support an application for planning permission for the new facilities. New leaflets and interpretation boards have been produced to improve the educational facilities. A revised Management Plan for the reserve has been finalised.

### **Action 2.j – Douglas Linear Park**

The Parish Council has employed Groundwork to undertake a feasibility study and land searches for the area. The Group meet twice a year to progress and are currently identifying available funding streams to help move the project forward.

### **Action 3.a – Water Voles**

Funding for the Water Vole project finished last year but the project may continue. The findings of the project identified West Lancashire as a key site, with populations high enough to achieve BHS standard, however this will require support from volunteers to undertake continual monitoring for 3 years.

### **Action 3.b – Dragonflies**

Development of the national Atlas Survey of Dragonflies is complete across Lancashire.

### **Action 5.e – Burscough Community Woodland**

Site investigations have found that soil depths are not deep enough to allow planting all over the site. Tree planting would require too much organic matter, however investigations are currently underway to allow planting on some of the site.

### **Action 6.c – New and Built Structures**

Green roofs have been developed on four hides at Mere Sands Wood. Information regarding 'green roofs on your home' is available to visitors.

### **Action 7.c – Community Woodlands and Orchards**

Over 70 trees have been planted at Scutchers Acres in Burscough. Maps are now available to enable easy access to the orchard.

**West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership  
Environment Thematic Group**

**Natural Environment Action Plan for West Lancashire**

***Introduction***

This document has been produced by members of the Natural Environment sub-group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership. It aims to address some of the key issues affecting wildlife in the District of West Lancashire and to complement the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan.

The document is reviewed and updated quarterly, and builds upon the issues identified by partners during the development of an earlier Wildlife and Landscape Action Plan published in May 2002. The key issues identified are:

- The maintenance and enhancement of key habitats and species
- The influence of water management practices
- The impact of coastal changes and their management
- The fragmentation and isolation of habitats and elements of the landscape
- Increased public access to the countryside and green spaces
- The consideration of wildlife and landscape issues in land use planning
- Increased public awareness of biodiversity and the effects people's lifestyle choices have on the natural environment.

The impact of agricultural practices was also highlighted as a key issue in the 2002 Plan, though action points were not developed in previous issues of the Plan. Instead these relevant actions relating to agricultural practices have been incorporated within Section 2 (The maintenance and enhancement of key habitats and key species). The current update also includes a new section considering urban habitats. This fits with the development and launch of the Urban Habitat Plans by Lancashire's Biodiversity Partnership. While many urban biodiversity issues could fit into sections 5 (fragmentation and isolation) and 6 (land use planning), its increasing relevance and the development of the habitat plans for Lancashire mean that they need separate consideration.

All the species and habitats that are explicitly referred to in this action plan are recognised in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as being amongst those under the greatest threat. Most are also the subject of action plans in the Lancashire BAP. They have been selected for inclusion in this action plan because they fall into at least one of the following categories:

- They are represented within the Borough and are declining in either population size or area or, in the case of habitats, declining in quality;
- The Borough either holds important populations of the species or areas of the habitats on a regional, national or international basis;
- The habitat or species is particularly characteristic of the Borough;
- The organisations that have contributed to this action plan are in a position to have a positive impact upon population size, habitat quality or extent, or awareness amongst the general public.

Arable farmland birds have been included here because a dramatic decline in the populations of many farmland bird species was observed from the mid 1970s and the proportion of land used for arable cropping in West Lancashire is well above the average for the county and the UK as a whole. Such species will of course benefit indirectly from actions included in the Habitat Action Plan for Arable Farmland within the Lancashire BAP.

Progress on all the actions contained in this Plan will be monitored and reported annually to the Environment Thematic Group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) by the Lancashire Biodiversity Manager, and then to the full West Lancashire LSP.

Many of the actions in the Plan contribute to actions contained in the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, and these are indicated with an asterisk. Progress on these particular actions will also be reported on the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS; [www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk](http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk)), which is a publicly accessible website.

This action plan will be updated every two years by organisations on the Environment Thematic Group along with other delivery partners.

**Objective 1: To provide a system for sharing and storing ecological data throughout the county of Lancashire and develop services for Local Authorities to meet statutory obligations.**

One of the most frequently-encountered barriers to the conservation of wildlife is a shortage of appropriate ecological data. Often it simply isn't possible to answer basic questions such as: What kinds of wildlife do we have? Where are they? Are populations increasing, stable or declining? Is habitat quality improving, unchanging or deteriorating? If the necessary information were readily available, it would enable wildlife enhancing schemes and projects to work more effectively, facilitate better-informed planning and policy decisions, and highlight both localised and wider threats and opportunities for species and habitats. It would also allow us to monitor the effects of our actions, adding to our understanding of what works and what doesn't.

**General**

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>1.a. LOCAL RECORD CENTRE</b> <i>Maintain a county wide local record centre through the Lancashire Environment Recording Network (LERN)</i>	Secure a sustainable funding stream.	LCC, NE, TWT, EA, RSPB, Lancashire Local Nature Partnership.		April' 2013
<b>1.b.LANCASHIRE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE</b> <i>Continue provision of the Lancashire Natural Environment Service to monitor BHS sites and increase the number in positive management</i>	Support delivery of Lancashire's Natural Environment Service and aid positive management of sites.  Secure a sustainable funding stream.	LCC, WLBC, TWT, LBP, Lancashire Local Nature Partnership.		April' 2013



## Objective 2: To maintain and enhance the quality, quantity and awareness of West Lancashire's key natural habitats and species.

Important wildlife sites are areas of land which are closest to their 'wild' state, where the influence of human activities has been minimal or where traditional farming and other sympathetic land management practices have survived. These sites support a rich variety of wild plants and animals. Other kinds of site that can have a high biodiversity value are those that have been developed in the past and are now derelict, neglected or underused, such as disused railway lines or urban 'wasteland'.

West Lancashire is a stronghold for a number of key habitats and species identified both nationally and locally in Biodiversity Action Plans. These habitats may suffer from inappropriate management or a lack of awareness of their benefit for wildlife, and basic information on species numbers and distribution is often lacking. However, this can be addressed through practical tasks, awareness raising activities, survey work and the promotion of advisory services.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>2.a BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE ISSUES</b> <i>Attend or hold annual event to promote project work or issues in West Lancashire area.</i>	Attend West Lancashire Green Fayre or hold other event annually.	WLBC TWT		Annually
<b>2.b. MOSSLANDS*</b> <i>Promote and review opportunities to acquire and restore mossland sites in West Lancashire.</i>	Engage with Landowners to encourage take up of agri-environment grants.  Provision of consultation advice to planning authorities.  Implementation of a wider 'Mosslands Vision' across Lancashire.	WLBC EA TWT LCC		March 2013
<b>2.c. ARABLE FARMLAND BIRDS (Lapwing, Grey Partridge, Barn Owl etc.)*</b> <i>Promote and encourage the take up of</i>	Encourage arable landowners to join the <a href="#">Environmental Stewardship Scheme</a> . 40% of land under Entry Level and 5% of land under Higher Level	RSPB NFU WWT		March 2013

<b>measures to help farmland birds.</b>	<p>Agreement (% of total area of farmed land in West Lancs) with ELS/HLS management secured on 8 farms in West Lancashire.</p> <p>Encourage farmers to join the <a href="#">Volunteer and Farmer Alliance Project</a> (farmers grant access for volunteers to survey their land for birds).</p> <p>Encourage farmers to join the <a href="#">Corn Bunting Project</a> to use farming practices that benefit farmland bird assemblages, using Stewardship application.</p>	NE		
<p><b>2.d. BROWN HARE*</b> <b>Brown Hare Conservation and Recording Project.</b></p> <p><b>Develop a project to deliver habitat for Brown Hare conservation across wider region.</b></p>	<p>Organise &amp; deliver training for the annual formal Brown Hare survey.</p> <p>Encourage public participation in the <a href="#">Lancashire Brown Hare Survey</a> to record Brown hare sightings (8 volunteers from West Lancs participating. 20 records from West Lancs submitted).</p> <p>Analyse the results from casual web-based recording of sightings. Deliver habitat for Brown hare conservation across the region. Identify key areas for management.</p>	TWT FWAG LCC BTO WLBC BAP Partners		January 2013
<p><b>2.e. PURPLE RAMPING FUMITORY*</b> <b>Investigate possible demonstration or reintroduction sites using seed produced through current projects.</b></p>	<p>Identify potential sites identified and establish viable populations.</p> <p>Update associated section of the Lancashire BAP.</p>	WWT LL NE		March 2013
<p><b>2.f. GREAT CRESTED NEWTS</b> <b>Investigate populations at Pond Close, Tarleton.</b></p>	<p>Conduct population assessment.</p> <p>Completion and implementation of pond management plan, to ensure weed clearance at appropriate time of year.</p>	WLBC LJMU		May/ June 2013  March 2013
<p><b>2.g. INCREASE/ ENHANCE ACCESS - <a href="#">RIBBLE COAST &amp; WETLANDS REGIONAL PARK</a></b></p>	<p>Completion of Access Strategy.</p> <p>Improvements to the section from Martin Mere to Mere Sands Wood an MSW to Rufford station.</p>	RCW partnership	Partners time Funding – bids pending	March 2013

<b>Increased provisions for visitors/ tourism.</b>					
<b>2.h. <a href="#">MERE SANDS WOOD</a></b> <b>Increased provisions for visitors/ tourism.</b>	Commence re-development of the visitor centre with improved visitor and educational facilities.	TWT	Funding	March 2012	
<b>2.i. DOUGLAS LINEAR PARK</b> <b>Development of a linear park between Tarleton and Hesketh Bank.</b>	Provide support for the development of a linear park.	Douglas Linear Park Partnership WLBC	Funding	March 2013	

**Objective 3: To ensure that water and riparian habitat management practices are carried out that benefit both water quality and species that inhabit aquatic habitats.**

The wetlands of West Lancashire include sites of regional, national and international importance, hosting a valuable wildlife resource. These wetlands form a landscape of distinctive character, formerly dominated by the historic Martin Mere. Thousands of kilometres of drainage ditch now criss-cross the District and form an important network, with the canal and river corridors linking these wetlands. Some sections of these networks are in poor condition and fragment the populations of the species which inhabit them. Many of the water habitats in West Lancashire are threatened by run-off and eutrophication, abstraction, in-filling and neglect.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
<b>3.a. WATER VOLE*</b> <b><a href="#">NW England's Lowland Water Vole Project.</a></b>  <b>Implement water vole friendly catchment management works.</b>	Advise landowners and managers of water bodies and watercourses in the project area (incl. Douglas and Mersey catchments) on water vole-friendly management practices when opportunities arise.  Investigate BHS designation at appropriate agricultural ditches in West Lancashire. Continued training, volunteer support and monitoring required for 3 years.	<b>EA</b> <b>TWT</b> <b>FWAG</b> <b>UU</b> <b>BAP</b> <b>Partnerships</b>	Funding	March 2013

### Objective 4: To undertake projects which support and enhance natural coastal systems and habitats across West Lancashire.

The inherently dynamic nature of coastal systems, the impact of climate change on sea levels and the coincidental balancing by geological processes, all influence the internationally important Ribble Estuary and its marshes. Policy decisions regarding managed retreat, sea wall defences and tidal barriers will have a major impact on the marshes and mosslands immediately inland of these. Furthermore, loss of land and habitat on the coast could lead to a squeeze on land uses further inland.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>4.a. SALT MARSH*</b> <i>Restoration of further arable land to salt marsh.</i>	Hectares restored.	RSPB EA NE RCW	Resources	March 2013

### Objective 5: To identify suitable sites and initiate habitat creation projects, and to manage urban sites in ways that benefit wildlife.

The fragmentation of habitats (and therefore the species that inhabit them) can arise from a variety of causes, such as development, inappropriate land management or changes in land use. This has adverse effects on the continuity of landscape character and reduces the quality of habitats within it. Wet woodland provides vital stepping stones between many of the aquatic environments described in sections above, and supports populations of species important both locally and nationally. Some urban sites also have the potential to be beneficial for wildlife. If managed appropriately they can act as stepping stones for the movement of species within and between urban and more rural areas of the District.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>5.a. LOWLAND GRASSLAND*</b> <i>Support the development of <a href="#">Forever Meadows Project</a> to bring grassland sites into beneficial management within the Borough.</i>	Number of surveys conducted, management plans produced and successful management agreements in place.	TWT WLBC NE FWAG		Autumn' 2012
<b>5.b. <a href="#">GORSE HILL NATURE RESERVE</a></b> <i>Heathland and grassland restoration.</i>	Hectares of Heathland and grassland restored. Hectares of woodland established.	NWET		Ongoing

<b>5.c. <u>RUFFORD OLD HALL</u> Grassland restoration.</b>	Hectares of improved grassland brought into wet grassland management.	NT		Ongoing
<b>5.d BURSCOUGH COMMUNITY WOODLAND Creation of a community woodland at Platts Lane, Burscough.</b>	Conduct site investigations and, dependant on findings, produce a woodland design.	WLBC LCC Global Renewables	Findings of site investigations  Funding	March 2013

**Objective 6: Improve the quality of wildlife information available to planning authorities and raise awareness of applicants/ developers and planning case officers of the needs and protective legislation concerning particular species of wildlife.**

Land use planning is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development and planning authorities are required to balance economic, social and environmental considerations when allocating land for particular kinds of development and when considering development proposals. Often, however, the needs of wildlife are in conflict with people’s need for development to provide employment or new homes (for example). At a local level, proper protection of wildlife species and habitats in land use planning relies on both strong local development policies (based on sufficient and up to date information concerning the distribution and status of wildlife in the area) and on the informed application of those policies at the development control stage to ensure that the best possible planning decision is made in each case. Greater awareness by applicants/developers, planning case officers and councillors of the sensitivity of particular habitats and species, and of the protection afforded by legislation, will help to minimise the adverse effects of development on wildlife whilst maximising opportunities for biodiversity gains.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>6.a. ECOLOGICAL GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPERS</b> <i>Produce and make available guidance on ecological impacts of development proposals for developers and Local Planning Authority case officers.</i>	Development of Local plan incorporating biodiversity policies in line with National Planning Policy Framework.	WLBC and consultees		March 2013

<b>6.b. RED SQUIRREL*</b> <i>Adhere to the objectives of the red squirrel buffer zone i.e. planting guidelines etc.</i>	Buffer zone officially recognised by WLBC and principles applied to that part of the zone within West Lancs.  Ongoing monitoring and recording of sightings.	WLBC LCC FC	Funding	March 2013
<b>6.c. NEW AND BUILT STRUCTURES</b> <i>Encourage the inclusion of biodiversity elements into new developments (e.g. bat tiles, swallow eaves, green roofs, living walls and rain gardens).</i>	Encourage take up in relevant new developments.  Develop a Green Infrastructure Policy within the Local Plan.	WLBC LCC TWT RSPB	Resources of BAP Partnership	March 2013
<b>6.d. NEW AND BUILT STRUCTURES</b> <i>Enforce appropriate management, survey and mitigation for nesting birds and bats in existing buildings and conversions.</i>	Follow best practice in terms of planning application and enforcement.	WLBC LCC		Ongoing

**Objective 7: Improve the quality of wildlife information available to Local Authorities and relevant groups in urban areas to promote the conservation of urban biodiversity and manage urban habitats for wildlife and people together with promoting wider adoption of biodiversity elements into the designed landscape.**

Urban areas can hold significant sites for biodiversity conservation, and are particularly important due to the fact they are the areas in which most of the public interact with their natural environment. This also adds impetus through potential interaction of the BAP with education, greater access to the public, and in policy and planning agendas. Significant community work and benefits to wider agendas, such as sustainable communities, identity and place, health and well-being, can be made through biodiversity work in urban areas. Many actions may fall between sections 5, 6, and 7, and where this may happen it is intended that actions be included in the section that covers the major elements of the action. For example small number of sites may be managed for conservation and included in section 7, until this action develops to aiming to counteract isolation and fragmentation specifically, when it would move to section 5.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
<b>7.a. PARKS AND GREENSPACE</b> <i>Promote the management for, and integration of, biodiversity within parks and urban green spaces. Manage and create urban wildflower meadows in relevant areas.</i>	Support events for parks/greenspace management and biodiversity.  Inclusion of green infrastructure within the Local Plan.  Coronation Park wildflower meadow managed to maximise biodiversity.	WLBC TWT GS LCC LBP		March 2013
<b>7.b. SCHOOL GROUNDS</b> <i>Promote maintenance and creation of wildlife areas for biodiversity and education.</i>	Minimum of 1 school annually.	TWT WLBC LCC		March 2013
<b>7.c. COMMUNITY WOODLAND AND ORCHARDS</b> <i>Monitor and assess contribution of Traditional Orchard site to urban biodiversity.</i>	Survey and monitoring of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve.  Aid creation of community woodland and orchards.	NWET WLBC LCC		March 2011
<b>7.d. ALLOTMENTS</b> <i>Support development of community schemes and promote to local residents.</i>	Improve provision of community food growing initiatives.  Improve management of existing sites e.g. water provision, access etc.  Encourage community support.	WLWG WLBC		March 2013
<b>7.e. GREEN PARTNERSHIP AWARDS</b> <i>Support for community environmental projects.</i>	Financial support and technical advice for 10 community environmental projects annually.	LCC WLBC	Applications	March 2013

## ***Abbreviations of Partners***

ARGNM	The Amphibian and Reptile Group for North Merseyside
ARGSL	The Amphibian and Reptile Group for South Lancashire
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BW	British Waterways
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GLW+W	Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan
GPL	Groundwork Pennine Lancashire
GS	GreenSpace
LCC	Lancashire County Council
LL	Landlife
LRF	Lancashire Rural Futures
LJMU	Liverpool John Moores University
MBC	Mersey Basin Campaign
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NT	National Trust
NWET	North West Ecological Trust
RCW	Ribble Coast & Wetlands Regional Park
PCs	Parish Councils
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
TWT	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside
WLBC	West Lancashire Borough Council
WLEN	West Lancashire Environmental Network
WWT	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust



# Better Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

## Minutes of Meeting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012

Present: Tina Iball - WLBC, Environment  
Lindsay Beaton – The Wildlife Trust  
Dominic Rigby - LCC, Environment

### 1. **Introductions and apologies**

Apologies had been received from:

Steve Kent - WLBC, Leisure  
Dominic Carr - WLBC, Planning Policy  
Dave Dunlop – The Wildlife Trust

### 2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting and associated progress report were agreed to be a true record.

TI informed the group that the actions from the last meeting associated with seeking new members have been put on hold until the future of the group has been determined.

### 3. **ETG Action Plan 2012-13 and Progress Updates**

DR informed that works to increase and enhance access to the Ribble Coast and Wetlands regional park are now complete. An audit of the work completed is currently being undertaken by Lancashire County Council.

LB informed that the new management plan for Mere sands Wood is now complete. Water vole sightings have also been recorded at the reserve this week.

Given the poor attendance at this meeting it was decided that a formal progress update is not required from this meeting.

### 4. **Second Homes Funding**

Two bids had been received in application for the available Second Homes Funding (SHF). Both LB and DR provided details of their projects, as outlined in their submissions circulated to the group prior to the meeting.

DR informed that the Egerton re-greening project had managed to secure match funding. The provision of a bench had also subsequently been funded through alternative means.

DR also informed LB that her project would also be eligible to apply for Green Partnership Funding.

After discussion, it was agreed by all present that the SHF should be allocated as follows:

Egerton re-greening project: £690.

Haskayne Cutting Nature Reserve access and community improvements project: £1,000.

TI to investigate how this funding should be received and any reporting requirements.

TI

6. **Any Other Business**

No issues were raised.

8. **Date of next meeting**

To be arranged electronically.

TI

## Integrated Transport Thematic Group Meeting

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 10am, Cabinet & Committee Room

### Attendance

Chair: Cllr Martin Forshaw (WLBC), Dominic Carr (WLBC), Jacqueline Day (LCC), Ashley Wier (LCC) Derek Sarath (WLCVS)

### 1. Apologies

Francis Carragher (Edge Hill), Ian Gill (WLBC), Gillian Whitfield (WLBC), Martin Trengove (CVS), Steve Coveney (CLPCT), Denise Nowell (LCC), Cllr Bell (OPSTA), Tim Gornall (LCC), Julia Dickinson (Edge Hill University)

Dominic Carr explained that due to staffing resources at LCC Denise Nowell would no longer be able to attend future meetings.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were agreed as an accurate record

### 3. Matters Arising

Derek Sarath said that following Cllr Bells comments at the last meeting he believed that the group could explore using the LSTF to fund public transport promotional literature. Derek explained that he believed that there was funding available from the LSTF which could be used for this purpose. Derek further explained that he was hoping to approach some Parish Council's to explore this further.

### 4. Skelmersdale rail link business case development.

Dominic Carr explained that officers were still waiting for an additional piece of work to be completed by Network Rail before the study can be formally published. He explained that Merseytravel had agreed to approach Network Rail some time ago and that officers were disappointed that we have had no update from Merseytravel. As such, the Borough Council is going to send out a formal letter to a senior Merseytravel officer raising concerns about the lack of progress regarding this additional piece of work. It is hoped this letter will raise the profile of the scheme within Merseytravel.

Cllr Forshaw said that he believes it was important that this letter is sent out and that progress is made regarding this scheme.

### **Action- A formal letter be sent to Merseytravel raising concerns on behalf of the Borough Council**

### 5. Community Rail Designation of the Preston to Ormskirk Line

Dominic Carr explained that following the successful community rail designation of the Ormskirk to Preston line the community rail partnership is working hard to finalise an action plan for the route. He explained that in December 2011 changes had been made to the timetable of the route and that these changes made the service more regular with key services now every one and a half hours, he also explained that there was now some later services. It is hoped this improvement in service provision will help to increase passenger numbers on this route.

He also explained that one of the aspirations was to introduce an hourly service on this route.

Cllr Forshaw asked if we had any figures to show if the new service was increasing passenger service.

Dominic Carr explained that the CRP does get some figures with regards to passenger numbers and that he would provide these or give an overview of passenger numbers at the next meeting.

**Action Dominic Carr to review passenger numbers on the Ormskirk to Preston line for next meeting.**

6. Skelmersdale Demand Responsive Transport System Update

Dominic Carr and Jacqueline Day gave an update of the current position explaining that following Cabinet approval to release S106 funding for this scheme they are now in a position to introduce a pilot scheme for the service on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May. They explained that a taxi operator had now been appointed and that initial responses from organisations were positive.

Cllr Forshaw asked questions about the scheme focusing on how the scheme had been developed and who the scheme was likely to help. Cllr Forshaw explained that he believed this and other transport schemes the Council are working on should help the residents within the Borough access employment and other opportunities.

**Action- Officers to continue to work with LCC to develop the alternative Demand Responsive Transport System and get a pilot operation running before summer 2012**

7. Action plan progress: review and update

Dominic Carr produced enclosure 2 showing the Action Plan for the group. He asked if the group were in agreement with the proposed changes.

The group agreed to the proposed changes and that the recommendations could be taken forward as the Action Plan for 2012/13

8. Information Exchange

- Dominic Carr and Derek Sarath discussed the progress made on the LSTF
- Dominic Carr gave an update regarding the Environmental Overview & Scrutiny and their cycling in West Lancashire project. Cllr Forshaw said that he was looking forward to the recommendations of this project being fed through to Cabinet.

9. Any Other Business

Ashley Wier (LCC) explained that following requests off Borough Cllrs he had been approached about looking to improve some bus services in Skelmersdale. Ashley explained that as bus services were being retendered there was an opportunity to maximise value for money and get improved bus services.

In particular the 3A Ormskirk- Burscough- Skelmersdale- Wrightington Service  
From the 6 June LCC will revise the timetable with time adjustments to certain morning journeys.

The 18.15 and 19.15 Monday to Saturday departures from Skelmersdale to Burscough and Ormskirk will additionally divert through Birch Green and Ashurst to provide later return journeys to these areas. Holmeswood Coaches Ltd will take over operation of this service on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

Service 5 Ormskirk- Town Green Circular

From 6 June 2012 Lancashire County Council will revise the timetable and renumber from service 75. This circular service will now run hourly at all times on a Monday to Saturday daytime basis. Holmeswood Coaches Ltd will continue the operation of these services on behalf of Lancashire County Council

Service 6 Ormskirk –Scott Estate Circular

From 6 June 2012 Lancashire County Council will revise the timetable and renumber from service 76. This circular service will now run hourly at all times on a Monday to Saturday daytime basis

Holmeswood Coaches Ltd will continue operation of this service on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

Sunday Service to Liverpool

The County Council are exploring the principle of introducing additional Sunday services to Liverpool, however as this is a cross boundary issues it will need further investigating.

Dominic Carr gave an update regarding:

Skelmersdale Pilot Project in which LCC and the Borough Council working together to develop a scheme to improve accessibility and the environment in Skelmersdale using LTP3 and other funding.

Reviewing Skelmersdale Cycle Strategy using S106 monies- Council and County officers are working together to develop a comprehensive cycle strategy for Skelmersdale.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Meeting to be within the next 6 months

**Action- Dominic Carr to schedule the next meeting**



**WEST LANCASHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

**MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 2, WEST LANCS BOROUGH COUNCIL, ORMSKIRK**

**Present**

Alex McMinn (Chair)	U3A
Cllr May Blake	West Lancs Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Pollock	West Lancs Borough Council
Cllr Carolyn Evans	Lancashire County Council
Louisa Blundell	West Lancs Borough Council
Margaret Park	U3A
Kiran Banati	Lancashire County Council
Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
Tracey Jardine	Lancashire County Council
Geraldine Moore	Age Concern
Glenn Harrison	NHS Central Lancashire

Alex welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions were made.

All in attendance were handed a copy of a note by David Burnham, Head of Intelligence at Lancashire County Council.

Alex proposed other than approving the previous minutes, to suspend the agenda and focus the meeting on the content of the note from David Burnham

**1. Apologies**

Pat Roberts, Marion Radford, Ray Brookfield, Cllr Bob Pendleton

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

On page 3 under agenda item Future Activities, Bob is recorded as reporting that Age Concern have received from the Credit Union. No one else is aware of this and this has now been removed from the minutes.

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**Note from David Burnham**

Alex gave everyone some time to read the note issued by David Burnham.

Alex explained that he was hoping Fred Mahoney would be in attendance as he had some inkling of this at the LCC 50+ forums he has attended.

The content of the note was discussed in some detail and it was considered how and if the Board can continue to move forward without the support of LCC including administrative support. It was stressed that it will take a huge effort to continue to move the WLOPPB forward officer support and administrative support of LCC. The idea of merging with another group such as the West Lancs Pensioners Forum was mentioned but this may be problematic due to the different priorities of each group.

Everyone did agree that no definite decision with regard to WLOPPB could be determined until after the meeting in East Cliff, Preston on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Alex agreed to attend this meeting.

Discussion took place with the Action Plan and it was the general consensus that this piece of work is not relevant anymore and all targets and work need to be revisited if we plan to continue with it. It would require a new board with time, energy and resources.

One positive line that is still waiting to be utilised are the twelve potentially new members who expressed their interest of involvement at Older Peoples Day. Some of whom have friends who may be interested in playing a role.

### Conclusions / Actions

It is clear that LCC are withdrawing their contribution to Older Peoples Partnerships Board. Tracey explained she may be able to retain her role to some degree in a contributory role but this is uncertain at present.

Glenn explained that he felt it is essential that we assess what our interaction will or could be with the new Health and Wellbeing Board.

What is the reason West Lancs Pensioners Forum are receiving cash and we are not?

According to David Burnham's note, Commissioning Teams will meet local services / forums at least twice per year. It is important we find out how and who.

Alex confirmed he will be in attendance on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm at Digmaor Community Resource Centre**



# MINUTES

## OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

<b>Date and Time of Meeting</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 – 10am – 12 noon</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Alex McMin Louisa Blundell Raymond Brookfield Sheila Owen Louise Cropper Shelley Gregory Joanne McKnight Councillor May Blake
<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	Beverley Garrity Glenn Harrison Beth Blamires Margaret Park Beverley Page-Banks Richard Ford Marian Radford Kiran Banati

<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Time</b>
	None		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>AMcM /EB</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Alex provided an overview of the background to the former Older People's Partnership and an update on the position with regard to the provision of administration for the current Older People's Partnership (OPP)</p> <p>Elizabeth Blamires, Chair WL CVS had offered to arrange administrative support. This was to be provided by an apprentice at the CVS, however they were unable to attend this meeting. Alex to talk to Elizabeth.</p> <p>Alex advised that the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) had allocated £1,600 to the OPP for 2012 – 13. Alex proposed this funded administration and travel expenses incurred by representatives of the partnership when attending, for example 50+ Assembly.</p> <p>Accounts for this funding would need to be maintained as part of the administration and two signatures (Chair and WLBC Officer) would be required to sign off expenses.</p> <p>A brief discussion was had about the meetings attended by members of the partnership, including the 50+ Assembly and Older People's Champion Network which Alex had recently represented the OPP at the last meeting.</p>	AMcM          CVS / ALL	<b>Time</b>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Terms of reference</b>	<b>AMcM</b>
	Terms of reference had been signed off by the LSP and circulated to members of the OPP for reference.	<u>Action</u> <u>Time</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>LSP Thematic Group Focus – Loneliness</b>	<b>AMcMinn</b>
	<p>Alex, as Chair of the OPP, attends the LSP meetings. He provided background on the discussion had at the Health and Well Being Thematic Group about loneliness and specifically in older people. The outcome of discussions at this meeting was that the OPP had been asked to look at loneliness in older people in West Lancashire and report back to the LSP.</p> <p>Alex circulated copies of Combating Loneliness – A guide for Local Authorities and requested that members champion this issue and consider how examples of good practice would translate in West Lancashire. Alex suggested that maybe a representative could be identified within each Ward of West Lancashire to champion the issue in their area and look to estimate the level of loneliness in their Ward.</p> <p>The issue was well received by members of the OPP and Ray and Sheila provided examples of loneliness they have come across.</p> <p>Alex circulated papers from the Health and Well Being Thematic Group and referenced matters raised in the report issued in 2009 – ‘Society for All Ages.’</p> <p>He also advised Stafford University had produced papers on loneliness and in his capacity of Chair of a national group could access these for use by the OPP.</p> <p>Louise advised that Help Direct (part of Age UK) have undertaken a project on Befriending and that a Buddy Up Group had been set up. They have identified what social activity is available in West Lancashire and access to it, which has enabled gaps to be identified. Lancashire County Council has identified befriending as a priority area.</p> <p>Alex and Louise are to arrange to meet ahead of the next OPP meeting in July to understand the work already undertaken. Alex to also contact Stafford University.</p> <p>Depending on the speed of progress with these actions Alex may call an interim meeting before July.</p>	<u>Action</u> <u>Time</u>  ALL          AmcM / LC

<b>5</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
<p>Sheila raised concerns about possible lack of local number for Age UK. She had rung one number, which seemed to be redirected to other areas in the County on different days of the week. She was concerned that if all enquiries about foot care services took the same number of calls that her enquiry did some older people may give up.</p> <p>(Foot care Services – West Lancashire provided by Age UK Lancashire contact 01695 586511 &amp; Foot Care Services provided by Age Concern Central Lancashire contact 01772 270732.)</p> <p>Ray also expressed concerns that Council Members do not understand older people and spoke about one experience he had recently. Alex advised that he always found WLBC Members and Officers receptive to his views.</p> <p>A brief discussion was had about Age Action Alliance, an independent alliance of organizations, which has adopted a new approach to the problems of ageing focused on finding practical means to establish social justice for older people. Various government departments are part of this alliance. (<a href="http://www.ageactionalliance.org">www.ageactionalliance.org</a>). 5050 Vision North West Forum on Ageing was also discussed and Louisa confirmed that this strategic partnership is still operational. (<a href="http://www.5050vision.com">www.5050vision.com</a>)</p> <p>Shelley asked whether the OPP were going to arrange an event on Older People’s Day in October this year. Nothing was planned at present.</p> <p>Skelmersdale Pensioners Forum organised their own events in 2011 and Ray and Sheila reported that it was a very successful. Alex asked about the outcomes from the activities arranged, had the activities carried on. Ray advised some had.</p> <p>Linked to the matter of loneliness and use of tablet computers by U3A, Joanne advised that children under 12 had been issued with laptop/tablet computers and she wondered if it would be possible for older people to be issued with a tablet computer with webcam to improve communication with friends and reduce isolation and loneliness. Some members thought that it was unlikely that funding would be available from government to do this.</p> <p>Alex advised that the Chair of the Commissioning Team for Central Lancashire was Dr Kane and that he proposed to write to Dr Kane to invite him to attend a meeting of the OPP to brief</p>			

<p>members on the new commissioning arrangements.</p> <p>Alex thanked Louisa and Steve for their continued support.</p>			
<b>5.</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>Meetings to be held in the Cabinet and Committee Room at West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, Ormskirk.</p> <p>18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – 14.00pm - 16.00pm  11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 – 10.00am – 12.00noon</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>

# MINUTES

## OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

<b>Date and Time of Meeting</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – 2pm – 4pm</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Alex McMinn AMcM Raymond Brookfield RB Louise Cropper LC Kirstie Dwan KD Glenn Harrison GH Louisa Blundell LB Sheila Owen SO Beverley Garrity BG Councillor May Blake MB Elizabeth Blamires EB Shelley Gregory SG Kiran Banati KB Richard Ford RF
<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	Margaret Park Beverley Page-Banks Marian Radford Joanne McKnight
<b>In Attendance</b>	Simon Frampton

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>		
	Margaret Park, Beverley Page-Banks, Marian Radford and Joanne McKnight	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	<b>AMcM /EB</b>	
	SO highlighted page 5 of the previous set of minutes, pointing out the administrator had called them Skelmersdale Pensioners Forum as opposed to West Lancashire Pensioners Forum.	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Dr Simon Frampton, GP Lead for Engagement, to explain the role of CCG's and their current list of priorities</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>Simon Frampton introduced himself and gave the group a brief background of his various roles in the community including the position he held on the Clinical Commissioning Board.</p> <p>A document called 'A Plan on a Page' was circulated around the group and this was then discussed in further detail. Simon went on to talk about the key initiatives set out and updated the group of what was being done to ensure each was going to be dealt with effectively. These initiatives mainly focused on older individuals but some also had no age limitations.</p> <p>The Health &amp; Well Being Board are confident authorisation will be gained in October and to achieve this, they have to show work they're actively doing regarding the initiatives.</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>

	<p>Simon went onto explain the 10 interventions that have been set out with quite a number specifically helping older people, including addressing loneliness, affordable warmth to those who need it and identifying those at risk of being hospitalised with an aim to prevent this. Simon is hoping that work on the above will begin 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012.</p> <p>Simon then answered the board members questions with a discussion that followed on ambulances and reopening Ormskirk Hospital.</p> <p>AMcM asked the question, how are the OPP going to communicate with Simon in the future? Simon stated that Glenn could be the first port of call but direct contact was also an option. AMcM suggested that we invite Simon back to future meetings for updates when he is available. Simon also informed the group that there is a newsletter on the surgery website that contains all the updates and work they're doing.</p> <p>Lastly, Simon went onto discuss the community choir that was in the process of getting set up. He stated that it was music for therapy and had originally aimed it at those with difficulties such as dementia, respiratory difficulties and people that were trying to deal with stress. LCC have decided to fund it for one year and it is open to anyone of all ages.</p> <p>AMcM thanked Simon for his time and for attending the meeting.</p>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Report of West Lancashire Health &amp; Well Being Thematic Group Action Plan</b>	<b>AMcMinn</b>	
	<p>AMcM informed the group that no one from the Health &amp; Well Being Thematic Group had turned up to the meeting so circulated the document for everyone to read and give feedback at a later meeting. This document contained the issues that had been highlighted and how they were being addressed. AMcM believes that we need a closer interface between OPP and the Health &amp; Wellbeing Thematic Group.</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>

5	Any other business	ALL	
	<p>MB asked the group if they had anything planned for Older People's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> October. This would be the third year participating in the national event and it would be ideal for individuals from all areas in West Lancashire to attend. She stated that it's still a trial period and the OPP are going through a learning curve in regards to planning and preparing for this national day.</p> <p>AMcM stated that there was some money in the pot courtesy of the LSP Board which could help with organisation of an event. He went onto say that we need time, volunteers and inspiration to plan and carry out a successful event. Due to the poor lead time there is not much time to prepare for the big day. Preparation for this day should have really started March/April of this year. AMcM suggested that we could get in touch with individual groups such as U3A and Pensioners Forum and get them involved.</p> <p>GH asked what other organisations such as Age Concern were doing for Older People's day. RF stated that they were working with schools, presumably to meet the intergenerational aspects of OP Day, and Help Direct were offering support with co-ordination and advertising of the Day.</p> <p>There was then a brief discussion regarding last year's event with the 'Fit for Life' theme. SG told of the success of the pedometer challenge which was carried out last year.</p> <p>LC raised the idea that everyone should pool together their ideas and send them to the administrator who can collate them all together and distribute around the group. GH agreed that we need to co-ordinate with each other and share our information so everyone is aware of what each other are doing.</p> <p>AMcM went on to discuss social isolation and the combating loneliness document. He stated that due to a lack of time we cannot discuss this document however it is available to download off the internet. He went onto inform the group that he has raised combating loneliness on the agenda of the 50+ Assembly and also on the Older Persons Champions Lancashire agenda. AMcM has written to Mandy Naylor who has produced a document around combating loneliness. AMcM stated that he will invite her to a future meeting to explain this document to the rest of the group.</p> <p>AMcM was concerned that churches are not meeting the needs of lonely older people on Sundays, (the loneliest time statistically is 4:30 Sunday afternoon) given their volunteering ethos.</p> <p>There was a full discussion around the difficulties of accessing public transport by older people in West Lancashire. Following which the WLPF representatives left the meeting stating that they would not attend any future meetings. EB stated that she</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>AMcM</p>	

	<p>would pass on the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum withdrawal to the CVS.</p> <p>SG moved onto the subject of her 'Keep safe and warm packs' that were provided to the elderly last year. These packs included essential things such as a torch, blanket, thermos mug, key hook and aluminous key ring along with vital information from different services. She stated that she still had 100 packs left over from last year so she is just going to add to the already existing numbers. She asked the group to email her if they had any ideas for small items that older people would benefit from. She is hoping to launch them in time for the Older Peoples Day.</p> <p>LB suggested that due to numbers at the meeting dropping with two individuals leaving that we recruit some more individuals. She went onto state that we have a collated list of names of individuals from the Older Peoples Day 2010 who said they would like to serve on the board. Louisa to look through her old emails and try to find this document which she will then send to AMcM.</p> <p>RF told the group of a vacancy being advertised at Age UK; an Activities Co-ordinator at Brookside in Ormskirk. He hopes to have someone in place in 4-6 weeks time.</p> <p>BG discussed customer engagement groups that were going to be held this year regarding pension credit. There is one that has been planned to take place in Lancashire although the specific location has not been determined yet. They would like older people to take part in it, preferably those on pension credit. She asked the group if they knew of anyone that would be interested to let her know.</p> <p>LC spoke about the work Help Direct do and stated that they are planning to increase face to face contact, carry out home visits and well being assessments. She told the group if they knew of anyone that may benefit from this to refer them to Help Direct.</p> <p>Lastly, AMcM informed the group of a guest lecturer, Tom Kirkwood, at Christ Church Aughton on the 6<sup>th</sup> September followed by Alistair Burns in December. Alex passed round leaflets for the group's information.</p>	<p>EB</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>LB</p> <p>ALL to let BG know</p> <p>ALL</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>Meetings to be held in the Cabinet and Committee Room at West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, Ormskirk.</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 – 10.00am – 12.00noon</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>



# MINUTES

## OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

<b>Date and Time of Meeting</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 – 10am-12pm</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Kiran Banati KB Councillor May Blake MB Elizabeth Blamires EB Kirstie Dwan KD Shelly Gregory SG Linda Ianson LI Steve Jones SJ Alex McMinn AMcM Mandy Naylor MN Margaret Park MP Marian Radford MR Carol Sharples CS Amy Witherup AW
<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	Beverley Page-Banks BP Beverley Garrity BG Glenn Harrison GH

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>		
	Beverley Page-Banks, Beverley Garrity and Glenn Harrison	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	<b>AMcM /EB</b>	
	<p>AMcM informed the group of the developments from the last meeting with Simon Frampton; GH has confirmed that Simon intends to come to future OPP meetings on a regular basis and has asked for future dates to confirm with him. AMcM also stated that loneliness, a key topic for the OPP meetings, is also an item on the CCG agenda Simon Frampton attends.</p> <p>AMcM also raised the issue of the two members from WLPF leaving the last meeting and the letter of complaint he received.</p> <p>EB added that she informed the Chief Officer, Greg Mitten, at WLCVS. As the WLPF are members of the CVS, Greg has suggested that he would help the WLPF to develop a campaign group to deal with their concerns.</p>	<u>Action</u>  AMcM to keep WLPF informed of debates and information from OPP meetings.	<u>Time</u>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Mandy Naylor – Befriending Links with the Loneliness Project</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>MN began with a background to the work she had been carrying out with Help Direct and Lancashire County Council and how it had linked well with the work AMcM was doing on loneliness in older people.</p> <p>MN gave a thorough talk on her research and her focus on befriending services. She circulated a table that included clients, their needs and if there was a service for what they</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>

	<p>wanted. She stated that she found various differences throughout Lancaster, Chorley and West Lancashire and this could be seen through the colour coding of the table. MN stated that the table changes on a regular basis and she went onto discuss the findings; West Lancashire has a low number of services available and has a reduction in debt advice due to the closure of CAB. MN found there was a lack of services for people who needed someone to take them to appointments and provide support, people who wanted company in the home and confidence building sessions. However, on a positive note the Employment Support Gateway has opened at West Lancashire College which will hopefully help decrease the unemployment figures.</p> <p>The group were then asked if they had any questions. MP asked if MN could see the 'light at the end of the tunnel' and if she's actually going to get any results out of her work? MN stated that she is currently putting together a report for LCC who will then take to higher authorities to see what they could do.</p> <p>EB asked what the time limit was for the piece of work. MN stated that it is likely that the report will be finished for November and it'll probably be January when it will move onto the next stage.</p>	<p>MN to circulate the table and group to email MN with any feedback regarding the table</p> <p>MN to report back after she has had meeting with LCC</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Developments and forthcoming events</b>	<b>AMcMinn</b>	
	<p>AMcM spoke to the group regarding the 'Ageing Well Programme' that has been set up by the DWP which focuses on looking for a strong leader, a strategic approach, engaging with older people and giving more support to Councils to incorporate the programme into their district.</p> <p>AMcM also discussed 'Age Friendly Manchester' and the 'Ageing Well Contract' courtesy of Age UK. He went onto discuss in more detail the setting up of 'Ageing Well Groups' which aim to get people involved in cognitive, social and physical activities; 25-40% of dementia cases are a result of cardiovascular problems so by promoting a healthy physical and mental health it is likely that a lot of illnesses can be prevented. AMcM mentioned the Aerobics Light Programme that had been introduced to Ormskirk and is now on the third cohort, which is aimed at 70-75 year olds who have done little exercise.</p> <p>AMcM notified the group that there were two guest speakers coming up over the next few months and passed round some leaflets. These are both open events and anyone can attend.</p> <p>KB updated the group on the work she had recently been doing reviewing homecare and domiciliary services. She asked the group to fill out a questionnaire that was mainly focused on older people's needs and pass onto groups they're working with to fill in. The deadline is 26<sup>th</sup> October.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>	<p><u>Time</u></p>

MB spoke about issues the Health Champions are currently addressing, the two main ones being housing and grandparents.

SG briefly mentioned a competition for year 5s and 6s in schools around Parbold and Wrightington. The children will be asked to create a poem about helping an older or vulnerable person to test their fire alarm for 'Test it Tuesday'. On the back of the entry form, the children will be asked to write one referral of an older person that would benefit from the Fire Station's help.

MR stated that this was her first OPP meeting and she found it really informative and appropriate as many of their carers are of an older age. She said she will be taking the information back to her workplace, sharing it and referring on.

EB wanted to highlight the success of Simon Frampton's 'Skylarks Choir' that was mentioned in the last meeting. There have been 45-50 people attending the choir and they're getting ready for a public performance at Brookside in October.

ALL

<b>5</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
<p>AMcM ended the meeting pointing out that the future of OPP has a cloud over it as the future of the LSP is uncertain. He believed that today's session provided lots of good debates and information surrounding Old People. He asked the group if they thought the meetings were beneficial to email him their thoughts and comments.</p> <p>AMcM asked SJ to book a room for the next OPP meeting.</p>		ALL	SJ
<b>5.</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>Meetings to be held in the Cabinet and Committee Room at West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, Ormskirk.</p> <p>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 10-12pm</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>

# MINUTES

## OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

<b>Date &amp; Time of Meeting</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – 10am-12pm</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Alex McMinn (AMcM) Kiran Banati (KB) Beverley Garrity (BG) Marian Radford (MR) Margaret Paul (MP) Elizabeth Blamires (EB) Cllr May Blake (MB) Matthew Brown (MB) Beverley Page-Banks (BP)
<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	Glenn Harrison (GH) Dr Simon Frampton (SF) Steve Jones (SJ)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>		
	Beverley Page-Banks, Glenn Harrison, Dr Simon Frampton and Steve Jones	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	<b>AMcM /EB</b>	
	The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Clinical Commissioning Group Update</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>Unfortunately Dr Simon Frampton could not attend the meeting, but had sent an update which the group welcomed as an informative document. EB stated that we could put this on the CVS website for relevant organisations information and will ask Greg Mitten to ensure health groups are made aware of it.</p> <p>The invitation that was also sent via GH was noted and MR believed it was a great opportunity for people to get their opinions across to ensure that the end of life care is the best that it can possibly be. The group was encouraged to attend this event and also encourage others.</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
		<b>KD &amp; EB</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>West Lancashire Ageing Well Charter</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	AMcM discussed the 'Lancashire Declaration' which is an initiative from Age UK to promote Health Cities. He encouraged	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>

	<p>the group to read the circulated document at their leisure.</p> <p>He highlighted the 'Ageing Well Charter' found on the back page as important and something that we have been asked to support. MB stressed a concern about a dignity code which she will email to AMcM. EB stated that she would ask Greg Mitten to ensure that it is circulated to all CVS members.</p> <p>AMcM stressed that it would be a real shame if West Lancashire doesn't get involved with this initiative and push it forward.</p> <p>AMcM encouraged the group's feedback and asked them to email him with any comments. EB agreed that she would take it to the U3A Executives.</p>	<p><b>CB</b> <b>EB</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b> <b>EB</b></p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>(Loneliness) SilverLine Helpline</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>AMcM began this agenda item giving a brief background on Esther Rantzen and her previous work. She had originally set up child line and later went onto set up SilverLine for older, lonely people. She recently did a talk for the U3A and asked AMcM to be on the Main Board for the initiative.</p> <p>If funding is available, SilverLine should be rolled out nationally April 2013. AMcM has agreed to bring more information and updates on this initiative to the next meeting. AMcM will ensure that he keeps the group up to date on any new information, as and when it happens.</p>	<p><b>AMcM</b></p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><u>Time</u></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>"Redefining Retirement" – DWP Initiative</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>AMcM gave a brief introduction to what Redefining Retirement was all about.</p> <p>BG stated that it wasn't an initiative but a team that supports various working groups e.g. the Ageing Well Project who help people lead a more productive retirement.</p> <p>BG informed the group that the Ageing Well Project has actually finished and Redefining Retirement are looking to rename themselves.</p> <p>AMcM stated that there were to be 100 pilot schemes held around the country but West Lancashire was not going to be involved. The question was asked, how do we get ourselves</p>	<p><b>AMcM</b></p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><u>Time</u></p>

	<p>involved in future developments like this? The Older People's Partnership needs to be noticed.</p> <p>BG agreed that she would get in touch with the Redefining Retirement team and find out how we can get involved in the future. BG also stated that she would ask Brian to come to one of the OPP meetings to speak to the group and explain what impact it has on West Lancashire.</p> <p>KB also suggested that she got in touch with the End of Life team to come to the meeting.</p>	<b>BG</b>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Brookside – Update on Progress</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>AMcM asked MB if the Fire Service had any involvement with Brookside seeing as they are based so near each other. MB informed the group that they do regular fire safety checks for the Brookside residents, they chat to people in the bistro, the knitting club at Brookside have made scarves, hat and other clothes which the Fire Service have used for their Safe &amp; Well packs which they have been distributing to local residents.</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>EB informed the group that Ormskirk Parish Church are hoping to start a Food bank. There will be a meeting to discuss future plans on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 7:30, at New Church House. It will be an open meeting with Trussle Trust for anyone to attend. BG stated that DWP are going to cease administering crisis loans this year and will replace them with referrals to food banks, giving out food parcels and food vouchers instead. MR and many others in the group believed this was going to take away the dignity and choice of individuals. MB stated that she would raise this issue with the local authority.</p> <p>KB circulated a document around the table regarding a Self Care, Promoting Health &amp; Well Being Event which is due to take place March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Preston; it will target older people and those with long term illness. KB stated that the event is only in its early stages and she will email KD with the flyer when she has it. KB also asked the group to let her know if any organisation requires a stall or workshop there.</p> <p>BG is going to email the contact of Parkinsons for KB to invite.</p> <p>BG informed the group that the DLA benefit was going and being replaced with the Personal Independence Payment. It</p>	<b>MB</b>	
		<b>KB</b>	
		<b>ALL</b>	
		<b>BG</b>	

	<p>was due to start October 2013 but has been delayed until October 2015.</p> <p>MR stated that the Health and Wellbeing thematic group have agreed priorities and one of these is ensuring people have warm homes which Help Direct will take the lead on. MR to let AMcM know who's taking over chair.</p> <p>AMcM stated that he managed to get loneliness onto the Health &amp; Wellbeing agenda but hasn't been able to attend the meetings to push it.</p> <p>MP told the group that she had received a lot of positive feedback regarding the Christmas day lunch at the Ecumenical Centre. This also touches on loneliness as many who were on their own at Christmas attended and could speak to others in a similar situation.</p> <p>MB informed the group that they were working with those suffering fuel poverty and were also hoping to start fitting carbon monoxide alarms – they have received funding to fit 200 in West Lancashire. They are also doing ongoing work with Help Direct, Age UK and U3A. MB suggested that when someone joins the U3A that they are referred to the fire service for a home safety check.</p> <p>EB told the group of a Christmas high tea that was held at Ormskirk Parish Church. 30 people attended.</p> <p>EB also went onto say that CVS are leading on Asset Based Community Development and informed the group that if an organisation attends an ABCD seminar they are eligible for funding.</p>	<b>MR</b>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>Meetings to be held in the Cabinet and Committee Room at West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, Ormskirk.</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – 10:00-12:00</p>		



# MINUTES

## OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

<b>Date &amp; Time of Meeting</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – 10am-12pm</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Alex McMinn (AMcM) Kiran Banati (KB) Beverley Garrity (BG) Margaret Blair-Park (MP) Elizabeth Blamires (EB) Cllr May Blake (MB) Kirstie Dwan (KD) John Taylor (JT) Stephen Jones (SJ) Simon Frampton (SF) Ros Heney (RH) Lesley Bath (LB) Tony Morris (TM) Julie Gudgeon (JG)
<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	Marian Radford (RF) Rachel Walker (RW)

1.	Apologies	Action	Time
	Rachel Walker and Marian Radford.		
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	AMcM /EB	Action
	The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.		
3.	Clinical Commissioning Group Update	AMcM	Action
	Dr Simon Frampton gave the group an in depth discussion on CCG updates and the issues facing older people that the health professions are trying to combat (please see attached notes from Dr Simon Frampton for more information).  SF to send KD timetable of public events that will take place in West Lancashire which can then be circulated round the group.		SF
4.	Change of Names of O.P.P.B	AMcM	Action
	AMcM discussed the closure of the LSP which will mean the Older People's Partnership is no longer a partnership board. It		

	has been recommended that the name of the group should be changed to the 'Ageing Well Group'.		
<b>5.</b>	<b>Dept of Work &amp; Pensions – Re-inventing Retirement – Ageing Well Initiative</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>Unfortunately Brian Keating could not attend this meeting however AMcM plans to ask him to the next meeting to discuss the Ageing Well Initiative in more depth.</p> <p>AMcM gave a brief summary of the initiative which aims to help communities through local authorities with a focus on keeping older people cognitively, physically and socially fit along with encouraging volunteering to restore their self worth.</p> <p>EB informed AMcM she had received something similar to the Ageing Well booklet through Urban Church. EB to send KD a copy to circulate to the group.</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
		<b>EB/KD</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>West Lancs Ageing Well Charter</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>AMcM outlined the Ageing Well Charter which was initially an initiative from the World Health Organisations that was picked up and developed into the Dublin Charter 2007. Many cities now use this charter to incorporate what values they would like to see in their society for older people.</p> <p>AMcM passed the document around and asked the group for feedback. TM identified a gap that the charter did not represent older people's tax affairs. BG informed TM that there was an organisation that dealt with this called 'TOPS'. BG to send KD TOPS contact information to circulate to the group.</p> <p>Help Direct is another organisation that could help with this and they have a table once a month at U3A. The Citizens Advice Bureaux was also discussed; they are opening a new office at the Concourse in Skelmersdale.</p> <p>KD to circulate more information.</p> <p>JG also identified a gap; anti-ageist prejudice in the media. MB informed JG that a task group for the Older People's Champions had identified this as an area to work upon and plan to try and create a positive image for older people.</p> <p>AMcM requested that the group took back the Ageing Well Charter to their organisations for feedback.</p>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
		<b>BG</b>	
		<b>KD</b>	
		<b>ALL</b>	

<b>7.</b>	<b>'Loneliness' in Older People</b>	<b>AMcM</b>	
	<p>Loneliness is a major challenge in communities can cause devastating clinical effects.</p> <p>AMcM has met with Habib Patel from Lancashire County Council with plans to create more activities for older people to aid loneliness in the community.</p> <p>KB suggested that a survey could be carried out in GP's surgeries to find out how many people are suffering. JG informed the group that a survey has already been carried out which asked members of the community if they were on their own for more than 7 hours a day. The group agreed that just because individuals are on their own doesn't mean that they are lonely; this survey was agreed to be very subjective and the trouble of defining loneliness was also highlighted.</p> <p>AMcM asked the group to go away and think about what could be done. Ideas can then be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>.</p>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Time</b>
		<b>ALL</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>KB reminded the group of her Self Care, Promoting Health &amp; Well Being Event that will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Preston. This day will consist of guest speakers from physical, social and mental health with a further talk from the CCG Chair.</p> <p>There will then be six workshops taking place on cancer, stroke, heart beat, diabetes, lung disease and osteoporosis. There will also be forty two stalls of service providers and a roleplay to raise awareness of sensory impairment units. The day will finish with pampering sessions, including massages and yoga demonstrations.</p>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>	<b>ALL</b>	
	<p>Meetings to be held in the Cabinet and Committee Room at West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, Ormskirk.</p> <p>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013, 10:00 – 12:00</p>		





**ARTICLE NO: 2A**  
**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2013/14**  
**ISSUE: 3**

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**Article of: Transformation Manager**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (Transformation)**

**Contact for further information: Mrs K Warmington (Extn. 5051)**  
**(E-mail: karen.warmington@westlancs.gov.uk)**

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**SUBJECT: ORGANISATIONAL RE-ENGINEERING UPDATE**

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Wards affected: Borough wide interest

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1 To provide an update on the Council's Organisational Re-engineering (OR) programme to date. This includes information on the following:

- The level of cash and efficiency savings resulting from OR, together with some examples of improvements to both service delivery and customer accessibility
  - Progress of the Organisational Re-engineering (Efficiency Reviews) Framework and proposed service areas for future OR reviews.
  - Reporting of an exception to Contracts Procedure Rules granted by the Managing Director (People and Places)
- 

## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION**

2.1 The Council launched its Organisational Re-Engineering programme in 2004 and to date has conducted nine successful OR Projects. These projects are:-

- Council Tax
- Travel Concessions
- Housing – Property Services
- Street Scene (support services)
- Electronic Document Management (EDM)
- Environmental Health
- Private Sector Housing
- Sheltered Housing
- Planning Services

As Members have been advised previously of the outcomes in respect of the above, this report focuses on the reviews undertaken within Sheltered Housing and Planning Services, as well as providing an update on current projects being undertaken.

2.2 As referred to within the Business Plan, OR is an essential tool in helping to deliver savings and efficiencies for the authority in a planned and co-ordinated way. Clearly, there is the continued need for the authority to:-

- Secure tangible year on year savings and efficiencies, within both front and back office.
- Promote greater accessibility for all citizens by migrating services and the associated workload to 'front of house' i.e. to the website; to the Contact Centre; and to the Customer Service Points (CSP), thus improving service delivery from the customers' point of view.
- Encourage staff ownership and promote the work undertaken on innovation/maximising the use of new technology, especially at a time of overall budget reduction.
- Deliver more streamlined and customer centric services through harnessing the latest technology, thus maximising customer satisfaction levels in line with increasing citizen expectations.

2.3 A total of 144 services can now be accessed from within Customer Services, with only one interaction which, for example, means that Customers can request a recycling receptacle, report a housing repair, pay a bill, book a pest control appointment, report illegal gypsies/traveller sites and so on, all within one interaction. Additionally, our website customers have access to more than 100 online services. Customers can request services, make payments, report problems, give their views, find information and much more through the website, which is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

2.4 Following a Major Service Review exercise, Members agreed that the vast majority of the Council's OR Manager resource would be best utilised to conduct reviews within Housing and Regeneration Services.

The first review is being conducted across 3 service areas within Landlord services. These are:-

- Voids & Allocations (inc. Housing Options)
- Estate Management
- Rent & Money advice

This project started in May 2013 and is focusing on the 'life cycle of a tenant' and will conclude with a report being presented to Cabinet in June 2014.

The project's main focus is to help Housing & Regeneration achieve their vision *"To be a top performing Landlord in an economically vibrant West Lancashire"*. It will do this by generating service efficiencies and any savings resulting from this can then be reinvested within the service to support delivery of this vision.

### **3.0 OR FRAMEWORK AND AREAS FOR FUTURE OR REVIEWS**

3.1 Members may recall that a tendering exercise took place and in 2011 six external organisations were appointed to the Council's Organisational Re-Engineering (Efficiency Reviews) Framework which remains live until 2015. These six organisations are:-

- Ad desse
- Agilisys
- CPC
- KPMG
- RSM Tenon
- UK Public Sector

The advantage of formalising a Framework list is that Members will have the continued flexibility regarding the roll out of OR as the OR Manager will also be able to conduct reviews at the same time as consultants should this remain desirable.

3.2 The Business Plan working group have previously agreed that the next corporate area for an OR review is within Legal and Democracy Services. This review will be conducted by an organisation from the Organisational Re-Engineering (Efficiency Reviews) Framework following a tender exercise which is currently nearing its conclusion.

3.2.1 The review of Legal and Democracy Services will commence with preparatory work before Christmas and will begin "in earnest" in January 2014.

3.2.2 When the tenders (conducted under the Framework) were received by the Council in respect of the Legal and Democracy Services review they arrived (as they should do) in the Council's standard "tender return envelopes". However one of the tender return envelopes has a label stuck to it bearing the name of the tenderer. This is precluded by the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules and was in contravention of the instructions concerning the submission of tenders as contained in the invitation to tender documents. However that tender was the lowest (by a substantial margin) and after considering the matter officers were of the opinion that the appearance of the label on the tender return envelope was highly unlikely (under these particular circumstances) to effect the results of the tender exercise. Therefore the Managing Director (People and Places) granted an exception to Contract Procedure Rules to allow this tender to be admitted to the tender evaluation process. This factor is brought to Members' attention to comply with the requirement in Contracts Procedure Rules that whenever an exception is granted by one of the Managing Directors it should be reported in a Members update.

3.3 The rollout of OR will remain under regular review in order to ensure that organisational priorities are met and therefore in full accordance with the Business Plan.

#### **4.0 UPDATE ON RECENT OR PROJECTS**

##### **4.1 SHELTERED HOUSING**

4.1.1 The OR review recommended a series of service improvements which provide a faster, more convenient and efficient service for customers. However the main purpose of the review was to assist WLBC to submit a successful bid to Lancashire County Council to deliver the Supporting People older persons contract in the future. LCC had originally advised that the Councils current contract would cease on 31/03/2013. However within the existing contract documentation there is discretion for a 27 month extension to that contract. As agreed at Cabinet on 15/01/2013 a further report will be submitted to Cabinet when LCC service model and contract arrangements are known.

4.1.2 The following points provide Members with an update on some of the key recommendations from the Sheltered Housing Report agreed by Cabinet on 15/01/2013

- A separate business unit/cost centre which delivers Housing related support to older people has now been set up this included the creation of separate posts to manage the “building related” activity.
- Work to confirm the cost and income base for each sheltered scheme is on-going and will form part of a report back on sheltered services charges as part of the revenue estimate process.
- Housing & Regeneration have included the introduction of mobile devices on their work plan for 2013/14 and highlighted this as a commitment in their latest Annual Report. This will help improve the ICT infrastructure to avoid duplication and delays (caused by paper based processes) and improve communication and service delivery systems.
- Work is on-going by technical experts to define a specification and costs for a complete upgrade of scheme based monitoring and call monitoring/equipment.

## **4.2 PLANNING**

4.2.1 Cabinet Members agreed recommendations from the Planning report at its meeting on 17/09/2013, and as a result work has commenced to ensure that all the agreed actions are implemented within the required timescales.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

5.1 The continued roll out of OR will help generate further essential savings and/or efficiencies for the authority, whilst simultaneously driving up quality and accessibility of services for the citizens and businesses of West Lancashire in accordance with the Business Plan.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The level of cumulative cash savings identified to date amounts to approximately £3.2 million, with efficiency savings also gained totalling approximately £910,000.



## **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 OR plays a critical role in identifying savings and service improvements, particularly in the current economic climate, without OR the authority would miss out on opportunities to make further savings and efficiencies, whilst at the same time improving services for our customers.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Article.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

This Article is for information only and does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/ or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

None.





**ARTICLE NO: 2B**

**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2013/14  
ISSUE: 3**

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**Article of: Assistant Director Community Services**

**Relevant Head of Service: Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Contact for further information: Mr C Brady (Extn. 5125)  
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**SUBJECT: FLOODING - UPDATE**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1 To update Members in relation to flooding related matters within the Borough.

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**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 A report was presented to Council on 19 December 2012 which outlined the various responsibilities of the key stakeholders in relation to flooding / drainage within West Lancashire.

2.2 At that meeting it was resolved:

- A. That the contents of the report be noted.
- B. That the Assistant Director Community Services further engages with our strategic partners and other bodies with a view to identifying any improvements which could be made to existing communication strategies to assist the public when reporting severe weather incidents, including the possibility of providing a single point of contact to be made known to all West Lancashire residents.

- C. That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director Community Services, in consultation with the Leader and relevant Portfolio Holders, to commission the services of an appropriate body or bodies to engage with residents who have been or may be at risk of flooding and to provide the necessary assistance to form a Community Flood Action Group or Groups and to provide further advice and support to enable the Group or Groups to submit a bid to the Environment Agency via Lancashire County Council, as the designated lead local flood authority, for a property level flood resilience measures grant and that appropriate funding of up to £5,000 be made available from contingencies for this purpose.

### **3.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In relation to B above, the Council has been working closely with the EA and other major stakeholders to improve communications where possible. The Council has recently signed up to be part of the Environment Agency's new Extended Floodline Warning Service (Telephone number 0845 988 1188). This will enable a more co-ordinated approach between partners when dealing with flooding enquires from members of the public. As part of the service the EA staff at their Floodline contact centre will in the first instance deal with queries directly from the public and respond to them as per information / frequently asked questions that partners, including this Council have supplied, based on past experience.
- 3.2 The EA will only refer callers on to WLBC if the query is outside the content of the "script" or something we need to deal with directly ourselves i.e. flooding to Council housing stock, Council buildings, etc. This initiative will be a major improvement to the existing communication arrangements, and callers will be referred on in a way which reflects the statutory responsibilities of the various partners.
- 3.3 As part of the service WLBC will have direct access to a secure part of the EA's website where we can provide live updates to our own scripts and frequently asked questions, should the information change or need updating during the course of a severe weather event. The Technical Services Manager has also been working with Customer Services to further develop our own internal communications during flood events, and these will ensure that the new internal and external processes complement each other.
- 3.4 In relation to C above, we have been working closely with the EA on this and they have recently set up two Flood Action Groups (FAG's), in Dyers Lane and Halsall Lane, Ormskirk. The EA are also in discussions with interested residents in other parts of the Borough as to the possibility of setting up of further Flood Action Groups. The formation of these groups

has been fully funded by the EA and the Council has therefore not had to make any financial contribution to this process.

- 3.5 WLBC is also using consultants to carry out a flood study in relation to the “Pines” estate, off Burscough Road, Ormskirk (next to the Hattersleys site). This estate has a long standing history of flooding and the EA has provided WLBC with grant funding of £50,000 to complete this study. Upon completion of the study further grant funding will then be sought from the EA as appropriate to fund any identified engineering improvement works.
- 3.6 WLBC has also submitted an application to the EA for grant funding of £112,000 to carry out a flood study on the Hurlston Brook Catchment of West Ormskirk, which covers the Hurlston Brook and Sandy Brook watercourses. Specific areas of concern are identified as Alty’s Lane, Dyers Lane and Halsall Lane, Ormskirk. If the bid is successful, which should be known towards the end of this year, consultants will be appointed in line with Council procurement policies to carry out the study. Although the Flood Action Group initiative is being led by the EA, the Council will also be working with the FAG’s in helping to determine any flood prevention measures which may be built in to the outcomes of the above catchment study.

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 4.1 The implementation of good asset management of the drainage /sewerage infrastructure across the Borough is key to the achievement of a sustainable long-term flood risk management strategy, particularly when dealing with both existing developments and future development proposals.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this article.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this article.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Article.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The Article is for information only and does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

None.