



Kim Webber B.Sc. M.Sc.
Chief Executive
52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Monday, 4 September 2017

**TO: COUNCILLORS I MORAN, Y GAGEN, C COOPER, J HODSON, J FORSHAW,
K WILKIE, K WRIGHT AND C WYNN**

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the **CABINET/COMMITTEE ROOM, 52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 2DF** on **TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2017** at **7.00 PM** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Webber', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Webber
Chief Executive

AGENDA
(Open to the Public)

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS**

If, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, it has not been possible to follow Rule 15 (i.e. a matter which is likely to be the subject of a key decision has not been included on the Forward Plan) then the decision may still be taken if:

- a) The Borough Solicitor, on behalf of the Leader, obtains the

agreement of the Chairman of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the making of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred,

- b) The Borough Solicitor, on behalf of the Leader, makes available on the Council's website and at the offices of the Council, a notice setting out the reasons that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 211 - 212

If a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest, he/she is advised to contact the Borough Solicitor in advance of the meeting. (For the assistance of members a checklist for use in considering their position on any particular item is included at the end of this agenda sheet.)

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING 213 - 216

Residents of West Lancashire, on giving notice, may address the meeting to make representations on any item on the agenda except where the public and press are to be excluded during consideration of the item. The deadline for submissions is 5.00pm on Thursday 7 September 2017. A copy of the public speaking protocol and form to be completed is attached.

5. MINUTES 217 - 222

To receive as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of Cabinet held on 13 June 2017

6. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS

6a Use of Section 106 Monies in Banks 223 - 228
(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Y Gagen)

6b Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act - Annual Setting of the Policy and Review of Use of Powers 229 - 258
(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran)

6c Quarterly Performance Indicators (Q1 2017-18) 259 - 276
(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran)

6d Risk Management 277 - 286
(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Wynn)

6e West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy 287 - 382
(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson)

6f Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Programme 2018/19 383 - 458
(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson)

6g Brownfield Land Register and Permission in Principle 459 -

	(Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson)	496
6h	Self and Custom Build Register (Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson)	497 - 520
6i	Local Plan Review Update (Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson)	521 - 546
6j	Capital Programme Outturn 2016-17 (Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Wynn)	547 - 552
6k	Capital Programme Monitoring 2017-18 (Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Wynn)	553 - 558
6l	West Lancashire Tourism - The Visitor Economy - Final Report of the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran)	559 - 588
6m	Burscough Neighbourhood Plan (Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson) Report to follow	

We can provide this document, upon request, on audiotape, in large print, in Braille and in other languages.

FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE: Please see attached sheet.

MOBILE PHONES: These should be switched off or to 'silent' at all meetings.

For further information, please contact:-

Sue Griffiths on 01695 585097

Or email susan.griffiths@westlancs.gov.uk

**FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE FOR:
COUNCIL MEETINGS WHERE OFFICERS ARE PRESENT
(52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK)**

PERSON IN CHARGE: Most Senior Officer Present
ZONE WARDEN: Member Services Officer / Lawyer
DOOR WARDEN(S) Usher / Caretaker

IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE

1. Operate the nearest **FIRE CALL POINT** by breaking the glass.
2. Attack the fire with the extinguishers provided only if you have been trained and it is safe to do so. **Do not** take risks.

ON HEARING THE FIRE ALARM

1. Leave the building via the **NEAREST SAFE EXIT**. **Do not stop** to collect personal belongings.
2. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** on the car park and report your presence to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
3. **Do NOT** return to the premises until authorised to do so by the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.

NOTES:

Officers are required to direct all visitors regarding these procedures i.e. exit routes and place of assembly.

The only persons not required to report to the Assembly Point are the Door Wardens.

CHECKLIST FOR PERSON IN CHARGE

1. Advise other interested parties present that you are the person in charge in the event of an evacuation.
2. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire escape routes and inform any interested parties of the escape routes.
3. Make yourself familiar with the location of the assembly point and inform any interested parties of that location.
4. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire alarm and detection control panel.
5. Ensure that the zone warden and door wardens are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
6. Arrange for a register of attendance to be completed (if considered appropriate / practicable).

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, OR THE FIRE ALARM BEING SOUNDED

1. Ensure that the room in which the meeting is being held is cleared of all persons.
2. Evacuate via the nearest safe Fire Exit and proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** in the car park.
3. Delegate a person at the **ASSEMBLY POINT** who will proceed to **HOME CARE LINK** in order to ensure that a back-up call is made to the **FIRE BRIGADE**.
4. Delegate another person to ensure that **DOOR WARDENS** have been posted outside the relevant Fire Exit Doors.

5. Ensure that the **ZONE WARDEN** has reported to you on the results of his checks, **i.e.** that the rooms in use have been cleared of all persons.
6. If an Attendance Register has been taken, take a **ROLL CALL**.
7. Report the results of these checks to the Fire and Rescue Service on arrival and inform them of the location of the **FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL**.
8. Authorise return to the building only when it is cleared to do so by the **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE OFFICER IN CHARGE**. Inform the **DOOR WARDENS** to allow re-entry to the building.

NOTE:

The Fire Alarm system will automatically call the Fire Brigade. The purpose of the 999 back-up call is to meet a requirement of the Fire Precautions Act to supplement the automatic call.

CHECKLIST FOR ZONE WARDEN

1. Carry out a physical check of the rooms being used for the meeting, including adjacent toilets, kitchen.
2. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS**, both officers and members of the public are made aware of the **FIRE ALERT**.
3. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS** evacuate **IMMEDIATELY**, in accordance with the **FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**.
4. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** and report to the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that the rooms within your control have been cleared.
5. Assist the **PERSON IN CHARGE** to discharge their duties.

It is desirable that the **ZONE WARDEN** should be an **OFFICER** who is normally based in this building and is familiar with the layout of the rooms to be checked.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOOR WARDENS

1. Stand outside the **FIRE EXIT DOOR(S)**
2. Keep the **FIRE EXIT DOOR SHUT**.
3. Ensure that **NO PERSON**, whether staff or public enters the building until **YOU** are told by the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that it is safe to do so.
4. If anyone attempts to enter the premises, report this to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
5. Do not leave the door **UNATTENDED**.

	This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

"body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest" means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest; "director" includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

"land" excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income; "M" means a member of a relevant authority;

"member" includes a co-opted member; "relevant authority" means the authority of which M is a member;

"relevant period" means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives notice to the Monitoring Officer of a DPI;

"relevant person" means M or M's spouse or civil partner, a person with whom M is living as husband or wife or a person with whom M is living as if they were civil partners;

"securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

'non pecuniary interest' means interests falling within the following descriptions:

- 10.1(1)(i) Any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (ii) Any body (a) exercising functions of a public nature; (b) directed to charitable purposes; or (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union), of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) Any easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
- 10.2(2) A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a connected person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.

'a connected person' means

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association, or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph 10.1(1)(i) or (ii).

'body exercising functions of a public nature' means

Regional and local development agencies, other government agencies, other Councils, public health bodies, council-owned companies exercising public functions, arms length management organisations carrying out housing functions on behalf of your authority, school governing bodies.

A Member with a personal interest who has made an executive decision in relation to that matter must ensure any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

NB Section 21(13) of the LGA 2000 overrides any Code provisions to oblige an executive member to attend an overview and scrutiny meeting to answer questions.

PUBLIC SPEAKING – PROTOCOL

(For meetings of Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee)

1.0 Public Speaking

1.1 Residents of West Lancashire may, on giving notice, address any of the above meetings to make representations on any item on the agenda for those meetings, except where the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item.

1.2 The form attached as an Appendix to this Protocol should be used for submitting requests.

2.0 Deadline for submission

2.1 The prescribed form should be received by Member Services by 5.00 pm on the Thursday of the week preceding the meeting. This can be submitted by e-mail to member.services@westlancs.gov.uk or by sending to:

Member Services
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

2.2 Completed forms will be collated by Member Services and circulated via e-mail to relevant Members and officers and published on the Council website via the Council's Information System (CoInS). Only the name of the resident and details of the issue to be raised will be published.

2.3 Groups of persons with similar views should elect a spokesperson to speak on their behalf to avoid undue repetition of similar points. Spokespersons should identify in writing on whose behalf they are speaking.

3.0 Scope

3.1 Any matters raised must be relevant to an item on the agenda for the meeting.

3.2 The Borough Solicitor may reject a submission if it:

- (i) is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- (ii) is substantially the same as representations which have already been submitted at a previous meeting; or
- (iii) discloses or requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

4.0 Number of items

- 4.1 A maximum of one form per resident will be accepted for each Agenda Item.
- 4.2 There will be a maximum of 10 speakers per meeting. Where there are more than 10 forms submitted by residents, the Borough Solicitor will prioritise the list of those allowed to speak. This will be dependent on:
 - a. The order in which forms were received.
 - b. If one resident has asked to speak on a number of items, priority will be given to other residents who also wish to speak
 - c. If a request has been submitted in relation to the same issue.
- 4.3 All submissions will be circulated to relevant Members and officers for information, although no amendments will be made to the list of speakers once it has been agreed (regardless of withdrawal of a request to speak).

5.0 At the Meeting

- 5.1 Speakers will be shown to their seats. An item 'Public Speaking' will be included on the agenda to enable local residents to make their representations within a period of up to 30 minutes at the start of the meeting. Residents will have up to 3 minutes to address the meeting when introduced by the Chairman for that meeting. The address must reflect the issue included on the prescribed form submitted in advance.
- 5.2 Members may discuss what the speaker has said along with all other information, when the item is being considered later on the agenda and will make a decision then. Speakers should not circulate any supporting documentation at the meeting and should not enter into a debate with Councillors.
- 5.4 If residents feel nervous or uncomfortable speaking in public, then they can ask someone else to do it for them. They can also bring an interpreter if they need one. They should be aware there may be others speaking as well.
- 5.5 Speakers may leave the meeting at any time, taking care not to disturb the meeting.



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AT MEETINGS

MEETING & DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

Post Code

PHONE

Email

Please indicate if you will be in attendance at the meeting

YES/NO*

*delete as applicable

Note: This page will not be published.

(P.T.O.)

Agenda Item 5

CABINET

HELD: Tuesday, 13 June 2017

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: Councillor I Moran (Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

Councillors:		<u>Portfolio</u>
	Councillor Y Gagen	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Human Resources
	Councillor C Cooper	Portfolio Holder for Communities and Older People
	Councillor J Hodson	Portfolio Holder for Planning
	Councillor J Patterson	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Landlord Services
	Councillor K Wilkie	Portfolio Holder for Street Scene
	Councillor C Wynn	Portfolio Holder for Finance

In attendance: Pendleton
Councillors

Officers: Chief Executive (Ms K Webber)
Director of Housing & Inclusion (Ms J Sinnott-Lacey)
Director of Street Scene (Mrs H McDougall)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)
Heritage and Environment Manager (Mr I Bond)
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2 SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of special urgency.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillors Patterson and Wilkie (tenants of Council accommodation) declared disclosable pecuniary/pecuniary interests in agenda item 7(c) (Housing Revenue Account – Income Recovery Policy 2017) but considered

they were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption as nothing in the report relates particularly to the relevant tenancy or lease.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 March 2017 be received as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PROCEDURAL MATTERS

RESOLVED A. That the appointment of Cabinet Committees and Working Groups for 2017/18, as circulated at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 17 May 2017, with the terms of reference included in the Constitution, be noted.

B. That the 'Proper Officer Provisions and Scheme of Delegation to Chief Officers', insofar as they are executive functions, and the Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members, as set out in the Constitution, be noted.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

7 LEADER'S OPENING REMARKS

The Leader welcomed Councillor Cooper to her first meeting and expressed his thanks to Councillor Aldridge for his service on Cabinet.

8 MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS

Consideration was given to the report relating to the following matters requiring decisions as circulated on pages 19 -196 and 211 – 213 of the book of Reports.

9 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Q4 2016-17

Councillor Moran introduced the report of the Borough Transformation Manager & Deputy Director of Housing which presented performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 31 March 2017.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

RESOLVED A. That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 31 March 2017 be noted.

- B. That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the report will be submitted to the meeting of the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2017.

10 GRANVILLE PARK CONSERVATION CHARACTER APPRAISAL UPDATE

Councillor J Hodson introduced the report of the Director of Development and Regeneration which advised on the outcome of the public consultation on the revised boundary to the Granville Park Conservation Area boundary and sought approval for the update to the Granville Park Conservation Area Appraisal and associated Design Guide and to the making of a new Article 4 Direction across the whole of the Conservation Area.

A motion from Councillor J Hodson was circulated at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the motion from Councillor J Hodson and the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED**
- A. That the Granville Park Conservation Area Appraisal update for Granville Park Conservation Area and the Design Guide appended to this report (Appendix A and B) be approved.
 - B. That the Conservation Area boundary be extended to include the Cockbeck Tavern its Car Park and Bowling Green (identified as extensions A & B on the Plan in Appendix C to the report).
 - C. That authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to make and publicise an Article 4 Direction for the extended Granville Park Conservation Area (identified in Appendix C to the report (including the extensions identified A & B on the Plan in Appendix C) and schedule in Appendix D to the report).

11 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - INCOME RECOVERY POLICY 2017

Councillor Patterson introduced the report of the Director of Housing and Inclusion which sought approval for the updated Housing Revenue Account Income Recovery Policy 2017.

Minute no. 7 of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) held on 7 June 2017 was circulated at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) and the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED**
- A. That the Housing Revenue Account Income Recovery Policy 2017 (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.
 - B. That the Director of Housing and Inclusion, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to make any minor changes to the policy where appropriate following tenant consultation and to implement and deliver the policy.

12 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CONSULTATION - FEEDBACK ON SCOPING AND ISSUES & OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Councillor J Hodson introduced the report of the Director of Development and Regeneration which advised on the feedback received on the above-mentioned consultation and sought authority to publish the Consultation Feedback Report.

Councillor J Hodson expressed his thanks to the officers for their efforts.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED**
- A. That the Consultation Feedback Report on the Local Plan Review Scoping and Issues & Options consultation (provided at Appendix A to the report) be noted and endorsed.
 - B. That the next steps in the Local Plan Review process set out at Section 4.0 of the report be endorsed.

13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- RESOLVED**
- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 (financial/business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

14 MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS

Consideration was given to the report relating to the following matters requiring decisions as contained on pages 197 – 210 and 214 – 217 of the Book of Reports.

15 192 - 198 ENNERDALE, SKELMERSDALE (FORMER TANHOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING OFFICE)

Councillor Patterson introduced the report of the Director of Housing and Inclusion which provided an updated position in respect of 192-198 Ennerdale, Skelmersdale.

Additional information from the Director of Housing and Inclusion was circulated at the meeting.

Minute no. 8 of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) held on 7 June 2017 was circulated at the meeting.

A motion from Councillor Patterson was circulated at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the additional information, the minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) and the motion from Councillor Patterson and the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

RESOLVED A. That the Director of Housing and Inclusion be given authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to negotiate the terms of a disposal, enter into all necessary documentation in order to dispose and complete the disposal of 192-194 Ennerdale, Skelmersdale, to Tanhouse Community Enterprise by way of lease at a peppercorn rent for community purposes.

B. That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item due to the time limited offer to access loan funding to undertake the refurbishment of the premises.

Note: Councillor Pendleton was absent from the meeting during consideration of the above item.

16 REGENERATION OF GORSEY PLACE, SKELMERSDALE

Councillor Moran introduced the report of the Director of Development and Regeneration which advised on the current position in relation to 34 and 36 Gorsey Place, Skelmersdale.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Director of Development and Regeneration be authorised to take all necessary steps to rebuild and refurbish units 34 and 36 Gorsey Place using insurance and reserve funding as detailed in section 5 of the report, subject to the budget impact being approved by Council on 19 July 2017.

 - B. That the Director of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to take all necessary steps to extend enhancement works to the other two adjoining units as detailed in section 5.5 of the report (Numbers 38 and 40 Gorsey Place), subject to the budget impact being approved by Council on 19 July 2017.

Note

No representations had been received in relation to the above items being considered in private.

.....
Leader



Report of: Director of Leisure and Wellbeing

Relevant Portfolio Holders: Councillor Y. Gagen

Contact for further information: Mr S. Kent (Extn. 5169)
(E-mail: Stephen.kent@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: USE OF SECTION 106 MONIES IN BANKS

Wards affected: North Meols

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a proposal regarding the use of section 106 monies received by the Council from housing developers, for the enhancement of public open space provision in Banks.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the use of £36,736 of S106 monies to help fund the proposed project to improve the public open space at Hesketh Avenue Playing Fields, Banks be approved.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that under policy EN3 of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027, developers must provide open space facilities as part of housing developments. Where developments are less than 20 dwellings or on sites where it is not reasonable to expect a development to provide on-site facilities, and where there is a deficiency of open space, the Council can require a commuted sum for the provision of new or the enhancement of existing areas of public open space within its area.

- 3.2 In accordance with the decision of the Planning Committee on January 10th 2002 the views of the relevant Parish Council/ward councillors are sought in respect of the potential use of this money.
- 3.3 In February 2011 an Officer S106 Agreements – Public Open Space working group was established to co-ordinate the receipt of S106 commuted sums and report to Cabinet on the use of S106 funding. A function of this group is to establish levels of uncommitted S106 funds across all wards and liaise with ward councillors and Parish Councils as to how this funding could be best utilised in line with the requirements of the S106 agreements.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The funding from a particular development can only be used in accordance with the terms of the related Section 106 agreement. The Council currently has received monies from four S106 agreements in North Meols ward all of which are still unallocated :-

- £4,435 from 22 Glebe Lane,
- £30,929 from land at rear of 10-42 Bonds Lane,
- £32,953 from land at rear of 24-38 Chapel Lane,
- £120,000 from land at Guinea Hall Lane.

Funds from Glebe Lane, Bonds Lane and Chapel Lane all allow use for the provision/enhancement of public open space in the local area, and could, if approved, be available towards this project.

- 4.2 Following consultation with North Meols Parish Council and ward councillors there is one new proposal put forward by the Parish Council for consideration for existing Section 106 funding in North Meols ward.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Hesketh Avenue Playing Fields are an important central open space recreational feature in Banks, owned and managed by North Meols Parish Council (see appendix 1 – Hesketh Avenue Playing Fields, Banks). Recent investment in the area has included the development of a new childrens play area and skate board park. The open grassed playing field has the potential to provide outdoor recreation for families, kickabout area for young people and an area for community events and activities.
- 5.2 Two main problems prevent this area from being used to its potential, the condition of the grassed area due to waterlogging and poor drainage, and the safety and security of users which is often threatened by use by motor vehicles gaining access from the adjacent disused railway line.
- 5.3 This proposal would include installation of a new drainage system to improve the grassed playing field and make it useable by the community for a wider range of activities for longer periods. It also includes the erection of a new fence on the boundary between the site and the disused railway line to prevent vehicular access and create a more safe and secure facility

5.4 Hesketh Avenue Playing Fields could provide a wide range of community activities like village fetes, family picnics and sports activities as well as improving and increasing use of the existing play facilities for families and local groups and organisations. The improvements proposed would significantly help towards achieving this increased and improved use.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

6.1 Providing this facility would improve accessibility to green space in Banks, would complement recent improvements to the Hesketh Avenue Playing Fields, and will help to provide healthy, safe and secure opportunities for outdoor recreation. This would further the Councils aims for improvements to the health and wellbeing of its communities.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The bid from North Meols Parish Council is for £36,736 from S106 funds to cover the costs of the drainage and fencing project. The funding would be taken from the following S106 sources:-

- £4,435 from 22 Glebe Lane,
- £30,929 from land at rear of 10-42 Bonds Lane,
- £1,373 from land at rear of 24-38 Chapel Lane.

7.3 Future maintenance of the site will be undertaken by North Meols Parish Council.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 Ensuring good ground conditions, ease of access, and safe and secure use of this facility will be enhanced greatly by this allocation of funds, but will be reliant upon good maintenance in the future. The Parish Council are responsible for this maintenance and part of the agreement for release of the S106 funds will be an agreement with them to ensure this on-going maintenance is carried out.

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

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Hesketh Avenue Playing Fields, Banks



Line of new fence - - - - -

<h1>Equality Impact Assessment Form</h1>	
Directorate: Leisure and Wellbeing	Service: Leisure, Cultural & Arts
Completed by: Stephen Kent	Date: 23/6/2017
Subject Title: Use of S106 monies in Banks	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	No <i>*delete as appropriate</i>
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	Yes
Is a programme or project being planned:	Yes
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	No
Details of the matter under consideration:	
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i> <i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>	
2. RELEVANCE	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>	
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>	
3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	Banks residents
If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?	Banks residents, particularly family groups and children



Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out?	<i>*delete as appropriate</i>
Age	Yes
Gender	No
Disability	No
Race and Culture	No
Sexual Orientation	No
Religion or Belief	No
Gender Reassignment	No
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	No
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?	Site is currently public open space with play facilities and grassed area, used for outdoor recreation.
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	Works will allow the site to be used for a wider range of activities and for a longer period of time. Ground conditions in particular will be greatly improved to allow for more recreational use.
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	Users of the grassed area are more dissatisfied with the facility due to waterlogging preventing use for long periods of time. Families are also very concerned about misuse by motor vehicles which could be a safety hazard as well as a significant disturbance.
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	Parish Council have undertaken liaison/consultation with local residents for this and previous projects, and this request is a direct result of that liaison.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	Future monitoring through liaison with the Parish Council
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	This site provides good facilities for children and families. Children in particular would benefit from better access to facilities and recreational grassed areas to use.
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	Monitoring use will establish any negative issues and deal with them accordingly through the Parish Council
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	On-going liaison with Parish Council <i>If no actions are planned state no actions</i>
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	June 2018. Reviewing officer – Stephen Kent



**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE:
5 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**CABINET:
12 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran, Leader

Contact for further information: Mr T P Broderick (Ext 5001)
(E-mail: terry.broderick@westlancs.gov.uk)
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**SUBJECT: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT – ANNUAL
SETTING OF THE POLICY AND REVIEW OF USE OF POWERS**

Wards affected: Borough Wide Interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and to present an updated RIPA Policy document for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

2.1 That the Council's RIPA activity and the updated RIPA Policy, at Appendix 1, be noted.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

3.1 That the updated RIPA Policy at Appendix 1 be approved.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and Home Office Codes of Practice strictly prescribe the situations and the conditions in which councils can use their RIPA powers. All authorities are required to have a RIPA policy and procedure that they adhere to in using their RIPA powers. There is a system of rigorous oversight of the use of the powers undertaken by the Office for the Surveillance Commissioner (OSC).

4.2 The Council's current approved RIPA Policy is made available on the Council's Intranet and is a working document to assist investigating and co-ordinating officers within the Council. Paragraph 5 of the RIPA Policy stresses that grantors of authorisations must believe the authorised activity is (1) necessary for preventing and detecting crime and (2) is proportionate to what is sought to be achieved in carrying out the surveillance activity (e.g. the 24/7 watching of premises where private individuals may go about their lawful business, for the possibility of gaining collateral evidence for a very minor technical breach of regulatory legislation may not in all likelihood be proportionate). If it fails either test, authorisations should not be granted.

5.0 MONITORING OF RIPA ACTIVITY

5.1 In the last quarter (up to the date of the writing of this report, i.e. 17 August 2017) and in the last 12 months no covert surveillance has been authorised.

5.2 Relevant Officers proactively seek to ensure that the use of covert surveillance in this authority is well regulated. Applications for authorisation to use covert surveillance or covert human intelligence sources must be rejected when the relevant Authorising Officer is not satisfied that the surveillance is necessary or proportionate. Legal advice is to be sought by Authorising Officers in appropriate cases. Requests for communications data have not been requested but would be handled through external arrangements, if this were necessary.

5.3 A programme of training is in place and a RIPA guidance note is circulated within the Council at regular intervals to raise awareness. Whenever a new Code of Practice is issued by the Government, Officers are notified accordingly.

6.0 THE RIPA POLICY

6.1 The updated RIPA Policy is presented to Cabinet for approval each year as required by guidance (Section 3.35 of the Home Office Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Practice of December 2014 and section 3.27 of the Home Office Covert Human Intelligence Sources Code of Practice of December 2014). Officers ensure the use of RIPA is consistent with the Council's Policy and regularly report on activity to the OSC.

6.2 The Council's updated RIPA Policy is annexed in Appendix 1. On this occasion only very minor amendments have been made as it has not been necessary to significantly revise the RIPA Policy.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

7.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, positive impacts on crime and disorder will be achieved by adhering to RIPA and the RIPA Policy. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

8.0 FINANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no significant financial and resource implications arising from this report.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

9.1 The Council could be in breach of the relevant legislation if it does not follow the procedures set out in the RIPA Orders and Codes. This could result in the inadmissibility of evidence and potentially fail to meet human rights requirements.

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

This will be considered in relation to any particular authorisation.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Updated Policy
2. Minute of Audit and Governance Committee (Cabinet only)

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RIPA POLICY

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

In respect of

Directed Surveillance, Use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources and Accessing Communications Data

Version : No.7 - 2017

TPBRIPAPOLICYVERSION7-2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (the 2000 Act) regulates covert investigations by a number of bodies, including local authorities. It was introduced to ensure that individuals' rights are protected consistent with the obligations under The Human Rights Act 1998, while also ensuring that law enforcement and security agencies have the powers they need to do their job effectively.
- 1.2. West Lancashire Borough Council is therefore included within the 2000 Act framework with regard to the authorisation of Directed Surveillance, the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) and the obtaining of communications data through a single point of contact (SPOC).
- 1.3 The purpose of this guidance is to:
 - explain the scope of the 2000 Act and the circumstances where it applies
 - provide guidance on the authorisation procedures to be followed.

This continues to be a developing area of law and the Courts are yet to fully define the limits of the powers. This should be borne in mind when considering this Guide.

- 1.4 The Council has had regard to the Codes of Practice on covert surveillance, CHIS and accessing communications data produced by the Home Office in preparing this guidance and each Service should hold copies to which staff can refer. These documents are available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ripa.
- 1.5 In summary the 2000 Act requires that when the Council undertakes “directed surveillance”, uses a “covert human intelligence source or accesses communications data (defined below at paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 below) these activities must only be authorised by an officer with delegated powers when the relevant criteria are satisfied.
- 1.6 The Chief Executive, Director of Leisure and Wellbeing, Director of Housing and Inclusion and Borough Solicitor can authorise these activities (in relation to communications data, they shall be known as Designated Persons and shall seek the advice of the SPOC, see further paragraphs 4 and 5.1.3 below). Such nomination permits officers to grant authority for any purpose under the terms of the 2000 Act across all Council Services and service areas.
- 1.7 **Once an authorisation is granted for the use (or renewal) of directed surveillance, or acquisition of communications data, or covert human intelligence source it cannot take effect without an order approving the grant (or renewal) being obtained from a single Justice of the Peace (Magistrate, District Judge) (under amendments made by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, to s.32A and s.32B of the 2000 Act). This order must be sought from the Magistrates’ Court, but when the Court is not in session. The arrangements for seeking the order will be made in consultation with Legal Services.**
- 1.8 Authorisation under the 2000 Act gives lawful authority to carry out surveillance and the use of a source. Obtaining authorisation helps to protect the Council and

its officers from complaints of interference with the rights protected by Article 8(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights, i.e. the right to respect for private and family life which is now enshrined in English law through the Human Rights Act 1998. This is because the interference with the private life of citizens will be “in accordance with the law”. Provided activities undertaken are also “reasonable and proportionate” they will not be in contravention of Human Rights legislation.

- 1.9 Authorising Officers and investigators within the Local Authority are to note that the 2000 Act does not extend to powers to conduct intrusive surveillance. Investigators should familiarise themselves with the provisions of Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Code of Practice on Directed Surveillance to ensure a good understanding of the limitation of powers within the 2000 Act.
- 1.10. Deciding when authorisation is required involves making a judgment **and assessing whether specific conditions apply to the investigation target**. Paragraph 3.4 explains this process in detail. If you are in any doubt, seek the advice of an Authorising Officer, if they are in doubt they will seek advice from the Borough Solicitor/Senior Responsible Officer. However, in those cases where there is doubt as to the need for an authorisation it may be safer to consider seeking/granting an authorisation: a broader reading of the application of the Act’s requirements is encouraged.
- 1.11. In the case of CHIS authorisations for vulnerable people or juveniles, or where surveillance involves communication subject to legal privilege, confidential personal information or confidential journalistic material authorisation must be obtained from the Chief Executive only, **together with the necessary application for an order giving effect to authorisation from a Justice of the Peace**.
- 1.12 The Chief Executive should be requested to authorise directed surveillance involving the covert filming of any Council member or employee to the extent that this falls within RIPA.

2. DIRECTED SURVEILLANCE

2.1 **The Council must apply to a Justice of the Peace for an order that gives effect to the authorisation for the use of directed surveillance prior to undertaking the activity.**

2.2 What is meant by Surveillance?

"Surveillance" includes:

- a) monitoring, observing or listening to persons, their movements, their conversations or their other activities or communication;
- b) recording anything monitored, observed or listened to in the course of surveillance; and
- c) surveillance by or with the assistance of a surveillance device.

2.3 When is surveillance directed?

Surveillance is 'Directed' for the purposes of the 2000 Act if it is covert, but not intrusive and is undertaken:

- a) for the purposes of a specific investigation or a specific operation.
- b) in such a manner as is likely to result in the obtaining of private information about a person (whether or not one is specifically identified for the purposes of the investigation or operation); and
- c) otherwise than by way of an immediate response to events or circumstances the nature of which is such that it would not be reasonably practicable for an authorisation to be sought for the carrying out of the surveillance.

2.4 In certain circumstances, use of social media sites such as Facebook, or using the internet in other ways could need authorisation as directed surveillance. The Office of Surveillance Commissioners has given guidance on when the use of social media and the internet might need authorisation on RIPA. The guidance can be read at appendix 4.

2.5 Surveillance Threshold

2.5.1 Before directed surveillance can be undertaken and the requisite order from a Justice of the Peace applied for, the Council must be satisfied that they are investigating a criminal offence that carries a maximum sentence of 6 months or more imprisonment.

2.5.2 The exception to the 6 month sentence threshold is specific offences of sale of alcohol or tobacco to an underage person which does not fall within the Council's range of regulatory activities.

2.5.3 During the course of an investigation, should the Council become aware that the criminal activity under investigation falls below the 6 month sentence threshold, then use of directed surveillance should cease.

2.5.4 This 6 month sentence threshold does not apply to use of covert human intelligence or communications data techniques.

2.6 The Council cannot undertake intrusive surveillance.

2.6.1 Surveillance becomes intrusive if the covert surveillance:

- a) is carried out in relation to anything taking place on any "residential premises" or in any "private vehicle"; and
- b) involves the presence of an individual on the premises or in the vehicle or is carried out by means of a surveillance device; or
- c) is carried out by means of a surveillance device in relation to anything taking place on any residential premises or in any private vehicle but is carried out without that device being present on the premises or in the vehicle, where the device is such that it consistently provides information of

the same quality and detail as might be expected to be obtained from a device actually present on the premises or in the vehicle.

2.7 Before any officer of the Council undertakes any surveillance of any individual or individuals they need to assess whether the activity comes within the 2000 Act. In order to do this the following key questions need to be asked.

2.7.1 Is the surveillance covert?

Covert surveillance is that carried out in a manner calculated to ensure that subjects of it are unaware it is or may be taking place.

If activities are open and not hidden from the subjects of an investigation, the 2000 Act framework does not in general apply. However, if there is any doubt in respect of this matter, an officer must consider whether it may be appropriate to seek a RIPA authorisation.

2.7.2 Is it for the purposes of a specific investigation or a specific operation?

For example, are Civic building CCTV cameras which are readily visible to anyone walking around the building covered?

The answer is not if their usage is to monitor the general activities of what is happening in the car park. If that usage, however, changes, the 2000 Act may apply.

For example, if the CCTV cameras are targeting a particular known individual, and are being used in monitoring his activities, that has turned into a specific operation which may require authorisation.

2.7.3 Is it in such a manner that is **likely** to result in the obtaining of private information about a person?

"Private information" is any information relating to a person's private or family life and aspects of business or professional life.

For example, if part of an investigation is to observe a member of staff's home to determine their comings and goings then that would be covered.

If it is likely that observations will not result in the obtaining of private information about a person, then it is outside the 2000 Act framework. However, the use of 'test purchasers' may involve the use of covert human intelligence sources (see later).

If in doubt, it is safer to consider getting authorisation.

2.7.4 Is it undertaken **otherwise than by way of an immediate response to event or circumstances where it is not reasonably practicable to get authorisation?**

The Home Office gives the example of an immediate response to something happening during the course of an observer's work, which is unforeseeable.

However, if as a result of an immediate response, a specific investigation subsequently takes place that brings it within the 2000 Act framework.

2.7.5 Is the Surveillance Intrusive?

Directed surveillance turns into intrusive surveillance if it is carried out involving anything that occurs on residential premises or any private vehicle and involves the presence of someone on the premises or in the vehicle or is carried out by means of a (high quality) surveillance device.

If the device is not on the premises or in the vehicle, it is only intrusive surveillance if it consistently produces information of the same quality as if it were.

Commercial premises and vehicles are therefore excluded from intrusive surveillance. **The Council is not authorised to carry out intrusive surveillance.**

2.7.6 Does the offence under investigation meet the 6 month threshold?

3 COVERT USE OF HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE (CHIS)

3.1 A person is a Covert Human Intelligence Source if:

- a) he establishes or maintains a personal or other relationship with a person for the covert purpose of facilitating the doing of anything falling within paragraph b) or c).
- b) he covertly uses such a relationship to obtain information or provide access to any information to another person; or
- c) he covertly discloses information obtained by the use of such a relationship or as a consequence of the existence of such a relationship.

3.2. A purpose is covert, in relation to the establishment or maintenance of a personal or other relationship, if and only if the relationship is conducted in a manner that is calculated to ensure that one of the parties to the relationship is unaware of that purpose.

3.3. The above clearly covers the use of professional witnesses to obtain information and evidence. It is not Council practice to use such witnesses. It can also cover cases such as a Council officer making a test purchase when there is a need to cultivate a relationship with the seller, which would not usually be the case.

3.4. There is a risk that an informant may be, or become, a CHIS. A member of the public giving information will be a CHIS if the information which he covertly passes to the authority has been obtained in the course of (*or as a consequence of the existence of*) a personal or other relationship. See paragraph 2.22 of the CHIS Code of Practice, and paragraph 270 of OSC Procedures and Guidance 2011, which refers to the risk of "status drift". When an informant gives repeat information about a suspect or about a family, and it becomes apparent that the informant may be obtaining that information in the course of a family or neighbourhood relationship, alarm bells should begin to ring. It probably means that the informant is in reality a CHIS, to whom a duty of care is owed if the information is then used. In such circumstances officers should refer any such instance for legal advice before acting on the information received from such an informant.

3.5 In this context (of authorising CHIS) ANY information (ie not confined to private information alone) to be gained by the covert manipulation of a relationship will

require authorisation.

3.6 The Council must apply to a Justice of the Peace for an order that gives effect to the authorisation for the use of covert human intelligence source (see 1.7 above).

3.7 In certain circumstances, use of social media sites such as Facebook, or using the Internet for research in other ways could need authorisation as the use of a covert human intelligence source. The guidance can be read at appendix 4.

4 COMMUNICATIONS DATA

4.1 The Council may also access certain communications data under the 2000 Act, provided this, like all other surveillance, is **for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime**.

4.2 Following the passage of the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014 the Home Office has revoked all accreditation which enabled local authority staff to acquire communications data with effect from 1 December 2014. The Council is now required to use the National Anti-Fraud Network's (NAFN's) Single Point of Contact services to acquire communications data under RIPA, if approved by a magistrate. The Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data Code of Practice shall be followed at all times. Council staff are not permitted to obtain telecommunications and internet use data other than as provided for by the Act.

4.3 The Council must apply to a Justice of the Peace for an order giving effect to the authorisation of the use of communications data.

4.4 The accredited SPoCs at NAFN will scrutinise the applications independently. They will provide advice to applicants and designated persons ensuring the Council acts in an informed and lawful manner.

5. AUTHORISATIONS, RENEWALS AND DURATION

5.1 The Council must apply to a Justice of the Peace for an order that gives effect to the authorisation for the use of directed surveillance, communications data and covert human intelligence source (see 1.7 above).

5.1.1 The Conditions for Authorisation

5.1.2 Directed Surveillance

5.1.1.3 For directed surveillance no officer shall grant an authorisation **and make an application to a Justice of the Peace** for the carrying out of directed surveillance unless he believes:

- a) that an authorisation is necessary for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime and
- b) the authorised surveillance is proportionate to what is sought to be achieved by carrying it out.

5.1.1.4 The onus is therefore on the person authorising such surveillance to satisfy

themselves it is:

- a) necessary for the ground stated above and;
- b) proportionate to its aim.

5.1.1.5 In order to ensure that authorising officers have sufficient information to make an informed decision **about whether to make an application to a Justice of the Peace for an order to give effect to any authorisation**, it is important that detailed records are maintained. As such the forms in the Appendix and the accompanying Guidance on Completing RIPA Authorisation Forms are to be completed where relevant.

It is also sensible to make any authorisation sufficiently wide enough to cover all the means required as well as being able to prove effective monitoring of what is done against that which has been authorised.

An Authorising Officer may partially approve or partially refuse an application for authorisation. If an Authorising Officer does not authorise all that was requested, a note should be added explaining why.

5.1.2 Covert Use of Human Intelligence Sources

5.1.2.1 The same principles as Directed Surveillance apply. (see paragraph 5.1.1.3 above)

5.1.2.2 The conduct so authorised is any conduct that:

- a) is comprised in any such activities involving the use of a covert human intelligence source, as are specified or described in the authorisation;
- b) relates to the person who is specified or described as the person to whose actions as a covert human intelligence source the authorisation relates; and
- c) is carried out for the purposes of, or in connection with, the investigation or operation so specified or described.

5.1.2.3 In order to ensure that authorising officers have sufficient information to make an informed decision it is important that detailed records are maintained. As such the forms attached are to be completed where relevant.

It is also sensible to make any authorisation sufficiently wide enough to cover all the means required as well as being able to prove effective monitoring of what is done against that is authorised.

5.1.3 Communications Data

Section 22(4) of RIPA allows the Council to request “communications data” from Communication System Providers (CSPs). The access allowed under these powers is limited to telephone, postal and email subscriber and billing information. Any access must be obtained through the use of an authorised single point of contact (SPOC). (See Code on Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data paragraphs 3.85, 3.86 and 3.87.) The Council does not have the right to

obtain the content of the communication, but can obtain details of the source and destination of a message. The only ground for Local Authorities is the prevention or detection of crime. CSPs must be provided with a Notice Requiring Disclosure of Communications Data, which must have been duly authorised. The only officers who are allowed to authorise such requests are those accredited by the Home Office (the “Designated Persons” (DPs)). The DP is an individual at the level of Chief Executive and Director and will scrutinise all applications for Communications Data.

The authorisation or grant of a notice to obtain communications data require judicial approval on each occasion.

5.2 Further Requirements of the 2000 Act

5.2.1 An application must be made to the Justice of the Peace for an order that gives effect to the authorisation for the use of Directed Surveillance, Communications Data and CHIS. This process is in addition to the Council’s existing authorisation procedure (see 1.7 above).

5.2.2 In light of the changes to the regime applications for urgent grants or renewal, must be in writing. In the Guidance on Completing RIPA Authorisation Forms document which accompanies this Guide are standard forms, which must be used. Officers must direct their mind to the circumstances of the individual case with which they are dealing when completing the form.

5.2.3 Although it is possible to combine two authorisations in one form the Council’s practice is for separate forms to be completed to maintain the distinction between Directed Surveillance and the use of a CHIS.

5.2.4 Authorisations lapse, if not renewed:

- 12 months - if in writing/non-urgent - from date of last renewal if it is for the conduct or use of a covert human intelligence source or
- in all other cases (ie directed surveillance) 3 months from the date of their grant or latest renewal.

5.2.5 Any person entitled to grant a new authorisation can renew subject to judicial approval being obtained an existing authorisation in the same terms at any time before it ceases to have effect.

But, for the conduct of a covert human intelligence source, an Authorised Officer should not renew **or make an application to a Justice of the Peace to renew** unless a review has been carried out and that person has considered the results of the review when deciding whether to renew or not. A review must cover what use has been made of the source, the tasks given to them and information obtained.

5.2.6 The benefits of obtaining an authorisation are described in paragraph 7 below.

5.2.7 Factors to Consider (see further guidance the Guidance on Completing Forms document)

Any person giving an authorisation should first satisfy him/herself that the authorisation is necessary on particular grounds and that the surveillance is proportionate to what it seeks to achieve. The proportionate test involves balancing the intrusiveness of the activity on the target and others who might be affected by it against the need for the activity in operational terms. The activity will not be proportionate if it is excessive in the circumstances of the case or if the information which is sought could reasonably be obtained by other less intrusive means. All such activity should be carefully managed to meet the objective in question and must not be arbitrary or unfair.

5.2.8 Particular consideration should be given to collateral intrusion on or interference with the privacy of persons other than the subject(s) of surveillance. Such collateral intrusion or interference would be a matter of greater concern in cases where there are special sensitivities, for example in cases of premises used by lawyers or for any form of medical or professional counselling or therapy.

5.2.9 An application for an authorisation should include an assessment of the risk of any collateral intrusion or interference. The authorising officer will take this into account, particularly when considering the proportionality of the surveillance and whether measures to avoid can be stipulated.

5.2.10 Those carrying out the covert surveillance should inform the Authorising Officer if the operation/investigation unexpectedly interferes with the privacy of individuals who are not the original subjects of the investigation or covered by the authorisation in some other way. In some cases the original authorisation may not be sufficient and consideration should be given to whether a separate authorisation is required.

5.2.11 Any person giving an authorisation will also need to be aware of particular sensitivities in the local community where the surveillance is taking place or of similar activities being undertaken by other public authorities which could impact on the deployment of surveillance.

Home Surveillance

5.2.12 The fullest consideration should be given in cases where the subject of the surveillance might reasonably expect a high degree of privacy, for instance at his/her home (NB. the Council cannot undertake intrusive surveillance) or where there are special sensitivities.

Spiritual Counselling

5.2.13 No operations should be undertaken in circumstances where investigators believe that surveillance will lead them to intrude on spiritual counselling between a Minister and a member of his/her faith. In this respect, spiritual counselling is defined as conversations with a Minister of Religion acting in his/her official capacity where the person being counselled is seeking or the Minister is imparting forgiveness, or absolution of conscience.

Confidential Material

5.2.14 The 2000 Act allows in exceptional circumstances for authorisations to gather 'confidential material' (see the definitions in Appendix 1). Such material is particularly sensitive, and is subject to additional safeguards under this code. In cases where the likely consequence of the conduct of a source would be for any person to acquire knowledge of confidential material, the deployment of the source should be subject to special authorisation (by the Chief Executive).

5.2.15 In general, any application for an authorisation which is likely to result in the acquisition of confidential material should include an assessment of how likely it is that confidential material will be acquired. Special care should be taken where the target of the investigation is likely to be involved in handling confidential material. Such applications should only be considered in exceptional and compelling circumstances with full regard to the proportionality issues this raises.

5.2.16 The following general principles apply to confidential material acquired under authorisations:

- Those handling material from such operations should be alert to anything that may fall within the definition of confidential material. Where there is doubt as to whether the material is confidential, advice should be sought from the Borough Solicitor/Senior Responsible Officer before further dissemination takes place;
- Confidential material should not be retained or copied unless it is necessary for a specified purpose;
- Confidential material should be disseminated only where an appropriate officer (having sought advice from the Borough Solicitor/Senior Responsible Officer) is satisfied that it is necessary for a specific purpose;
- The retention or dissemination of such information should be accompanied by a clear warning of its confidential nature. It should be safeguarded by taking reasonable steps to ensure that there is no possibility of it becoming available, or its content being known, to any person whose possession of it might prejudice any criminal or civil proceedings related to the information;
- Confidential material should be destroyed as soon as it is no longer necessary to retain it for a specified purpose;
- Any covert surveillance concerning premises on which legal consultations take place are to be regarded as intrusive surveillance and may not be undertaken by the Council.

Combined authorisations

5.2.17 Although it is possible to combine two authorisations in one form the Council's practice is for separate forms to be completed to maintain the distinction between Directed Surveillance and the use of a CHIS.

5.2.18 In cases of joint working with other agencies on the same operation, e.g. by a Housing Benefit Investigator authority for directed surveillance should be given by the lead agency.

5.2.19. On occasion, several Council Services may be included in the same investigation. One authorisation from the Lead Service should cover all activities.

Handling and disclosure of product

5.2.20 Authorising Officers are reminded of the guidance relating to the retention and destruction of confidential material as described in paragraph 5.2.16 above.

5.2.21 Authorising Officers are responsible for ensuring that authorisations undergo timely reviews and are cancelled promptly after directed surveillance activity is no longer necessary.

5.2.22 Authorising Officers must ensure that the relevant details of each authorisation are sent to the Borough Solicitor/Senior Responsible Officer as described in paragraph 9 below.

5.2.23 The originals of applications for authorisations, reviews, renewals and cancellations for directed surveillance and the use of a CHIS should be submitted to and thereafter retained by the RIPA Co-ordinator, for a period of 3 years and at least between inspections. Copies are to be retained by the authorising officer for a commensurate period. Where it is believed that the records could be relevant to pending or future criminal proceedings, they should be retained for a suitable further period, commensurate to any subsequent review.

5.2.24 Any personal data collected during the course of a covert surveillance operation must be stored as per data protection guidelines set out in the Council's Data Protection Policy below.

- Analysis of data from the operation must be carried out by the officers who carried out the investigation and should be done in a private office to avoid personal material being accessible to other council employees.
- The authorising officer may also be included in analysis of the data collected.
- Data must be kept in a secure environment with limited access.
- Data must be labelled with the reference of the case and the date of collection.
- Data collected which is not appropriate or useful as evidence in the investigation and subsequent formal action must be deleted as soon as this fact is determined or when the case is closed, whichever is the sooner. Consideration of whether or not this material should be destroyed is the responsibility of the senior authorising officer. Care must be taken in this respect, as it must be considered that even if this information is not to be used as evidence, it may be "unused material" for the purposes of criminal proceedings.

- If there is any reason to believe that the data obtained during the course of an investigation might be relevant to that investigation, or to another investigation, or to pending or future civil or criminal proceedings, then it should not be destroyed but retained in accordance with established disclosure requirements and may be disclosed.

5.2.25 There is nothing in the 2000 Act that prevents material obtained through the proper use of the authorisation procedures from being used in other investigations. However, the use outside the Council, of any material obtained by means of covert surveillance and, other than in pursuance of the grounds on which it was obtained, should be authorised only in the most exceptional circumstances.

5.3 **The Use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources**

5.3.1 The Council will not normally use an external or professional source for the purpose of obtaining information. It is not the Council's usual practice to seek, cultivate or develop a relationship through an external or professional source although this may occur where circumstances require it. In these circumstances appropriate authorisations must be obtained. It is potentially possible, though highly unlikely, that the role of a Council employee may be that of a source, for example, as contemplated in paragraph 3.3 above, please cross refer for detail.

5.3.2 Nothing in the 2000 Act prevents material obtained by an employee acting as a source being used as evidence in Court proceedings.

5.3.3 The Authorising Officer must consider the safety and welfare of an employee acting as a source, and the foreseeable consequences to others of the tasks they are asked to carry out. A risk assessment should be carried out before authorisation is given. Consideration from the start for the safety and welfare of the employee, even after cancellation of the authorisation, should also be considered.

5.3.4 The Authorising Officer must believe that the authorised use of an employee as a source is proportionate to what it seeks to achieve. Accurate and proper records should be kept about the source and tasks undertaken.

5.3.5 The Council's practice is not to use an employee acting as a source to infiltrate existing criminal activity, or to be a party to the commission of criminal offences, even where this is within the limits recognised by law.

5.3.6 Before authorising the use of an employee as a source, the authorising officer should believe that the conduct/use including the likely degree of intrusion into the privacy of those potentially affected is proportionate to what the use or conduct of the source seeks to achieve. He should also take into account the risk of intrusion into the privacy of persons other than those who are directly the subjects of the operation or investigation (collateral intrusion). Measures should be taken, wherever practicable, to avoid unnecessary intrusion into the lives of those not directly connected with the operation.

5.3.7 Particular care should be taken in circumstances where people would expect a high degree of privacy or where, as a consequence of the authorisation, "confidential material" is likely to be obtained.

5.3.8 Additionally, the Authorising Officer should make an assessment of any risk to an employee acting as a source in carrying out the proposed authorisation.

6. REVIEWS

6.1. The Home Office Code of Practice on directed surveillance makes specific reference to reviews at paragraph 3.23. It recommends regular reviews be undertaken to see if the need for the surveillance is still continuing. Results of reviews should be recorded in a central record of authorisations (see paragraph 8.1). Reviews should be more frequent when access to confidential information or collateral intrusion is involved. Review frequency should be as often as the authorising officer deems necessary or practicable.

6.2. Similar provisions appear at paragraphs 7.1 – 7.2 of the code of practice for CHIS, save that tasks given to the source and information obtained should also be included.

6.3. Each authorising officer will therefore determine in each case how often authorisations should be reviewed. They will ensure records of the review will be supplied on the relevant form in Section 9 and send copies to the RIPA Co-ordinator to keep the central register up to date. Good practice requires that this should be done monthly at least.

7. RENEWALS

7.1. An authorising officer may renew an authorisation before it would cease to have effect if it is necessary for the authorisation to continue for the purpose for which it was given. **An application for a renewal to the Justice of the Peace is also required (see above).**

7.2. The Home Office Code of Practice for directed surveillance at paragraph 5.12 - 5.16 refers. A renewal of the authorisation in writing can be made for 3 months. Applications for renewal should detail how many times an authorisation has been renewed; significant changes to the original application for authority; reasons why it is necessary to renew; content and value of the information obtained so far and results of regular reviews of the investigation or operation.

7.3. Similar provisions apply in the code of practice for CHIS except that a renewal here can last for a further 12 months, a review must have been carried out on the use of the source and an application should only be made to renew when the initial authorisation period is drawing to an end. Applications to renew a CHIS also should contain use made of the source and tasks given to the source during the previous authorised period.

7.4. Each application to renew should be made at least 7 days before the authorisation is due to expire on the relevant form in Appendix 2. A record of the renewal should be kept within the applying service and supplied centrally to the Borough Solicitor/Senior Responsible Officer - see Section 8 to update the central register of authorisations.

8. CANCELLATIONS

- 8.1. All authorisations, including renewals should be cancelled if the need for the surveillance is no longer justified. This will occur in most cases where the purpose for which the surveillance was required has been achieved.
- 8.2. Requesting officers should ensure they inform authorising officers if this is the case before the next review. If, in the opinion of the authorising officer at the next review, the need for surveillance is no longer justified, it must be cancelled.
- 8.3. The cancellation forms at Appendix 2 will be used to record a cancellation; the original will be sent to the RIPA Co-ordinator to update the central register of authorisations and the authorising officer will retain a copy - see Section 8.
- 8.4. The Home Office Codes of Practice for both directed surveillance and CHIS make it clear that authorisations must be cancelled if the original authorising criteria are not met. With CHIS, it must be cancelled if satisfactory arrangements for the source no longer exist. Consideration for the safety and welfare of a source continues after cancellation of any authorisation.

9. CENTRAL REGISTER OF AUTHORISATIONS

- 9.1. The Codes of Practice under the 2000 Act require a central register of all authorisations to be maintained. The Senior Responsible Officer or nominated representative shall maintain this register.
- 9.2. Whenever an authorisation is granted renewed or cancelled the Authorising Officer must arrange for the following details to be forwarded by e-mail to the Senior Responsible Officer or nominated representative. Receipt of the e-mail will be acknowledged.
 - Whether it is for Directed Surveillance or CHIS ;
 - Applicants name and Job Title (manager responsible);
 - Service and Section;
 - Applicant's address and Contact Number;
 - Identity of 'Target';
 - Authorising Officer and Job Title; (in line with delegation scheme)
 - Date of Authorisation.
 - A unique reference number for the investigation or operation
 -
 - Whether confidential information is likely to be reviewed as a consequence of the investigation /operation.
 - The date the authorisation was cancelled

Details should be provided to the Senior Responsible Officer in respect of when an authorisation is refused.

See Appendix 2 for the Form of Notification

The original of the authorisation should also be provided; the authorising officer should retain a copy. The Managing Directors will review authorisations every 6 months. It is suggested that authorising officers supply these directly.

- 9.3. The original authorisations shall be securely retained within the RIPA Co-ordinator's Service. It is each Service's responsibility to securely retain all copy authorisations within their Service. Authorisations should only be held for as long as it is necessary. Once the investigation is closed (bearing in mind cases may be lodged some time after the initial work) the records held by the Service should be disposed of in an appropriate manner (e.g. shredded).

10 CODES OF PRACTICE

There are Home Office codes of practice that expand on this guidance. All relevant Services hold a copy.

The codes do not have the force of statute, but are admissible in evidence in any criminal and civil proceedings. As stated in the codes, "if any provision of the code appears relevant to a question before any Court or tribunal considering any such proceedings, or to the tribunal established under the 2000 Act, or to one of the commissioners responsible for overseeing the powers conferred by the 2000 Act, it must be taken into account".

Staff should refer to the Home Office Codes of Conduct for supplementary guidance. These should be available to all relevant officers (see earlier).

11 BENEFITS OF OBTAINING AUTHORISATION UNDER THE 2000 ACT.

11.1 Authorisation of surveillance and human intelligence sources

The 2000 Act states that

- if authorisation confers entitlement to engage in a certain conduct and
- the conduct is in accordance with the authorisation, then
- it shall be "lawful for all purposes".

Part II of the 2000 Act does not impose a requirement on public authorities to seek or obtain an authorisation where, under the 2000 Act, one is available (see section 80 of the 2000 Act). Nevertheless, where there is an interference by a public authority with the right to respect for private and family life guaranteed under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and where there is no other source of lawful authority, the consequence of not obtaining an authorisation under the 2000 Act may be that the action is unlawful by virtue of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Public authorities are therefore strongly recommended to seek an authorisation where the surveillance is likely to interfere with a person's Article 8 rights to privacy by obtaining private information about that person, whether or not that person is the subject of the investigation or operation. Obtaining an authorisation will ensure that the action is carried out in accordance with law and subject to stringent safeguards against abuse.

- 11.2 The 2000 Act states that a person shall not be subject to any civil liability in relation to any conduct of his which -
- a) is incidental to any conduct that is lawful by virtue of authorisation; and
 - b) is not itself conduct for which an authorisation is capable of being granted under a relevant enactment and might reasonably be expected to have been sought in the case in question

12. SCRUTINY AND TRIBUNAL

- 12.1. To effectively "police" the 2000 Act, Commissioners regulate conduct carried out thereunder. The Chief Surveillance Commissioner will keep under review, among others, the exercise and performance by the persons on whom are conferred or imposed, the powers and duties under the Act. This includes authorising directed surveillance and the use of covert human intelligence sources.
- 12.2. A tribunal has been established to consider and determine complaints made under the 2000 Act if it is the appropriate forum. Complaints can be made by persons aggrieved by conduct e.g. directed surveillance. The forum hears applications on a judicial review basis. Claims should be brought within one year unless it is just and equitable to extend that.

The tribunal can order, among other things, the quashing or cancellation of any warrant or authorisation and can order destruction of any records or information obtained by using a warrant or authorisation, and records of information held by any public authority in relation to any person. The Council is, however, under a duty to disclose or provide to the tribunal all documents they require if:

- A Council officer has granted any authorisation under the 2000 Act.
- Council employees have engaged in any conduct as a result of such authorisation.
- A disclosure notice requirement is given.

- 12.3 The Senior Responsible Officer will ensure that a quarterly report is submitted to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee and that an annual report is submitted to Cabinet. The reports will include details of the overall number and type of authorisations granted and the outcome of the case, where known. In addition, the reports will provide a breakdown of the same information by service or groups of services, as appropriate. In order to comply with Data Protection and Code of Practice requirements, no specific details of individual authorisations will be provided.
- 12.4 The RIPA Co-ordinator will maintain and check the central register of all RIPA authorisations, reviews, renewals, cancellations and rejections. It is the responsibility of the authorising officer, however, to ensure the RIPA Co-ordinator receives the original of the relevant forms as soon as possible and in any event within 1 week of authorisation, review, renewal, cancellation or rejection. The authorising officer should retain copies.

12.5 The management structure for RIPA is set out in Appendix 3.

Definitions from the 2000 Act

- **“2000 Act”** means the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
- **“Confidential Material”** consists of:
 - a) matters subject to legal privilege;
 - b) confidential personal information; or
 - c) confidential journalistic material.
- **Matters subject to legal privilege”** includes both oral and written communications between a professional legal adviser and his/her client or any person representing his/her client, made in connection with the giving of legal advice to the client or in contemplation of legal proceedings and for the purposes of such proceedings, as well as items enclosed with or referred to in such communications. Communications and items held with the intention of furthering a criminal purpose are not matters subject to legal privilege (see Note A below)
- **“Confidential Personal Information”** is information held in confidence concerning an individual (whether living or dead) who can be identified from it, and relating:
 - a) to his/her physical or mental health; or
 - b) to spiritual counselling or other assistance given or to be given, andwhich a person has acquired or created in the course of any trade, business, profession or other occupation, or for the purposes of any paid or unpaid office (see Note B below). It includes both oral and written information and also communications as a result of which personal information is acquired or created. Information is held in confidence if:
 - c) it is held subject to an express or implied undertaking to hold it in confidence; or
 - d) it is subject to a restriction on disclosure or an obligation of secrecy contained in existing or future legislation.
- **“Confidential Journalistic Material”** includes material acquired or created for the purposes of journalism and held subject to an undertaking to hold it in confidence, as well as communications resulting in information being acquired for the purposes of journalism and held subject to such an undertaking.
- **“Covert Surveillance”** means surveillance which is carried out in a manner calculated to ensure that the persons subject to the surveillance are unaware that it is or may be taking place.
- **“Authorising Officer”** means a person designated for the purposes of the

2000 Act to grant authorisations for directed surveillance. (see the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Prescription of Offices, Ranks and Positions) Order) SI 2000/2417.

Note A. *Legally privileged communications will lose their protection if there is evidence, for example, that the professional legal adviser is intending to hold or use them for a criminal purpose; privilege is not lost if a professional legal adviser is properly advising a person who is suspected of having committed a criminal offence. The concept of legal privilege shall apply to the provision of professional legal advice by any agency or organisation.*

Note B. *Confidential personal information might, for example, include consultations between a health professional or a professional counsellor and a patient or client, or information from a patient's medical records.*

Notification to Central Register of Authorisations under RIPA

Whether it is for Directed Surveillance or CHIS	
Applicants name and Job Title (manager responsible)	
Service and Section	
Applicant's address and Contact Number	
Identity of 'Target'	
Authorising Officer and Job Title; (in line with delegation scheme)	
Date of Authorisation	
Whether confidential information is likely to be reviewed as a consequence of the investigation/operation	
The date the authorisation was cancelled	
Whether the authorisation is renewed.	

A copy of the authorisation shall also be sent (See above, Paragraph 9.2).

A unique reference number for the investigation or operation will be allocated by the Borough Solicitor upon receipt of this notification. This reference must be used in subsequent correspondence regarding this authorisation.



APPENDIX 3

Kim Webber, Chief Executive xx*

Legal & Democratic Services
Planning Services
Regeneration, Estates, Economic Development
Technical Services
Finance (including Audit & Insurance)
Human Resources

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, Director of Housing and Inclusion *

Housing Services
Property Management
Asset Management
Communication/Consultation
Partnership/Performance
Customer Services/Efficiency Review
ICT & Exchequer Client
Home Care Link

Dave Tilleray, Director of Leisure and Wellbeing *

Leisure, Arts & Culture Services
Environmental Protection, Public Protection & Licensing
Commercial Safety, Corporate Health & Safety, Community Safety, Emergency
Planning
Private Sector Housing & Homelessness
Street Scene Services

Terry Broderick – Borough Solicitor, Senior Responsible Officer *
Supported by Judith Williams – Assistant Solicitor, RIPA Coordinator and SPOC
Co-ordinator
Sarah Mooney – Legal Assistant/RIPA Register Officer

NOTE: Services/service areas are listed under officers in the tables above to identify the principal services which may seek authorisations from the officer and for convenience of reference. It is possible that authorising officers may determine applications for relevant RIPA activity in any service.

* Authorising Officer

xx Authorisations when knowledge of confidential information likely to be acquired or vulnerable individual or juvenile is to be used as a source.

The Office of Surveillance Commissioner's Guidance

Covert surveillance of Social Networking Sites (SNS)

The fact that digital investigation is routine or easy to conduct does not reduce the need for authorisation. Care must be taken to understand how the SNS being used works. Authorising Officers must not be tempted to assume that one service provider is the same as another or that the services provided by a single provider are the same.

Whilst it is the responsibility of an individual to set privacy settings to protect unsolicited access to private information, and even though data may be deemed published and no longer under the control of the author, it is unwise to regard it as "open source" or publicly available; the author has a reasonable expectation of privacy if access controls are applied. In some cases data may be deemed private communication still in transmission (instant messages for example). Where privacy settings are available but not applied the data may be considered open source and an authorisation is not usually required. Repeat viewing of "open source" sites may constitute directed surveillance on a case by case basis and this should be borne in mind.

Providing there is no warrant authorising interception in accordance with section 48(4) of the 2000 Act, if it is necessary and proportionate for a public authority to breach covertly access controls, the minimum requirement is an authorisation for directed surveillance. An authorisation for the use and conduct of a CHIS is necessary if a relationship is established or maintained by a member of a public authority or by a person acting on its behalf (i.e. the activity is more than mere reading of the site's content).

It is not unlawful for a member of a public authority to set up a false identity but it is inadvisable for a member of a public authority to do so for a covert purpose without authorisation. Using photographs of other persons without their permission to support the false identity infringes other laws.

A member of a public authority should not adopt the identity of a person known, or likely to be known, to the subject of interest or users of the site without authorisation, and without the consent of the person whose identity is used, and without considering the protection of that person. The consent must be explicit (i.e. the person from whom consent is sought must agree (preferably in writing) what is and is not to be done).



CABINET: 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
12 OCTOBER 2017**

Report of: Borough Transformation Manager and Deputy Director of Housing & Inclusion

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

**Contact for further information: Ms A Grimes (Extn. 5409)
(E-mail: alison.grimes@westlancs.gov.uk)**

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Q1 2017/18)

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 30 June 2017.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 30 June 2017 be noted.

2.2 That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the report will be submitted to the meeting of the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 October 2017.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 30 June 2017 be noted.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Members are referred to Appendix A of this report detailing the quarterly performance data for key performance indicators. The performance information aims to help demonstrate performance against the corporate priorities as well as providing some service-specific information.
- 4.2 31 data items are reported quarterly, two of these are data only. Of the 29 PIs with targets reported:
- 18 indicators met or exceeded target
 - 2 indicators narrowly missed target; 7 were 5% or more off target
 - 2 indicators do not have data reported for Q1 (NI195a and NI195b)

As a general comparison, Q1 performance in 2016/17 gave 21 (from 30) performance indicators on or above target.

- 4.3 Performance plans prepared by service managers are already in place for those indicators where performance falls short of the target by 5% or more for this quarter, if such plans are able to influence outturn and will be relevant for future monitoring purposes.
- 4.4 These plans provide the narrative behind the outturn and are provided in Appendix B1-B5. Where performance is below target for consecutive quarters, plans are revised only as required, as it is reasonable to assume that some remedial actions will take time to make an impact. Progress on actions from previous Performance Plans are provided in Appendix C.
- 4.5 For those PIs that have flagged up as 'amber' (indicated as a triangle), an assessment has been made at head of service level based on the reasons for the underperformance and balancing the benefits of implementing an performance plan versus resource implications. This is indicated in the table.
- 4.6 Performance against the full corporate suite of indicators 2017/18 will be reported within the Council Plan Annual Report. This suite of indicators and targets was agreed by Cabinet in March 2017.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 The information set out in this report aims to help the Council improve service performance and is consistent with the Sustainable Community Strategy aim of providing good quality services that are easily accessible to all.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 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 report. Monitoring and managing performance information data helps the authority to ensure it is achieving its corporate priorities and key objectives and reduces the risk of not doing so.

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

Appendix A: Quarterly Performance Indicators for Q1 April-June 2017/18

Appendix B1: HS1 % Housing Repairs Completed in Timescale

Appendix B2: WL90 % of Contact Centre calls answered & WL108 Average answered waiting time for callers to the contact centre

Appendix B3: NI191 Residual household waste per household

Appendix B4: NI192 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting

Appendix B5: WL01 No. residual bins missed per 100,000 collections

Appendix C: Actions from Previous Performance Plans

Appendix D: Minute of Cabinet held on 12 September 2017 (Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee only) – to follow







APPENDIX A: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Icon key		
PI Status		Performance against same quarter previous year
	OK (within 0.01%) or exceeded	18
	Warning (within 5%)	2
	Alert (by 5% or more)	7
	Data only	2
N/A	Data not collected for quarter	2
	Awaiting data	0
Total number of indicators/data items		31







	Improved	9
	Worse	14
	No change	6
/	Comparison not available	2
	Awaiting data	0

Shared Services ¹









Page No Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
ICT1 Severe Business Disruption (Priority 1)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.0%			
ICT2 Minor Business Disruption (P3)	99.0%	99.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	97.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	97.0%			
ICT3 Major Business Disruption (P2)	100.0%	100.0%	89.0%	92.0%	100.0%	92.0%	94.0%	96.0%	100.0%	98.0%			
ICT4 Minor Disruption (P4)	99.0%	99.0%	97.0%	98.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0% ¹	99.0%	98.0%	98.0%			
B1 Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events	8.89	8.07	8.00	7.02	7.22	7.24	8.10	6.41	6.87	12.00			
B2 Overpayment Recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments (payments received)	£67,408	£149,382	£207,159	£276,577	£79,368	£157,338	£226,000	£311,409	£69,860	£44,147			
R1 % of Council Tax collected	29.64%	56.69%	84.37%	97.02%	29.38%	56.67%	84.38%	96.74%	29.30%	29.09%			

PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
R2 % council tax previous years arrears collected	8.97%	25.31%	32.64%	37.31%	9.98%	17.3%	22.54%	26.82%	7.13%	5.00%			
R3 % of Non-domestic Rates Collected	28.09%	54.83%	80.41%	98.32%	29.27%	56.87%	82.98%	97.72%	29.18%	27.76%			
R4 % Sundry Debtors % of revenue collected against debt raised	72%	83.67%	88.84%	95.00%	66.42%	72.43%	80.87%	95.06%	39.49%	45.75%	Performance was significantly impacted by a single invoice raised in June for £1.1m. This created a 50% increase in the total debt raised for the year. Since the invoice was raised towards the end of the period being monitored, despite prompt payment, this will only be reflected in the percentage collected figure for Q2. This is an annual SLA and will not affect progress to annual outturn. Given the reason for underperformance, a performance plan would not influence future outturn or assist with future monitoring.		

Development & Regeneration Services

PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
NI 157a Processing of planning applications: Major applications	100%	100%	100%	81.82%	100%	92.31%	71.43%	83.33%	100%	65.00%			
NI 157b Processing of planning applications: Minor applications	72.22%	66.15%	67.14%	62.26%	70.97%	91.67%	96.49%	94.67%	76.56%	75.00%			
NI 157c Processing of planning applications: Other applications	85.03%	83.33%	81.82%	80.00%	85.95%	96.64%	92.68%	89.52%	87.31%	85.00%			

Housing & Inclusion Services

PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
HS1 % Housing repairs completed in timescale	97.04%	96.11%	97.02%	95.38%	94.93%	97.42%	98.13%	98.40%	95.88%	97.00%	Contractor performance has been reviewed. Performance plan attached at Appendix B1		
HS13 % LA properties with Landlord Gas Safety Record outstanding	0.05%	0.01%	0.08%	0.13%	0.13%	0.22%	0.07%	0.19%	0.16%	0%	Target based on legal requirement for all eligible properties to have certificate. Reported performance is an average from months in the period. As at the end of June, there were two properties with outstanding certificates which have been dealt with. Performance Plan in progress. See Appendix C.		
TS1 Rent Collected as a % of rent owed (excluding arrears b/f)	102.3	100.12	99.74	99.81	102.3	99.96	99.96	99.09	102.46	99.00	The positive performance is a significant achievement as tenants move to receiving help with housing costs through Universal Credit rather than housing benefit. The first two weeks of the year are rent non-collection weeks, and so no rent debit is raised. We continue to take payments at this time from those in arrears and so any monies received during this time help to reduce the arrears position, allowing above 100% collection to be achieved.		
TS11% of rent loss through dwellings being vacant	1.7%	1.56%	1.66%	1.74%	1.76%	1.79%	1.8%	1.79%	1.84%	2.00%	New for 2017/18. Outturn reflects the amount of rent and service charge lost due to vacant properties, as a percentage of the total potential rent roll. Target reflects HRA business plan.		

Transformation & Support Services



PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
BV8% invoices paid on time	99.06%	98.65%	99.28%	98.36%	98.54%	98.33%	98.65%	98.37%	99.11%	98.75%	Data relates to 9,286 invoices		
WL19bii Direct dial calls answered within 10 seconds	81.34%	80.79%	82.35%	81.00%	80.15%	79.95%	82.41%	82.69%	81.39%	82.21%	Figures related to 54,213 calls received Head of Service's amber assessment: performance plan not required.		
WL90 % of Contact Centre calls answered	90.6%	93.8%	92.4%	91.1%	92.2%	94.6%	93.7%	91.9%	80.1%	91.0%	The successful launch of the garden waste collection service resulted in a large increase in call volumes which had a direct impact on call handling performance. Performance plan attached at Appendix B2		
WL108 Average answered waiting time for callers to the contact centre (seconds)	43.00	23.00	37.00	60.00	64.00	47.00	58.00	69.00	163.00	60.00	The successful launch of the garden waste collection service resulted in a large increase in call volumes which had a direct impact on call handling performance. Performance plan attached at Appendix B2		

Leisure & Wellbeing Services











PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
WL08a Number of Crime Incidents	1,120	1,169	1,271	1,205	1,359	1,224	1,388	1,199	1,432				
WL_18 Use of leisure and cultural facilities (swims and visits)	314,915	303,157	215,442	331,443	307,707	311,904	245,996	348,199	318,045				

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Finance and HR Services

PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
WL_121 Working Days Lost Due to Sickness Absence ³	9.63	10.43	10.47	9.64	8.89	7.61	7.40	7.44	6.92	8.08			

Street Scene Services

PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
NI 191 Residual household waste per household (Kg) ⁴	117.6	122.66	124.96	138.46	128.7 ⁵	121	125.32	126.71 ⁶	130.26	125	For 2017/18, data reported for the quarter refers to the outturn validated during the quarter. Data shown has been re-stated to reflect this change. Performance Plan attached at Appendix B3		
NI 192 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting ⁴	41.08%	51.08%	51.37%	41.81%	42.05% ⁷	54.16%	51.41%	43.42% ⁸	40.93%	50.00%	As above Performance Plan attached at Appendix B4		
NI 195a Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting): Litter	N/A	1.17%	1.17%	2.00%	N/A	1.33%	1.11%	0.00% ⁹	N/A	1.61%	Survey carried out three times each year. No data for Q1.	/	N/A
NI 195b Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting): Detritus	N/A	3.41%	5.97%	5.47%	N/A	3.24%	2.96%	2.05% ⁹	N/A	5.00%	Survey carried out three times each year. No data for Q1.	/	N/A
WL01 No. residual bins missed per 100,000 collections	81.12	93.34	87.42	97.41	73.06	75.87	78.68	79.62	91.48	80.00	Performance Plan attached at Appendix B5		
WL06 Average time taken to remove fly tips (days)	1.07	1.05	1.06	1.08	1.03 ⁹	1.05 ⁹	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.09			
WL122 % Vehicle Operator Licence	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			

PI Code & Short Name	Q1 2015/16	Q2 2015/16	Q3 2015/16	Q4 2015/16	Q1 2016/17	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Current Target	Comments	Q1 17/18 vs Q1 16/17	Quarter Performance
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value				
Inspections Carried Out within 6 Weeks													

¹ Managed through LCC/BTLS contract. Contractual targets are annual. Quarter targets are provided as a gauge for performance only. ICT data and RBS data reflect progress to year end. ICT 4 Q4 2016/17 data previously reported as 100% (which was December 2016 performance) rather than year to date 99%

² WL19bii / WL121: Data does not include BTLS seconded staff.

³ WL_121: From 2016/17, quarter data shows a rolling 12 month outturn against the annual target rather than 'within quarter' performance. Outturns of previous quarters re-stated to show this.

⁴ NI191-192: Data is provided to WLBC with a time lag due to time involved to confirm final figures. The data provided therefore reflects an outturn verified within the quarter rather than an outturn produced within the quarter.

⁵ NI191: Data restated from the originally published 131.82; ⁶ Data restated from the originally published 121.6. NB these outturns and time periods have been adjusted from those originally published in line with the revised reporting arrangements.

⁷ NI192: Data restated from originally published 40.61; ⁸ Data restated from originally published 44.43. NB these outturns and time periods have now been adjusted from those originally published in line with the revised reporting arrangements.

⁹ NI195a - previously reported as 0.65%; NI195b - previously reported as 2.19%

¹⁰ WL106: Data restated from originally published Q1 1.07, Q2 1.01 2016/17.

Following the annual review of PIs, the following changes to QPIs were approved by Cabinet in March 2017 for 2017/18: *B2: Overpayment Recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments (payments received)* – annual target changed from £170K to £195K. Quarter profile changed to reflect this ; *NI191: Residual household waste per household* and *NI192: Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting* - Quarter reporting period amended. There is a significant lag in reporting data for each quarter due to the external reporting and validating process. This has frequently meant that there is no quarterly data reportable for these PIs within the relevant quarter report. To allow quarterly figures to be monitored, data validated during the period being monitored will now be reported, and this will refer to outturn of the previous quarter; *TS1: Rent Collected as a % of rent owed (excluding arrears b/f)* - target changed from 97% to 99%; *TS24a: Average time taken to re-let local authority housing (General Needs)* and *TS24b: Average time taken to re-let local authority housing (Supported Needs)*. These PIs have been replaced by *TS11: % of rent loss through dwellings being vacant*, which identifies how much money is being lost through delays in turnaround of properties for letting; *WL108: Average answered waiting time for callers to the contact centre* - target decreased from 50 to 60 seconds to reflect end of year outturn. Since this PI was introduced the contact centre service has developed to provide greatly increased call resolution at first point of contact which has resulted in call duration being longer. Whilst maintaining an efficient contact centre remains integral to our customer service, the resourcing of this needs to be balanced with the promotion of other access routes for services via the Council's Digital by Preference initiative and the drive for channel shift. To support this approach, the annual target will therefore reflect annual outturn.

'NI' and 'BV' coding retained for consistency/comparison although national reporting no longer applies.

PERFORMANCE PLAN	
Indicator	HS1 % Housing Repairs Completed in timescale
Reason(s) for not meeting target The figure is a combined total of the three day-to-day maintenance contractors. Analysis of Q1 shows overall performance of two contractors to be above target. One contractor has been significantly below target for this period reducing the overall performance figure to below target.	
Additional Commentary Q1 performance is 95.88% against a target of 97%. A performance plan provides further detail and actions to improve this key service for our tenants.	
Proposed Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply contractors a list of jobs completed after target. Review individual orders with contractors to identify late reasons Identify any trends Implement actions based on findings at contract meeting to be held on 6/9/2017 • Develop an “approaching target date report” • Monitor works approaching target date • Encourage sharing of good practice between contractors. • Ensure target dates are updated as necessary following variations. <p>These tasks are anticipated to show an impact on performance from October (Q3).</p>	
Resource Implications N/A	
Priority High	
Future Targets No change	
Action Plan	
Tasks to be undertaken	Completion Date
Contractor meeting	06/09/17
Develop report	29/09/17

PERFORMANCE PLAN	
Indicator	WL108 Average answered waiting time for callers to the contact centre WL90 % of Contact Centre calls answered
Reason(s) for not meeting target	
<p>The successful launch of the Garden Waste Collection service resulted in increased call volumes; i.e. an additional 8,771 in the first quarter compared to the same quarter in 2016/17. In addition we have actively promoted channel shift via the Contact Centre's Interactive Voice Response (IVR), which encouraged residents to sign up online, rather than wait to speak to an advisor, although this then counts as an abandoned call, thus negatively impacting upon this performance indicator. However, this strategy has vastly improved online transactions, which contributes to the Council's digital agenda. To date 71% of subscriptions have been completed online compared to 29% by phone and this is the first time that online transactions have exceeded phone/face to face transactions for the same service.</p>	
Proposed Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration to be given to opening up online subscriptions earlier than phone subscriptions for 2018/19 to minimise the impact on call handling during the first quarter. • Direct promotion of online subscriptions to residents that have subscribed this year, ahead of the new subscription year to encourage them to sign up online. <p>Whilst the Customer Services team will continue to focus on call handling performance, it is unlikely that performance targets will be achieved for the year due to the sheer volume of calls received in the first quarter. Time will be devoted during the course of the year to address the continued relevance of performance targets in this area due to the promotion of the digital agenda and channel shift as a corporate priority.</p>	
Resource Implications	
It is likely that some temporary additional staff resources will be needed to handle the increase in call volumes for a small period each year.	
Priority	
High	
Future Targets	
Consistently high call answering rates and low wait times actively encourages customers to contact the Council by phone which reduces the need for them to self-serve. In order to meet the Council's digital agenda, consideration needs to be given to call handling targets.	
Action Plan	
Tasks to be undertaken	Completion Date
Continue discussions with the project/implementation team to plan subscriptions for year 2.	January 2018
Use data gathered from the initial subscriptions to target all current subscribers with information about year 2 and to actively encourage them to subscribe online.	March 2018

PERFORMANCE PLAN	
Indicator	NI 191 Residual household Waste per Household
<p>Reason(s) for not meeting target</p> <p>The indicator is the number of kilograms of residual waste collected per household within the borough. The definition of household waste includes domestic waste (grey bin), green collections, street sweeping, litterbins, clinical waste and “bulky waste”</p> <p>The reasons for the increase in waste being collected are varied and can be difficult to specify. Lancashire County Council have reported that there has been an increase in residual waste being presented for disposal across the county.</p>	
<p>Additional Commentary</p> <p>The indicator is also influenced by the amount of material delivered into the transfer station from other service areas within the Council.</p> <p>Proposed Actions</p> <p>Continue to monitor the weight figures and use the data capture from specific areas to attempt to identify trends. Thereafter develop a medium term improvement plan.</p>	
<p>Resource Implications</p> <p>None requiring action.</p>	
<p>Priority Medium</p>	
<p>Future Targets</p> <p>No change at this stage.</p>	
Action Plan	
Tasks to be undertaken	Completion Date
Monthly performance monitoring	Ongoing

PERFORMANCE PLAN	
Indicator	NI 192 Percentage of Household Waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.
Reason(s) for not meeting target	
<p>Since the introduction of the garden waste subscription service there has been a significant reduction in green tonnage collected (623.42T).</p> <p>Residual waste from the Borough is no longer being reprocessed at the material recycling facility at Farington, it is being sent to landfill. Therefore a loss in recycling tonnage is being experienced.</p> <p>Removal of bring sites and loss of some material that did not transfer to kerbside collection.</p>	
Additional Commentary	
<p>Proposed Actions Increase participation through publicising/promoting the garden waste collection service.</p> <p>These actions will have an impact at the start of the new subscription season - first quarter in 2018/19</p>	
Resource Implications	
Support from Communications team for the publicity plan.	
Priority	
Medium	
Future Targets	
No change at this stage.	
Action Plan	
Tasks to be undertaken	Completion Date
Publicity plan	April 2018

PERFORMANCE PLAN	
Indicator	WL01: Missed Bins per 100,000 Collections
Reason(s) for not meeting target	
<p>The target has not been achieved for Q1 2017/18 for a number of reasons including human error, vehicle availability, use of agency workers, restrictions on working hours and access issues.</p> <p>During this quarter there had been an increase in the use of agency staff. The loss of regular staff impacts on “local knowledge” in the collection areas.</p>	
Additional Commentary	
Proposed Actions	
<p>The current performance is 11 missed collections per 100,000 properties above the yearly target of 80 missed collections per 100,000 properties.</p> <p>The introduction of the in-cab communication system will assist drivers that are unfamiliar with a collection round. The system will provide the driver with the opportunity to refer to a specific collection round and therefore reduce the opportunity for missed collections.</p> <p>Additional vehicle provided to support two largest rounds.</p> <p>Improvements should start to be realised in Q3 2017/18</p>	
Resource Implications – Hire of vehicle and crew	
Priority Medium	
Future Targets	
No change to current target for 80 missed collections per 100,000 properties at this stage.	
Action Plan	
Tasks to be undertaken	Completion Date
Continue to monitor performance	Ongoing
Review performance indicator	March 2018
Review classification of missed bins	March 2018

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE PLANS

APPENDIX C

Indicator	Task created following Q	Tasks to be undertaken	Completion Date	Progress	Comment/Impact
HS13 % LA properties with Landlord Gas Safety Certificate outstanding Page 274	Q316/17	Form a working group. Involving Legal, Property Services, Housing Operations and the councils heating contractor.	March 2017	Complete. Tasks assigned for next meeting.	Performance for Q1 remains under target. Actions should impact on performance once recommendations are implemented.
		Review current processes with the group	May 2017	Meeting delayed due to availability and high workload of Maintenance Team. Rescheduled for July. Subsequent milestone dates will then be reviewed.	
		Review best practice from other organisations with the group.	June 2017		
		Make recommendations for changes to the process.	July 2017		
		Implement Changes.	Sept 2017		
WL108 Average answered waiting time for callers to the contact centre	Q316/17	Recruitment to vacant posts	Jan 2017	Complete	Appointments were made in January. Maintaining an efficient contact centre remains integral to our customer service. The resourcing of this needs to be balanced with the promotion of channel shift. Performance for Q1 remains under target and a refreshed performance plan is attached at Appendix B1.
TS24b Average time taken to re-let local authority housing SUPPORTED NEEDS	Q316/17	Hall Green Redevelopment	Ongoing	In progress	The re-let QPIs have been replaced for 2017/18 with <i>TS11% of rent loss through dwellings being vacant</i>
		Appraisal of sheltered bedsit accommodation	June 2017	Queens Court Options Appraisal document to be	

				completed by August 2017	
		Promotion of the scheme through local agencies, partners and directly to applicants	July 2017	Complete. Promotion activity will continue.	
		Continue a programme of open days at low demand schemes	Sept 2017	Complete. Promotion activity will continue.	
		Investigate options for reducing age limit from 60 to 55 years for selected Category 1 accommodation.	June 2017	Proposal for reducing age limits to go to Cabinet in November 2017.	
R1 % of Council Tax collected	Q4 16/17	An updated Recovery Strategy for 2017/18	March 2017	Complete	Q1 outturn is on target.
		Relevant court dates scheduled with the Magistrates Court Service	March 2017	Complete	

There were no performance plans relating to the Q2 report 2016/17.

Performance plans often include actions which, by the time of publication, have already been completed and/or become part of the day to day operations of a service. The above table details those actions from Performance Plans in previous quarters that contained a future implementation date.

CABINET: 12 September 2017



Report of: Borough Treasurer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C. Wynn

Contact for further information: Rebecca Spicer (Extn. 5098)
(E-mail: rebecca.spicer@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: RISK MANAGEMENT

Borough Wide Interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To set out details on the Key Risks facing the Council and how they are being managed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the progress made in relation to the management of the risks shown in the Key Risks Register (Appendix A) be noted and endorsed.
-

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Risk management is not about being 'risk averse' – it is about being 'risk aware'. Risk is ever present and some amount of risk taking is inevitable if the Council is to achieve its objectives. Risk Management is about effectively managing risks that could affect the Council and the community. It is also about making the most of opportunities and achieving objectives. By being 'risk aware' the Council is in a better position to avoid threats and take advantage of opportunities.
- 3.2 It is a best practice requirement that the Risk Management Policy and the Key Risks Register are reviewed and reported to Members on a regular basis. Consequently it is our standard practice to report on Key Risk Register issues to Cabinet every 6 months.

- 3.3 Risk Management covers the whole spectrum of risks and not just those associated with finance, business continuity, insurance and health and safety. It also considers risks associated with service provision, compliance with legislation, public image (reputation) and environment. Key Risks are defined as the highest priority risks that may prevent the Council from achieving its objectives, or may result in the failure of a service, or the failure to comply with legislation. The Key Risks Register gives a summary of these risks and the work that is being undertaken to mitigate them, although many of these risks will have already been the subject of separate committee reports. In addition each Service maintains its own Service Risk Register of the specific risks that they face.

4.0 KEY RISK REGISTER

- 4.1 The Key Risk Register attached (Appendix A) shows the current Key Risks and the measures in place to manage those risks. The regular reporting of the Register provides Members with an opportunity to scrutinise Key Risks and provides assurance that these risks are being effectively controlled.
- 4.2 Two risks have been removed from the Key Risk Register since the last report to Cabinet in March 2017. The Expiry of the Lancashire Waste Partnership Agreement has been removed as the replacement arrangements that will come into effect from April 2018 are now clear and have been built into service and financial plans. The risk of significant loss of personal data has also been removed as although all risk cannot be removed (as individual/small scale incidents may always occur) there are now adequate controls and a framework in place to effectively manage and control this area.
- 4.3 A new risk has been entered onto the register in relation to Management of Electronic Records, which is a significant governance issue that was reported in the latest Annual Governance Statement. This risk falls into the "concerned" category and work is already underway to put effective arrangements in place to manage and control this issue.
- 4.4 The scoring of the risk relating to the Land Auction has moved from the "uneasy" category to the "concerned category," as there is now an increased likelihood that the project will not be completed within the given timescale.
- 4.5 There are no risks that have been assessed in the "very concerned" category that would require urgent action at the highest level to reduce the risk to an acceptable position.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The successful management of the Key Risks facing the Council will ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The continued identification and review of Key Risks is essential to ensure the management and mitigation of those risks, the successful achievement of the Authority's objectives, and the maximisation of opportunities. By continually monitoring and reviewing the risks and the Risk Management Framework we will ensure that it continues to improve, develop and meet best practice requirements.

Background Documents

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

Appendices

Appendix A – Key Risks Register

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.

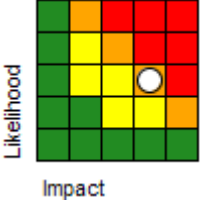
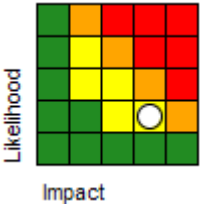
Appendix A Key Risk Register



Service Area	Title	Potential Effect	Internal Controls	Responsible Officer	Latest Note	Current Risk Matrix	Current Risk Assessment and Score
Finance & HR Services	Potential Treasury Management Investment Losses	Volatility in financial markets can create risks on investments, which means there is the potential that significant sums of money could be lost.	There is a treasury management policy and strategy in place. Well trained staff make investments with the guidance of brokers and treasury advisors. Investments can only be made in top rated UK based institutions or other Local Authorities.	Borough Treasurer	Operational arrangements continue to be reviewed and monitored in light of current market conditions. A Treasury Management Report was presented to Council in July 2017.		5 Content
Finance & HR Services	Achieving a balanced General Revenue Account budget position for 2018/19	On-going reductions in Government funding will need to be addressed to meet the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget.	The medium term financial forecasting and Policy Option processes will set out how this financial challenge will be met.	Borough Treasurer	A Policy Options Report was presented to the July Council meeting, and a further report will be presented to Council in October 2017.		10 Concerned
Leisure & Wellbeing Services	Business Continuity - Potential for disruption	Lack of Business Continuity planning could have a severe impact on service provision across critical Service Areas.	Key Service areas have been identified and individual plans put in place. These plans are tested on a regular basis and updated accordingly.	Director of Leisure & Wellbeing Services	A review is underway and will involve a test and then an update, based on the findings of the test and the audit from last year. It is anticipated that all work will be finished by April 2018.		3 Content

Service Area	Title	Potential Effect	Internal Controls	Responsible Officer	Latest Note	Current Risk Matrix	Current Risk Assessment and Score
Development & Regeneration Services	Land Auction	Potential loss of Capital Receipt if sales not secured within timescale of DCLG	Regular meetings with HCA to maintain progress	Director of Development & Regeneration Services	Sale of Whalleys 4 completed. Planning permission granted for housing development. Remaining sites to be taken to the market as soon as possible. Ongoing discussions with HCA regarding timing of capital receipts.		12 Concerned
Housing & Inclusion Services	Balancing the HRA Budget	The Government's policy of ongoing rent reductions in the period to 2020 will have a significant financial impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of management structure. - Efficiency programme currently being planned - Regular review of income management performance - Implementation of Universal Credit to be carefully monitored. 	Director of Housing & Inclusion Services	Budget currently balanced with reserves identified to cushion future potential government policy changes.		8 Uneasy
Development & Regeneration Services	Delivery of the Housing Strategy	The Housing Strategy 2014 -2019 is intended to deliver a series of plans across a range of housing objectives including private sector housing, public sector housing and development and regeneration.	Regular monitoring will occur via the Service Action Plan (SAP) monitoring process. Each action contained in the Housing Strategy Action Plan will have its own delivery risks, however the current and target risk rating is based upon an overall consideration of risk across all the intended delivery actions that are shown in the Housing SAP.	Director of Development & Regeneration Services	The current delivery risk remains the same, however as Government further shapes national housing policy, this may mean that changes are required to our strategy. Work is ongoing against the current strategy objectives, despite challenges in developing affordable housing due to rent reduction requirements, Local Housing Allowance impacts and funding ceasing for many supporting people services.		9 Uneasy

Service Area	Title	Potential Effect	Internal Controls	Responsible Officer	Latest Note	Current Risk Matrix	Current Risk Assessment and Score
Leisure & Wellbeing Services	Procurement of new leisure provision based on the requirements set out in the Leisure Strategy.	<p>Impact on Council services, finances and reputation.</p> <p>Failure to deliver will impact on future service delivery.</p> <p>The potential financial cost, both revenue and capital, could significantly impact on the Council's ability to balance its budget.</p> <p>Council's reputation for the delivery of services.</p>	Project group, project Board and cabinet working group now well established and regularly monitoring progress.	Director of Leisure & Wellbeing Services	<p>Leisure consultant commissioned to carry out financial viability and funding options.</p> <p>Stage 1 report produced.</p> <p>Stage 2 commenced including full financial viability to be completed mid to end August.</p> <p>Report to Cabinet working group in September 2017.</p>		12 Concerned
Development & Regeneration Services	Failure to deliver Skelmersdale Town Centre Regeneration	<p>Opportunity - The project will provide a mix of residential, commercial, leisure and education accommodation opportunities.</p> <p>Threat - We could fail to address the economic issues, not address residents' requirements and have an impact on the Council's reputation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to consult with public where relevant. 2. Collaboration agreement in place. 3. Continue to engage with the "other" landowners to encourage their participation in the scheme. 4. This risk is reviewed regularly as part of the ongoing project management. 5. Maintaining regular contact with developer and potential retail/commercial/leisure occupiers. 6. Project Board meets regularly to review progress. 	Director of Development & Regeneration Services	<p>A major planning application by St Modwen for a scheme consisting of a multi-screen cinema, restaurants & bars, retail facilities, and major enhancements to the public realm, has been approved. Legal Challenge now dismissed in Court of Appeal.</p> <p>Discussions with scheme occupiers now proceeding well.</p>		9 Uneasy

Service Area	Title	Potential Effect	Internal Controls	Responsible Officer	Latest Note	Current Risk Matrix	Current Risk Assessment and Score
Legal & Democratic Services & Housing and Inclusion Services	Failure to provide suitable storage of the Council's electronic information	Unwieldy systems hamper efficient business processes. Failure to meet statutory and best practice requirements, e.g. in relation to FOIA, DPA, EIR and other information handling legislation (including record retention & destruction arrangements). Staff time wasted/diverted. Potential legal challenges. Criticism by Audit and negative press.	Engagement with the ICT provider to ensure suitable structure for information storage having regard to all relevant governance requirements. Periodic training/meetings/ dissemination of information, e.g. Retention and Disposal Schedule and ICT & Data Security Policy, for Link Officers, IAOs and staff in services to ensure up to date with current policy, legislation, best practice and recent changes affecting their areas.	Borough Solicitor & Borough Transformation Manager and Deputy Director of Housing & Inclusion Services	Established an officer based project group to take forward a review and improvement project. Initial steps taken to prioritise work and establish an action plan. A report presented to Council gaining resources for a post to assist in a corporate review of electronic storage and implementation of an action plan.		12 Concerned
Transformation – Housing & Inclusion Services	Failure to manage the impact of the Government's Benefit Reforms	The phased introduction of welfare reforms including Universal Credit and benefit cap represents a significant change in benefit support. Impacts on benefit claimants and revenue collection including Council Tax and Council House rents are still emerging.	A working group with membership from WLBC, BTLS and the DWP to oversee and manage the changes is in place.	Borough Transformation Manager and Deputy Director of Housing & Inclusion Services	The working group has continued to meet on a regular basis during the course of this year. In addition and in preparation for full rollout of Universal Credit in December the DWP facilitated a formal launch event for West Lancashire in July 2017 which involved staff, elected Members and key stakeholders.		8 Uneasy

Level of Concern	Action Required
Very concerned	Urgent attention required at highest level to ensure risk is reduced to an acceptable level. Action planning should start without delay. Progress on actions should be reported to the Chief Executive and / or the Leader.
Concerned	Requires mitigation, contingency plan and identification of early warning indicators. Progress reported to CMT.
Uneasy	Acceptable. Requires mitigation. Reviewed at Head of Service level.
Content	Acceptable. Keep under review but no action required unless changes occur.



CABINET: 12 September 2017

Report of: Director Development and Regeneration

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson

Contact for further information: Mr Peter Richards (Extn. 5046)
(E-mail: peter.richards@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: WEST LANCASHIRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CYCLING STRATEGY

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Cabinet of the feedback received through public consultation undertaken on the draft West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy; seek endorsement of the responses proposed to the feedback received contained in the Consultation Summary Report; and to seek adoption of the amended Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the proposed responses to the feedback received through public consultation upon the draft West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy, as contained in the Consultation Summary Report at Appendix A, be endorsed.

2.2 That the amended West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy attached at Appendix B be adopted.

2.3 That the Director of Development and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, be authorised to make any necessary minor amendments to the West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Green infrastructure is a term used for the variety of green and blue spaces around us, including parks, sports facilities, play areas, natural and semi natural open spaces, footpaths, green corridors, allotments and the inland waterways and canal network. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines green infrastructure as “a network of multifunctional green space, both urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities”.
- 3.2 The vision for a West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy follows on from Policy EN3: Provision of Green Infrastructure and Open Recreation Space of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027, adopted in October 2013.
- 3.3 Through its multifunctional role, good quality green infrastructure can help enhance where people live and work, encourage active lifestyles and improve wellbeing, mitigate and adapt to climate change, provide alternative modes of transport and assist in regeneration, as well as helping to attract visitors and improve the visitor economy. Improving cycling infrastructure will encourage sustainable travel which is beneficial for the environment and for health.
- 3.4 Public consultation was undertaken on a draft West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (GICS) between 26 January and 10 March 2017. The consultation was publicised through a variety of methods including the Council's website, press advertisement, press release and correspondence with consultees on the Council's Local Plan consultation database. GICS documentation was made available on the Council's website, as well as at libraries in West Lancashire, at the Council offices in Ormskirk and the Customer Service Point in Skelmersdale. Comments were invited by email and post, with the option of completing a questionnaire. A total of 34 respondees replied to the consultation which included a mix of residents, Parish Councils, developers, landowners and statutory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. The main content of those responses are considered in section 4 below.
- 3.5 The GICS contains a vision for green infrastructure and cycling in West Lancashire and a set of objectives through which the vision can be realised. Importantly, it also identifies a series of future projects and initiatives for improving green infrastructure and cycling facilities in West Lancashire, including details of how they may be delivered and funded and over what timescales. The Strategy seeks to identify current gaps in provision or linkages required and opportunities for addressing this by enhancing that which exists. Where possible, off-road cycleway solutions are sought.
- 3.6 One significant gap in cycling provision in West Lancashire is a high quality and safe cycling route which offers connectivity between the Borough's main settlements. As such, a key proposal is the formation of a circular route between Ormskirk, Burscough, Newburgh / Parbold and Skelmersdale, termed the 'West Lancashire Wheel'. This would incorporate two proposed linear parks between Ormskirk and Burscough and Ormskirk and Skelmersdale respectively. It would also include part of the existing Southport to Wigan 'Pier to Pier' route along the

Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath between Burscough and Parbold as well as currently planned improvements along the Tawd Valley into Skelmersdale. Two further linear parks are planned at Banks and the River Douglas at Tarleton and there are also a number of other strategic projects which are identified for Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, the Eastern Parishes, the Northern Parishes and Burscough and Western Parishes. They include the development of a cycle link between Ormskirk bus and rail stations and Edge Hill University and improvements to several sections of the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpaths. In addition, bridleways upgrades are planned at Rufford and North Meols to provide off-road cycle paths.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Consultation Summary Report, providing details of the responses received to the public consultation that took place between 26 January and 10 March 2017, is attached at Appendix A. Appended to that report are all detailed comments received and Council officers' proposed responses to them. The main issues arising during the consultation can be summarised as follows.
- 4.2 First, there were requests for more information to be included in the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy in relation to the different functions of green infrastructure (GI) and the need to undertake an assessment of those functions, including biodiversity, flood storage and drainage. Additionally, the need to identify allotments as a green space type was also raised. Whilst officers recognise the importance of these different functions, if adopted the GICS will sit alongside existing and proposed documents including the Lancashire Ecological Network and West Lancashire Open Space Study, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Leisure Strategy which will provide specific evidence in relation to these matters. In particular, the Borough-wide Open Space Study will assess the need for different types of green spaces in the Borough, including allotments, and will go some way towards assessing GI. As such, no changes to the GICS are proposed other than referring to links to these other documents in the introduction to the Strategy.
- 4.3 Secondly, the quality, usage, lighting and maintenance of existing and planned cycleways and footways was also raised. In response, it is currently Council protocol to ensure that, wherever possible, all new cycle paths are constructed to Lancashire County Council (LCC) adoption standards and can therefore be maintained by the Highway Authority. The introduction of bridleways for use by horses on new cycleways was suggested and could be investigated at the design stage of a project; however it is understood that LCC advice has been to separate such use from cycle and footpaths. Again, no significant changes to the GICS are required as a result of these comments.
- 4.4 Thirdly, safety was raised as an issue in connection with existing routes through Scarisbrick, in the vicinity of Appley Bridge, the A59 at Burscough and along the A5209. Highway safety is a matter for the Highway Authority (either Highways England or Lancashire County Council as appropriate) and so these specific concerns can be referred to them. West Lancashire Borough Council will liaise with Lancashire County Council where assisted crossing points are required on new proposed routes and these proposals will undergo a health and safety audit.

- 4.5 Fourthly, plan detail and the long timescales for delivery of projects contained in the GICS were questioned. Minor changes are proposed to the Strategy in response by increasing the size of the 'West Lancashire Wheel' plan and giving greater emphasis to plans being for indicative purposes only. Timescales for the delivery of projects have not been amended as they need to be realistic and as such still refer to short term (up to 10 years) and longer term (greater than 10 years).
- 4.6 The majority of comments received related to specific sites and proposals, including Alty's Brickworks, the Burscough Industrial Estate, the Southport-Wigan Pier to Pier Route (particularly between Parbold and Appley Bridge), the A5209 and querying costs of and funding for the Edge Hill Cycle Route. The A5209 comments refer specifically to the planned on road cycle route in the Newburgh-Parbold area as an on-road section of the West Lancs Wheel. Unfortunately, there is no obvious off-road solution to provide a connection between the canal at Parbold and the top of the Tawd Valley in Skelmersdale and so an on-road section is necessary, including a short section along the A5209. Investigations will therefore focus upon making the A5209 on-road route safe for cyclists.
- 4.7 No changes are needed to the GICS in relation to the Edge Hill cycle route and as a clarification the scheme is to be largely funded by Section 106 contributions from development at the University and Local Transport Plan funding. Comments relating to Alty's Brickworks queried the validity of requiring on site provision of a section of the River Douglas linear park as part of development proposals for the site. However, officers consider that this provision is a Local Plan policy requirement and under the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulation 123 list it is appropriate for it to be funded separately from any CIL payments.
- 4.8 Proposed amendments to the GICS in response to site and location specific comments received involve including a reference to investigating linkage to and pedestrian and cycling improvements within the Burscough Industrial Estate and including the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath improvements between Parbold and Appley Bridge within the strategic schemes for Burscough and Western Parishes and the Eastern Parishes respectively. Other proposed changes to the draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy are of a more minor nature and are detailed in section 4 of the Consultation Summary Report under 'Actions'. A copy of the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy for which approval is sought as Council policy is attached at Appendix B. This highlights all proposed changes as a result of responses to public consultation comments received.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 If the West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy is adopted as Council policy it will be used to guide planning decisions (as a material consideration) and as an Implementation Strategy in the following ways:
- to allocate CIL monies toward projects within the GICS;
 - to identify delivery partners for specific projects and therefore establish the responsibilities and range of funding required; and/ or

- to identify where projects within the GICS fall completely or partially within a development site.

5.2 Progress in project delivery will be monitored and it is intended that the Strategy will be regularly updated as specific projects develop and progress and new projects are identified and added in. The delegation sought in paragraph 2.3 above will allow minor updates to the GICS to be made as necessary as minor details on particular projects evolve.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

6.1 The Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy will help to deliver the vision, strategy and policies set out in the West Lancashire Local Plan and so will help to fulfil objectives within the Sustainable Community Strategy by creating sustainable patterns of movement within the Borough and enhancing a better environment for people who live, work and spend their leisure time in West Lancs. There would be no significant impact on crime and disorder.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The preparation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Cycling Strategy has been resourced through the Planning Service's revenue budget. Whilst the Strategy identifies capital projects to meet the Council's aspirations, this report does not commit the Council to the funding of any of the projects. Funding of these individual projects will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis as external funding opportunities arise. In particular, while CIL will be one source of funding, there will need to be a wider consideration by the Council of what to prioritise CIL funding to given the wide range of infrastructure demands that will wish to draw from the finite CIL monies likely to be collected. However, development opportunities in general may well provide opportunities to lever in funding which CIL or other funding sources can match in order to deliver projects within this Strategy.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 This report seeks a decision in relation to adopt the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy. While the GICS includes a wide range of aspirations for infrastructure improvements, it does not commit the Council to having to deliver all those aspirations, only to exploring opportunities for delivering wherever funding opportunities arise. As such, there are no risks associated with adopting the GICS.

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

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken at the time of producing the draft West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy. The results of the Equality Impact Assessment were taken into account when producing the draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy and are not materially altered as a consequence of the proposed changes to the GISC resulting from public consultation. No further Equality Impact Assessment is therefore required.

Appendices

Appendix A - Consultation Feedback Summary Report (including comments received and proposed response in full).

Appendix B - West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (including tracked changes).

CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy

September 2017

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1. Introduction
2. Consultation & publicity methods
3. Summary of comments
4. Council actions and influences on the Strategy
5. Next steps

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation Representations and the Council's Responses

1. Introduction

The development of a the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy offers supporting guidance and a delivery plan for a network of green infrastructure and cycling.

The draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy looks to establish a high quality, accessible network for green infrastructure and cycling that links the borough's major settlements with one another and visitor attractions.

In accordance with this, the Council prepared a Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy for consultation and publically consulted between 26 January 2017 and 10 March 2017.

This document provides a summary of how the Council consulted, the general issues raised through representations and the Council response to those issues. This document also sets out how the Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy will be shaped as a direct result of the comments received, to illustrate how consultation informs decision making.

It should be acknowledged that the Council do consider all comments received, although may not always agree with opinions and therefore changes cannot be made in all cases. The Council is required to make balanced decisions, taking into account the views from all sides.

2. Consultation and publicity methods

The Council publicised consultation on the Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy through the following methods:

- Press advert in the free, local Champion paper
- Email / letters to all consultees on the consultation database, including statutory consultees
- Press release
- Council website

Throughout the consultation, planning officers were available to answer questions:

- By email
- By phone
- In person at Council offices

Consultation materials were available to read at:

- Libraries
- Council offices
- On the Council Website

Comments were invited through

- By returning forms through email or post
- By returning questionnaires through email or post

3. Summary of comments received

34 responses were received on the Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy. A report containing those comments, in full, can be found on the Council webpage at www.westlancs.gov.uk/GICS or in Appendix 1 to this document. Comments generally focused on a series of key concerns, as set out below.

Cycleway/Footpaths

A number of representations were received focusing on the quality of cycle paths/footpaths throughout the Borough with particular reference to safe routes and the canal towpaths.

Maintenance

Issues were raised throughout the consultation representations regarding the maintenance of paths/routes. For example where developers will construct part of the new routes within a development site who will maintain the path and what mechanisms will be in place to do so for this section of land.

Bridleways

One representation was received requesting that new cycle routes be developed to also function as Bridleways offering alternative recreational uses.

Council response

It is currently Council protocol to ensure that all new cycle paths are constructed up to Lancashire County Council's adoption standards and therefore can be maintained by the Highways Authority.

The introduction of paths up to bridleway standards is a positive representation, however there is not any demand evidence to suggest such uses are sought within West Lancashire and there are safety implications for having pedestrians cycles and horses on a single track. Previous Lancashire County Council advice would be to have the bridleway separate from a cycle path/footpath and this would come with additional funding and sourcing of land implications.

Green Infrastructure

Biodiversity

There was a common theme from representations for the encouragement of biodiversity within the Borough; there was a request for areas that are not registered as having any particular environmental designation to be mentioned in the Strategy. This was part of requests to include more information in the GICS in relation to the different functions of green infrastructure.

Flood Refuge areas and drainage

One representation made reference to the Council planning/allocating areas for flood refuge/ drainage as part of the wider green infrastructure for the Borough.

Council response

The Council recognise the importance of the biodiversity throughout the Borough and encourage the enhancement and management of such areas, throughout the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan. However, in order to reference all of the areas that people claim has some form of habitat would require significant amounts of evidence / surveying work for which funding is not available, therefore the Council will only reference those sites that have a local, regional or national designation and reference the Ecological Network which is a specific document / evidence base where updated and new site could be examined. In addition, whilst officers recognise the importance of different functions of green infrastructure, if adopted the GICS will sit alongside existing and proposed documents including the Lancashire Ecological Network and West Lancashire Open Space Study, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Leisure Strategy which will provide specific evidence in relation to these matters.

The Council are not providing any reference to creating flood storage areas or remedies for drainage throughout the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy, other than to identify flood storage as an Objective. This matter is left to the Lead Local Flood Authority to deal with who are responsible for this area and are specialist in this field. Such uses would also require Environmental Impact Assessments and would require allocating through the Local Plan process where up to date evidence such as a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was available.

Site Specific Issues

Canal towpath improvements

Yew Tree Farm

Within the Strategic projects section the Ormskirk to Burscough Linear Park route indicates a cycle path directly through the site, this is not the same as that in the latest planning application.

Owners to be named on delivery tables

It was expressed in one representation that the Council name all partners and owners of land within the delivery tables.

A5209 off road

Representations requested that all routes be delivered off road, particularly along the A5209.

River Douglas double charging on this site

A representation in relation the River Douglas Linear Park was received which expressed concern over the funding section of the Strategy, it is suggested in the representation that S106 agreements should not be used for the delivery of the Linear Park and scheme should be funded via the Community Infrastructure Levy only.

Edge Hill Cycle Link – funding

A common theme throughout the representation is that the proposal for the Edge Hill Cycle link should be provided by the University.

Firswood Road

Concerns are expressed that a recently approved planning application did not make provision for the element of the linear park along the Ormskirk to Skelmersdale route to be implemented.

Burscough Industrial Estate

A view was expressed that walking and cycling to work on the industrial estate(s) is difficult due to the lack of pavements and walking routes and that a safe footpath and cycling network should be outlined for the Burscough Industrial Estate.

Southport-Wigan Pier to Pier Cycle Route

A view was expressed that the need for upgrading the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath between Parbold and Appley Bridge should be included within the GICS.

Council response

In relation to the path via Yew Tree Farm the plans state that the routes are indicative.

The Council refrain from naming individual landowners as this can frequently change and as some schemes are noted to be long term and with a 15 year delivery period this could cause an issue of data becoming out-dated.

The A5209 comments refer specifically to the planned on road cycle route in the Newburgh-Parbold area as an on-road section of the West Lancs Wheel. Whilst it is an aim of the strategy to deliver an off road route for cycling where possible in this instance there is no obvious off-road solution to provide a connection between the canal at Parbold and the top of the Tawd Valley in Skelmersdale and so an on-road section is necessary, including a short section along the A5209. Investigations will therefore focus upon making the A5209 on-road route safe for cyclists.

In relation to the River Douglas development site, officers consider that on site provision of a section of the River Douglas linear park as part of development proposals for the site is a Local Plan policy requirement and under the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulation 123 list it is appropriate for it to be funded separately from any CIL payments.

No changes are needed to the GICS in relation to the Edge Hill Cycle route which is largely being funded by a S106 agreement from development that occurred at the university and LTP funding.

The approved Development Brief for Firwood Road states that provision for the Linear Park must be made allowing for the route to pass through the site. There is provision in planning permission 2016/1027/FUL for a financial contribution towards the cost of the Firwood Road to Neverstitch Road section of the proposed Ormskirk to Skelmersdale Linear Park.

The GICS will include a reference to investigating linkage to and pedestrian and cycling improvements within the Burscough Industrial Estate and will include the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath improvements between Parbold and Appley Bridge within the strategic schemes for Burscough and Western Parishes and the Eastern Parishes respectively.

Other Issues

Allotments

There was a request that all areas containing allotments be listed within the strategy.

Lack of detail in mapping

Concern expressed over the lack of detailing in mapping, especially the West Lancashire Wheel proposal.

Safety

There were concerns expressed about the need for additional crossing points introduced in order for the safe crossing of walkers/cyclists where proposals are intersected by a highway. Concerns were also raised regarding on road cycling routes and the impact on safety for these cycling designations with a preference for off road cycle routes.

Council response

The Council recognises the importance of allotments as part of green infrastructure and supports the development of new allotments and protects existing allotments from development, however the Strategy is not the correct evidence base for listing or assessing the need for allotment sites. This will be undertaken through the emerging Open Space Study as an audit of types of open space.

Whilst the Council understands comments regarding the lack of detail in relation to mapping of the proposed cycle routes, in order to show the Council's future intentions it is necessary to have indicative plans. It will be made clear that these

plans are indicative. The 'West Lancashire Wheel' plan will be made larger to enable more detail to be seen.

Highway safety on the existing network is primarily a matter for the Highway Authority (either Highways England or Lancashire County Council as appropriate). West Lancashire Borough Council will liaise with Lancashire County Council where assisted crossing points are required on new proposed routes and these proposals will undergo a health and safety audit. It is an aim of the strategy to deliver an off road route for cycling where possible; where a development site is located on part of the proposed route the section can be incorporated into the site. However, on most occasions this option is not available and there are land ownership constraints therefore the only way of connecting routes is via an on-road alternative.

4. Council actions and influences on the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy

Engagement including written representations has proved to be extremely useful in cataloguing a significant level of detailed feedback from a broad section of the community.

All of the written representations have been responded to directly within Appendix 1 to this document.

In terms of moving the Strategy forward to the final stage, a number of specific actions will be carried forward as a result of comments from representations.

The below table lists a number of key actions that will be carried forward into the Strategy. For clarity it does not list every matter, rather it focuses on the key issues that were flagged up through the consultation.

Action
1. Reference the Canal & River Trust – Better Towpaths for Everyone. A national policy for sharing towpaths to be inserted in the 'Links to Other Strategies and Documents' section of the introduction to the GICS.
2. Reference the West Lancashire Open Space Study to be inserted in the 'Links to Other Strategies and Documents' section of the introduction to the GICS.
3. Provide clarification on West Lancashire Borough Council being an associate member of the Liverpool City Region.
4. Add reference to the Greater Manchester City of Trees initiative in 'Other policy considerations' section.
5. Add reference to involving landowners and developers in the design, usability etc of green infrastructure at Objective no.7.
6. Add new Objective 'Create flood storage opportunities, as a function of slowing down surface water run off.'
7. Add reference at section 6 under 'Ribble Estuary' heading to managed retreat of tidal defences at Hesketh Out Marsh East and consequential inundation and creation of tidal saltmarsh.
8. Add reference to Woodland Access Standard at Section 6 as part of commentary in relation to ancient woodland and trees.
9. Make Indicative West Lancashire Wheel Plan larger to assist readability.
10. Insert reference that all plans, particularly those of linear parks, are indicative routes.
11. Amend section 1 of Ormskirk-Skelmersdale linear park project table to refer to delivery partners as LCC, WLBC and developers.
12. Add Burscough Industrial Estate cycling and pedestrian access to be investigated to the Burscough and Western Parishes table of strategic projects.
13. Add Parbold to Appley Bridge 'Pier to Pier' route improvements to the canal towpath to the Eastern Parishes table of strategic projects.

5. Conclusions / Next steps

The consultation responses have highlighted that there are a small number of minor modifications to be made to the Final Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy.

The Council has considered the feedback relating to these issues and will ensure that as the Final Strategy addresses these issues that require actions.

Using the comments received through the consultation process, the Strategy has been refined and the next version, Final Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy, Presented to Cabinet and Planning Committee for adoption in September 2017.

The Final Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy will be adopted and assist in guiding applications for development of a connected Green Infrastructure and Cycling network across West Lancashire.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Representations and the Council’s Responses

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
1	Dr	John	Watt		<p>a) The proposed infrastructural proposals seem to capitalise on the potential within the district and prospect of the Ormskirk – Burscough line materialising in the short term is encouraging. There will need to be a traffic light system to enable the A59 to the crossed between Abbey Lane – Lordsgate – the vehicular traffic already continues will become even busier.</p> <p>b) Maybe not within the ambient of the document, some cycle training opportunities for adults would encourage more uptake.</p> <p>c) Maintenance of condition of surface of off road cycle routes is very important and needs to be noted.</p> <p>d) On appendix I: Local Nature Conservation sites. Scutchies Wood is a misspelling and since then, this nature site (13ha) is called SCUTCHERS ACRES. Not evident why Ruff Wood is a BHS, whilst Scutchers Acres biologically very diverse, is only a LNCS.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>a) Noted. Crossing of Abbey Lane-Lordgate will be raised with Lancashire County Council</p> <p>d) With regards to the BHS and LNCS comments this will form part of an Ecological Framework which is a separate document. There is no reference made to either Scutchies Wood or Scutchers Acres at Appendix 1 of the GI & Cycling Strategy.</p>
2	Mr	Warren	Hilton	Highways England	<p>Thank you for inviting Highways England to comment on the draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy that West Lancashire Borough Council has produced, which we have no objection to.</p> <p>Our perspective on the Strategy is from the viewpoint of being the operator of the strategic road network (SRN), which consists of the M6 and M55 motorways. In the context of the strategy, we recognise the role that both these motorways can play in terms of green infrastructure, particularly in terms of the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SRN as a barrier to providing access to green spaces and sustainable modes of transport (i.e. cycling and walking). • The SRN as a wildlife corridor. <p>For us, the key themes expressed within the Strategy of Green Infrastructure (GI) providing and supporting accessible spaces, traffic-free routes and sustainable travel are particularly relevant. In the context of the above points, whilst it must be understood that (for safety reasons) motorways are not accessible GI features for people, motorway verges to function to provide a haven for wildlife and flora. Whilst outside of the Strategy itself, Highways England remains committed to supporting and enhancing these uses and recognises the inclusion of the M58 within the Strategy as a wildlife corridor.</p> <p>Turning to cycling and walking, Highways England is also committed to enhancing and improving crossings of the motorway for both sets of users as part of our Designated Funds programme for Cycling, Safety and Integration. In this respect, we have already completed improvements to improve crossings of the M58 by raising bridge parapets on the footbridge to the west of Junction 4, and clearing vegetation to improve sightlines for cyclists to aid crossings at Junction 4.</p> <p>Our future plans for 17/18 include undertaking feasibility work with a view to improving existing crossings of the M58 for cyclists and</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>pedestrians at the Upholland Edge Hall Road bridges, Skelmersdale Back Lane underpass, Skelmersdale Crooked lane underpass, Skelmersdale Sutches Farm underpass and also to possibility of making improvements for Junction 3 Pedestrian crossings at M58 Junction 3 near Rainford. As part of these projects, we look forward to working with West Lancashire Borough Council on ways of being able to integrate these possible improvements with any initiatives that may emerge through the Strategy itself.</p> <p>If you would like to discuss anything about this email, or our programme of environmental, cycling and safety improvements within the West Lancashire Borough and how these may compliment the Strategy, please contact me.</p>	
3	Mr	Leigh	Boyton		<p>I would like to congratulate West Lancashire Borough Council and your excellent Planning Officers on a job well done.</p> <p>I have read the draft Green Infrastructure Plan 2017 and am very pleased with it.</p> <p>It shows connectivity for wildlife, walkers and cyclists, something, to a large extent, which has been downgraded for many years.</p> <p>In these times of reduced funding, it has shown ambition in its relatively wide concepts and a determination to make West Lancashire a better place to live.</p>	Comments noted.
4	Mr & Mrs	Carole & Richard	Davies		<p>The idea of a cycle path on and off road is a brilliant idea.</p> <p>The map is confusing. Not a good map to try and follow.</p>	Comments noted. The maps are indicative at this point until funding and planning applications are secured on future projects. The West Lancashire Wheel Plan will be made larger so that annotations are easier to read.
5	Mr	James	Gerrie		<p>With reference to your proposals for change and the green cycling report I note you plan on making the River Douglas one of your linear parks.</p> <p>Will consideration be further given to the shelved project to link Hesketh Bank and Longton with a footbridge/cycle bridge at Shore Road (Marsh Road) Hesketh Bank and link to Station Road, Much Hoole.</p> <p>This will effectively mean commuters to the Preston and Hutton areas can access the areas without risking life and limb on the dangerous A59 and the shocking cycle path on the A565 link road between Tarleton and Southport.</p> <p>This would also link the two communities like never before and offer valuable business links to local business.</p> <p>A project to surely worth consideration based on the amount you plan on investing in the area. Encourage cyclists to be safe on the commute away from the main roads.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The green infrastructure and cycling strategy is not a finite document and can be revised adding in schemes as and when they should materialise. Many of the projects within the document are anticipated to be achievable within a short, medium or long term timescale. The Hesketh Bank/Longton foot bridge does not currently have an anticipated funding source therefore that not been included as a priority scheme.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
6	Miss	Michaela	Riches		As a keen cyclist in the local area I fully welcome this provision. It will enhance the cycling experience and provide some much needed safe cycle routes.	Comments noted.
7	Mr	Craig	Sneddon		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Strategy focuses too much on off road routes whereas the majority of cycling is done on road. How can the on road experience of cycling be improved and encouraged? 2. The document lacks detail and ambition with regard to timescales for delivery. "Delivery within 10 years" is not "short term" by any definition what will be delivered in the next 1, 3, 5 years? 3. Why are there no target numbers re increased participation, replacement of vehicle miles etc.? Success of the strategy will ultimately come down to factors such as these. 	<p>Comments noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No change. The GI and cycling strategy concentrates on off road leisure routes and incorporating green infrastructure and cycling together whereas on road cycle routes will be dealt with more by the highways authority Lancashire County Council. 2. No change. The timescales for funding need to be realistic in relation to potential available funding. 3. No change. Target numbers to increase participation etc will be set and monitored by the Lancs County Council document Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy 2016-26.
8	Ms	Gillian	Laybourn	Historic England	Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above document. At this stage we have no comments to make on its content.	Comments noted
9	Mr	Mark	Harrison	The Coal Authority	Having reviewed the document, I confirm that we have no specific comments to make at this stage.	Comments noted
10	Ms	Tess	Reddington	Burscough Parish Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sustainable tourism, which will be based on the attractive countryside and local heritage including the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, is important to Burscough and the strategy should outline how Burscough's growing visitor economy can develop alongside the development of sustainable routes for walking and cycling. A tourism strategy is being developed for Ormskirk. The strategy may be more successfully implemented if Burscough is funded to produce a tourism strategy. b. This strategy offers a solution to the Maintenance and improvement of safe pedestrian and cycle routes to provide easier access to education, employment and other key services, in the form of a non-profit organization or charity. Further details are welcome about how this might work. c. The strategy talks in general terms and does not address specific issues such as the lack of connectivity at Heathfields or the lack of access to the industrial estate and a major issue for Burscough which is the dominance of the A59 and associated risks to cyclists and pedestrians walking along or crossing it. The Parish council would like these issues to be recognized within the strategy. d. The Parish Council request the inclusion of a Bridge over the canal linking Heathfields with Burscough Bridge and wider leisure opportunities as it offers improved safe pedestrian and cycle route to education employment and key services as well as providing a leisure and tourism offer/healthier lifestyle. The pathway now planned between School Lane and L&L canal towpath should also be included in the strategy. e. The linear park from Ormskirk to Burscough will make walking or cycling between the two places much more pleasant. Burscough PC 	<p>Comments noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The development of the visitor economy and links to walking and cycling is considered to be beyond the scope of the GI and Cycling Strategy and would be better addressed through the Economic Development Strategy or dedicated tourism strategy. b. The GI & Cycling Strategy makes no reference to a non-profit organisation or charity. The improvement and maintenance of pedestrian/cycle paths will be dealt with on a scheme by scheme basis, as each project will require planning permission this will form part of the application. It is not possible to include this information within the document as some sites are within private ownership and will be delivered by private developers or through funding which will have its own maintenance requirements. c. The inclusion of a bridge over the canal linking Heathfields with Burscough Bridge and pathway between School Lane and the L&L canal towpath are not considered essential to the wider operation of the green infrastructure and cycling network in the Borough. It is suggested that the Parish Council undertake their own investigation

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>would like to see the section which crosses the A59, (described as Abbey Lane / Lordsgate Drive Link section) providing a safe crossing point for walkers and cyclists brought forward to be delivered at the earliest possible time.</p> <p>f. Strategy refers to short term and long term – please can actual estimates of what length of time this means be included in the document.</p> <p>g. Walking and cycling to work on the industrial estate(s) is difficult due to the lack of pavements and walking routes. Can the strategy clearly outline how Burscough Industrial Estate can develop a safe footpath and cycling network. P41 identifies the provision of a Higgins Lane / New Lane Cycle Route Designation for Burscough which would link into Linear Park at YTF. This would also link to the industrial estate but leave cyclists without a safe route for the final part of their journey</p> <p>h. The canal network is very important to Burscough and improving the link to Scarisbrick will enhance opportunities to expand the visitor economy.</p> <p>i. Footway lighting along cycling and walking routes must be considered in locations where usage is likely to extend to hours of darkness.</p> <p>j. We welcome that the strategy is considering future management and improvements to our network of cycle and walking routes. This should also include WLBC's position with regard to enforcement action being implemented where rights of way are encroached upon leaving pavements too narrow for safe passage.</p>	<p>of feasibility for the canal bridge proposal.</p> <p>d. Schemes are included within the GI and Cycling Strategy which are considered to be deliverable. The proposals put forward would require further investigation in terms of their feasibility and are therefore aspirational at present. If further investigation indicates that they are deliverable they could be included in a revision to the Strategy in the future.</p> <p>e. Noted. Matter to be raised with Lancashire County Council.</p> <p>f. Details of what short and long terms timescales entail are given at page 24 of the draft Strategy.</p> <p>g. The lack of pavements and walking routes and therefore challenges for walking and cycling in the Burscough Industrial Estate is recognised. An item will be added to the Burscough and Western Parishes strategic projects table for further investigation.</p> <p>The creation of the proposed Linear Park through the Yew Tree Farm site will provide an alternative route for pedestrians/ cyclists from Ormskirk to Burscough.</p> <p>h. Noted.</p> <p>i. Lighting will be considered during the design stage of individual schemes.</p> <p>j. Enforcement action in relation to encroachment of PROW is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council.</p>
11	Ms	Krystyna	Pilkington	Shevington Parish Council	<p>The Parish Council would like to make the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visions and objectives of the strategy are supported. • There are important green infrastructure and cycling links with Shevington Parish Council, particularly along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, the Douglas Valley and in the vicinity of Wrightington Hospital. • The Lancashire County Biological Heritage Site of Big Wood and Wrightington Ponds is part of an area that extends into Shevington Parish. • It is noted that there is a gap in the provision of play areas to the north of Appley Bridge. In Shevington there is provision in Stockley Park near the shopping centre in Woodnook Road. • The canal and River Douglas continue into Shevington, where they provide a link into Dean Wood and carry on as a strategic link through Crooke Village into Wigan forming part of the "Pier to Pier" route. Although certain stretches of the canal towpath have been improved, there are sections in both Shevington and 	<p>Comments noted, and support for the vision and objectives are welcomed.</p> <p>Play provision located in neighbouring Shevington is maintained by Wigan Culture and Leisure Trust and therefore West Lancashire have no control over its maintenance or provision. The West Lancashire Leisure Strategy incorporates a Play Area Assessment which identifies areas in need of improvement in terms of quality and quantity and makes recommendations in relation to them.</p> <p>The GI and Cycling Strategy identify a number of actions within the delivery plan for the maintenance of the canal tow paths in order to improve connectivity on the Pier to Pier route.</p> <p>East Quarry in Appley Bridge is allocated as a</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>West Lancashire that need improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mention of East Quarry, Appley Bridge. Is this because it does not fit into the definition of Green Infrastructure or for another reason? • There are also cycle storage facilities at Gathurst station close to cycle routes in West Lancashire. • It would be useful to indicate the location of the allotments in West Lancashire. Shevington has its own allotments at Forest Fold, halfway between Shevington and Appley Bridge. Further allotments are to be provided on land purchased by the council at Vicarage Lane nearer the centre of Shevington. 	<p>Rural Development Opportunity within the West Lancs Local Plan 2012-2027. There is an opportunity to consider it further as part of the emerging Open Space Study. Allotments will also be considered as part of the emerging Open Space Study.</p>
12	Mr	Tim	Bettany-Simmons	Canal & River Trust	<p>The Canal & River Trust (the Trust) is a charity entrusted with the care of over 2000 miles of canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs in England and Wales. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. Our waterways contribute to the health and well-being of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time.</p> <p>The Trust supports and welcomes the production of the Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy and the recognition given to our towpaths, throughout the document, in meeting the vision and many of the objectives of the strategy.</p> <p>We offer the following specific comments: On page 1 of the document there are links provided to a number of other strategies and documents.</p> <p>Given the important role our towpaths will play in meeting many of the strategy's objective it may be useful to include a link to the Trusts policy on towpath use and the principles included therein http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/8535-national-towpath-policy.pdf</p> <p>On page 20 specific reference is made to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal within the Borough and the role our waterways play in terms of being a wildlife corridor and leisure resource. This could be expanded to also include the role our waterways play as sustainable active travel routes within and between urban areas to the countryside, as well as the opportunities they provided to enhance the tourism and recreation economy.</p> <p>There are a number of specific projects listed within the draft document where the Trust is noted as a delivery partner: - the River Douglas Linear Park (page 29); - the Glover's Swing Bridge, Lathom to Windmill Bridge, Parbold canal towpath improvements (page 34); - the Burscough to Rufford canal towpath improvements and the Burscough to Lydiate canal towpath improvements (page 35) and</p>	<p>Comments noted and welcomed the support of the Canal and River Trust.</p> <p>The link to the Canal & River Trust Towpath policy has been included in the list of useful document on page 1 of the GI and Cycling Strategy.</p> <p>Page 20 describes the Leeds- Liverpool Canal as an important wildlife corridor and significant leisure resource, for boaters, anglers, walkers and cyclists. Therefore covering elements of travel, tourism and leisure.</p> <p>The council welcome the comments on the time allocations for projects in the longer term.</p> <p>The schemes detailed within the time schedules. Short, medium and longer terms do not have any priority in being delivered other than the block description of short and longer term. This is due to the schemes being complex in their nature and often associated with other development schemes in order to acquire land and funding resources through CIL.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>- the Sollom to Town Meadow Swing Bridge canal towpath improvements (page 37).</p> <p>These are ambitious schemes with significant sums attached to them relating to the towpath improvements that would be required. The main funding streams for these projects would appear to be from developer contributions. Given this it makes sense that they are noted as longer term projects.</p> <p>Subject to securing the funding, the Trust would be supportive of these improvements. It would be useful to understand as this draft progresses if there is an order of priority to these schemes. As this would enable the Trust to prioritise those areas which may help the schemes come forward quicker.</p> <p>The Trust is pleased to note that on page 37 provision is made for other smaller-scale and site specific schemes, which are not included as part of the strategic networks. These smaller schemes would be provided for through section 106 agreements and conditions. It is important that such a mechanism is provided to enable development to be appropriately mitigated.</p>	
13.	Mr	William	Gilmour		<p>You might consider listing the cycle shops within West Lancs Borough. E.g. The Bicycle Lounge, Ormskirk, Jack Parker, Burscough and The Bike Works in Gillibrands, Skelmerdale. Especially as The Bike Works is involved with providing free bikes to people who work on Pimbo Industrial Estate - you could mention that project in the strategy document.</p> <p>Here are a couple of relevant, lively local groups on Facebook, e.g. :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burscough Community Forum: https://www.facebook.com/groups/burscough.community/ • Lancashire Cycle Link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/126682247491640/ <p>I have posted the link to the draft strategy and comments form to both these groups, and also as the local Green Party organiser to circulate the link to our members.</p> <p>I feel WLBC should be looking to incorporate edible landscapes of perennials at every opportunity. My colleague, Matthew Towers, at Fir Tree Community Farm can provide expert advice in the context of our 1.5 acre demonstration project. Basically, there are all sorts of useful fruit bushes, fruit trees and nut trees from around the world which are suited to our temperate climate. Plantings of such trees and shrubs can be termed agroforestry, forest gardening or food forests. Plantings can be adapted to make use of any size of plot - for example, micro-forest gardens on either side of cycle paths in a linear park, omitting the larger tree species. Martin Crawford is a leading authority in this field. https://www.agroforestry.co.uk/ https://www.amazon.co.uk/Creating-</p>	<p>Comment noted, it is refrained from advertising shops within Council documents as we do not have control over the service they provide, also within the current climate retail outlets often change on a regular basis and this would provide out of date data to any readers of the GI and Cycling Strategy.</p> <p>With regards to planting of shrubs, this is something individuals can undertake on their own land and as a Council we do not have resources to implement such initiatives which could include land acquisition. The Council currently run a free tree scheme which normally includes some form of fruit-producing tree in their options.</p> <p>Mixed use schemes. Comment noted and no change. The scale and mix of allocated development sites will be considered through the drafting off the Local Plan. Landscaping and appropriate drainage schemes are also required on new development sites through planning applications.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>Forest-Garden-Working-nature/dp/1900322625</p> <p>In practical terms, when I look at an embankment to the side of an underpass, a play area, or a small park such as Chequer Lane Lake, I can't help thinking that they could be improved by a few fruit bushes and trees. Especially as some of these patches of green infrastructure are easily accessible to residential areas.</p> <p>I feel that mixed use developments are so important to ensure walkability and cycleability. However, local planning policy often seems to go in the opposite direction for example, out-of-town shopping developments undermining Ormskirk town centre. Also, dormitory communities being built without amenities. Yew Tree Farm was one of the last green spaces in Burscough town centre – it would have made more sense in planning terms for the site to be used as an urban farm and orchard, not to mention providing flood relief. I would like to see edible landscapes/food forests/ forest gardens/micro forest gardens incorporated into all aspects of green infrastructure. See Martin Crawfords work on Agroforestry.</p>	
14	Mr	Dan	Chant	Story Homes	<p>These representations are submitted by Story Homes on behalf of the landowners at Yew Tree Farm, Burscough (ownership plan attached), and refer to the Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (GICS) consultation. Story Homes has an interest in the land at Yew Tree Farm and are promoting the site for residential development.</p> <p>Story Homes support the comprehensive approach to the preparation of the GICS which seeks to retain and enhance Green Infrastructure across the Borough and to facilitate increased levels of cycling. However, Story Homes currently raise a number of concerns as to how the document has been drafted, particularly in relation to the Yew Tree Farm Strategic Development Site.</p> <p>Chapter 7 – Linear Parks - Ormskirk-Burscough Linear Park Story Homes support the principle of delivering a Linear Park through the Yew Tree Farm Strategic Development Site. The adopted Masterplan SPD currently allocates a Linear Park to provide a multifunctional green space for walking and cycling between Burscough and Ormskirk.</p> <p>The Yew Tree Farm Masterplan sets out an agreed vision for how the Site should be developed, having been adopted following extensive consideration and consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The Masterplan sets out an agreed location for the Linear Park which follows the northern and western boundaries of the site in our landowners control (Figure 1).</p> <p>Following the adoption of the Masterplan, a planning application was submitted to West Lancashire Borough Council for the first phase of the Yew Tree Farm allocation. The application submitted by Crompton Property Developments (2015/0171/OUT) was in conformity with the Yew Tree Farm Masterplan SPD and has since been approved by the Local Authority.</p>	<p>Comments noted on Yew Tree Farm site and route of linear park on the indicative map. "Indicative route" will be added to all maps.</p> <p>The indicative costs of the schemes have been derived from figures per/sqm with a contingency added on that have been supplied by LCC who are the Highways Authority. These have come from typical examples from other recent projects they have undertaken.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>The Draft GICS proposes a different route (Figure 2) for the Linear Park to follow through the Yew Tree Farm allocation. The route proposed in the document dissects the land within the control of our landowner while also dissecting the land directly to the east. The land to the east has recently been the subject of a planning application by Bloor Homes (2016/0516/FUL) for 124 dwellings. The proposed site layout does not include the provision of the Linear Park and the planning statement makes it clear that the proposed linear park lies just outside of the boundary of the site.</p> <p>There appears to be no justification or evidence to suggest why the route has changed from the Masterplan SPD which has been agreed and consulted upon extensively. There is also no justification or evidence for the indicative costs of delivering the linear park at the Yew Tree Farm section.</p> <p>The SPD should adopt a strategic, integrated approach to existing and proposed green infrastructure. Proposals should knit development together and help sites integrate into the wider area. The Masterplan SPD has done this and proposed a linear park which is an agreed location dissecting the Site. The GICS is now proposing to amend this route with no evidence or justification. Without further detail as to how this has been derived, Story Homes request that the route is amended to be in conformity with the Masterplan SPD.</p> <p>Summary Story Homes remain committed to delivering the Site as soon as possible and consider the Site suitable to be delivered in the short to medium term. However, Story Homes raise significant concerns as to how the location of the Linear Park at Yew Tree Farm has been decided, particularly as it contradicts both the adopted Yew Tree Farm Masterplan SPD and submitted planning applications.</p>	
15	Mr	Andrew	Curtis	Lancashire County Council	<p>In response to the request from West Lancashire Borough Council Planning Department regarding the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy consultation.</p> <p>Lancashire County Council (LCC) School Planning Team (SPT) would like to thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the consultation, and provide comments to be considered.</p> <p>Having read the document, conclude the strategy does not affect the current provision for education in West Lancashire and focuses on the need for improvements to existing and development of new cycling routes, enhancing open spaces and the natural facilities surrounding West Lancashire. The document is encouraging in its vision to improve access to cycling routes away from main roads, and footpaths close to existing schools. Creating safe routes for parents and children to travel to local schools is important and would encourage less use of cars potentially reducing the impact on the highway at key periods in the day.</p> <p>Lancashire County Council School Planning Team appreciate the open dialogue with the district council through the consultation process, and</p>	Comments noted.

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					face to face liaison meetings. We look forward to contributing to the future vision of West Lancashire Borough Council.	
16	Mr	Paul	Dickie		I support this proposal. As road traffic increases it is very important that some segregated safe way is provided between major centres within West Lancashire. This "wheel" proposal Skelmersdale-Ormskirk-Burscough-Parbold is an ideal way of solving this issue.	Comments noted.
17	Mr	Matthew	Symons	HSL Hollins Strategic Land	<p>This Consultation Statement is written in response to the draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (dGICS) (January 2017)</p> <p>Hollins Strategic Land (HSL) supports the creation of the West Lancashire Wheel (WLW). Having been at the forefront of the development of the North West Preston Strategic Location, HSL recognises the benefits of the Preston Guild Wheel and its importance in creating sustainable communities; it provides valuable green infrastructure, as well as an attractive sustainable travel option. The WLW certainly has the potential to enhance the sustainability of West Lancashire as a whole.</p> <p>However, it is demonstrable that the dGICS must be amended for the following reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dGICS incorrectly states that section 1 of the Ormskirk – Skelmersdale Linear Park can be provided by Lancashire County Council (LCC) and West Lancashire Borough Council (WLBC). <p>The majority of the land required for Section 1 is controlled by HSL. HSL would therefore need to be a delivery partner for this Section of the Ormskirk – Skelmersdale Linear Park (OSLP).</p> <p>HSL has control over the land edged red shown in the extracted plan below¹, which includes a significant portion of the land required to provide Section 1 of the OSLP: (plan) HSL promoted the land edged red ("land off Nursery Avenue") for residential development and/or as 'Safeguarded Land' during consultation on the WLBC Local Plan (LP). WLBC decided against its allocation as Safeguarded Land and the Inspector's Report on the LP stated the following regarding the land: <i>The Council considered allocating this site (also known as Bath Farm) as safeguarded land but rejected it, in part because of highways access concern. At my site visit I saw that Nursery Avenue, onto which access would be provided, is residential in character, contains sharp bends and rises quite steeply to join Greetby Hill, which is itself an unclassified, predominantly residential road. No substantial study has been submitted to assess the traffic impact of development on these roads. While LCC have confirmed that adequate sight lines could be achieved, it is also unclear how access into the site could be provided without severing the designated linear park and wildlife corridor formed by a disused railway branch line.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the northern boundary of the site lacks clear definition and so it would be difficult to create a strong and permanent Green Belt boundary. Unlike on the Grove Farm site on the opposite side of the railway line, there is no compensating benefit to counter-balance this deficiency. Despite its potentially good pedestrian and cycle links, therefore, the allocation of this site would not be justified.</i></p> <p>HSL does have confirmation from LCC Highways Department that access</p>	<p>Section 1 of the table for the Ormskirk-Skelmersdale linear park to be amended to indicate delivery partners as LCC, WLBC and Developers.</p> <p>Any potential site allocation north of Nursery Avenue would be considered as part of the process of drafting the emerging Local Plan.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>into the site is feasible given adequate sight lines could be achieved. Initial ecological work has also demonstrated that a vehicular access would not be detrimental, particularly given the potential for biodiversity enhancement across the site, including along the OSLP. The proposed WLW is severed by numerous roads along its route, as is the Preston Guild Wheel, including ones that are more heavily trafficked than the site access would be.</p> <p>The provision of a significant section of the OSLP provides the compensating benefit to counter balance the current lack of clear definition along the northern boundary.</p> <p>Indeed, HSL considers that it would be a significant benefit.</p> <p>The allocation of the land off Nursery Avenue for housing in the emerging LP Review would ensure that the OSLP can be delivered during the plan period and would save LCC/WBLC in the region of £40,000. Furthermore, a housing scheme could contribute positively to other Strategic Projects in Ormskirk, such as 106 contributions towards the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edge Hill Cycle Link; and/or, • Station Approach Open Space. <p>A draft Concept Plan2 is appended to this Statement. It demonstrates how the allocation of the land off Nursery Avenue for housing could result in a sensitive scheme in a highly sustainable location which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creates an attractive green network along the OSLP; • provides a large and significantly important section of the OSLP; and, • creates clear definition along the northern boundary via a landscape buffer. <p>The dGICS must be amended so that it acknowledges that HSL must be a delivery partner for Section 1 of the OSLP. HSL can provide the majority of Section 1 of the OSLP as part of a sustainable residential development, which will provide an attractive green network with biodiversity enhancements.</p> <p>HSL would welcome a meeting with the Policy Department to discuss the OSLP and the allocation of the land off Nursery Avenue for housing in the emerging Local Plan Review.</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Plan Appendix 2 - Plan</p>	
18	Mrs	Brenda	Golds		<p>Green infrastructure should be protected at all costs; valuable recreational space should be made available for the whole community. As a rural community West Lancs is well placed to encourage outdoor pursuits. Many people already take advantage of walking and cycling routes and efforts should be made to promote this.</p> <p>Cycling is increasingly popular and safer cycling routes should be developed.</p> <p>There needs to be a binding commitment from the Borough Council that cycle paths should be maintained and kept free from litter and overgrown shrubs. My concern is that due to lack of funding the proposed facilities will gradually fall into a state of neglect and disrepair. The cycle paths should also be well screened from neighbouring properties and the screening should also be well maintained.</p>	Comments noted. The cycle paths will be delivered and maintained to Lancashire County Council's adoptive standard. Screening and preventing access to motorised vehicles will be considered at the design stage.

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					Plans should include a means whereby any new paths prohibit access to quad bikes etc.	
19	Ms	Sandra	Jones	Newburgh Parish Council	<p>Newburgh Parish Council welcomes the intention to develop a West Lancs cycling network and to create a West Lancs Wheel and wishes to make the following points in response:</p> <p>The Cycling Network Cycle routes that include Newburgh are already popular with cyclists. Any further developments should recognise that dual use by pedestrians, including walkers and runners, is important to make the most of their potential. The link between Newburgh and Parbold is particularly important. For cyclists Parbold provides facilities such as the station, shops, cafes, pubs etc The link between Newburgh and Parbold provides a way for Newburgh residents to access trains, shops, dentist, doctor, chemist without car use It is crucial in ensuring that residents in the new development at Whalleys can have cycle access to the train station. We query the feasibility of providing this link by designating the A5209 on Ash Brow and Alder Lane an on road cycle way. It is narrow, busy and with many big lorries and it is difficult to see how it could be made cycle friendly. There is no indication of any intention to provide a dedicated cycle path.</p> <p>We urge consideration of providing a traffic free route between Newburgh and Parbold in order to realise the aims of the strategy. An alternative route could be developed from the village on the south side of the canal, where footpaths already exist. They are not at present suitable for all round and dual use. Page 34 of the Strategic projects for the eastern parishes describes the improvement of the towpath from Newburgh to Parbold. This would be welcome but access to the path from Culvert Lane is difficult with a cycle. More improvements here would be needed.</p> <p>The West Lancs Wheel Evidence from the Preston Guild Wheel suggests that the provision of marked cycle ways and particularly traffic free cycle paths hugely increases cycling generally and family cycling particularly, with benefits to health and well-being. We welcome the proposal for a similar route in West Lancs. The indicative wheel map on page 23 is not very clear about exactly where the route would run. It appears to offer alternatives in the Newburgh area and so is difficult to review in the absence of detailed information. The definition of the circuit of the Wheel in the introduction to the document includes Parbold, but the route on the map appears to bypass the village. Is there a definitive answer whether Parbold is on the route?</p>	<p>Comments are welcomed from Newburgh Parish Council.</p> <p>More detailed consideration of travel around Skelmersdale including access from Whalleys to the train station will be considered as part of the Skelmersdale Movement Strategy which is identified as a project in the West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan (2014).</p> <p>There is no obvious off road solution to provide a connection between the canal at Parbold and the top of the Tawd Valley in Skelmersdale and so an on road section is necessary, including a short section along the A5029. Investigations will therefore focus upon making the A5209 on road route as safe as possible for cyclists. The Council do propose improvements to off road cycle routes along the canal.</p> <p>Comments in relation to Culvert Lane are noted and will be considered as part of scheme design.</p> <p>As noted in the document the proposal for the West Lancs Wheel is indicative therefore detail on the exact route would need to be clarified in the future. This indicative route shown is located to the west of Parbold; however the existing Pier to Pier Route does run through Parbold so the relationship between the two can be considered further.</p> <p>General Comments / Delivery – schemes have to be deliverable within realistic timescales taking available resources into account. Therefore it is not possible to identify improvements within a shorter timeframe.</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>Section 8. Delivery and funding As a Parish Council we support this development and would welcome involvement, as indicated. We recognise the potential benefits of both schemes.</p> <p>General Comments It is important to recognise the potential for use by cyclists, runners and walkers and to develop the route with all users in mind. The delivery times for short term and long term elements are discouraging. Some earlier small scale improvements within a shorter time scale would indicate a real desire on the part of the Borough to implement the strategy.</p>	
20	Ms	Kate	Wheeler	Natural England	<p>Natural England welcome that the LPA have identified strategic projects and costed out some of the options. If the strategic plan could be widened as outlined in more detail below then it would be a much more robust document, to support and deliver against a greater number of policies within the local plan and deliver a greater number of services for the local communities.</p> <p>The overarching comment is that the strategy hasn't given equal weighting to the different services or functions of Green Infrastructure (GI) and has focussed on cycling disproportionately as a way to envisage a network of GI across the area.</p> <p>In brief Natural England would like to see a GI strategy complete the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include a review of the evidence base and map the current GI resources (different types of GI as set out in the definition), 2. Then identify the functions these assets are providing and 3. Undertake a needs assessment for different functions 4. Work with partners to identify any non-mapped or other useful information. <p>This would enable the LPA to identify pinch points for different functions, where there is the greatest need for different functions (e.g. water storage and management, ecological network resilience, climate change adaptation etc.) and where different functions are not compatible on the same piece of land, therefore addressing the issue of recreation networks and the need to reduce disturbance on protected sites.</p> <p>General comments There is no real evidence for this weighting or evidence of how the boroughs other green assets have been considered. Key wildlife sites are listed and briefly described, but there is no evidence of a strategic approach to linking habitats or avoiding undue impact on sensitive habitats. It is suggested more detail is provided on this. Policy EN3 calls for flood storage and habitat creation and other environmental benefits 'within walking distance' of populations. This should be detailed in the Strategy.</p> <p>In total 7 adjacent local authorities are listed but the only reference in the Strategy to a joined-up approach is information on the Mersey Forest. This by-passes any reference to green transport networks and</p>	<p>Comments welcomed.</p> <p>The Council currently does not have sufficient evidence to map the totality of green infrastructure by typology across the Borough or the multi-functionality of those green infrastructure assets. The forthcoming update of the West Lancashire Open Space Study will require an appointed consultant to consider the multi-functional value of open space as a contribution towards a green infrastructure network. This study will go some way towards assessing GI as it will undertake a needs assessment of different open space typologies. Partnership working with the Canal and River Trust and Local Parish Councils are undertaken through the IDP and this in turn has fed into the GI and Cycling Strategy.</p> <p>With regards to working with adjoining authorities, all have been consulted on joint working and creating a strategic approach. Further cross boundary strategic working will be undertaken as part of updating of the West Lancashire Open Space Study and through the Lancashire Ecological Network. These will form a package of evidence alongside the GI and Cycling Strategy and will go some way towards evidencing a strategic approach. Habitats and nature conservation represents one function of green infrastructure so is not considered in detail in the Strategy. It is more appropriately dealt with by the Ecological Network.</p> <p>Whilst your comments are supported on creating a strategic drainage network this lies outside the Boroughs level of expertise as the LPA is a two</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>areas of nature conservation importance in the adjoining local authority areas.</p> <p>The Vision should consider the most important habitats in the borough, and the level of threat to them. There should be reference to establishing a sustainable drainage network and identifying opportunities for new wetland habitats to link with Martin Mere, the Ribble Estuary and wetland in neighbouring areas, such as Wigan Flashes, Lunt Meadows and Brockholes. There could be an opportunity to work with farmers to protect and enhance farmland bird habitat or addressing water quality issues.</p> <p>Objectives – It is suggested that sustainable drainage network and opportunities to identify areas for strategic wetland creation is detailed. Natural England would be happy to look at a revised version of the Strategy.</p>	<p>tier authority and drainage/flooding is dealt with by Lancashire County Council.</p>
21	Mr	Chris	Gowlett	Persimmon Homes	<p>Thank you for giving Persimmon Homes (Lancashire) the chance to respond to the current consultation on Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (GICS). Persimmon Homes believe that to create sustainable places, delivering multiple methods of transportation (including cycling) and green spaces is critical. The draft strategy puts forward attempts to achieve this through identifying key locations in the borough for green infrastructure and suggesting mechanisms for funding this.</p> <p>As part of the River Douglas Linear park, two of the sections of cycle infrastructure to be delivered incorporate a key housing site that Persimmon Homes intend to deliver alongside a portion of the Linear park. Ensuring the delivery of this key site is not prejudiced or hindered by emerging policy is important. As the GICS will become part of this policy, this representation sets out our views on the matter.</p> <p>There will be two parts to this; a consideration in general for the provision of green and cycling infrastructure in the borough and a site specific one that relates to the proposed cycle infrastructure within the Alty's Brickworks development site.</p> <p>Part 1 – General Considerations The GICS is ambitious and will require many stakeholders to fully deliver. As part of this vision and objectives, there needs to be recognition that collaborating with landowners and developers is vital in enduring delivery.</p> <p>The strategy goes into some detail about how the proposed infrastructure, particularly the new cycle routes, is to be funded. The most guaranteed mechanism suggested are the Community Infrastructure Levy and site-specific planning obligations and so funded by the sites developer.</p> <p>Chapter 8 highlights the Short-term projects and some potential funding sources; and includes a mix of CIL, S106 monies, on-site delivery or potential external funding. The GICS is clear in its aim that this is an</p>	<p>Reference to collaboration with landowners and developers will be added to Objective 7.</p> <p>The GICS is not to be adopted as an SPD. It is, however, to be a Council Strategy and inform the implementation of GI and Cycling infrastructure and, to this end, may be used by the Council in any or all of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to guide planning decisions (as a material consideration); • to allocate CIL monies toward projects within the GICS; and/ or • to identify where projects within the GICS fall completely or partially within a development site. <p>As such, it may be reasonable for a developer to provide that part of a project that falls within their land as part of their development proposals. This is not unreasonable to ask of a developer given that the Council's Regulation 123 list (which identifies what types of infrastructure CIL monies can be spent on) specifically excludes "any other onsite green infrastructure required by the most up to date planning policy in order to meet the needs of larger development sites".</p> <p>In the case of Alty's Brickworks in particular, Local Plan policy EC3 includes for leisure, recreational and community uses as part of developments on Rural Development Opportunity sites such as Alty's Brickworks and Local Plan policy IF2.1(a)(ix) specifically identifies the linear park between Tarleton and Hesketh Bank (also known as the</p>

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					<p>ambition of the Council and s a borough-wide project that is being delivered. It is therefore strategic in nature. On this basis, each of these small projects is not site-specific. It is therefore unreasonable to ask for developer contributions delivered through a Section 106 agreement to fund these. The delivery of this network of cycle paths is clearly under the remit of the Community infrastructure Levy, which was brought in under the pretence that:</p> <p>“ The levy is intended to provide infrastructure to support the development of an area rather than to make individual planning applications acceptable in planning terms” (DCLG CIL Overview, 2011)</p> <p>It is clear that none of these projects are site-specific considering the vision identified at the start of the GICS. On the basis, the SPD is currently unsound and reference to Section 106 monies should be removed entirely. An update to the Regulation 123 List will also then be required to ensure that funding for this infrastructure can be secured.</p> <p>Furthermore, this strategy needs to recognise that if there was an identified development site that includes this infrastructure within its boundaries and that the developer of the site is required to deliver some of the cycle link then this needs to be reflected in the CIL contribution. A valuation exercise should be done to determine the value of providing the land and infrastructure should then be subtracted from the CIL payment once this land is developed. Payment in-kind should be explored further as a legitimate method of paying the levy especially as these links are likely to be brought into the adopted highway network.</p> <p>The GICS therefore needs to be expanded to include mechanisms for acquiring the land and maintaining it to ensure that the infrastructure can continue to be used long after it is implemented.</p> <p>The approach as currently drafted does not meet national policy relating to planning obligations and is relying heavily on the developer providing the infrastructure or the monies for it outside of the CIL receipt. The CIL was brought in purely to deliver this type of strategic infrastructure and should therefore be the main source of funding. The SPD needs to be redrafted to reflect national policy on this basis.</p> <p>Part 2 – Alty’s Brickworks Development Site Persimmon Homes intend to deliver a key housing site within the borough over the next ten years. This will provide a range of high quality housing, public open space and ecological enhancements. The site sits adjacent to the River Douglas Linear park with views overlooking the river and proposed park area. A key section of the proposed cycle infrastructure is identified to come through this site. This will connect the linear park cycle path to the highway infrastructure and ensuring the cycle path can be accessed by the sider area of Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.</p>	<p>River Douglas Linear Park). The Local Plan Proposals Map clearly shows the linear park designation "washing-over" the entire Alty's Brickworks allocated RDO site. Therefore, the on-site provision of the linear park as part of the Alty's Brickworks development is a policy requirement identified by the Local Plan and, under the R123 list, it is appropriate that this is funded separately from any CIL payments (e.g. through a S106 agreement to secure the on-site delivery of the linear park).</p> <p>The GICS is clear that the costs associated with each project are indicative and so the £331,000 cost attributed to elements 3 and 4 of the River Douglas Linear Park may well ultimately be different from this indicative cost once firm proposals are identified and costed. The Council agree that maintenance of any infrastructure is key and, in the case of this section of the River Douglas Linear Park, a maintenance solution would need to be agreed with the Council at reserved matters stage.</p> <p>More generally, in other cases, S106 monies that the Council have already collected / are collecting in relation to permissions granted before CIL came into effect in West Lancs can also be utilised in delivering specific projects within the GICS. There will also be a few, limited cases akin to the Alty's Brickworks situation where a developer would be required to deliver a piece of infrastructure on their site that is required by policy and covered by the exceptions to the R123 list. The fact that a site-specific piece of infrastructure will ultimately connect with a wider strategic network does not detract from or remove the policy requirement or the fact that piece of infrastructure should be delivered as part of the development proposals.</p> <p>In light of all the above, while the GICS is not required to meet national planning policy requirements related to planning obligations (as it is not an SPD, but an implementation strategy), it is consistent with them due to the legislation surrounding the R123 list and the spending of monies collected from historic S106 agreements.</p>

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					<p>The delivery of elements three and four identified in the strategy will need to be done in conjunction with the current landowners, Persimmon Homes as well as the two Councils. The indicative cost that has been identified in the strategy totals £331,000. It has also identified that the funding of the site has not been determined but is potentially coming from CIL and the developer. There needs to be recognition within this strategy, as outlines earlier, that CIL should be the primary source of funding for the borough-wide infrastructure such as this. There is no site-specific reason to implement a cycle path that is not linked to a wider network as part of the delivery of the housing site and as such the developer should not be liable for delivering it. This is an ambition of WLBC to deliver borough-wide cycle infrastructure that is continuous. On this basis, particularly for element 4, there needs to be further consideration given to how the link will be provided and how this relates with the current Outline Planning approval and the CIL liability for bringing forward this site.</p> <p>The future maintenance of this link within the development site also needs to be considered. A management company will be set up for the public open spaces on this site and paid for by the residents who move in. However; this cycle link is being promoted for us by the entire borough as a continuous link for cycling provision. There needs to be a commitment within the strategy that this link will be adopted by Lancashire county Council and be maintained by them.</p> <p>If Persimmon were required to fund and deliver the entirety of the link within the Alty's site, further information on how the rest of the cycle link including a timetable for implementation is required. This is to provide certainty that if we were to deliver the cycle path within our site, that it would connect to an existing network and be functional.</p>	
22	Mr	Richard	O'Callaghan	Woodlands Trust	<p>The Woodland Trust welcomes that among the objectives of the Strategy is to "ensure ancient woodland and trees and hedgerows which are of local amenity and ecological value are protected wherever possible". Ancient woodland is our richest terrestrial habitat for wildlife. It is home to more threatened species than any other, and represents the last fragments of the wildwood that once cloaked Britain after the last Ice Age. Now diminished to a fraction of its former extent, ancient woodland is irreplaceable and should be recognised as such.</p> <p>We also welcome the objective to "integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, encourage the creation of new areas of woodland". Britain is one of the least wooded areas of Europe, with just 13 per cent woodland cover compared to around 44 per cent for Europe as a whole. This is despite the fact that we now know more than ever about all that trees and woods do for us. For instance: research carried out for The Trust by Europe Economics (March 2015, https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100572682/rr-wt-010515-economic-</p>	Comments noted. Paragraph to be inserted into section 6 which identifies the Woodland Access Standard as an aim of the Strategy.

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					<p>benefitswoodland.pdf?cb=01972f0d948b43b4869ae19ac53893de) has placed the total value of the services provided by woods and trees to British society at £270 billion. They help cool our cities, improve health, and provide homes for our wildlife. The Woodland Trust can support West Lancashire to meet its tree planting and woodland creation objectives through the following delivery vehicles and we would be pleased to discuss these with you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free community or school packs for small sites – See www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/in-yourcommunity/ • MOREwoods landowner offer for larger areas over 0.5ha – See www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/treeson-land/grants-and-funding/from-us/ <p>Proximity to woodland access is also a key issue, linking the environment with health and other social and economic benefits which are detailed in our publication Residential Developments and Trees (July 2015, https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100631140/pg-wt-300615-residentialdevelopments.pdf?cb=01972f0d948b43b4869ae19ac53893de)</p> <p>The Woodland Trust has researched and developed the "Woodland Access Standard", endorsed by Natural England, as a measurable green infrastructure standard for local authorities to aim for. It recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than hectare in size. • That there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes. <p>An analysis of West Lancashire in the context of Lancashire and the North West region as a whole shows that: (See table) Source: Space for People (January 2015, https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100523450/pp-wt-130315-space-for-people.pdf?cb=01972f0d948b43b4869ae19ac53893de)</p> <p>We would welcome the Strategy referencing the Woodland Access Standard as a measure of local green infrastructure accessibility.</p>	
23	Mrs	Elizabeth-Anne	Broad		<p>We welcome the opportunity to comment on this draft and are pleased to note that it has been produced at all. So much emphasis seems to be placed nowadays on the economic aspects of development that it is a welcome change to see that some emphasis is finally being placed on the benefits to the borough of its green potential. After all, the North West of England from the Ribble south to Manchester Airport is heavily developed already and West Lancashire offers a rare opportunity to look after some of the few green areas that remain. Our comments are split between brief general ones about the whole document and more detailed specific points about the area of this Parish.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The document describes the context of West Lancashire in line with the description in the West Lancs Local Plan. Clarification will be added to the sentence by inserting "area" after "Green Belt land".</p> <p>Whilst West Lancs is not within the Liverpool City Region, we are an Associate Member, this has</p>

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					<p>However, we believe that the document should state the basis on which it states (under General Context) that West Lancashire “has one of the greatest amount[s] of Green Belt land of any authority in England” – is that on the basis of land area or percentages and is it a correct basis for comparison with local authorities which do not have such tight Green Belt boundaries?</p> <p>We also ask on what basis West Lancashire is “part of the Liverpool City Region”, since it is neither a Merseyside local authority, nor part of the proposed devolved Merseyside authority to be led by an elected Mayor? Strong links are not the same as membership.</p> <p>1. General (Cycling) We regard cycling provision as the major weakness in the current Green Infrastructure provision, rather than incidence, of West Lancashire and we believe that the following two statements from the draft are fundamental to the cycling strategy: “However, there is at present limited co-ordination between all the various existing routes in the Borough and therefore one of the main aims of this Strategy will be to develop a comprehensive cycle network for the Borough, based around a circular cycle route referred to as the West Lancs Wheel.</p> <p>The West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan (October 2014) identifies that links in between settlements and further strategic connections are lacking. If these are implemented they would facilitate travel to work and education by cheap and sustainable means. The links would also attract visitors and leisure use, and offer health benefits to all users.”</p> <p>The proposed “West Lancashire Wheel”, based on linear parks, represents a welcome longer term plan of inter-connected routes serving the whole borough. However, provision is planned to be so long term as to be almost meaningless in terms of Government policy, expressed under Policy Context as:</p> <p>The government is committed to giving people a realistic choice to cycle so that anyone, of any age, gender, fitness level and income can make the choice to get on a bike.</p> <p>We would like to see greater determination to deliver this ring at much quicker rate. Policy is not real policy unless it is followed by timely action.</p> <p>It seems that the potential for early progress, without significant increases in overall costs, is not being recognised because of distorted priorities.</p>	<p>been added in to the general context chapter.</p> <p>Timescales for delivery – the timescales for delivery of projects identified in the GI Strategy need to be realistic, taking into account likely available funding and resources. Costs are indicative, taking into account the costs of other recent schemes.</p> <p>The Edge Hill Cycle Link forms part of an existing S106 agreement relating to an approved planning permission.</p> <p>Where the Ormskirk-Burscough Linear Park passes through the Yew Tree Farm site the developer will be expected to deliver the Linear Park through a S106 agreement as this is site specific and enabling development for the movement of new habitants of the site to get around. Land outside of the site will be required to use funds from CIL in order to be constructed.</p> <p>The LSPC area The plans indicating sections of the linear parks are indicative and would be subject to more detailed investigation of feasibility. A reassessment of sub-sections would be considered at that time and if necessary re-assignment would take place.</p> <p>As it is anticipated that the proposed Ormskirk-Skelmersdale linear park would follow the disused railway line situated beneath Firswood Road it is not expected that a crossing of Firswood Road would be required and it has not therefore been incorporated into indicative costs for the scheme.</p> <p>There is provision in planning permission 2016/1027/FUL for a financial contribution towards the cost of the Firswood Road to Neverstitch Road section of the proposed Ormskirk-Skelmersdale linear park.</p> <p>Whilst enhancing footpaths 95/101 would improve connection from Neverstitch Road to Stanley Way there is already a route between the two locations along Neverstitch Road and Stanley Road part of which is implemented.</p>

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					<p>The proposed expenditure of £705,000 in the short term on the Ormskirk Town Centre to Edge Hill University cycle link is questionable unless it is to be very largely funded directly or indirectly by the University. There can be little doubt that such a link is desirable in terms of the impact of the University's hugely increased impact upon the town of Ormskirk but it would be helpful to know what proportion of the £705,000 cost would come from the University and what benefits the wider population would enjoy from such a short link. We acknowledge the proposed onward signposting etc. but that would lead to an entirely on-road route along narrow roads.</p> <p>We also question the wisdom of spending many hundreds of thousands of pounds on designating on-road cycle routes if that money is to be spent on painting lines on roads and erecting new signage. The roads exist already, so such expenditure will not increase the availability of routes, whereas spending on new routes will. It is the availability of new off-road routes that will offer the greatest benefits in terms of cycle use, we suggest.</p> <p>We note that the Ormskirk to Burscough linear park is to be funded to a total of almost £1.2 million in the short term by developers, most of which is to come from the Yew Tree Farm development, for which reserved matters approval has not yet been sought, let alone approved. It seems that the funds will come from Section 106 contributions but there will also be CIL funding available to WLBC, we assume, to cover the off-site section. A similar, but not identical, approach is evident with the River Douglas linear park. If this pattern were to be adopted for the other linear parks it would make sense to us but it seems that a different approach is being adopted towards the funding of linear parks from Ormskirk to Skelmersdale and in Banks, where little or no progress will be delivered in under ten years! We comment in more detail about our section of the Ormskirk to Skelmersdale linear park and other cycle links in our area below.</p> <p>2. The LSPC Area.</p> <p>The proposed sections 4 and 5 of the Ormskirk to Skelmersdale linear park, which are within the area of this Parish, do not make good sense. Earlier progress could be made by dividing the sections according to the need for road crossings. Section 4 should be terminated at Plough Lane and section 5 should cover the area from Plough Lane to Firswood Road. Further sections would have changed numbers.</p> <p>The section from Firswood Road to Neverstitch Road does not need to have a new road crossing at Firswood Road, as there is an existing railway bridge. This section, as indicated, should be funded by developer contributions but why are such contributions assumed to be confined to the longer term, when there is an existing application for planning permission to develop one side of more than half of the proposed route and the whole development is supposed to be completed by 2027?</p> <p>There is no provision proposed in the current application for Bellway Homes to contribute financially to this section but there is a compelling</p>	

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					<p>case, we suggest, for the company to provide a short diversion route past Firtree through its site, even if the whole section would not be developed at this stage. This would support the development brief for the area, instead of treating the Bellway site as completely divorced from the rest and avoid the risk of development becoming an obstacle to delivery.</p> <p>By regarding the Firwood Road to Plough Lane length as one whole section, a significant uninterrupted length of the old railway track which passes through open countryside could be provided fairly easily at relatively low cost. The two sections concerned would provide a traffic-free, flat route which by-passed the narrow section of the A577 and the dangerous junctions of the road with Lyelake Lane and Whiteleys Lane. Although this would still leave the junction at Plough Lane for cyclists to contend with, it would be a safer and more popular route for cyclists overall.</p> <p>New section 4 would be problematical because of the road crossing at Plough Lane, the loss of railway embankment across the fields and residential development to the east of Dicks Lane (Westhead) and another new road crossing at Dicks Lane.</p> <p>Other proposals ignore the potential for using the footpath 95/101 from Neverstitch Road to Stanley Way as a safe pedestrian/cycle route to Stanley Way and on to Lathom High School. Only relatively minor updating and on-road provision would be required.</p>	
24	Ms	Gemma	Jackson	Environment Agency	<p>Waterways/Blue Infrastructure</p> <p>We support the objectives of the strategy for Green Infrastructure however; we feel that it would be beneficial to highlight further the importance of the rivers and watercourses within West Lancashire. These are often termed as blue infrastructure and can provide important natural flood management, reduce pollution and improve water quality whilst creating high-quality areas for recreational activities. Whilst the objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy relate to improving habitat there is no mention of water quality or compensatory flood storage. Both of these are highly valuable in meeting the vision of the Green Infrastructure strategy as they provide opportunities for adapting to climate change and creating high quality waterways.</p> <p>The strategy could go further in evaluating the current state of the highlighted important watercourses and recommending improvements through future developments/projects such as park creation.</p> <p>We have included data on the state of watercourses within West Lancashire at the bottom of this letter. This data is from monitoring undertaken in 2015 and provides an overview under the Water Framework Directive of the overall status and chemical and ecological status of each waterbody. We hope that this is useful for your strategy.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>In relation to the important biodiversity sites referenced within section 6, we wish to highlight the following habitat creation sites which you</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>It is considered that satisfactory reference is made to watercourses in the Borough in section 6 'Waterways / Blue Infrastructure' including the Rivers Douglas, Tawd and Leeds-Liverpool canal.</p> <p>Whilst the Council sees that water quality/ flood storage is an important issue, this is a matter that is primarily dealt with by the Lead Local Flood Authority – LCC. They are more appropriately dealt with through other documentation. Flood storage (as a function of slowing down surface water run off) will be included in the objectives as one function of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Additional GI / open space creation will be addressed through the emerging West Lancashire Open Space Study when considering quantitative and qualitative surpluses and deficiencies throughout the Borough.</p> <p>Whilst the GICS touches on biodiversity this is left for the Ecological Framework to deal with and</p>

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					<p>may also wish to include within the strategy document.</p> <p>Hesketh Out Marsh East</p> <p>As part of the Ribble Estuary section it would be of benefit to mention Hesketh Out Marsh East as it is due to be breached and become tidal saltmarsh this year and has many key benefits, including: biodiversity and habitat creation, improvement to water quality, sustainable flood defence for over 140 properties, landscape amenity and preparation for future climate change.</p> <p>The project is one of the largest of its kind in the country and the change in morphology will mean that Hesketh marsh will now drain directly into the Ribble estuary meaning migratory species such as salmon, European eel and smelt (for which there is an ongoing monitoring project on the Ribble) should benefit.</p> <p>Water vole habitat</p> <p>There have also been a number of habitat creation projects aimed at protecting and enhancing water vole populations in West Lancs., in particular at Lunt Meadows, where creation of a washland habitat led to the discovery of an 8000 year stone age settlement of national archaeological importance. Water vole densities here are some of the highest in the country and this is set to increase through ongoing habitat improvement.</p>	<p>cross reference is made to such documents.</p> <p>Text in relation to Hesketh Out Marsh East will be added to section 6 of the Strategy under the Ribble Estuary section as follows: The predominantly undesignated area of Hesketh Out Marsh East which is situated behind flood defences on the Ribble Estuary is due to be breached and become tidal saltmarsh as part of a strategy of managed retreat of coastal defences in this location. Key benefits will result including biodiversity and habitat creation, improvement to water quality and sustainable flood defence.</p>
25	Ms	Michelle	Holroyd	Lancashire County Council	<p>Thank you for inviting consultation comments on the draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy for the borough. Lancashire County Council is currently involved with partners on a number of strategies regarding cycling and walking within Lancashire, including the development of a draft Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy. The County Council has no detailed comments to make at this stage regarding the West Lancashire draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy. We would however welcome the opportunity to work closely with the borough council, through a joint transport working group, to ensure that we can develop shared objectives, connectivity and delivery mechanisms for all strategies relating to highways, transport, public health and active travel.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The draft Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy is referred to in the links to other strategies and documents section of the GI and Cycling Strategy.</p>
26	Mrs	Irene	Bell		<p>My objection centres on the "Ormskirk Skelmersdale Linear park". Section3 that passes North of the village of Westhead. I have objected to this scheme from the onset because firstly it provides a security threat to the rear of our property. Secondly the land between the Linear park and our northern hedge would become a "No man's land" for litter etc to accumulate. Also any tarmac like surface and lighting that may be used would "urbanise" this rural landscape which would defeat the whole object.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The overall benefits to the Ormskirk-Skelmersdale linear park are considered to be significant. Any such concerns as identified will be addressed further when considering feasibility and detailed design.</p>
27	Mrs	Irene	Roberts	Aughton Parish Council	<p>Aughton Parish Council would support the strategy. However, with regards to the additional projects proposed, whilst improving the environment and enhancing opportunities for recreation etc. it may be difficult, - given the current financial constraints and budget cuts, to ensure the proposed new facilities would be able to be properly maintained.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
28	Mr	Peter	Goodwin		<p>As a cyclist, I think the plan has many good ideas for improving cycling</p>	<p>Edge Hill University are significantly contributing</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>infrastructure but:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edge Hill University should pay for the Edge Hill Cycle Link, the university essentially acts like a commercial business and has aggressively expanded over many years, generating millions and millions of pounds for itself. You only need to look at the University car park to see the impact on local road traffic. Another major consequence of University expansion is a decrease in money for the Council as ordinary tax paying citizens are displaced out of Ormskirk by non-council tax paying students. The Council should force Edge Hill University to pay for the link. 2. Timescales are too long. Most people wouldn't describe "up to ten years" as "short term". The problems of climate change, air quality and rising obesity are here now. These measures for encouraging cycling are already overdue. The timescales should be shorter and the Council should be stronger in requiring Edge Hill University and property developers to cough up money for it. 	<p>to the construction of the Edge Hill Cycle Link through a S106 agreement.</p> <p>The timescales for projects in the GI and Cycling Strategy need to be realistic, taking into account likely available resources. Schemes require funding which determine when they can be delivered, and priority is given to routes associated with enabling development where land ownership will be resolved.</p>
29	Mrs	Dorothy	Payne		<p>The footpath from Ashurst Beacon/ Beacon Park across the Douglas Valley, including Fairy Glen, Appley Bridge, to Mawdsley are very well used for walking and recreation. Also the canal from Burscough to Adlington. To keep these footpaths, bridle paths opened and maintained and improved brings families out to enjoy the beauty and freshness of the great West Lancashire landscape. If cycle paths can be developed as suggested between villages, it would be an excellent development this would keep cyclists off the roads and environmentally helpful. On the safety issue it is most dangerous coming from High Moor footpaths and to Fairy Glen especially older people and young children. Some traffic slowing aid or reservation is urgently needed before a serious accident happens.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The highway safety issue is a matter for Lancashire County Council and will be referred to them.</p>
30	Mr	Thomas	Houghton	Scarisbrick Parish Council	<p>Scarisbrick Parish council is in favour of improving cycle tracks in West Lancashire.</p> <p>We are mindful that the number of cyclists continues to increase, particularly in rural areas and as such we support moves to encourage cyclists to use specific tracks which are sited away from main roads. The increased numbers of cyclists we see in Scarisbrick is viewed as a concern as many of the roads in the Village are not suitable for such numbers.</p> <p>This concern is threefold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scarisbrick remains a primarily agricultural village with a significant volume of traffic engaged in farming activities. There is a belief that some cyclists are not experienced in riding in a rural environment and can be obstructive of farming related vehicles such as tractors, trailers and produce collecting HGVs. 2. The poor state of many of the roads in the Village render cycling hazardous with a constant need for cyclists to avoid pot holes and generally poor road surfaces. 3. Many of the roads through the Village are narrow but also fast 	<p>Comments noted. NB the principal cycling project in this area is the Pier to Pier route (Southport-Wigan).</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>moving which can pose dangers, particularly to the less experienced and nervous cyclist.</p> <p>As such, Scarisbrick Parish Council supports the strategy proposed, particularly those tracks which will be located in a safe location, well away from main roads.</p>	
31	Mr	Michael	Miley		<p>I am pleased with the plan and wish to support it. However, I did notice after moving to West Lancs 12 years ago that there are far fewer hedgerows on field boundaries here, compared with say North East Cheshire. It gives the countryside a base look in places which reduced its attractiveness to visitors and presumably reduces the bio-diversity. I am a keen walker in my retirement and a regular leisure user of the countryside.</p>	Comments noted.
32	Ms	Judith	Burton	County Bridleway Officer for British Horse Society	<p>I would ask if you consider when having cycleways that you consider them as Bridleway which would give them a definitive right and could be used as a multi-purpose route for all. I have been working with Wigan Council (rights of Way doing this and it is working very well for all users. We have good signage showing all users and is a great asset for everybody. I was disappointed to read you are only going up to Parbold. I feel yet again Wrightington is being left out because we are on the border. I wouldn't want horses on the canal bank unless it was a really wide banking as this could be dangerous to all users. I have work in Leigh near Wigan to create a BW on a canal bank but it is a very wide bank and safe. I would just like to say I worked with Wigan council ROW with the disabled, who also use these BW and are shown on the signage.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The potential to include bridleways can be investigated when considering project feasibility. They are likely to be suitable in selective instances and it is understood that previous LCC advice would be to keep Bridleways and footpaths / cycle paths separate.</p>
33	Mrs	Helen	Bolton		<p>I am writing to complain about the large boulders of rock which are aligning at the bottom of Parbold Hill, outside Coalgate Cottage. There are many walkers including myself who regularly walk across the fields around this area and use the public footpath which lies within this vicinity. The 'road' has been made narrower because of these objects and I feel that it is encroaching too much on the already narrow path/road.</p> <p>The green infrastructure in my opinion is a good way of keeping our inland water ways etc. and will benefit the people around our country. If these plans benefit our wildlife and helps to keep our country 'green' and also gives pleasure to the local people then I personally approve of it, however I would like to be updated should by on any changes and updates on this project. It comes as a welcome change from 'housing/building'.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The presence of boulders is a matters for the site owner or Lancashire County Council, if located on the highway.</p>
34	Mr	Nick	Clarke	Places: Growth and Housing Wigan Council	<p>Wigan Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the West Lancashire Borough Council Draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (Jan 2017). We support the vision and objectives that set out in the strategy and would like to make the following comments:</p> <p>Green Infrastructure:</p> <p>Wigan and West Lancashire's Green Infrastructure networks are inextricably linked; there are a number of GI components which straddle the boundary including a number of Tier 2 biodiversity sites; Dean</p>	<p>Reference to the City of Trees initiative will be added to Section 3 Policy Context under 'Other Policy Considerations'.</p> <p>Reference is made to the Pier to Pier project at various points in the GI and Cycling Strategy. Upgrading of the Parbold-Appley Bridge-Wigan section would require further investigation. An indicative cost has been added to the Burscough and Western Parishes projects table for the</p>

	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Comments	Response
					<p>Wood, Abbey Lakes and Big Wood. Although West Lancashire's version of wildlife corridors differ from Wigan's they again are another form of cross boundary links between the 2 boroughs.</p> <p>The strategy mentions that although West Lancashire is not part of the Mersey Forest area, it is located adjacent to authorities that are and can build upon cross boundary plans and strategies. This is also the case for Wigan which is part of the City of Trees area (formerly Red Rose Forest) and is worthy of mention within the strategy.</p> <p>Invasive non-native species (INNS) are another cross boundary green infrastructure issue. There has been progress made on tackling this problem through a draft action plan produced by the River Douglas Catchment Partnership. The action plan has the potential to improve the quality of wildlife sites, particularly those associated with the River Douglas some of which are again cross boundary in nature.</p> <p>Cycling:</p> <p>The cycling section highlights a number of potential schemes within West Lancashire the borough wish to take forward. We believe however that an opportunity has been missed to highlight the need for upgrading of the Leeds Liverpool canal towpath as a cross boundary project between Wigan and West Lancashire as part of the Pier to Pier route and National Cycle Network. A feasibility study has been produced previously as to the costs of upgrading the canal towpath as part of the Pier to Pier multi-user route. Upgrade of the section between Parbold, Appley Bridge and Wigan would create more recreational use and also has the potential to increase use for cycle commuters.</p> <p>The inclusion of this project, which has cross boundary implications and benefits, in the strategy, could form the basis for successful funding bids in partnership with all interested stake holders.</p>	<p>section upgrade between Parbold and Appley Bridge within West Lancashire Borough.</p>



~~Draft~~ Green
Infrastructure and
Cycling Strategy

~~January~~ September
2017

John Harrison DipEnvP, MRTPI
Director of Development and
Regeneration

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1. Introduction

Green Infrastructure – a network of high quality green spaces and other natural environmental features - is vital to the quality of life and business in West Lancashire and elsewhere. Cycling is an increasingly popular activity that is intrinsically linked to Green Infrastructure and that has the potential to play an important role in contributing towards improved health and general environmental quality. Recognising the importance of Green Infrastructure and cycling in the area, West Lancashire Borough Council has prepared this strategy to retain and enhance Green Infrastructure and to facilitate increased levels of cycling. The strategy identifies the opportunities for planning and implementing Green Infrastructure and cycling provision in the Borough, where investment will support the growth of West Lancashire and deliver the widest public benefits, environmental improvements, and the enhancement of the Borough's economy.

The strategy sits alongside the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027, the Borough's 15 year planning framework, and its Infrastructure Delivery Plan, both of which are available on the Council's website: www.westlancs.gov.uk/planningpolicy. It updates and supersedes the 2006 West Lancashire Cycling Strategy.

Structure of this document

Chapters 2 and 3 of this document set out the general and policy context respectively for Green Infrastructure and cycling. Chapter 4 sets out a vision for Green Infrastructure and cycling in West Lancashire, and Chapter 5 lists a set of objectives through which the vision can be realised. Chapter 6 describes existing Green Infrastructure assets and cycling infrastructure within the Borough; Chapter 7 sets out future plans for improving Green Infrastructure and cycling facilities in West Lancashire. Chapter 8 looks briefly at how the strategy can be delivered and funded. There is also an accompanying 'Key Diagram' showing the main Green Infrastructure assets and proposed / existing cycle routes between these assets.

Links to other strategies and documents

Document	Link
Draft Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy	Still at the evidence gathering stage at the time of preparing this Strategy. http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation/responses/response.asp?ID=327
National Coastal Trail	http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path
WLBC Leisure Strategy	http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/news/february-news-2016/the-council-has-adopted-a-new-leisure-strategy-and-playing-pitch-strategy.aspx http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/spending-strategies-performance/strategies-and-plans/leisure-strategies-and-assessments.aspx
WLBC Open Space Study (2009)	http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/the-local-plan/the-local-plan-2012-

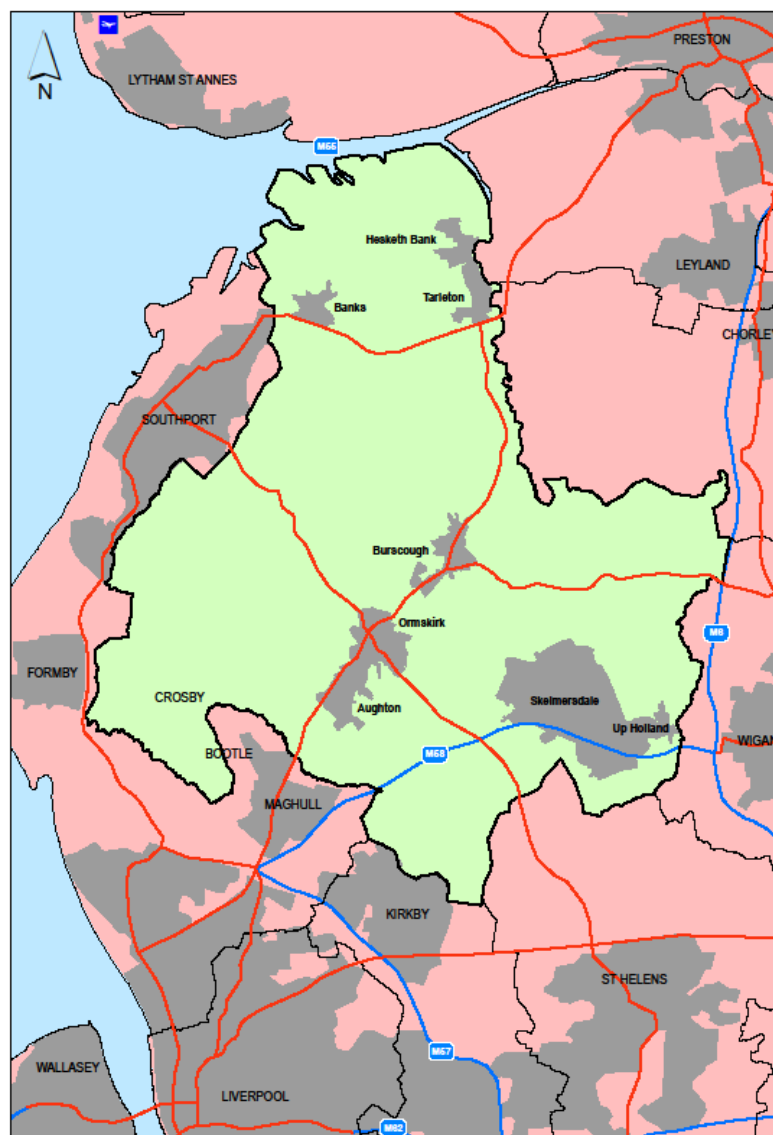
	2027/evidence-and-research/open-space-study.aspx
Government Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (draft at present)	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy
West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan	http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads-parking-and-travel/highways-and-transport-masterplans/west-lancashire-highways-and-transport-masterplan.aspx
West Lancashire Economic Development Strategy	http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/media/212212/WL-EDStrategyFinalDoc-v4-lo15Apr.pdf
Canal & River Trust – Better Towpaths for Everyone. A national policy for sharing towpaths	http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/8535-national-towpath-policy.pdf

2. General context

West Lancashire

West Lancashire is a predominantly rural area located in the North West of England. The Borough comprises a mix of vibrant towns and villages sitting alongside tranquil countryside and covers an area of 380 square kilometres (147 square miles); it has one of the greatest amounts of Green Belt land [\(in area\)](#) of any authority in England.

West Lancashire is bordered by the Ribble Estuary to the north and the borough of Sefton to the west and south-west. The boroughs of Knowsley and St Helens lie to the south and south east, with Wigan, Chorley and South Ribble lying to the east and north east. Whilst West Lancashire forms the southernmost district of the county of Lancashire, it has a 'dual identity', being part of the Liverpool City Region [as an Associate member](#) on account of its strong economic, social, cultural and transport links to this area, particularly with Southport and Liverpool. The Borough is also influenced by, and has links to, the Central Lancashire and Manchester City Regions, most notably with Wigan.



‘Definition’ of Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure (Green Infrastructure) is a term used to summarise the variety of types of open spaces and natural environment around us and includes parks, sports facilities, play areas, natural and semi-natural open spaces, footpaths, green corridors, allotments, and the inland waterways and canal network¹. It acts as an interconnected network of features and the natural systems that these support. National planning practice guidance defines Green Infrastructure as a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities

Green Infrastructure can be a combination of one or several of the following:

- Amenity space
- Green corridor
- Historic parks / gardens
- Public / private gardens
- Natural / semi-natural habitats
- Rivers / streams / other water bodies
- Children’s play areas
- Allotments / Community gardens
- Farmland
- Cycleways / footpaths / bridleways
- Urban parks
- Regional parks
- Village greens
- Nature reserves
- Trees / woodlands
- Sports pitches / playing fields
- Cemeteries / churchyards
- Orchards
- Green roofs / walls
- Civic spaces / public realm



¹ Water-based features are sometimes referred to as ‘blue infrastructure’. This Strategy will incorporate ‘blue infrastructure’ within its general definition of ‘green infrastructure’.

Good quality Green Infrastructure can help improve the places where people live and work, can mitigate and help adapt to climate change, and can assist in regeneration as well as helping to attract visitors and improve the visitor economy. In order for it to best perform in a variety of different roles and deliver multiple benefits, Green Infrastructure requires planning and needs to be managed in a strategic way at different spatial scales.

Natural England adopts the following definition of Green Infrastructure:

Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

Green Infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to the wider rural hinterland. Consequently, it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales – regional, sub regional, local and neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.

Natural England (2009) Green Infrastructure Guidance

Green Infrastructure can have many functions, including:

- Formal and informal recreation
- Routes for sustainable travel
- Social venues / meeting places
- Venues for sport, culture and other events
- Outdoor environments for education and training
- Heritage conservation
- Wildlife conservation
- Improving air quality
- Sustainable water management and flood alleviation
- Enhancing the quality of place
- Renewable energy production
- Green produce and food production
- A focus for community involvement and engagement

Cycling

Cycling is an activity that has over recent years enjoyed a significant increase in popularity in the United Kingdom. The reasons for this are varied, and include inspiration from national sporting success (for example, British cyclists winning Olympic gold and the prestigious Tour de France), recognition of health and financial advantages compared with other forms of transport, and increased funding and provision of infrastructure.

Various studies and websites set out a range of benefits associated with cycling. In simplest terms, cycling is an enjoyable activity, a cheap, convenient, sustainable and emission-free form of transport, and it provides various health benefits, such as, for example, those listed on the British Cycling website:

- **Ten Years Younger** - Studies have shown that regular cyclists enjoy the general health of someone approximately 10 years younger
- **Low Impact** - Cycling is a low impact exercise - kinder on your joints than running and other high impact aerobic activities
- **No Stress** - Many cyclists report that cycling regularly reduces their perceived levels of stress and promotes relaxation
- **Tune In** - In cycling, levels of exertion can be much more finely tuned than any other form of exercise. Using speed, wind resistance, gearing, gradient or 'hyper gravity training' (i.e. carrying extra weight), levels of exertion can be tuned to suit current fitness levels or goals.
- **All Body Exercise** - Mountain Biking or 'out of the saddle' riding (e.g. climbing) is an excellent full body exercise. When mountain biking, you're constantly shifting your weight, sometimes carrying your bike, working your arms, chest, abdominals and improving your core stability.
- **Balance** - Regular cycling improves balance and co-ordination
- **Employer benefits** Studies have shown that those who cycle to work suffer less absenteeism than non-cycling employees; workers arrive fresh, relaxed and motivated
- **An Exercise for Every Body** - Cycling has possibly the broadest appeal of all forms of exercise, From toddler to pensioner, able bodied or disabled, practically everyone can enjoy the health benefits of cycling with the right equipment.
- **Calories** - Brisk cycling burns around 500 calories per hour, helping to control weight.
- **Get Fit, Get to Work** - Cycling is one of the easiest ways to fit exercise into your daily routine because it doubles as transport.

(<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/recreation/article/ww-Wise-Words---Cycling-and-Health-0>)

Cycling is intrinsically linked to Green Infrastructure, as one of the principal forms of Green Infrastructure is cycle routes and / or networks, and as cycling is an activity that often takes place “on” or “through” Green Infrastructure, as the definition of a “cycle network” below demonstrates:

Traffic-free routes which are attractive, generally well separated from traffic and continuous over obstacles and through road junctions. Quite typically [they] may run along old railways, canal towpaths, riverbanks, forest roads and tongues of open space leading into urban areas. Although [cycle networks] are often rural, many of the most popular and important ones thread their way through the urban fabric.

Benefits of Co-ordinating Green Infrastructure and Cycling

There are a large number of benefits to having a well-designed Green Infrastructure and cycle network, some of them being identified below:



The vision for West Lancashire is to create a well-designed Green Infrastructure network that incorporates spaces that will perform at least one if not all of these functions. For example, an area of amenity space can be a popular space for recreation, can provide green produce and food, as well as being a focus for community involvement and engagement.

3. Policy context

National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 sets out government policy on planning. At its core the NPPF seeks to achieve sustainable development, comprising economic, social and environmental dimensions. The NPPF recognises the importance of planning for Green Infrastructure in mitigating and adapting to the expected impacts of climate change. It states that local authorities should plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and Green Infrastructure and should work with Local Nature Partnerships where appropriate. It also sets out a number of other matters, including planning for biodiversity, landscape enhancements and mitigating adverse environmental impacts.



"*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*" is one of the core planning principles set out in the NPPF.

Under the Localism Act 2011, public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly on those issues identified as strategic priorities, such as the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. This requirement is reinforced in the NPPF and has implications for the implementation of Green Infrastructure proposals identified within this Strategy, in terms of ensuring collaboration takes place with external partners to deliver the options identified. There is also a duty to co-operate with Local Nature Partnerships². These organisations are designated by the Secretary of State and established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it.

The NPPF promotes cycling through encouraging sustainable transport, stating that all opportunities should be explored and priority should be given to pedestrians and cycle movements.

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), first introduced in March 2014, expands on NPPF policy. NPPG defines Green Infrastructure as a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. NPPG goes on to state:

Green Infrastructure is not simply an alternative description for conventional open space. As a network it includes parks, open space, playing fields, woodlands but also street trees, allotments and private gardens. It can also include streams, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and walls.

² [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(SI 2613\)](#)

Green Infrastructure is important in the delivery of high quality sustainable development, alongside other forms of infrastructure such as transport, energy, waste and water. Green Infrastructure provides multiple benefits, notably ecosystem services, at a range of scales, derived from natural systems and processes for the individual, for society, the economy and the environment. To ensure that these benefits are delivered, Green Infrastructure must be well planned, designed and maintained. Green Infrastructure should, therefore, be a key consideration in both local plans and planning decisions where relevant..

National Planning Practice Guidance, paragraphs 8-028/029-20160211

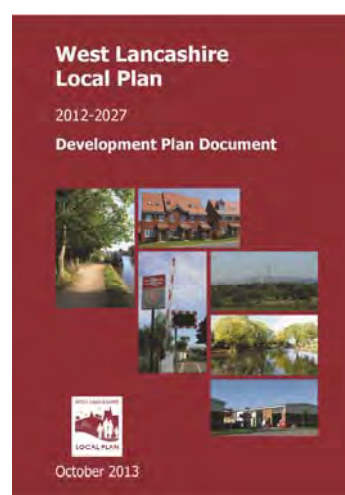
In delivering sustainable development, Green Infrastructure is able to provide different economic, social and environmental benefits. As well as promoting social benefits in terms of healthy communities through providing opportunities for recreation and exercise, Green Infrastructure can also provide economic benefits by improving quality of place, attracting investment, visitors and tourists. Environmental benefits can also be derived in terms of providing wildlife habitats whilst also assisting in reducing air pollution, noise and the impacts of extreme heat and rainfall events. Not all Green Infrastructure will deliver all of these benefits but should be able to provide a range of them.

The Government published a Draft Cycling Delivery Plan in October 2014, the Plan summarises the government's vision for cycling and walking and the role everyone - government, the wider public sector, stakeholders, business, and individuals - has to play in achieving this vision. The government is committed to giving people a realistic choice to cycle so that anyone, of any age, gender, fitness level and income can make the choice to get on a bike.

Local Policy

The West Lancs Council Plan 2015-2018 contains three priorities for the Borough, including being Ambitious for our Environment and Ambitious for Health and Wellbeing. The former includes enhancing the built and physical environment by working with the community and partners and the latter includes improving the health and wellbeing of local communities by encouraging opportunities for leisure.

The West Lancashire Local Plan was adopted in October 2013. The policies of greatest relevance to the Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy are policy EN3: Provision of Green Infrastructure and Open Recreation Space, and policy IF2: Enhancing Sustainable Transport Choice.



Extracts from the two policies are provided below:

Policy EN3

Provision of Green Infrastructure and Open Recreation Space

Green Infrastructure

The Council will provide a Green Infrastructure strategy which supports the provision of a network of multi-functional green space including open space, sports facilities, recreational and play opportunities, allotments, flood storage, habitat creation, footpaths, bridleways and cycleways, food growing and climate change mitigation. The network will facilitate active lifestyles by providing leisure spaces within walking distance of people's homes, schools and work.

In order to support this Green Infrastructure strategy, all development, where appropriate, should:

- Contribute to the Green Infrastructure strategy by enhancing and safeguarding the existing network of green links, open spaces and sports facilities, and securing additional areas where deficiencies are identified - this will be achieved through contributions to open space as outlined within Policy IF4;
- Provide open space and sports facilities in line with an appraisal of local context and community need, with particular regard to the impact of site development on biodiversity;
- Seek to deliver new recreational opportunities, including the proposed linear parks between Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, between Ormskirk and Burscough, along the River Douglas at Tarleton and Hesketh Bank and along the former railway line in Banks;
- Support the development of new allotments and protect existing allotments from development; and
- Support the Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park and associated infrastructure.

Policy IF2

Enhancing Sustainable Transport Choices

The Council will support the delivery of, and not allow development which could prejudice the delivery of, the following schemes:

- The provision of 4 linear parks between Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and Burscough, Tarleton and Hesketh Bank and along the former railway line at Banks;
- A comprehensive cycle network for commuter and leisure journeys providing links across the Borough and linking in with cross boundary cycle networks;
- Any potential green travel improvements associated with access to the Edge Hill University campus on St Helens Road, Ormskirk.

Other policy considerations

West Lancashire borders with seven other local authorities (Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens, Wigan, Chorley, South Ribble, and Fylde) and it is important to bear in mind that Green Infrastructure networks take no account of administrative boundaries. The cross-boundary characteristics vary according to each local authority; opportunities may be available to use funds arising from development and infrastructure projects to repair and rebuild connective habitat networks.

The Mersey Forest covers the Liverpool City Region and Warrington. The Mersey Forest Green Infrastructure Action Plan identifies a number of priorities, including:

- Plan and deliver Green Infrastructure to help overcome 'pinch points' that undermine investment potential.
- Use Green Infrastructure to help adapt our areas to projected climate change and assist in the creation of a low carbon economy.
- Deliver The Mersey Forest Plan [and City Trees Initiative](#), increasing woodland cover in areas of greatest need, delivering 'more from trees' and achieving a 'woodland culture'.
- Use Green Infrastructure planning, delivery and management to reduce health inequalities, promote positive wellbeing and reduce the prevalence of poor mental and physical health.
- Build the Green Infrastructure Framework into cross boundary plans and strategies.

Although West Lancashire is not part of the Mersey Forest area, it is located adjacent to Knowlsey, Sefton and St Helens, and can build upon cross boundary plans and strategies.

Within West Lancashire the Council seek to facilitate on-going connectivity for wildlife to move around the borough; this is also emphasised within the Lancashire Ecological Network which seeks to identify linkages between known wildlife sites.

4. Vision

The vision for the future of Green Infrastructure and Cycling within the Borough is set out below:

The identity and distinctive landscape of West Lancashire will be valued, sustained and enhanced, enabling people to access and enjoy all that it offers whilst protecting the assets that make the landscape and environment so valuable.

This will incorporate Green Infrastructure such as:

- **Wildlife, habitats, and sites of biodiversity value.**
- **Agriculture.**
- **Green Spaces and waterways.**
- **Attractive countryside, including the “Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park” and other Linear Parks.**

The identification of new and existing Green Infrastructure will require actions in order to assist in delivering its full potential such as:

- **Reductions in the effects of climate change.**
- **The widespread use of sustainable modes of transport, in particular cycling, and a corresponding reduction in the use of private vehicles.**
- **Maintained and improved safe pedestrian and cycle routes to provide easier access to education, employment and other key services, as well as providing a leisure and tourism offer, and offering opportunity for exercise as part of a healthier lifestyle.**
- **Maintenance of the Borough’s recreational features and extensive areas of green open space, in order to increase access to, and enjoyment of, Green Infrastructure and cycling by residents of the Borough and visitors. Stewardship of the distinctive landscape and varied biodiversity of rural West Lancashire for its natural environment and as a recreational resource.**
- **Sustainable tourism, which will be based on the attractive countryside and local heritage including the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and the Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park.**

5. Objectives

In order to achieve the Vision set out in Chapter 4, a number of objectives have been identified:

General Green Infrastructure-related Objectives

1. Protect and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, quality and sense of place of West Lancashire's Green Infrastructure network.
2. Provide a network of interconnected Green Infrastructure and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife.
3. Improve the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.
4. Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and where possible linking habitats together in West Lancashire.
5. Ensure ancient woodland and trees and hedgerows which are of local amenity and ecological value are protected wherever possible.
6. Integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, encourage the creation of new areas of woodland.
7. Involve users, including "friends of" groups, [landowners](#), [developers](#) and neighbours of Green Infrastructure in its design, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of stewardship, ownership and pride.
8. Support economic growth, attract inward investment and support redevelopment of brownfield land by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive Green Infrastructure.
9. Create a quality, distinctive and productive Green Infrastructure network to support rural diversification and tourism.
- [10.](#) Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities, to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.
- [10.11.](#) [Create flood storage opportunities, as a function of slowing down surface water run off.](#)

Cycling-specific objectives

- [11.12.](#) Capitalise on any opportunities to provide or enhance provision for cycling, whether through planning obligations, or specific funded projects.
- [12.13.](#) Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, play spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks and cycle paths and footpaths that together form a high quality Green Infrastructure grid across the whole of the Borough.

6. West Lancashire – Current Green Infrastructure and Cycling Resource

This chapter sets out ‘what we currently have’ in terms of Green Infrastructure and cycling provision in the Borough – effectively the ‘baseline’ for this Strategy.

As explained in chapter 2, types of Green Infrastructure are wide ranging. West Lancashire’s most significant Green Infrastructure assets include

- Nature conservation sites;
- Open / recreational space, both formal and informal;
- Accessible waterways and other ‘blue infrastructure’;
- Linear parks – cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways;

Nature Conservation Sites

West Lancashire has a range of nature conservation sites, covering all levels of the hierarchy from local through to international importance: local nature reserves, local nature conservation sites, County Biological Heritage Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Ramsar Sites.

The locations of the principal nature conservation sites in West Lancashire are shown on the following page.

Ramsar sites / Special Protection Areas / National Nature Reserves

West Lancashire has two Special Protection Areas (SPAs) / Ramsar Sites. These are home to some of the country’s most valuable wildlife and are of international significance, in particular on account of migratory birds.

Ribble Estuary

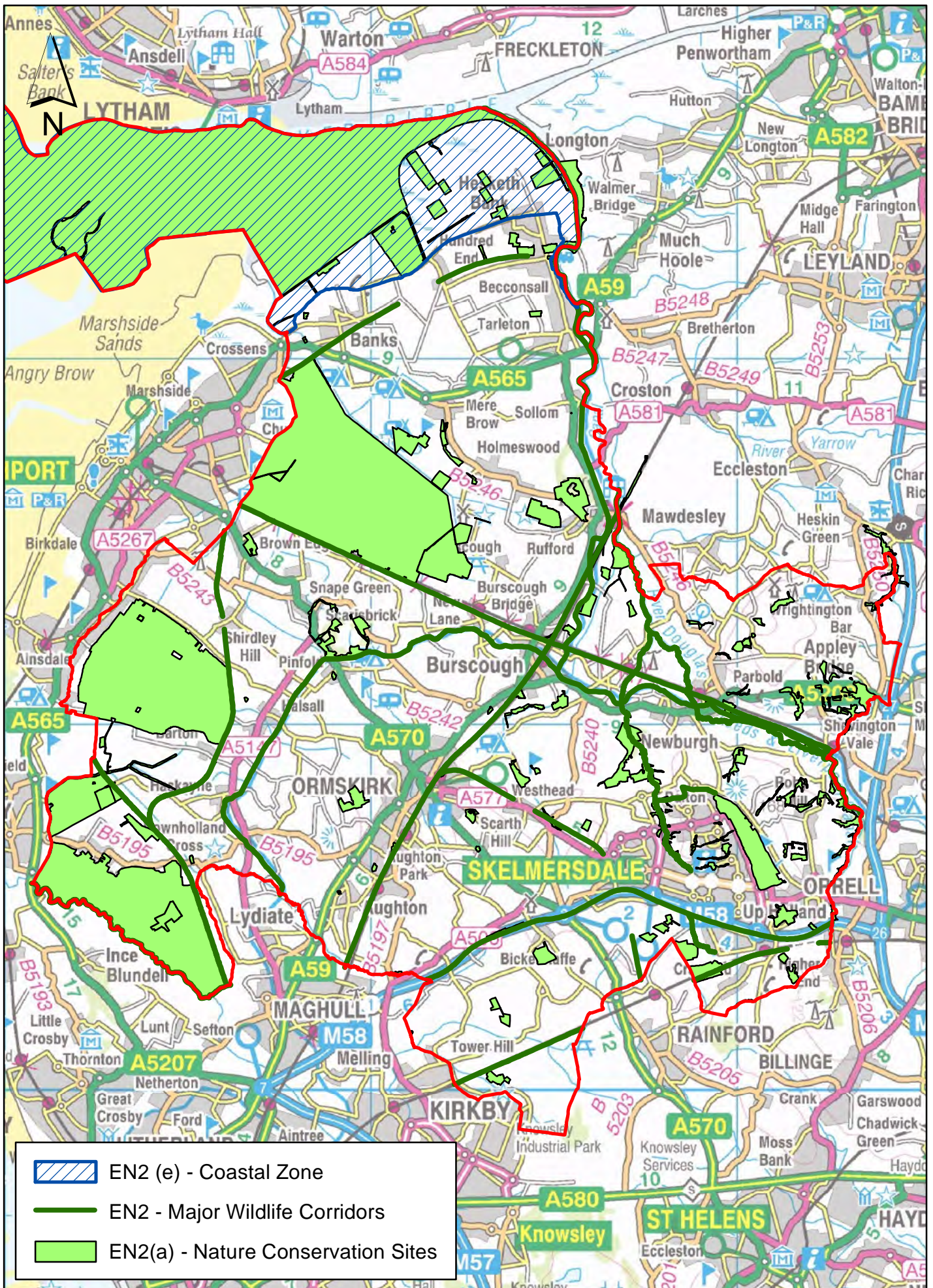
The Ribble Estuary SPA / Ramsar Site (also a National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest) combined covers approximately 12,360ha, consisting of extensive sand and mud flats, and areas of coastal grazing marsh. The Estuary supports high densities of grazing wildfowl, and provides high tide roosts. Important populations of water birds are present in particular over winter time.

The predominantly undesignated area of Hesketh Out Marsh East which is situated behind flood defences on the Ribble Estuary is due to be breached and become tidal saltmarsh as part of a strategy of managed retreat of coastal defences in this location. Key benefits will result including biodiversity and habitat creation, improvement to water quality and sustainable flood defence.

Martin Mere

Martin Mere SPA / Ramsar Site (also a Site of Special Scientific Interest), is located north west of Burscough, and covers approximately 120ha. It is important on account of its large and diverse

wintering passage and breeding bird community. It contains ponds / lakes, marshland, reed beds, rough damp pasture, and wet woodlands.



Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI)

There are six SSSIs within West Lancashire:

- *Ribble Marshes*

The Ribble Marshes SSSI (also containing a National Nature Reserve) comprises mudflats, saltmarsh and sandbanks, providing feeding ground and roosting sites for a variety of wading birds and wildfowl.

- *Martin Mere*

As mentioned above, Martin Mere supports nationally important numbers of a variety of migratory and wintering birds, as well as two locally important plant species.



- *Mere Sands Wood*

Mere Sands Wood is situated approximately 1 km west of the village of Rufford and is a planted oak wood, now substantially modified by sand extraction. Sand extraction has created several large pools which attract a number of bird species. This is a nature reserve, and is managed by The Wildlife Trust.

- *Wrightington Bar Pasture*

Wrightington Bar Pasture lies to the south-west of Chorley and is important as one of the few remaining species-rich unimproved grasslands in Lancashire.

- *Downholland Moss*

Downholland Moss is situated approximately 2 km east of Formby, and consists of an arable field and small birch woodland. It is a key reference site for establishing relative sea level changes in north-west England over the past few thousand years.

- *Ravenhead Brickworks*

Ravenhead Brickworks, south of Up Holland, forms part of the active Ravenhead Quarry and is of importance for the understanding of the environment and the deposition of the Productive Coal Formation.

Lancashire County Biological Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Sites are the most important non-statutory wildlife sites in Lancashire. Biological Heritage Sites contain valuable habitats such as ancient woodland, species-rich grassland, and bogs. Many provide a refuge for rare and threatened plants and animals. Biological Heritage Sites form an irreplaceable part of West Lancashire's environment and play an important part in the strategy to conserve the biological richness of Lancashire. In West Lancashire there are 81 Biological Heritage Sites; these are listed in Appendix I of this Strategy.

Haskayne Cutting, a Biological Heritage Site close to Halsall, is also a nature reserve managed by The Wildlife Trust.

Local Nature Conservation Sites

There are 32 Local Nature Conservation Sites in West Lancashire that, apart from the Ribble Estuary, take up a relatively small part of the Borough's land area. These 32 sites are listed in Appendix 1 of this Strategy.

Work is currently being undertaken by Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Wildlife Trust to map the County's Ecological Network. This will incorporate local and county nature conservation sites and wildlife corridors.

Ancient Woodland and Trees

[Ancient woodland is a rich terrestrial habitat for wildlife, ancient woodland is irreplaceable and should be recognised as such. Trees assist in cooling, improving health and provide homes for wildlife. The Woodland Trust has a measurable green infrastructure standard for local authorities, it recommends that people shouldn't live no more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than one hectare in size; and there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of peoples own homes.](#)

Open Space / Playing Fields / Sports Provision

Existing open spaces have been assessed as part of the work for the Council's 2016 Leisure Strategy. Types of open space have been broken down into the following categories:

- Built Sports Provision
- Playing Pitches
- Play Provision
- Countryside Sites, Parks, Green Spaces and Allotments

The Local Plan and Open Space Assessment / Playing Pitch Strategy identify the existing provision and provide a forecast of under- /over-supply of each of the above categories of open space.

The Strategy identifies that football is overwhelmingly the most popular sport with 163 teams using 87 pitches within the Borough. Just over 90% of grass football pitches are available at some level for community use. Half of these are good quality, a further third are considered to be standard and one in six is classed as poor quality. There are also 12 cricket clubs using 13 squares, 2 rugby union

clubs playing on 9 pitches, 1 rugby league club with access to 2 pitches and 30 crown green bowling clubs occupying 25 greens. The vast majority of pitches and greens are located at the Borough's main settlements of Skelmersdale and Up Holland, Ormskirk and Aughton, Burscough, Tarleton and Hesketh Bank.

Play provision within West Lancashire is generally only catered for within the main settlements of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Burscough, with gaps in provision especially to the north of Appley Bridge, and for older age ranges between Aughton Park and Ormskirk. Two notable areas of open recreational space in West Lancashire are:

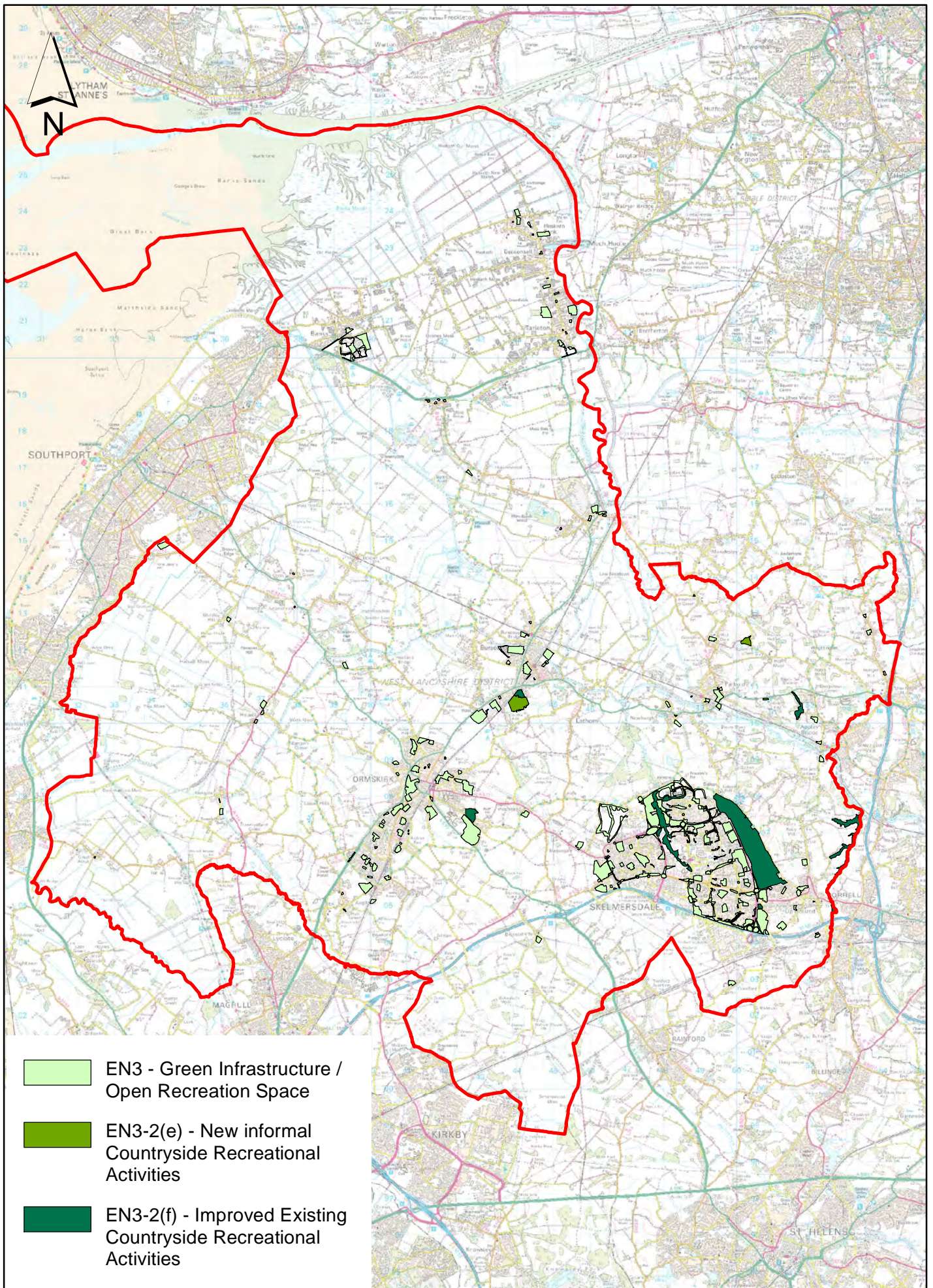
- Beacon Country Park, situated on the eastern edge of Skelmersdale. This country park contains *inter alia* play areas, woodland, picnic areas, a network of paths, and a golf course / driving range.
- Coronation Park, Ormskirk, situated adjacent to Ormskirk Town Centre. This park contains sports pitches, playgrounds, a skate park, duck pond, natural / wooded area, and bandstand / grassed area often used for community events.



Coronation Park, Ormskirk (www.visitlancashire.com)

Both these parks enjoy the prestigious 'Green Flag' status, and serve the residents of the two largest settlements of the Borough, as well as visitors from further afield.

- Tawd Valley Park is a hidden jewel in the heart of Skelmersdale. The site surrounds the River Tawd as it meanders its way from Yewdale across a large section of the historic town of Skelmersdale through to Cobbs Clough Brow.



Waterways / 'Blue Infrastructure'

Leeds – Liverpool Canal

The Leeds Liverpool Canal runs from the south-west of the Borough at Lydiate, northwards towards Scarisbrick Hall, then eastwards to Burscough. The Rufford Branch runs northwards from the Burscough Top Locks junction past Rufford to Tarleton Lock where it connects to the River Douglas and the Ribble Estuary beyond. The main canal continues eastwards from Burscough past Parbold and Appley Bridge towards Wigan. The canal provides an important wildlife corridor and significant leisure resource, for boaters, anglers, walkers and cyclists. The towpath along the Leeds – Liverpool Canal has already seen significant upgrading at various points, improving access for cyclists and wheelchairs. Sections of the towpath comprise part of the Pier to Pier cycle route (see below).



River Douglas

The River Douglas flows westwards from the M6 at Shevington / Gathurst (at which point it comprises the Borough boundary), following the line of the Leeds Liverpool Canal to Parbold, before heading north towards Rufford, Tarleton and the Ribble Estuary. Whilst the river does not have a public footpath alongside it, the Douglas Valley south of Parbold and Appley Bridge is a very attractive landscape criss-crossed by public footpaths.

River Tawd

The River Tawd runs northwards through Skelmersdale, providing an important green corridor through the town, continuing through Lathom, joining the River Douglas near Hoscarr.

There are various other minor watercourses throughout the Borough, of varying amenity and biodiversity value. One significant Green Infrastructure asset is Fairy Glen, a very attractive wooded area west of Appley Bridge flanking Sproddley Brook, which is a Biological Heritage Site.

There are a limited number of small lakes in the Borough, including Leisure Lakes, a privately-run commercial facility near Mere Brow; Mere Sands Wood, and Martin Mere, both nature conservation sites (see above section).

Cycling Infrastructure

Much of West Lancashire has a mostly flat or gently undulating topography, as well as an extensive network of attractive and generally quiet lanes, several railway stations, and easy access to facilities such as cafes, public houses, and small scale tourist attractions. As such, the Borough is very well suited to cycling.

Currently West Lancashire has around 25 km of designated cycle routes, the majority of which are off-road. Part of the Trans-Pennine Trail runs through the south west of the Borough between Southport (Woodvale) and Maghull, following an off-road path along the line of the former Cheshire Lines railway. At present, this is the only complete “linear park” in the Borough (see next chapter). The Trans-Pennine Trail as a whole runs from Southport to Hornsea on the east coast and is part of European Long Distance Route 8 which runs all the way to Istanbul in Turkey. This route also forms part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network (NCN) (Route 62).

In addition there is a section of the Lancashire Cycle Way (NCN Regional Route 91) which is a signed on-road route for leisure cycling which meanders through the Borough. The route as a whole is a 130 mile (220km) figure of eight route extending into much of Lancashire. There are also some segregated cycle lanes adjacent to some of the major roads in the Borough (A59 Aughton, A565 Banks – Mere Brow), and cycling is permitted on certain stretches of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal towpath.

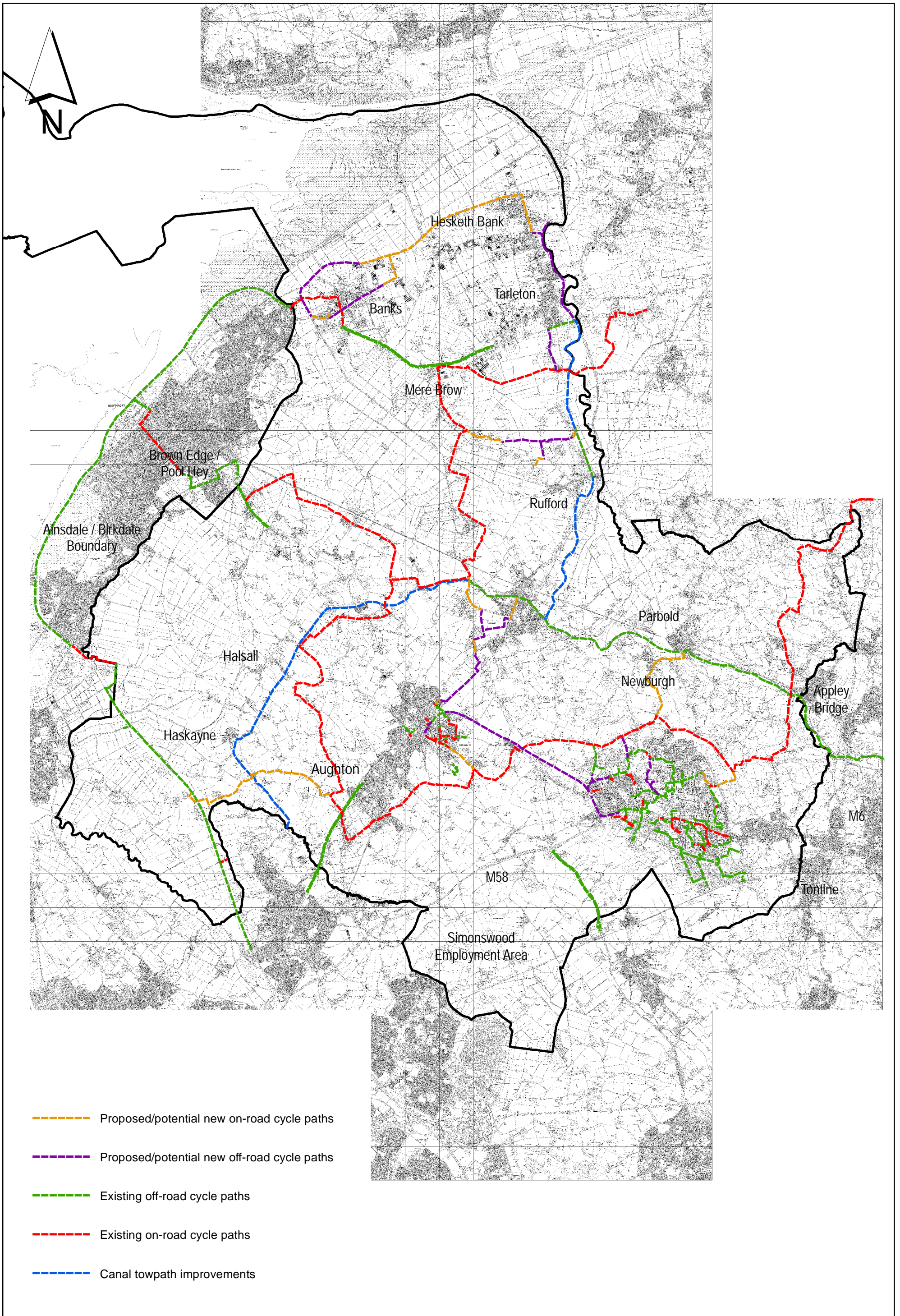
However, there is at present limited co-ordination between all the various existing routes in the Borough and therefore one of the main aims of this Strategy will be to develop a comprehensive cycle network for the Borough, based around a circular cycle route referred to as the West Lancs Wheel.

The West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan (October 2014) identifies that links in between settlements and further strategic connections are lacking. If these are implemented they would facilitate travel to work and education by cheap and sustainable means. The links would also attract visitors and leisure use, and offer health benefits to all users.

VISIT (Visitors In Sustainable Integrated Transport) Sefton and West Lancs is a partnership between Sefton and West Lancashire Councils covering the area across both authorities. Over the last few years VISIT has been involved with a number of “themed” cycling and walking routes (including the Hesketh Bank Trail, the War Horse Walk, the Moorhen and Lapwing cycle routes), various cycle hire points over the Borough and bike service checks. Although this funding stopped in 2015, the facilities created by this project are still currently available and form an important piece of the Green Infrastructure and Cycling network.

One of the most successful VISIT projects is the Pier to Pier route, a medium distance route which extends from Southport to Wigan, passing through Burscough and covering some 34km (21 miles), utilising quiet lanes and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal towpath.

Cycle storage facilities have been installed or improved at various locations in West Lancashire (including railway stations), and cycle hire is available at Ormskirk station via the national “Bike and Go” scheme. The diagram overleaf shows the different cycle routes across the Borough.



7. West Lancashire - Future Green Infrastructure and Cycling Resource

West Lancashire aspires to create a comprehensive and wide-ranging Green Infrastructure and cycling network offering safe and convenient access around the Borough for people, as well as for wildlife. In order to achieve this there are a number of actions and measures that need to be undertaken in order to link together the existing quality green assets in West Lancashire, and to fill in any 'gaps'.

Linear Parks and 'The West Lancashire Wheel'

One significant 'gap' in cycling provision in West Lancashire is a high quality, attractive and safe cycle route offering 'seamless' connectivity between the main settlements of the Borough. The idea of creating a looped cycle network around the Borough is promoted within the West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan and is a priority in the Council's Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025. This cycle network would be made up of a combination of existing and proposed cycle links:

Theme 5 – A Better Connected West Lancashire

Key Ask

Delivery of a circular cycling and walking route connecting major settlement, employment areas, visitor destinations, transport modes and educational establishments in the Borough. Entry points accessible by rail from Preston, Southport, Wigan / Manchester and Liverpool. This could be a major visitor draw to the Borough whilst helping to support and grow businesses along its route.

West Lancashire Economic Development Strategy 2015-25, p56

The 'West Lancashire Wheel' (inspired by Preston's 'Guild Wheel'³) will form approximately 15 miles (24km) of cycle routes. A significant part of the Wheel will be made up of two proposed 'Linear Parks' (see below). The largest new addition to the "West Lancashire Wheel" will be the proposed Ormskirk to Skelmersdale Linear Park; this will then join existing cycling routes into Skelmersdale Town Centre, then onto the Tawd Valley Cycle Route (Barry Nolan Way) northwards towards Whalleys where the Wheel will join the existing on-road cycle route to Newburgh. From Newburgh the "Wheel" will follow the "Pier to Pier" route along the canal towpath through to Burscough. The Burscough to Ormskirk Linear Park which will pass through the Yew Tree Farm and Grove Farm development sites will meet existing on- and off-road routes to complete the "Wheel" in Ormskirk Town Centre.

The Council envisage four Linear Parks as set out in policy EN3 of the adopted Local Plan: Ormskirk – Burscough, Ormskirk – Skelmersdale, River Douglas (Tarleton and Hesketh Bank), and Banks. It is intended that the proposed linear parks provide a variety of off-road transport corridors (footpaths, cycle routes, bridleways), as well as forming important wildlife corridors and providing opportunities for informal recreation. These proposals have been supported in the Lancashire Local Transport Plan 2011-2021 ('LTP3') and the West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan.

Benefits of the Linear Parks would include:

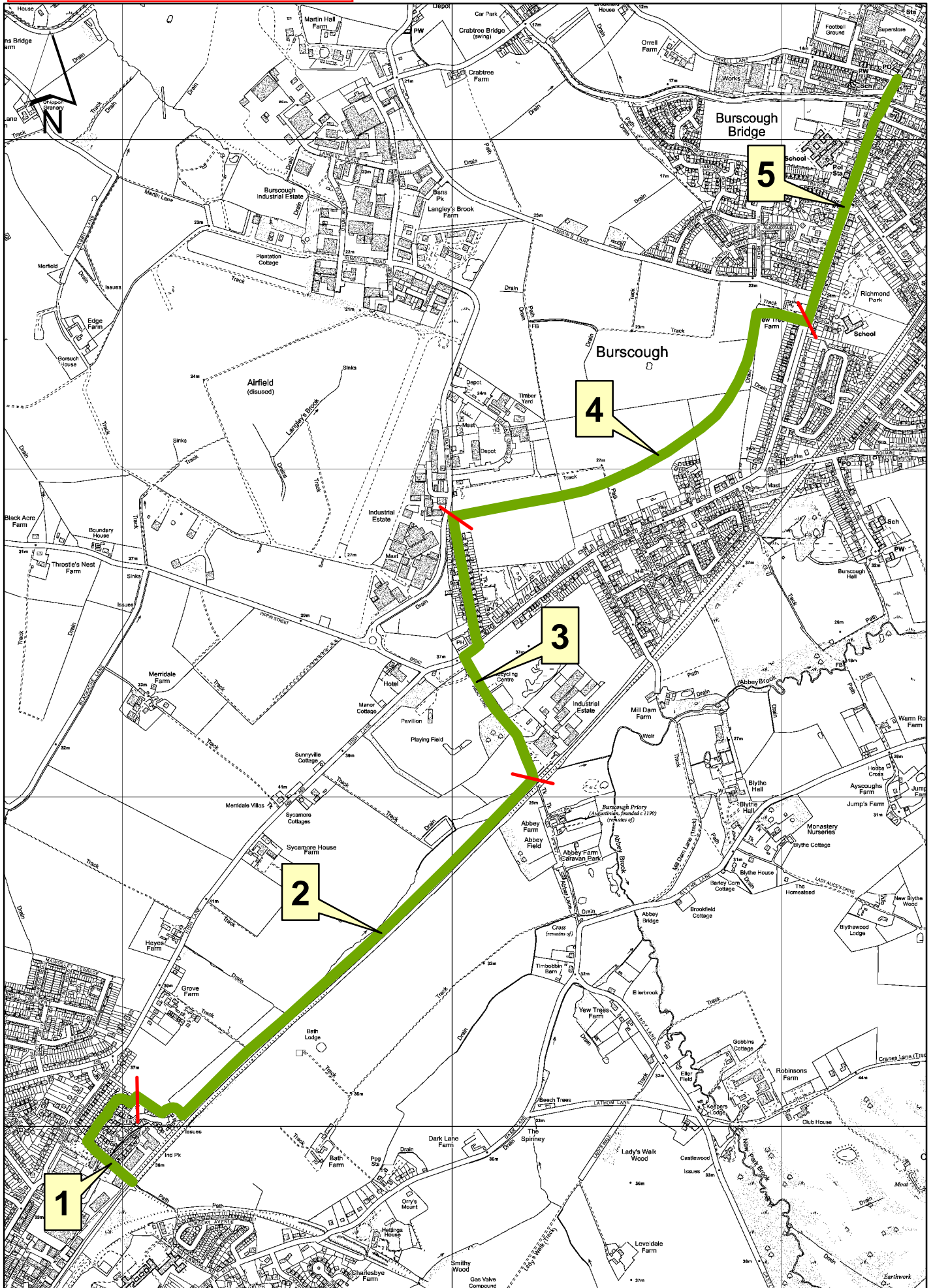
- Providing connected, alternative off-road routes and safer options for sustainable travel, particularly for non-car owners.
- Together with other cycle routes, creating a connected 'West Lancashire Wheel', making a significant contribution towards a network reaching the main population centres of the Borough.
- Capitalising on existing features in the Borough, for example the proposed River Douglas Linear Park from Tarleton to Hesketh Bank.
- Provision or enhancement of wildlife corridors
- Encouraging access to, and appreciation of, the countryside.
- Opportunities for links to public transport, particularly to rail stations, including the proposed new Skelmersdale station, and Burscough Interchange.

Details of the four proposed Linear Parks which will form the major elements of the West Lancashire Wheel, connecting settlements together are set out in the tables and maps below. **Please note that costs are indicative.** Timescales are: short term = up to 10 years, longer term = greater than 10 years.

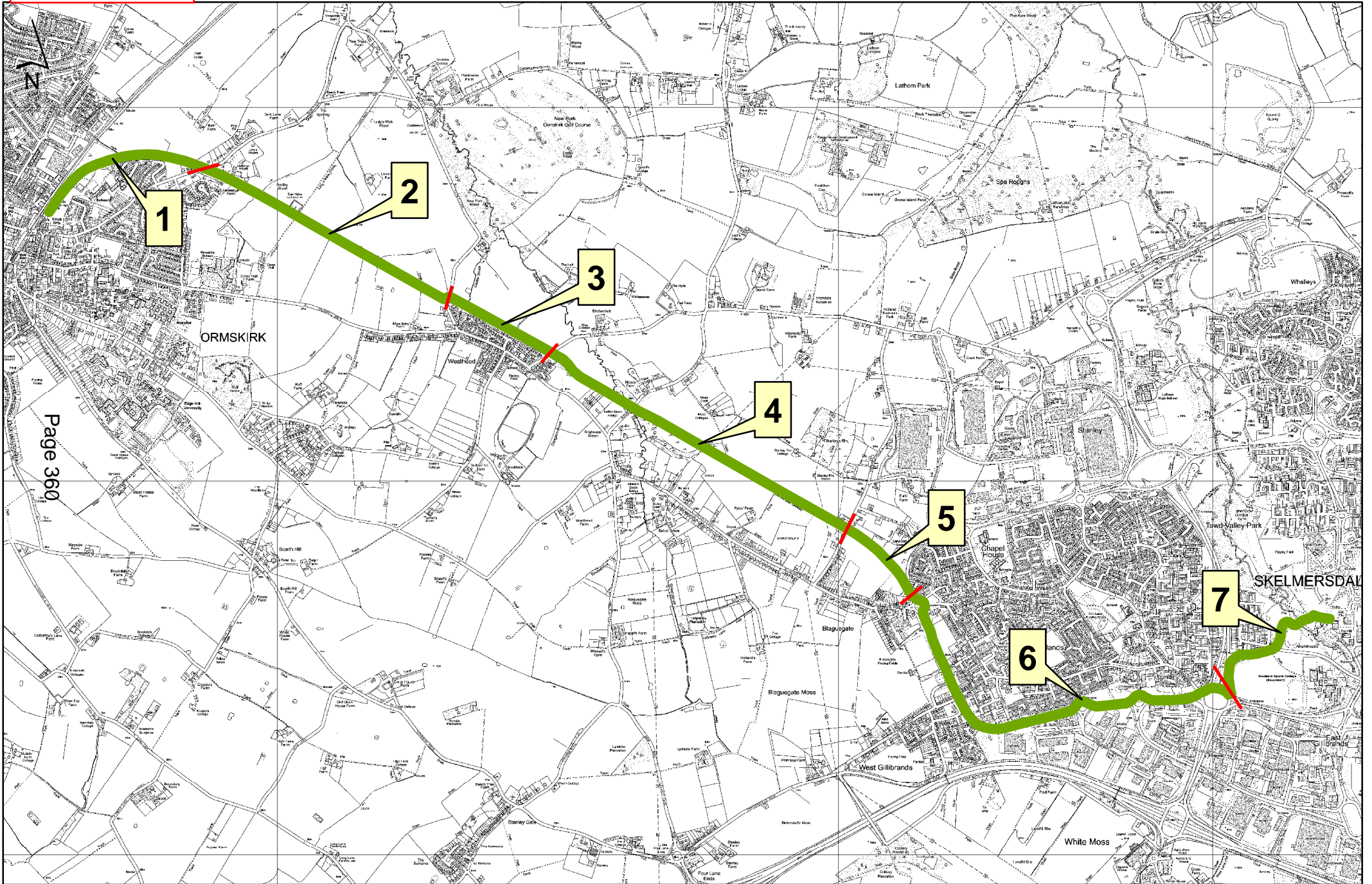
³ <http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=5989&pageid=34335>

A. Ormskirk – Burscough Linear Park				
Project / Section	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
1. Pine Avenue/ Pine Grove Cycle Route Designation	On-road Cycle route designation and signage to link existing cycle routes to Linear Park.	LCC, WLBC	Short term	£10,000
2. Grove Farm section	Delivery of section of Linear Park on-site within Grove Farm housing development.	Developers	Short term	£186,000
3. Abbey Lane / Lordsgate Drive Link section	Creation of link section to Linear Park from Grove Farm site to Yew Tree Farm site, mixture of off-road and on-road.	LCC, WLBC	Short term	£400,000
4. Yew Tree Farm section	Delivery of section of Linear Park on-site within Yew Tree Farm development.	Developers	Short term	£981,000
5. Yew Tree Farm to Burscough Town Centre access improvements	Provide widened footway to cater for cyclists on the west side of Liverpool Road between the new access junction (south of Higgins Lane) to Smithy Walk / Victoria Street to connect with Canal Towpath and to include pedestrian improvements at the Trevor Road traffic signals.	LCC	Longer term	£192,000

Indicative Plan



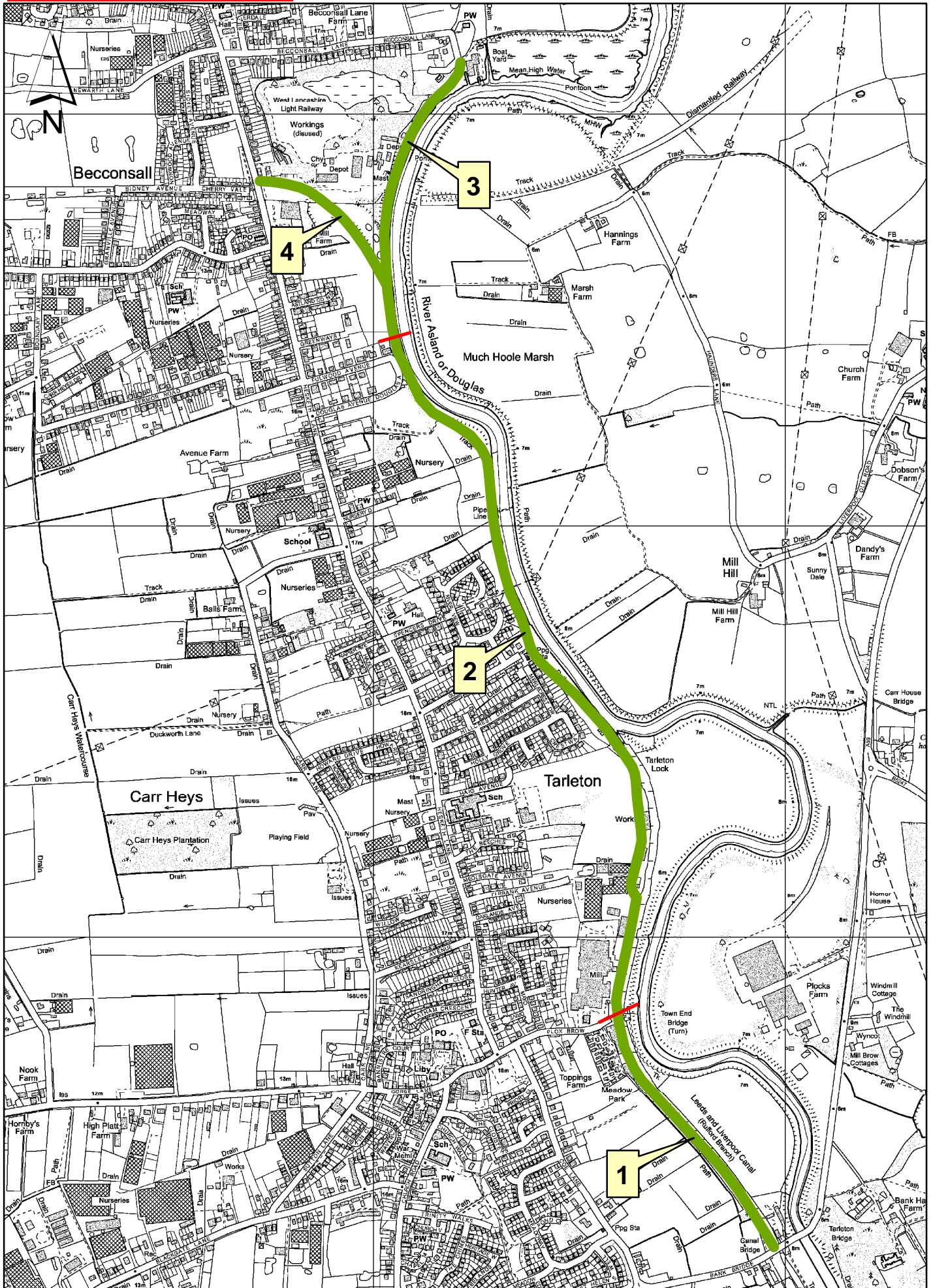
B. Ormskirk – Skelmersdale Linear Park				
Project / Section	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
1. Station Approach to Dark Lane	Creation of a green link with off-road cycle path on the old railway line in Ormskirk, between Station Approach open space and Greetby Hill / Nursery Avenue open space and to Dark Lane.	LCC, WLBC and developers	Longer term	£40,000
2. Dark Lane to Castle Lane section	Creation of Linear Park, including off-road cycle route, along former railway line.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£477,000
3. Castle Lane to Dicks Lane	Creation of Linear Park, including off-road cycle route, to the north of Westhead.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£208,000
4. Dicks Lane to Firswood Road	Creation of Linear Park, including off-road cycle route and crossing of Plough Lane, along former railway line.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£791,000
5. Firswood Road to Neverstitch Road	Delivery of section of Linear Park on-site within Firswood Road housing development	Developers	Longer term	£145,000
6. Neverstitch Road to Glenburn Road	Completion of off-road cycle path along Railway Road and through to Glenburn Road.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£452,000
7. Glenburn Road to Skelmersdale Town Centre	Glenburn Road through to the southern end of Tawd Valley to Skelmersdale Town Centre.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£162,000



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C. River Douglas Linear Park				
Project / Section	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
1. Bank Bridge to Plox Brow	Creation of Linear park, including off-road cycle route, alongside Canal / River Douglas, and providing a connection into Tarleton High School.	LCC, WLBC and Canal and River Trust	Long term	£141,000
2. Plox Brow to Fulwood Avenue	Creation of Linear Park, including off-road cycle route, alongside River Douglas	LCC, WLBC, and Canal and River Trust	Short term	£352,000
3. Fulwood Avenue to Beconsall Lane	Delivery of section of Linear Park on-site within Alty's Brickworks housing development, providing connection into Hesketh Bank Village centre. Creation of Linear Park through the Boatyard to Beconsall Lane, including off-road cycle route, alongside River Douglas.	Developers, Boatyard, LCC, WLBC and Canal and River Trust	Short term	£240,000
4. Alty's Brickworks Site	Delivery of section of Linear Park on-site within Alty's Brickworks housing development.	Developers	Short term	£91,000

Indicative Plan



D. Banks Linear Park				
Project / Section	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
1. Ryding's Lane / Gorsey Lane Cycle Route Designation	On-road Cycle Route designation to link Marsh Road to Linear Park	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£11,000
2. Old railway line section	Creation of Linear Park, including off-road cycle route, along former railway line from Gorsey Lane to Lancaster Drive, with three road crossings and link into Schwartzman Drive open space.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£830,000
3. Lancaster Drive / Station Road Cycle route Designation	On-road Cycle Route designation to linear park to the Sluice.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£12,000
4. The Sluice Section	Creation of Linear Park, including off-road cycle route, along eastern side of the Sluice and across field to Banks Road	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£209,000

Strategic Projects for the Borough

In addition to the creation of Linear Parks there are a number of strategic projects that could assist with the delivery of an enhanced cycle network and Green Infrastructure throughout the Borough. These are set out below by geographical area:

Skelmersdale

Strategic Projects for Skelmersdale				
Project	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
Tawd Valley Park Improvements	Improvements to enhance the environment and facilities in the Tawd Valley Park.	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services	Short term	£300,000
Tawd Valley Cycle Link	Improvement of footpaths in Tawd Valley to provide off-road cycle and footpath link from Ashurst to West Lancashire College and Skelmersdale Town Centre	LCC, WLBC	Short term	£472,000
New Visitor Centre at Beacon Country Park	New Visitor Centre at Beacon Country Park.	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services	Longer term	£750,000
Off road Glenburn Road to Southern Loop cycle route	Completion of off-road cycle route to enable alternative cycle link for West Lancs Wheel between Ormskirk – Skelmersdale Linear Park and The North of the Tawd Valley Route.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£627,000
Completion of off-road cycle route on Neverstitch Road	Complete off-road cycle route to enable alternative cycle link for West Lancs Wheel between Ormskirk- Skelmersdale Linear Park and southern Skelmersdale.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£449,000
Elmers Green Lane Cycle Route Designation	Extension of on-road Cycle Route designation on Elmers Green Lane in Tanhouse to provide complete cycle route connection from Skelmersdale Town Centre to Beacon Country Park and on to join with Southern Loop Cycle Route on Beacon Lane.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£387,000

Ormskirk

Strategic Projects for Ormskirk				
Project	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
Station Approach Open Space	Improvement works to open space and car parking facilities.	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services	Short term	£60,000
Edge Hill Cycle Link	Provision of cycle link between Ormskirk rail and bus stations and Edge Hill University, mixture of off- and on-road.	LCC,WLBC	Short term	£705,000
Ruff Lane Cycle route Designation	Extension of on-road Cycle Route designation on Ruff Lane to connect Edge Hill Cycle Link with Southern Loop Cycle Route to the east of Ormskirk.	LCC, WLBC	Short term	£10,000

Eastern Parishes

Strategic Projects for Eastern Parishes				
Project	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
Hunters Hill Country Park, Hilldale	Improvements to enhance the environment and facilities of the Country Park.	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services	Short term	£60,000
Chequer Lane Lake Improvements, Up Holland	Environmental improvements and new recreational facilities including play area, seating and picnic tables, and new fishing platforms.	WLBC Leisure & cultural Services	Short term	£62,000
Glover's Swing Bridge, Lathom – Windmill Bridge, Parbold canal towpath improvements	Improvement works to the Leeds – Liverpool Canal towpath between Burscough and Parbold , in particular the sections between Ring O'Bells Lane and Spencer's Bridge and between Newburgh and Parbold (Pier-to-Pier route), to facilitate cycling as well as walking and so form a section of the West Lancs Wheel.	Canal & River Trust	Short term	£768,000
Cobbs Brow Lane / Ash Brow/ Alder Lane Cycle Route	Designation of on-road Cycle route on Cobbs Brow Lane/ Ash Brow/ Alder Lane (Newburgh) to form section of West Lancs Wheel between	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£109,000

Designation	Skelmersdale and Parbold.			
Parbold to Appley Bridge "Pier to Pier" improvements	Upgrading of the Canal Towpath	Canal & River Trust, WLBC	Longer Term	£716,175.00

Burscough and Western Parishes

Strategic Projects for Burscough and Western Parishes				
Project	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
Burscough Wharf – Glover’s Swing Bridge	Canal towpath improvements to facilitate cycling as well as walking.	Canal and River Trust	Short term	£180,000
Haskayne Cutting Nature Reserve	Installing a boardwalk to allow people to access the wet woodland, creating and installing on site and internet interpretation.	Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission	Short term	£12,000
Cheshire Lines Path	Improvements to access, signage, surfacing and interpretation in Great Altcar/ Downholland area.	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services	Short term	£40,000
Higgins Lane / New Lane Cycle Route Designation, Burscough	Designation of on-road Cycle Route on Higgins Lane / New Lane, Burscough to connect Yew Tree Farm development site with Southern Loop Cycle route to the west of Burscough, the Pier-to-Pier Cycle Route and the Leeds – Liverpool Canal.	LCC, WLBC	Short term	£10,000
B5195 Cycle Route Designation	Designation of on-road Cycle route on B5195 in Aughton/Downholland/Great Altcar to connect Southern Loop Cycle Route to the south –west of Aughton to the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at Downholland Cross, the Cheshire Lines Path (Trans-Pennine Trail) and Formby (Sefton)	LCC, Sefton MBC, WLBC	Longer term	£288,000
Burscough – Rufford Canal Towpath Improvements	Improvement works to the towpath on the Rufford Branch Canal between Junction Bridge, Burscough and Station Road, Rufford to provide off- road cycle path.	Canal & River Trust, WLBC	Longer term	£896,000

Burscough – Lydiate Canal Towpath Improvements	Improvement works to the towpath on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal between New Lane Bridge, Burscough and Lydiate (Sefton) to provide off-road cycle path.	Canal & River Trust, Sefton MBC, WLBC	Longer term	£2,688,000
Burscough Industrial Estate	Provision of walking and cycling route through the industrial estate	TBC	Longer Term	To be investigated further

Northern Parishes

Strategic Projects for Northern Parishes				
Project	Description	Delivery Partner	Priority	Indicative Cost
Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre.	Extension and refurbishment of Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre to improve public facilities and financial sustainability of the attraction.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Short term	£400,000
Station Road/ Shore Road/ Marsh Road Cycle Route Designation	Designation of on-road cycle route on Station road, Shore Road and Marsh Road to connect Hesketh Bank Village Centre with Banks.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£201,000
Bridleway Upgrade, Rufford	Upgrade of Bridleways 28, 29, 31 and 33 in Rufford and improvements to Spark Lane to provide off-road cycle path between Rufford Branch Canal and Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£1,346,000
Holmeswood Road Cycle Route Designation	Extension of on-road Cycle Route designation on Holmeswood Road to connect Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve with Southern Loop Cycle Route to the west of Holmeswood.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£101,000
Bridleway Upgrade, North Meols	Upgrade of Bridleways 47,48 and 49 in North Meols to provide off-road cycle path between Marsh Road and Banks Road.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£763,000
Liverpool Road Cycle Link, Tarleton	Creation of off-road cycle path alongside A59 Liverpool Road between Windgate and Green Lane, Sollom to provide link between cycle routes in Tarleton and Southern Loop Cycle Route (and Canal Towpath at Lock Lane) at Sollom.	LCC, WLBC	Longer term	£531,000
Sollom – Town Meadow Swing Bridge Canal Towpath Improvements	Improvement works to the towpath on the Rufford Branch Canal between Sollom and Rufford to provide off-road cycle path.	LCC, Canal & River Trust	Longer term	£463,000

Other Cycle Links

West Lancashire Borough Council, working with Lancashire County Council and other partners such as the Canal and River Trust, will seek to progress a strategic network of multi user paths (comprising the projects listed above, plus other, smaller-scale and / or site-specific schemes) to facilitate travel by bicycle and on foot around the Borough. Important considerations will include safety, convenience, and year-round usefulness, as well as the extent to which the network will be maintained.

It is important that all new developments plan from the outset to accommodate cycle infrastructure to create sustainable development.

Section 106 Agreements (Town and Country Planning Act) and conditions will be used, where justified, for site-specific works or projects. Larger items of infrastructure are likely to be funded through CIL.

Section 38 Agreements (Highways Act) will continue to be used to ensure quality cycle infrastructure is provided within the development.

Other Green Infrastructure

Green Space and Sports Facilities

With regards to projects not listed above, the Council will also actively encourage the safeguarding and enhancement of the existing network of green space and sports facilities, including providing open space and sports facilities in line with an appraisal of local context and community need, with particular regard to the impact of site development on biodiversity.

Allotments

The Council will support the development of new allotments and protect existing allotments from development, encouraging sustainable food production and healthy lifestyles. 34 new allotments have recently been provided in Skelmersdale, and more are planned.

Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park

The Council will support the Regional Park in achieving its vision to be an internationally recognised destination based on its environmental significance.

8. Delivery and Funding

West Lancashire's ambitious vision, set out in general terms in Chapter 4 and itemised in Chapter 7, requires a coordinated approach to ensuring its delivery.

This can be through one or more of the following means:

- Partnerships between public, private and third sector parties;
- Delivery through new development, facilitated by the Local Plan and the Open Space SPD;
- Parish Councils;
- Local resident and community groups; and
- Utilisation of funding opportunities and other delivery mechanisms.

However, it is recognised that this Strategy does involve some significant long-term aspirations for projects which are very costly and for which, at this stage no funding can be identified and no timescales can be committed to by delivery partners. Therefore, the detail provided below in relation to delivery and funding is focused on the short-term projects (delivery within 10 years) and this Strategy will be reviewed periodically going forward to update timescales and details on delivery and funding for the projects within it.

Funding Mechanisms

A wide range of funding sources and delivery mechanisms may be used to deliver new and improved Green Infrastructure and support its sustainable long-term management, including:

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
- Planning obligations – developer contributions (site-specific);
- Public and private sector funding for regeneration projects;
- Programmes funded by central government;
- Lottery funding;
- Local authority funds;
- Government agencies

Wherever possible, the use of CIL and Developer Contributions (be they financial or actual delivery of the infrastructure) will be used to lever in other sources of funding and part of the purpose of this Strategy is to have a clear plan with indicative costs against projects to enable the Council and Partners to bid for external funding when opportunities arise.

The Council will also need to balance its priorities carefully with regard the spending of CIL given the competing projects of a wide variety of infrastructure types in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, of which Green Infrastructure and Cycling projects are only a part.

In addition to the above, a number of alternative funding and management models may be explored in the future:

- Establishment of new Charitable Trusts – to manage individual projects or a range of facilities. They can be funded through a variety of sources, e.g. Section 106 monies, bequests or charitable giving.

- Endowments – provision of an income generating fund or asset to assist with on-going operating costs.
- Service charges – where a charge is levied on a property owner and paid to a private management company to meet the costs of Green Infrastructure maintenance.
- Asset transfer – where appropriate consideration might be given to transferring ownership and management of an asset to voluntary organisations, social enterprises or other organisations. There are several potential benefits to this approach. For example, third sector organisations may be able to access funding streams not available to public or private sector landowners, and they can also be very effective at generating other types of income, through sponsorship, private donations and other fundraising activities.

However, this Green Infrastructure & Cycling Strategy in and of itself does not commit the Council (or any other partner) to funding any of the projects itemised in the Strategy at this time. Each Council and infrastructure funding stream has its own approval mechanisms and so, as and when a suitable opportunity arises to deliver a project in this Strategy, the most appropriate funding will be identified and approval sought through those mechanisms.

Summary of Short-term Projects

The following draws out the short-term projects from the lists in Section 7 of this Strategy and provides more detail on Funding and Delivery, based on information available at the time of writing the Strategy.

Project	Delivery & Funding	Indicative Cost
Ormskirk – Burscough Linear Park		
1. Pine Avenue / Pine Grove Cycle Route Designation	Once Sections 2 and 3 are complete, WLBC will work with LCC to designate an on-road cycle route from the southern edge of the Grove Farm site through Pine Avenue / Pine Grove to link with the existing cycle network on Old Boundary Way. A small amount of funding would be required for signage which could, potentially, be funded through CIL.	£10,000
2. Grove Farm section	This section through the Grove Farm housing development site will be delivered and funded entirely by the Developers of the site.	£186,000
3. Abbey Lane / Lordsgate Drive Link section	Section 3, providing the Linear Park link between two development sites and crossing the A59 will be delivered in partnership between LCC and WLBC, funded through Developer Contributions (£106 monies).	£400,000
4. Yew Tree Farm section	This section through the Yew Tree Farm development site will be delivered and funded entirely by the Developers of the site.	£981,000

Project	Delivery & Funding	Indicative Cost
River Douglas Linear Park		
2. Plox Brow to Fulwood Avenue	WLBC will work with the Canal & River Trust to create a shared cycleway/footway along the existing track from Town End Bridge to Tarleton Lock (known as Canal Bank) and the existing public footpath by the River Douglas from Tarleton Lock to the southern tip of the Alty's Brickworks development site, utilising a combination of Developer Contributions (£106 monies) and, if necessary, CIL monies.	£352,000
3. Fulwood Avenue to Beconsall Lane	WLBC will work with the Developers of the Alty's Brickworks site, the Boatyard and the Parish Councils to upgrade the existing public footpath by the River Douglas to a shared cycleway / footway from the southern tip of the Alty's Brickworks site to Beconsall Lane. Funding is to be determined but potentially utilising CIL funding to lever in external sources of funding.	£240,000
4. Alty's Brickworks section	This section of the Linear Park through the Alty's Brickworks development site will link the River Douglas path with Station Road (and the Village Centre) and will be delivered and funded entirely by the Developers of the site.	£91,000
Other Strategic Projects		
Tawd Valley Park Improvements	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services are preparing plans to enhance the environment and facilities in the Tawd Valley Park. Funding is to be determined but could potentially utilise CIL monies and/or WLBC funding to lever in external funding.	£300,000
Tawd Valley Cycle Link	WLBC are working with LCC to upgrade footpaths in the Tawd Valley to provide a shared cycle and footpath linking Ashurst to West Lancashire College and the Town Centre. Funding has been provided through Developer Contributions (£106 monies) and LCC funding.	£472,000
Station Approach Open Space	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services have recently completed improvement works to create a public open space and car parking facilities utilising a combination of Developer Contributions (£106 monies) and CIL monies allocated for spend in 2016/17.	£60,000
Edge Hill Cycle Link	WLBC are working with LCC to provide a cycle link between Ormskirk rail and bus stations and Edge Hill University, through a mixture of off- and on-road cycle paths. Funding is provided through Developer Contributions (£106 monies) and LCC funding.	£705,000

Project	Delivery & Funding	Indicative Cost
Ruff Lane Cycle route Designation	Once the Edge Hill Cycle Link is created, WLBC would liaise with LCC to designate an on-road cycle route on Ruff Lane to connect the Edge Hill Cycle Link with existing Cycle Routes to the east or Ormskirk. A small amount of funding would be required for signage which could, potentially, be funded through CIL.	£10,000
Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust proposes to extend and refurbish the Visitor Centre at Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve to improve the public facilities and financial sustainability of the attraction. Funding is to be determined but could potentially utilise CIL monies to lever in external funding.	£400,000
Hunters Hill Country Park, Hilldale	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services to undertake improvements to enhance the environment and facilities of the Country Park utilising Developer Contributions (S106 monies).	£60,000
Chequer Lane Lake Improvements, Up Holland	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services to undertake Environmental improvements and new recreational facilities including play area, seating and picnic tables, and new fishing platforms utilising Developer Contributions (S106 monies).	£62,000
Glover's Swing Bridge, Lathom – Windmill Bridge, Parbold canal towpath improvements	WLBC would work with the Canal & River Trust to make improvement works to the Leeds – Liverpool Canal towpath between Lathom and Parbold to facilitate use for cycling and walking and to form a section of the West Lancs Wheel. Funding is to be determined but could potentially utilise CIL monies and/or WLBC funding to lever in external funding.	£768,000
Burscough Wharf – Glover's Swing Bridge	Canal & River Trust propose to upgrade the canal towpath to facilitate cycling and walking, potentially utilising CIL monies and CRT funding.	£180,000
Higgins Lane / New Lane Cycle Route Designation, Burscough	Once the Yew Tree Farm section of the Ormskirk-Burscough Linear Park is created, WLBC would liaise with LCC to designate an on-road cycle route on Higgins Lane / New Lane in Burscough to connect the Yew Tree Farm development site with existing cycle routes to the west of Burscough, including the Pier-to-Pier Cycle Route, and to the Leeds – Liverpool Canal. A small amount of funding would be required for signage which could, potentially, be funded through CIL.	£10,000
Haskayne Cutting Nature Reserve	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission are installing a boardwalk to allow people to access the wet woodland, as well as creating and installing on site and internet interpretation, utilising CIL monies allocated for spend in 2016/17 together with funding from the Parish Council.	£12,000

Project	Delivery & Funding	Indicative Cost
Cheshire Lines Path	WLBC Leisure & Cultural Services propose to make improvements to access, signage, surfacing and interpretation in Great Altcar / Downholland area to facilitate access to, and improve the use of, the Cheshire Lines Path for cycling. Funding would potentially be provided through CIL monies.	£40,000

Appendix 1

Nature Conservation Sites in West Lancashire

Ramsar sites / Special Protection Areas / National Nature Reserves

West Lancashire has two SPA / Ramsar sites. These are home to some of the country's most exquisite wildlife and geological features:

Ribble Estuary

The Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA / Ramsar site (also a National Nature Reserve) combined is approximately 12,360ha, consisting of extensive sand and mud flats, particularly in the Ribble Estuary. Areas of coastal grazing marsh are located behind the sea embankments. The saltmarshes, coastal grazing marshes and intertidal sand and mud flats all support high densities of grazing wildfowl and are used as high – tide roosts. Important populations of water birds occur in winter, including swans, geese, ducks and waders. The highest densities of feeding birds are located on the muddier substrates of the Ribble.

Martin Mere

Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site consists of approximately 120 ha of land, located north west of Burscough. Martin Mere is an area of outstanding importance for its large and diverse wintering passage and breeding bird community.

The site occupies part of a former lake and mine that extended over some 1,300ha of the Lancashire Coastal Plain during the 17th century. In 1972 the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust purchased 147 ha of the former Holcrofts Farm, consisting mainly of rough damp pasture, with the primary aim of providing grazing and roosting opportunities for wildfowl. Since the acquisition, the rough grazed pastures have been transformed by means of positive management into a wildfowl refuge of international importance. Areas of open water within associated muddy margins have been created, whilst maintaining seasonally flooded marsh and reed swamp habitats via water level control. The size of Martin Mere increased by 63ha in 2002 as additional land was purchased in the southernmost part of the refuge at Woodend Farm, with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to restore arable land to a variety of wetland habitats including seasonally flooded grassland, reed bed, wet woodland and open water habitats.

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI)

SSSIs are internationally important for their wildlife, and. Many SSSIs are also designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats and are important as they support plants and animals that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside. The unique and varied habitats of SSSIs have developed over hundreds of years through management practices such as grazing and forestry, and

need active management to maintain their conservation interest. Protecting and managing SSSIs is a shared responsibility, and an investment for the benefit of future generations.

Within West Lancashire, there are six SSSIs:

- *Ribble Marshes*

The estuary is of international importance for the passage and wintering waterfowl it supports, being a major link in the chain of estuaries down the west coast of Britain used by birds on migration between the breeding grounds in the far north and their wintering grounds further south. The Ribble Marshes National Nature Reserve is located in the centre of the SSSI and most of the foreshore in Sefton outside the NNR is covered by the Southport Sanctuary which provides a protected low tide roost for pink footed geese.

The mudflats are rich in invertebrates on which the waders and many of the wildfowl, especially shelduck, feed and the sandbanks also provide low tide roosting sites for pink footed geese. The saltmarshes consist mainly of saltmarsh grass/red fescue sward with a belt of cordgrass (*Spartina*) at the seaward edge. They provide roosting sites for the waders at high tide and support large numbers of wildfowl such as mallard, teal, wigeon and pink-footed geese.

- *Martin Mere*

Martin Mere supports nationally important numbers of Bewick's swan, whooper swan and shoveler with numbers regularly in excess of 1% of the total British wintering population. Nationally exceptional numbers of snipe, lapwing and black-tailed godwit have been recorded, and the wintering flock of ruff (350 on average) is believed to be the largest in Britain. The breeding community is diverse, totalling over 35 species, and includes important breeding populations of greylag goose (representing over 1% of the British breeding population), gadwall, mallard and snipe.

In total, over 150 species of birds have been recorded at the site and this includes several unusual species, such as avocet, lesser yellowlegs, pratincole, marsh sandpiper and white-winged black tern which have been recorded on passage. Martin Mere is, thus, of exceptional value for the wealth and diversity of its avifauna.

Additional scientific interest is provided by the presence of two locally important plant species: water dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa* which is regionally scarce and whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum* found here in abundance in its only Lancashire locality, and one of very few sites in the north of England.

- *Mere Sands Wood*

Mere Sands Wood is situated approximately 1 km west of the village of Rufford and is a planted oak wood now substantially modified by sand extraction. Sand extraction has created several large pools which attract a number of bird species. The site is a nature reserve run by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

- *Wrightington Bar Pasture*

Wrightington Bar Pasture lies in the valley of Syd Brook, which flows between the villages of Wrightington Bar and Eccleston to the south-west of Chorley. It is important as one of the few remaining species-rich unimproved grasslands in Lancashire and represents the largest flushed example of this community type in the county. This vulnerable habitat is becoming increasingly rare both nationally and in Lancashire due primarily to agricultural intensification.

The pasture is situated on the south-facing slope and flood plain of a small valley. Soils vary from free-draining sands at the top of the valley slopes to alluvium in the valley floor. Numerous flushes exist throughout the site and a high water table in the vicinity of the brook results in a small permanently wet area.

- *Downholland Moss*

Downholland Moss is situated approximately 2 km east of Formby, and consists of an arable field and small birch woodland. It is a key reference site for establishing relative sea level changes in north-west England during the period from about 6000 - 4000 BC.

Alternating organic and inorganic deposits represent a sequence of changing tidal flat, lagoonal and perimarine palaeoenvironments. These have been the subject of detailed stratigraphic, micro- and macro-palaeontological analyses supported by radiocarbon dating. The results have provided a detailed record of transgressive and regressive overlaps in northern England, a partial chronology of tendencies of sea-level movement in north-west England and sea-level index points. Downholland Moss is also noted for its surface microtopography which demonstrates roddons, sandbanks and tidal creek features.

- *Ravenhead Brickworks*

Ravenhead Brickworks is located immediately south of Up Holland, near Wigan and forms part of the active Ravenhead Quarry.

The successions at Ravenhead Brickworks are of vital importance for the understanding of the environment and the deposition of the Productive Coal Formation, not only within the Pennine Basin, but also within the UK as a whole.

Lancashire County Nature Sites: Biological Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Sites are the most important non-statutory wildlife sites in Lancashire. Biological Heritage Sites contain valuable habitats such as ancient woodland, species-rich grassland and bogs. Many provide a refuge for rare and threatened plants and animals. Biological Heritage Sites form an irreplaceable part of our environment and are a major part of the strategy to conserve the biological richness of Lancashire. In West Lancashire there are 81 Biological Heritage Sites; these are listed in Appendix I of the Local Plan 2012-2027.

Site Name	Parish	Grid Ref
Haskayne Cutting	Downholland /Halsall	SD 357 089
Downholland and Associated Brooks	Downholland /Great Altcar	SD 326 086
Formby Moss	Downholland	SD 326 095
Moss Heath and Wood	Great Altcar	SD 336 072
Cheshire Lines & Moss Lane Ditches	Downholland	SD 331 082
White Grass and Barton Gorse	Downholland	SD 331 096
Orritt's Wood	Downholland	SD 343 078
Little Wood	Downholland	SD 341 091
*Downholland Moss	Downholland	SD 320 080
*Altcar Withins	Great Altcar	SD 340 050
Carr Wood and Carr Wood Rushes	Great Altcar	SD 345 047
Brook Farm Bridge Drains	North Meols	SD 371 168
The Sluice	North Meols	SD 386 196
Halsall Marsh	Halsall	SD 366 107
Scarisbrick Hall Woods & Dam Wood	Scarisbrick	SD 395 120
High Brows Covert	Scarisbrick	SD 367 149
Plex Moss Covert	Halsall	SD 336 104
King's Covert	Halsall	SD 337 129
Twig Beds, Halsall Moss	Halsall	SD 347 119
*Halsall and Plex Mosses	Halsall	SD 340 110
Banks Marsh Embankments	North Meols	SD 376 217
Dicket's Brook Wood	Skelmersdale	SD 450 073
Stanley's Firs	Skelmersdale	SD 459 073 149
Tawd Valley Woods	Lathom /Newburgh	SD 470 090
Tawd Valley Park	Skelmersdale	SD 481 069
Westheads Clough	Skelmersdale	SD 488 067
Delph Clough	Skelmersdale	SD 493 062
Elmer's Green Common and Clough	Skelmersdale	SD 497 065
Ram's Close Wood	Dalton	SD 499 088
Ruff Wood	Ormskirk	SD 427 075

New Park Wood	Lathom	SD 440 086
Copy Wood	Lathom	SD 446 087
Ferny Knoll Bog	Bickerstaffe	SD 476 042
Nipe Lane	Skelmersdale	SD 479 044
Holland Moss	Up Holland	SD 487 037
Cunscough Brook Grassland	Aughton	SD 407 032
Bickerstaffe Moss	Bickerstaffe	SD 437 020
Rufford Park	Rufford	SD 456 162
Rufford Railway Hollows	Rufford	SD 464 150
Mere Brow (Leisure Lakes)	Tarleton	SD 408 178
Nuck's Wood	Tarleton	SD 416 166
Holmeswood Woodlands	Rufford /Tarleton	SD 420 178
Mere Sands Wood	Rufford	SD 447 157
Windmill Farm Drain	Burscough	SD 429 156
*Martin Mere Mosslands	Burscough /North Meols /Scarisbrick	SD 400 160
Windmill Fields	Burscough	SD 425 154
Leeds-Liverpool Canal, Rufford Branch	Burscough /Rufford /Tarleton	SD 456 13
Rufford Boundary Sluice	Rufford	SD 464 148
Low Meadows, North and Wham Ditch	Lathom	SD 468 146
Wood Lane Pasture	Parbold	SD 498 105
Eller Brook and Hoscar Moss Fields	Burscough /Lathom	SD 459 131
Abbey Lane Brick Pits	Burscough	SD 433 104
Burscough North West Curve	Burscough	SD 448 124
Platts Lane Pits	Burscough	SD 441 107
River Douglas Estuary	Hesketh-with-Becconsall /Tarleton	SD 456 245
River Douglas Embankment	Hesketh-with-Becconsall	SD 452 249
Hesketh Old Marsh Embankment	Hesketh-with-Becconsall	SD 422 236
Camp Fields	Hesketh-with-Becconsall	SD 441 230
Hesketh Bank Brickworks South	Hesketh-with-Becconsall /Tarleton	SD 449 227
Hesketh Bank Brickworks North (Alty's)	Hesketh-with-Becconsall	SD 448 230
Marsh Farm Fields	North Meols	SD 408 232
Hesketh Old and New Marsh Fields	Hesketh-with-Becconsall	SD 415 248
Rough Park and College Woods	Up Holland	SD 513 065
Lees Wood	Up Holland	SD 517 077

Lees Brook Pasture	Up Holland	SD 518 077
Dingle Quarry and Dalton Quarry	Dalton	SD 516 085
Holland Lees Wood	Dalton /Up Holland	SD 517 084
Green Alley Wood	Up Holland	SD 529 079
Haldren Wood	Up Holland	SD 523 081
Coppice Bank Wood	Up Holland	SD 526 082
Dean Wood	Up Holland	SD 534 073
Black Brook Woodland	Up Holland	SD 502 024
Pimbo Lane Pit	Up Holland	SD 515 046
Alder Lane Brook	Parbold	SD 502 108
Bramble Way	Parbold	SD 497 103
Hunter's Hill Delf and Hawett Hill Delf	Wrightington	SD 503 122
Fairy Glen and Delf House Wood	Parbold /Wrightington	SD 517 106
Harrock Hill	Wrightington	SD 513 133
Big Wood and Wrightington Ponds	Wrightington	SD 534 106
Syd Brook Valley	Wrightington	SD 544 140
Counce's Road Ditch	Scarisbrick	SD 401 160

Local Nature Conservation Sites

There are 32 local nature conservation sites in West Lancashire that, apart from the Ribble Estuary, take up a relatively small part of the Borough's land area; these are listed below:

Site Name	Parish	Grid Ref
Rabbit Hill	Great Altcar	SD 351 063
Acre Lane Fields Ponds	Great Altcar	SD 355 052
Scarisbrick Park	Scarisbrick	SD 387 130
Goose Dub Covert, Banks	North Meols	SD 383 212
Banks Sewage Works	North Meols	SD 381 205
Woodland in Simonswood	Bickerstaffe	SD 412 015
Ox Hey Plantation	Bickerstaffe	SD 437 044
Bickerstaffe Wood	Bickerstaffe	SD 447 037
Woodwards Plantation, Simonswood	Bickerstaffe	SD 435 003
Prescot Road Quarry	Aughton	SD 407 066
Greetby Hill Railway Cuttings	Ormskirk	SD 427 086
Ormskirk Sidings	Ormskirk	SD 420 087
Manor Farm, Hesketh Bank	Hesketh-with-Beaconsall	SD 430 231
Carr Heys Plantation, Tarleton	Tarleton	SD 445 212
Skellow Clough	Bispham	SD 488 128
Dock Brook	Parbold	SD 492 106

Tontine Road Pit	Up Holland	SD 521 045
Abbey Lakes	Up Holland	SD 527 048
Dennet's House, Lower Pimbo	Skelmersdale	SD 512 036
Appley Lock Pasture	Parbold	SD 517 096
Old Varnish Works, Appley Bridge	Parbold	SD 519 094
North Hawsclough Quarry	Dalton	SD 500 090
Beacon Park	Up Holland	SD 500 100
Smith Croft Delph	Parbold	SD 504 124
Wrightington Hall and Park	Wrightington	SD 528 112
Abbey Lane Brick Pits	Burscough	SD 433 104
Platts Lane Pits	Burscough	SD 442 108
Pimbo Bushes, Pimbo	Skelmersdale	SD 516 032
Gaw Hill /Gorse Hill	Aughton	SD 396 079
Eller Brook /Sutches Woods	Lathom	SD 452 106
Moss Delf	Aughton	SD 401 061
Pinfold Quarry	Scarisbrick	SD 390 114



Report of: Director of Development and Regeneration Services

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson

Contact for further information: Peter Richards
(Email: peter.richards@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: DRAFT CIL FUNDING PROGRAMME 2018/19

Wards affected: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To authority to publicly consult on the draft CIL Funding Programme for 2018/19, including options regarding which infrastructure projects might be prioritised to receive CIL Funding in 2018/19.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the public consultation on the options identified at paragraph 4.2 of this report and the shortlist of infrastructure projects identified at paragraph 4.1 be approved.
-

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each year the Council goes through a process of updating the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) of potential / desired infrastructure projects in West Lancashire and then assessing the projects on the IDS as to their suitability to receive and spend CIL monies from the Council in the following financial year. Based on this assessment and the CIL monies available to spend in a given year, options for how to spend (or save) the CIL monies are proposed for public consultation in a Draft CIL Funding Programme before the feedback from that consultation is considered in finalising a CIL Funding Programme for the following financial year. The 2017 IDS has been published on the Council's website as an

- 3.2 To assess projects on the IDS for CIL funding, and to assist in prioritising those projects which are suitable, the Council uses the information submitted on each project to assess schemes against eight key criteria:
1. Are CIL monies needed to deliver the project?
 2. Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen from new development?
 3. Does the infrastructure fall under the Regulation 123 list, which sets out what type of infrastructure the Council will spend CIL monies on?
 4. When can the infrastructure be delivered?
 5. Are clear project costs and funding known?
 6. Are there “Neighbourhood” CIL monies available in the Parish / Non-Parished Area the project is located within that could fund the project?
 7. Does the project help meet at least one of the Council’s Corporate Priorities?
 8. Is the project identified within a relevant local strategy, e.g. the Local Plan, the Highways & Transport Masterplan and the Leisure Strategy?
- 3.3 The first criterion ensures that all infrastructure projects on the IDS which do not require CIL monies are separated off at the outset, reducing unnecessary assessment of projects. The second and third criteria are essential as CIL monies can only be spent on infrastructure that meets a local need or demand that has arisen from new development and on types of infrastructure that are on the Regulation 123 list (<http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy/regulation-123-list.aspx>). At this stage, we have effectively ruled out all infrastructure projects from further assessment that do not meet the first 3 key criteria and which make them ineligible to receive CIL monies, based on current information.
- 3.4 The fourth criterion is necessary to understand whether the project is technically deliverable within two years of receiving the funding and so might benefit from having CIL monies allocated to it for spending in the following financial years. The fifth criterion allows us to consider whether there are clear and realistic costs and firm funding proposals (other than a request for CIL monies) in place that would confirm that the project is not only technically deliverable but financially deliverable as well. Where costs are unknown, the assessment assumes the project is not financially deliverable within the next two years as the Council needs to see more robust proposals before allocating CIL monies to a project. Where a project proposes match-funding from another source, if that match-funding has not been secured, there must also be questions over the deliverability of that project, albeit those questions may not ultimately rule out a project entirely in this assessment, depending on the precise circumstances of the match-funding.

- 3.5 A further consideration within this fifth criterion, but not a definitive one in decision-making, is also whether the project will provide greater value for money by using CIL monies to lever in other funding. While leveraging in match-funding would clearly be a positive, it would not be appropriate to disadvantage a project simply because it does not have access to other funding and would rely solely on CIL monies, hence this factor is not a key criteria.
- 3.6 The sixth criteria allows the Council to consider whether a project might be more suitably funded by “Neighbourhood” CIL monies that are available in an area (the 15% of CIL income from a development which is automatically passed to the local Parish Council or, in a non-parished area, set aside by the Council to spend specifically in that area) in order to save CIL monies for the larger projects that serve a wider area.
- 3.7 The seventh and eight criteria are necessary to help differentiate and prioritise between projects that meet all of the first six criteria (i.e. when the assessment produces a fairly long shortlist) by considering whether the projects help meet at least one of the Council’s Corporate Priorities and/or are identified within a relevant local strategy as being of strategic importance.
- 3.8 Appendices A and B set out the schemes in the IDS this year and how they have been assessed against the eight key criteria. Appendix A lists all the projects that have been deemed to not fulfil one or more of the first three assessment criteria and so have been ruled out from further consideration for spending in 2018/19. Appendix B lists all the remaining projects and assesses them against the remaining criteria, and then indicating which have been shortlisted for potential inclusion in the options for the Draft CIL funding Programme. The fourth, fifth and sixth criteria have been used to identify those projects which should be shortlisted, i.e. any project which does not appear to be deliverable within two years of receiving the funding or could be funded by “Neighbourhood” CIL monies has not been shortlisted. A project has been ruled not deliverable for the purpose of this year’s assessment if it is clearly stated as a longer-term project or there is uncertainty about the costs or match funding (where this is proposed), as a lack of clarity on costs or funding indicates that the project is not currently deliverable. Appendix C provides a more detailed assessment of the details in relation to each of the shortlisted projects, of which there are nine, and this would include reference to the seventh and eighth criteria.
- 3.9 This year, in preparing the assessment of IDS projects as to their suitability for receiving CIL funding in 2018/19, all Council Members have been invited to comment on the draft assessment prior to officers formulating the recommendations in this report. An All-Member Briefing on the assessment was held on 10 July 2017 and following this all Members were emailed the draft versions of Appendix A-C and invited to provide written comments on the assessment to officers by 31 July 2017. One Councillor provided comments in relation to a specific project that was not shortlisted and these comments have been considered by officers in finalising the assessment, but did not affect the conclusion of officers. These comments are provided at Appendix D, together with the officer response to those comments.
- 3.10 In relation to the anticipated quantum of CIL monies available for the Council to spend in 2018/19, it is anticipated that the Council should collect at least

£700,000 in CIL monies in 2017/18 based on the CIL payments committed for payment this year, although it must be stressed that the Council cannot guarantee that this much would be collected by the end of the financial year as developers may default on their committed payments. However, there may well be other developments that commence and are required to pay CIL this year that are not currently “committed”, and so this figure may increase. 80% of CIL monies collected is earmarked for spend by the Council. Therefore, the Council may have more than £560,000 available to spend. In addition, the Council last year saved and set aside £420,743 of CIL monies for large, strategic infrastructure projects.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The nine shortlisted projects, of which more details are given in Appendix C, are (CIL funding sought provided in brackets):

- Tawd Valley Improvements, Skelmersdale (£300,000)
- New Changing Facilities at Chequer Lane, Up Holland (£60,000)
- New Changing Facilities at Whittle Drive Playing Fields, Ormskirk (£40,000)
- Thompson Avenue Play Area Improvements, Ormskirk (£60,000)
- New Allotments in Ormskirk (£40,000)
- Martin Mere Filtration Reed Beds (£200,000)
- Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre Phase II (£25,000)
- Hunters Hill Country Park, Parbold (£60,000)
- Cheshire Lines Path, Downholland and Great Altcar (£40,000)

4.2 Based on the above, it is recommended that four options are consulted upon for the Draft CIL Funding Programme:

Option 1: Allocate funds to one large project (>£100,000) and, in addition, a number of smaller projects from the shortlist up to a maximum total spend of £100,000, and save any surplus funding.

Option 2: Allocate funds to one large project (>£100,000) only, and save any surplus funding.

Option 3: Allocate funds to a number of smaller projects from the shortlist up to a maximum total spend of £100,000, and save any surplus funding.

Option 4: Save the CIL monies collected in 2017/18 for larger infrastructure projects in the future.

4.3 Should Cabinet resolve in accordance with the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 of this report, the options and shortlisted projects identified above will be publicly consulted upon. Should Cabinet put forward an alternative resolution, the proposals / options within that resolution would be publicly consulted on instead. The consultation will include all infrastructure providers, as well as the general public and other stakeholders, and will seek views on the options for spending CIL monies in 2018/19 put forward or whether other projects in the IDS should be prioritised instead or whether entirely new projects should be considered by the

Council. Officers will consider the responses to this consultation before making a final recommendation on the CIL Funding Programme 2018/19 to Cabinet in January 2018.

4.4 The Council will publicise and consult through the following methods:

- Press release
- Information on the Council's CIL webpages and consultation webpages
- Electronic / paper mail out to all consultees registered on the Local Plan consultation database, parish councils and Members
- Electronic mail out to all infrastructure providers
- Printed information available at libraries and council offices
- Electronic and paper based survey forms will be available to complete
- "West Lancs Now"

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 The delivery of new infrastructure funded by CIL monies will have positive implications for sustainability and contribute to the delivery of the development allocated in the West Lancs Local Plan 2012-2027 in a sustainable manner. Depending on which projects are ultimately selected for spending CIL monies on, various objectives of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy will be contributed towards by these decisions.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There is no additional cost to Council resources of preparing and consulting on a CIL Funding Programme given that any projects prioritised for funding will be funded by CIL monies and, in some cases, match-funding identified by the infrastructure provider from other sources. The administration of CIL (including the CIL Funding Programme) is covered by the 5% administration fee retained by the Council from CIL receipts together with the Planning Services revenue budgets.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 There are no significant risks related to this report, which is covering the assessment of potential infrastructure projects which the Council may choose to allocate CIL funding to, as a precursor to public consultation on the options arising from that assessment. As a more general risk in terms of allocating CIL funding to projects, it is important to note that the availability of CIL funds towards projects in 2018/19 may not reach the £560,000 anticipated to be collected by 31 March 2018 and so the funds available to allocate to infrastructure cannot be guaranteed at this time because developers may default on their CIL payments, ultimately delaying collection of those monies. However, this risk is fairly minimal given that any default in payment would likely be offset by new commitments that will arise over the coming months with CIL payments due this year and, in any event, by January 2018, when a final decision on the CIL Funding Programme is being made, the Council will be able to give a more robust view on how much CIL will be collected by the Council by 31 March 2018, and this will necessarily

influence what the final CIL Funding Programme proposes to spend on infrastructure projects.

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

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – IDS Projects deemed not to fulfil any of Criteria 1-3

Appendix B – Summary Assessment of remaining IDS Projects

Appendix C – Detailed Assessment of Shortlisted Projects

Appendix D – Member Comments on draft Assessment and Officer response

Appendix E – Equality Impact Assessment

CIL Funding Programme - Schemes withdrawn from assessment

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
7	Ongoing	Water supply	Upgrade the Southport boreholes and Bickerstaffe water treatment works	Borough wide	United Utilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none - cannot fund using CIL Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list. To be delivered by United Utilities.	
6	Ongoing	New Lane WWTW	Solution for waste water treatment capacity issue at New Lane	Catchment for New Lane WWTW	United Utilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none - cannot fund using CIL Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list. To be delivered by United Utilities.	
127	Not started	Hilldale Jubilee Field Footpath	Reinstatement of the footpath	Hilldale Jubilee Field, Chorley Road, Hilldale, Parbold	Hilldale Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£863	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
126	Not started	Skelmersdale Memorial Garden	Creation of a memorial garden as an extension of the existing war memorial. This will include new pathways, planting, fencing and artworks with armed forces themes.	Witham Road, Skelmersdale	Skelmersdale Ex-Servicemans Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £110,586 CIL funding requested: £21,821 Other funding: various (detailed in bid)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
123	Not started	Flood prevention works, Bickerstaffe	Installation of flood prevention infrastructure in consultation with LCC flood management team	Two areas of Bickerstaffe Ward flooded in December 2015 a) Coach Road, Barrow Nook b) Royal Oak, in relation to flooded culverts of Knoll Brook	LCC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none - cannot fund using CIL Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on the R123 list. Does not meet a local need arising from new development.	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
122	Not started	Swells Wood	Development as a linear park route	Swells Wood, Bickerstaffe	Bickerstaffe Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
121	Not started	Car parking resurfacing, Canal side, Parbold	Resurfacing works on waste ground to formal car parking	Land adjacent to Station Road, Parbold	Parbold Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £80,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£4,801	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
119	Not started	Tanhouse Environmental Improvements	Replanting the landscape area on spine road to improve street scene	Tanhouse Community facilities, Ennerdale, Skelmersdale	Cllr Bob Pendleton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £100,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need resulting from new development	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
117	Not started	Bickerstaffe Gateway to Green Spaces	Car parking facilities / improvements (including flood risk management) for access to open green space, park area, sports facilities, outdoor gym, football pitch, play area and off-road pedestrian cycle access to the cycle trails	Bickerstaffe QE2 field in trust, Hall lane, Bickerstaffe	Bickerstaffe Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £9,800-£35,000 dependent on option CIL funding requested: dependent on option Other funding: dependent on option Option 1- Complete relaying and foundations with new drains and permeable surfaces = £48,394 (of which £5000 is available, requiring £34,716 of CIL monies) Option 2 - Resurfacing with semi-permeable surface and new drains = £23,300 (of which £2500 is available, requiring £17,140 of CIL monies) Option 3 - New drains and filling of holes and re-skimming surface = £1000 (of which £1000 available, requiring £9762 of CIL monies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This project is essentially for new / improved car parking facilities to access the recent improvements in leisure / open space facilities in Bickerstaffe. The cost of the project is uncertain, depending on which options for improvements the Parish Council decide they wish to take forward. However, Bickerstaffe has seen very little new development in recent years, and no new development of any significant size is	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development.	
116	Not started	Haskayne Pavillion	Refurbishment of existing pavillion at School Lane, Haskayne	School Lane, Haskayne	Downholland Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £45,000 CIL funding requested: £1,000 Other funding: unspecified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Haskayne has seen some development in recent years (Former LO Jeffs site), but is unlikely to see much more in the coming years, and it is unclear whether the need for this facility is genuinely arising from (or exacerbated by) the increased population created by the recent development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
115	Not started	Improvements to railway stations	To deliver enhancements at railway stations eg. CCTV, customer information systems, help-points, heated waiting shelters	Various locations, West Lancashire Borough	Network Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Without further information, it is unclear if the project would meet a local need arising from new development.	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
109	Not started	Installation of dedicated highway surface water drainage system	Installation of dedicated highway surface water drainage system - Tarleton Highway surface water infrastructure	Tarleton	LCC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £155,000 CIL funding requested: none - cannot fund with CIL Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£2,803	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding. Where drainage infrastructure is impacted by new development, the mitigation required is addressed by the developer through the planning application.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list
108	Not started	Surface water flooding study investigation	Surface water study investigation into flooding	Parrs Lane/Prescot Road and Town Green Lane, Aughton	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £5,000 CIL funding requested: none - cannot fund with CIL Other funding: unspecified Cannot be funded through CIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£19,170	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding. Where drainage infrastructure is impacted by new development, the mitigation required is addressed by the developer through the planning application.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on the R123 list
106	Not started	Skelmersdale subway improvements	Urban Art project with local young people to repaint 8 subways	Various subway locations, Skelmersdale	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £40,000 CIL funding requested: none - cannot fund with CIL Other funding: unspecified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public realm improvements to an existing provision. Does not meet a local need arising from new development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	

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						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
103	Not started	Refuge and footway improvement	Refuge and footway improvement on A5147 Wainshar Lane, Haskayne (35m north of Rosemary Lane)	A5147 Wainshar Lane, Haskayne	Downholland Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £40,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
99	Not started	Improved drainage at Mossy Lea playing fields	Improved drainage at Mossy Lea playing fields	Mossy Lea playing fields, Wrightington	Wrightington Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£2,462	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
98	Not started	Improvements to play area/field at Appley Lane South	Improvements to play area/field at Appley Lane South	Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge	Wrightington Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£2,462	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
92	Not started	Highsands Avenue Play Area	Replacement of old play area at High Sands Play Area, Rufford	Highsands Avenue play area, Rufford	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £40,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified No match funding has been identified by the proposer of this scheme, although £96,874 is available for public open space in Rufford (S106 Sluice Lane).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£40,000 has been requested to fund this project. Over £96,000 of S106 monies have been received from the Sluice Lane development which must be used to provide new / improve existing areas of public open space. It is therefore considered expedient to consider the use of S106 monies for this project, rather than CIL. Should S106 monies not be allocated to this project, then it will be put forward for CIL consideration in future.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CIL monies not required - S106 monies available	
88	Not started	Improvements to Skelmersdale employment areas	Improvements to infrastructure within Skelmersdale employment areas including entrance signage, green spaces, public realm and car parks to improve attractiveness of areas for business purposes	Skelmersdale	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New development in Skelmersdale has not created / exacerbated need for these improvements. Project does not meet a local need arising from new development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development	
84	Not started	Investment in health facilities in Burscough	Upgrade and develop services in Burscough to address locality demand constraints and infrastructure issues	Burscough	West Lancs CCG / NHS PropCo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	To be wholly funded by CCG. Final capital costs are being scoped as part of the detailed planning and option appraisal process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	No CIL funding required - will be provided by CCG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No CIL funding required
83	Not started	Redevelopment of Birleywood Health Centre	Upgrade and extension to Birleywood health centre to address locality demand constraints and infrastructure issues	Birleywood , Skelmersdale	West Lancs CCG / NHS PropCo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	To be wholly funded by CCG. Final capital costs are being scoped as part of the detailed planning and option appraisal process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No CIL funding required - will be provided by CCG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No CIL funding required	

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						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
82	Not started	Investment in health facilities in Tarleton, Hesketh Bank and Banks	Upgrade and develop services in this locality to address locality demand constraints and infrastructure issues	Tarleton, Hesketh Bank, Banks	West Lancs CCG / NHS PropCo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	To be wholly funded by CCG. Final capital costs are being scoped as part of the detailed planning and option appraisal process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No CIL funding required - will be provided by CCG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No CIL funding required
81	Not started	New allotments in Burscough	Creation of new allotment facility	Site to be confirmed, Burscough	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £30,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Consultants for YTF confirmed they intend to provide new allotments as part of the development proposals for the site. This project may be better delivered once YTF allotments have been confirmed and details are known. Subsequently, no CIL funding is required at present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CIL monies not required - likely to be delivered through YTF strategic site
66	Not started	Route management opportunities	Effective route management for HGVS as a result of the Switch Island link road	Borough wide	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Dependent on results of Route Management Strategy - not yet available.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies required
65	Not started	Skelmersdale Public Transport Connectivity and New Interchange	New bus station and interchange facilities to support cycling and links with rail facility	Town Centre, Skelmersdale	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Scheme is dependent on Skelmersdale Rail proposals which are not yet available.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies required
64	Not started	Burscough Town Centre Public Realm Improvements	Public realm improvements and shared space scheme on Liverpool Road between Mill Lane and Bobby Langton Way.	Burscough	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Proposals still being considered, so unclear at current time if, and how much, CIL monies required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies required

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
63	Not started	Yew Tree Farm to Burscough Town Centre access improvements	Provide widened footway to cater for cyclists on the west side of Liverpool Road between the new access junction (south of Higgins Lane) to Lord Street and to include pedestrian improvements at the Trevor Road signals.	Burscough	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Proposals still being considered, so unclear at current time if, and how much, CIL monies required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies required
59	Not started	New changing facilities at Bramble Way, Parbold	New changing room facilities at Bramble Way, Parbold	Parbold	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £50,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£4,801	There has been limited new development in Parbold. This project does not meet a local need arising from new development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development
50	Not started	Touring Caravan Pickup Point	New Touring Caravan pick up point at Beacon Country Park	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Does not meet a local need arising from new development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development
45	Not started	Skelmersdale rail connection	Provision of a rail connection, together with a rail/bus interchange and parkway facilities, to serve Skelmersdale, with services to both Manchester and Liverpool	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	LCC / Network Rail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Likely to be funded through LEP or DfT funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Will not require CIL funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will not require CIL funding
44	Not started	Skelmersdale Movement Strategy	Package of measures to improve connectivity throughout Skelmersdale and open up public realm	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		LCC to consider Skelmersdale Movement Strategy at a later date, subject to Skelmersdale Rail proposals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies are required

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						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
42	Not started	Cycle links between Edge Hill University and Ormskirk rail & bus stations	Upgraded pedestrian links and new cycle links between Edge Hill University and Ormskirk rail & bus station	Ormskirk & Aughton	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Potential £700k from S106 and LTP monies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		S106 monies available. CIL not required to fund this at present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S106 monies available. CIL not required to fund this at present.
39	Not started	Ormskirk bus station	Ormskirk bus station upgrade	Ormskirk town centre, Ormskirk	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £1million CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified To be funded through LTP. Several individual highway schemes are being considered as part of package. 'Moor St gateway' project has been submitted for preliminary consideration by LEP. Remains at early stage for funding under Growth Deal 3, but prudent to consider and earmark CIL.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Will not require CIL funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will not require CIL funding
36	Not started	Green lane link road	Required to remove HGV traffic off rural road network in Tarleton.	Green Lane, Tarleton	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL monies will not be required. To be funded through LTP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£2,803	CIL monies will not be required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CIL monies will not be required
34	Not started	New Allotments in Parbold	New Allotments in Parbold	Site to be confirmed, Parbold	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £30,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£4,801	Insufficient development has occurred in Parbold to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development
33	Not started	New Allotments in Newburgh	New Allotments in Newburgh	Site to be confirmed, Newburgh	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £30,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Insufficient development has occurred in Newburgh to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does not meet a local need arising from new development

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						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
32	Not started	Appley Bridge Park and Ride	Park and Ride facilities and accessibility improvements at - Appley Bridge	Appley Bridge	Network Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£2,462	Relates to Network Rail proposals to improve accessibility at stations across Greater Manchester (for example, the provision of disabled ramps). This project would therefore be the responsibility of Network Rail / TFGM to fund.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will not require CIL funding
30	Not started	New Burscough Park	New Park proposal as part of Yew Tree Farm Development	Burscough	Developers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown Developer to fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	To be provided by developer through the Yew Tree Farm development. No funding from CIL required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No funding from CIL required.
27	Not started	Burscough drainage	In addition to usual on-site SuDS, surface water removal from existing system	Burscough	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding. Where drainage infrastructure is impacted by new development, the mitigation required is addressed by the developer through the planning application.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list
25	Not started	Electrification Ormskirk - Preston; First phase Burscough Junction	Electrification of the Liverpool - Ormskirk Line to Burscough Junction to open up the Liverpool travel to work area. Second phase to extend Burscough Junction to Preston.	Burscough	LCC / Network Rail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Will not require CIL funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None. CIL monies will not be required
24	Not started	Reinstatement of Burscough Curves	Reinstatement of the Burscough Curves to Link Ormskirk - Southport - Preston.	Burscough	LCC / Network Rail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none Other funding required: unspecified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Will not require CIL funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CIL monies will not be required

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
22	Not started	Burscough library	Provision of a new library of appropriate size in central location to support additional development	Burscough	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified Provision of a library is linked to the YTF development, and to the funding available at LCC.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Responsibility over library provision lies with LCC and proposals for library provision in Burscough are still being considered. Unknown if CIL monies are required. May have some cross-over with scheme #22 which proposes shared-service buildings to delivery the library alongside other community/transport facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies required
21	Not started	Increase secondary provision in the Burscough area	Increase secondary provision in the Burscough area	Burscough	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none Other funding required: unspecified Education provision does not form part of the Borough Council's Regulation 123 list and will continue to be provided for through individual S106 contributions and planning conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list
20	Not started	Extension to Burscough primary school	Potential extension to increase a 1 form entry to a 2 form entry primary school.	Burscough	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none Other funding required: unspecified Education provision does not form part of the Borough Council's Regulation 123 list and will continue to be provided for through individual S106 contributions and planning conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?	
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?
11	Not started	Ormskirk to Burscough Linear Park	New multi use linear park providing a largely off road path linking Ormskirk to Burscough	Ormskirk to Burscough	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: none Other funding required: S106 monies from two applications totalling £229k potentially available (£100k received and committed; £129k yet to be received)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on R123 list	
4	Not started	Ormskirk Town Centre Movement Strategy	Package of measures to address congestion and movement in Ormskirk.	Borough wide	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified Several individual highway schemes are being considered as part of package. 'Moor St gateway' project has been submitted for preliminary consideration by LEP. Remains at early stage for funding under Growth Deal 3, but prudent to consider and earmark CIL.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ormskirk Town Centre Movement Strategy to be prepared in 2017/18, so no clear proposals at this time.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown if CIL monies required	
124	In progress / Funding secured	Burscough cricket club / School Lane connectivity and canal enhancement	To create a route from School Lane and the Cricket Club to the canal and on to Burscough Village Centre, and to improve the amenity of land fronting the canal to enhance canal users and visitor's enjoyment of the canalside.	Land at Cricket Club School Lane Burscough and fronting leeds-liverpool canal	Burscough Parish Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £79,000 CIL funding requested: none Other funding: £79,000 £10,000 has been secured from Tesco. The project is expected to be able to secure further funding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	This project has received the required funding through S106 monies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funded by S106
114	In progress / Funding secured	Stanley Coronation Park play area	Upgrade / extension of existing play area	Stanley Coronation Park, Skelmersdale	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £40,000 CIL funding requested: £20,000 Other funding:£20,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£20,000 of CIL funding approved Jan 2017 by Cabinet for use in 17/18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Awarded CIL funding for 2017/18. Scheme to be implemented in 2017.	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
112	In progress / Funding secured	Burscough towpath improvements	Approximately 1.3km of towpath improvements and environmental enhancement between Burscough Wharf and Glovers Swing Bridge.	Burscough	Canal & Rivers Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £180,000 CIL funding requested: £150,000 Other funding: £30,000 from CRT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Approved for funding January 2017 Cabinet. £150,000 CIL + £30,000 CRT monies to be delivered 2017/18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funding agreed Jan 2017 by Cabinet
89	In progress / Funding secured	(re) Cycle to Work Scheme	Scheme provided for Skelmersdale and Up Holland residents, working on Pimbo or White Moss employment areas, and earning under £25k per annum, to provide them with reconditioned cycles to access work/encourage sustainability	Pimbo & White Moss employment area	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Funded through S106 monies (Walkers & Maple View)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£11,500	No CIL funding required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funded through S106
74	In progress / Funding secured	Abbey Lane Playing field drainage improvements	Extensive drainage works to playing fields in Ormskirk & Burscough (Abbey Lane)	Abbey Lane, Burscough	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £240,000 CIL funding requestd: none Other funding: £240,000 Wholly funded from non-CIL revenue. £65,000 Sport England - secured £77,000 WLBC - secured £98,000 Football Foundation - secured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Scheme will be completed late Spring 2017. Full monies secured.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No CIL required. Already in progress.
73	In progress / Funding secured	Allotments in Skelmersdale	Provision of new allotment facilities in Skelmersdale	Skelmersdale	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £20,000 CIL funding requested: £20,000 Other funding: none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		CIL funding already awarded for 2016/17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funding received 2016/17
52	In progress / Funding secured	Demand Responsive Transport System	Demand Responsive Transport System serving Skelmersdale and Up Holland residents wishing to access employment on the Pimbo estate	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	WLBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	CIL monies not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		CIL funding not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funded through S106

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A				Funding costs and requirements	Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017	2017 Assessment Comments	Remove from 2017 CIL assessment?	Reason removed?
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					
43	In progress / Funding secured	Tawd Valley cycle path linking Skelmersdale with West Lancs College	Improvement to access through Tawd Valley to link Skelmersdale local neighbourhoods and West Lancashire College / town centre	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £472,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: £200,000 S106 and LCC remainder Risk that the requirements of a planning permission may escalate costs and render the scheme unaffordable under its current budget allocation. Considered prudent to submit as potential scheme for CIL funding to meet any small shortfall.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scheme funded through S106 & LCC contribution. Scheme to proceed during 2017 subject to planning consent for minor changes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be funded through S106	
8	In progress / Funding secured	Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre Phase 1	Extension and refurbishment of Mere Sands Wood visitor Centre to improve public facilities and financial sustainability of attraction. Phase 1 is to create a pre-fabricated modular buildings as a classroom and office space and new volunteer area.	Borough wide	Lancashire Wildlife Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Total cost: £80,000 CIL funding requested: £3,000 Other funding required: £77,000 £3,000 (Phase 1) - £3000 of CIL monies have been awarded in 17/18 Phase 1 - £30,000 from Green Bank Trust, £30,000 from Lancs Env Fund, remainder from an appeal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Awarded £3000 of CIL funding for 2017/18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funding already allocated	
107	In progress	Hurlston Brook Flooding Study	Various improvements to infrastructure to alleviate flooding issues - recommendation of study on Hurlston Brook. In relation to Halsall Lane, Altys Lane, Railway Path, Cottage Lane. Various locations in Ormskirk.	Hurlston Brook, Ormskirk	LCC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £1.7million CIL funding requested: none Other funding: unspecified Cannot be funded through CIL CIL monies cannot be used to fund this project. Study underway with funding from Defra including provision funding for £1.8million for (as yet) unspecified works.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This scheme is not on R123 list and so cannot be considered for CIL funding.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not on the R123 list, does not require CIL funding	

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						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?		Are costs known ?	Can it be delivered short-term?					

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
130	Not started	Martin Mere Filtration Reed Bed	Creation of a filtration reed bed. The work will require the removal of topsoil from approximately 74 acres of land, the landscaping of the site, installation of water control mechanisms, planting of reed and installation of platforms/interpretation	Langley's Farm on the Southern Boundary of Martin Mere SSSI, SPA	Martin Mere WWT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	Yes	<p>Total cost: £745,000 CIL funding requested: £200,000 (27%) Match funding: £545,00 (73%) from various sources</p> <p>Martin Mere is a SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI, making it a site of international importance for threatened bird habitats and species. Martin Mere is also a key strategic tourism site for the Borough that attracts visitors from across West Lancashire and beyond. There has been, and is planned in future, sufficient development in Burscough, and in outlying areas, to justify this scheme as a result of new development. This project, put forward under Green Infrastructure, would serve to increase biodiversity, increase countryside recreation provision and boost eco-tourism.</p> <p>However, while the project has obvious green infrastructure benefits and could boost leisure and tourism in the Borough, over two thirds of the overall project costs are made up of the value of the farmland to be converted which is already in the ownership of Martin Mere WWT and would remain in their ownership after conversion to a reed bed. While there would be a loss of financial value to the land through this conversion, it is questionable whether this value should be included as a cost against the project. Without this cost, the selling of the topsoil would more than cover the cost of the conversion to a reedbed and no CIL monies would be required.</p> <p>Therefore, while this project ticks all the right boxes in the assessment, and is correctly shortlisted, the breakdown of the costs, and therefore the need for CIL monies, must be questioned, and the value for money of spending CIL in this way must be questioned.</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
128	Not started	Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre Phase 2	Extension and refurbishment of Mere Sands Wood visitor Centre to improve public facilities and financial sustainability of attraction. Phase 2 would include creation of café & activity room and pre-fabricated modular buildings.	Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Holmeswood Road, Rufford	Lancashire Wildlife Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<p>Total cost: £250,000 CIL funding requested: £25,000 (10%) Match funding: £225,000 (90%) from various sources</p> <p>Lancashire Wildlife Trust seek £25,000 of CIL monies, comprising 10% of the total funding required to deliver this scheme. Whilst Holmeswood has seen little development, Mere Sands Wood is a strategic facility that attracts visitors from across West Lancashire and beyond. There have been developments in the surrounding area (including Burscough, Rufford and the Northern Parishes) which would justify the allocation of CIL funds to this scheme.</p> <p>£3,000 of CIL funds were awarded to the first Phase of this scheme for use in the financial year 2017/18.</p>	
113	Not started	Thompson Avenue play area improvements	Upgrade play area at Thompson Avenue public open space	Thompson Ave, Ormskirk	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<p>Total cost: £60,000 CIL funding requested: £60,000 (100%) Match funding: none</p> <p>The Thompson Avenue play area was assessed as high value and high quality in the Council's Play Strategy but there are improvements that could be made to it. The project has been proposed by the Council's Leisure Service and is deliverable by 31 March 2019. However, while Derby ward (which the play area falls within) has seen amongst the highest levels of housing development of all West Lancashire wards since 1 April 2012, the entrance to the play area is not especially close or accessible to any new development or any housing allocations or other potential housing sites. It may be more appropriate to consider this project in the future (together with the Ormskirk allotments project) once further consideration has been given to an improved access to this site.</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
111	Not started	Ormskirk allotments	Creation of new allotment site in Ormskirk	Site to be confirmed, Ormskirk	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Yes	<p>Total cost: £40,000 CIL funding requested: £40,000 (100%) Match funding: none</p> <p>This project proposes the creation of new allotment plots at Thompson Avenue / Tower Hill Road in Ormskirk, in line with the Council's Leisure Strategy. There is significant demand for more allotments in the Ormskirk area. The project is strategic, serving the whole of Ormskirk and surrounding areas where at least 750 dwellings are proposed in the Local Plan. The Council's Leisure Service anticipate they could begin to deliver the new plots from April 2018, subject to planning permission and resolution of access. It may be more appropriate to consider this project in the future (together with the Thompson Avenue Play Area project) once further consideration has been given to an improved access to this site, as it may be that an alternative site needs to be identified if a suitable access cannot be achieved.</p>	
80	Not started	New changing facilities at Whittle Drive, Ormskirk	Improvement / re-building of existing changing facility	Whittle Drive playing fields	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Yes	<p>Total cost: £80,000 CIL funding requested: £40,000 (50%) Match funding secured: £40,000 (50%) from the Football Foundation</p> <p>Whittle Drive Playing Fields are well-used but could be used more if the changing facilities were upgraded. This project seeks to deliver that upgrade at a cost of £80,000. The Council's Leisure Service have confirmed this could be delivered by 31 March 2019 if it were to receive CIL funding. £40,000 of match funding has been secured from the Football Foundation. Ormskirk has seen plenty of new development in recent years, and more is to come with the Grove Farm housing site in particular, and playing fields such as Whittle Drive serve clubs that draw players from across the town (and beyond), so CIL funding could be invested in this project. This is a considered a high priority for delivery and would allow for an extended level of club football.</p>	

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						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
70	Not started	Cheshire Lines Path	Improvements to access, signage, surfacing and interpretation.	Great Altcar/Downholland	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<p>Total cost: £40,000 CIL funding requested: £40,000 (100%) Match funding: none</p> <p>This project seeks to provide improvements to the existing strategic cycle / footpath route known as the Cheshire Lines which cuts across the south-west corner of West Lancashire providing links to Formby and Southport and to Maghull and beyond as part of a national cycle route. The Council's Leisure service has confirmed that this project could be delivered by 31 March 2019 if it were to receive CIL funding. Given its location, the project is not in the vicinity of new development, but it is a strategic route that serves a much wider area being part of a national cycle route, and is part a strategic network of cycle routes, and so CIL funding could be invested in the project.</p>	
61	Not started	Hunters Hill Country Park	Improvements to Hunters Hill Country Park	Hunters Hill, Parbold	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£4,801	Yes	<p>Total cost: £60,000 CIL requested: £60,000 Match funding: none</p> <p>Whilst the Parbold area has not seen sufficient levels of development to justify the spending of CIL monies, Hunters Hill attracts users from a wider area than just Parbold. This project would therefore meet an increased local need or demand arising from new development in the Borough in general.</p>	

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ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
58	Not started	Tawd Valley Improvements	Improvements to enhance the Tawd Valley, including improved access, recreation and landscaping improvements	Tawd Valley, Skelmersdale	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<p>Total cost: £300,000 to be confirmed through Masterplan. CIL funding required: £300,000 to help lever in match funding and start early delivery of Masterplan projects.</p> <p>This scheme would serve to deliver green infrastructure improvements to the Tawd Valley, improving access to recreation, improving biodiversity, increasing visitor numbers to Skelmersdale, encouraging the improvement of health and helping to regenerate the area. Skelmersdale has the greatest levels of development growth proposed for delivery and, with that, the need for increased public space requirements. A Masterplan is currently being prepared, but it is considered short-term delivery can be achieved due to the fact the project will be staged. This project is a high priority for the Council.</p>	
48	Not started	New changing facilities at Chequer Lane	New football changing facilities at Chequer Lane, Up Holland	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<p>Total cost: £120,000 CIL funding requested: £60,000 (50%) Match funding: £60,000 (50%) from Football Foundation</p> <p>Skelmersdale Youth Academy have accepted the lease for the site, and will provide for Skem Menaces (disability club) being accommodated on the site. Facility plans are to be drawn up with FA during 2017 for planning consent and implementation in 2018. There has been sufficient development in the area (Phase 1) with further development (Phase 2) planned in the future on the housing site at Chequer Lane.</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
131	Not started	Tanhouse bowling green	Construction of new bowling green	Tanhouse Community Centre, Ennerdale, Skelmersdale	CLlr Bob Pendleton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £85,000 CIL funding required: £50,000 (58%) Other funding required: £35,000 £32,169 of S106 available but not yet allocated to scheme.</p> <p>This project forms part of the proposals for the Tanhouse Community Leisure complex project which involves the upgrade / creation of a Leisure Complex around the Tanhouse Community Centre through the construction of a new bowling green and upgrading of outside football pitch, skate-park, teenage shelter, the multi-use games area (MUGA) and the landscape surrounds.</p> <p>However, information has been provided which splits the bowling green from the remainder of the proposals, and therefore the bowling green element has also been recorded as a separate project within this IDS, which could be delivered separately to the wider proposals.</p> <p>The bowling green proposal states that £32,169 of match funding is possible from S106 monies, and whilst these monies are available, the use of S106 monies on this project has not yet been agreed by the Council due to insufficient information on costs and delivery.</p> <p>This bid does not include sufficient information relating to future management and maintenance of the bowling green. In addition, insufficient information has been provided relating to public consultation detailing the level of public support for a bowling green in Tanhouse. The last survey relates to 2014 and may now be out of date.</p> <p>Tanhouse ward has seen the most housing development since 1 April 2012 of all Skelmersdale wards (and over half of all such development in Skelmersdale) but, even so, the actual amount of new housing is not especially large and Tanhouse is not expected to see significantly more housing development in the coming years. Given this, and the uncertainty of match-funding and deliverability, it is not recommended that this project is allocated CIL funding at this time</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
129	Not started	Burscough Bridge Station - Improvements to access	To provide a safe access to the railway station and to the Grove for public transport users and local residents, that enables people both with and without disability to access public services.	Burscough Bridge Station, Station Approach, Burscough	Burscough Parish Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	No	<p>Total cost: unknown CIL funding required: unknown Match funding: unknown</p> <p>This scheme would improve accessibility to Burscough Bridge Station, and there is justification that this scheme is needed as a result of the new development in Burscough and the surrounding areas that use the rail service. However, insufficient information has been provided about project costs and delivery to be able to currently recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19. Dependent on the level of cost, Burscough Parish Council have their own neighbourhood CIL monies which could be drawn upon to deliver (or part deliver) this project.</p>
125	Not started	Up Holland library and community meeting room	Internal re-arrangement work to provide flexible space for community facilities	Up Holland Library, Hall Green, Up Holland	Up Holland Parish Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£11,500	No	<p>Total cost: unknown CIL funding required: unknown Match funding: unknown</p> <p>LCC closed the Up Holland and Community Meeting Room in September 2016. In order to safeguard its future for the people of Up Holland, the Parish Council has submitted a formal expression of interest to take community ownership of this asset. This scheme would re-secure the community infrastructure, and there has been sufficient development in Up Holland to justify the allocation of CIL funds. At this time there is insufficient information on costs and delivery to recommend the allocation of CIL funds in 2018/19.</p>
40	Not started	Coronation Park improvements	Coronation Park - final phase of environmental and facility improvements (art, water features, stone wall repairs, flower beds)	Coronation Park, Ormskirk	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No	<p>Total cost: £30,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified</p> <p>This scheme proposes the final phase of environmental and facility improvements and seeks £30,000 of funding. At present, there is £11,000 of S106 Public Open Space funds available for use in Derby ward which could be allocated to Coronation Park, and which would then free up CIL funds for utilisation elsewhere. Delivery of this project therefore may be more suited to S106.</p>

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
120	Not started	Heathfields Connectivity and Canal Enhancement Plan	To improve access to the canal from Heathfields and to improve connectivity with shops, schools and local amenities, while enhancing the canal as a leisure facility by providing a pedestrian bridge over the canal	From canal bank at Clough Drive or Delph Avenue to Canal Towpath, Burscough	Burscough Parish Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	No	<p>Total cost:£10,000-£15,000 (feasibility study) CIL funding requested £15,000 Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>This project is to improve access to the canal from Heathfields and to improve connectivity with shops, schools and local amenities in the centre of Burscough, while enhancing the canal as a leisure facility, by providing a pedestrian bridge over the canal. The Parish Council are seeking £10,000-£15,000 initially to fund a feasibility study into the proposals, which would provide greater detail on the costs and delivery of the project. However, Burscough Parish Council are already in receipt of over £58,000 of neighbourhood CIL monies which they could use to fund the feasibility study.</p> <p>While there has been new development on the Heathfields estate recently (Ivy Close), it is not a substantial addition, but it does highlight the need to better connect Heathfields with Burscough Town Centre. The proposal would also add to the strategic Green Infrastructure and Cycling network proposed along the canal corridor. However, at this point in time, there are more deliverable and higher priority needs on this strategic canal corridor and it would be more appropriate for the Parish Council to utilise the CIL monies from the "neighbourhood" portion on the feasibility study.</p>

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
118	Not started	Tanhouse community leisure complex	Upgrade Leisure Complex around community centre through construction of new bowling green and up-grading of outside football pitch, skate park, teenage shelter, the MUGA and the landscape surrounds	Tanhouse Community Centre, Ennerdale, Skelmersdale	Cllr Pendleton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £190,000-£200,000 (dependent on option chosen) CIL funding required: £50,000 (relates to bowling green only) Match funding: £35,000 (relates to bowling green only). £32,169 of S106 available but not yet allocated to scheme</p> <p>The Tanhouse Community Leisure complex project involves the upgrade / creation of a Leisure Complex around the Tanhouse Community Centre through the construction of a new bowling green and upgrading of outside football pitch, skate-park, teenage shelter, the multi-use games area (MUGA) and the landscape surrounds.</p> <p>Information has been provided relating to the costs for the whole project. However, the bid for CIL monies relates only to the bowling green element which is costed at £85,000, with a bid for £50,000 of CIL and the remaining £35,000 to be provided through S106 / other funding sources. However, whilst the proposal states that £32,169 of match funding is possible from S106 monies, and these monies are available, the use of S106 monies on this project has not yet been agreed by the Council due to insufficient information on costs and delivery.</p> <p>The bowling green is therefore recorded as a separate project on the IDS, which could be delivered without the remainder of these proposed works. No information has been provided on CIL monies/match funding, or delivery timescales, for the leisure complex as a whole.</p> <p>This bid does not include sufficient information relating to future management and maintenance of the bowling green. In addition, insufficient information has been provided relating to public consultation detailing the level of public support for a bowling green in Tanhouse. The last survey relates to 2014 and may now be out of date.</p> <p>Tanhouse ward has seen the most housing development since 1 April 2012 of all Skelmersdale wards (and over half of all such development in Skelmersdale) but, even so, the actual amount of new housing is not especially large and Tanhouse is not expected to see significantly more housing development in the coming years. Given this, and the uncertainty of match-funding and deliverability, it is not recommended that this project is allocated CIL funding at this time</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
110	Not started	Cycle footpath linking to industrial estates in Skelmersdale (Nipe Lane to Pimbo Road)	Cycle footpaths linking to industrial estates	Nipe Lane to Pimbo Road, Skelmersdale	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £47,400 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>This project would provide a cycle footpath between Nipe Lane to Pimbo Road to link the industrial estates. The project was last costed at £47,400, however insufficient information has been provided by LCC about the delivery of this scheme to be able to currently recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19. Note also that there are £97,000 of unallocated S106 transports funds in the Up Holland parish (stemming from Chequer Lane and P&G) for use on cycling and pedestrian facilities and sustainable transport measures.</p>	
105	Not started	Burscough Library / Transport Interchange	Relocation of existing library into a larger more suitable premises. Dual project with ticketing and transport office	Station Approach, Burscough	Network Rail / LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	No	<p>Total cost:£100,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Burscough has seen sufficient levels of development, including at Ainscough Mill and Ivy Close, with further development expected in future through Yew Tree Farm and Abbey Lane. This project would meet a local need or demand arising from new development. However, insufficient information has been provided about this scheme, in relation to CIL funding required and delivery, to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>
104	Not started	Zebra crossing	Construction of a zebra crossing at junction of Aughton St / Bridge St, Ormskirk	Aughton Street, Ormskirk	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £35,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme, in relation to CIL funding required and delivery, to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
102	Not started	Off road cycle path at Whitehey Lane, Skelmersdale	Off road cycle path at roundabout linking to industrial estate and footway linking to bus stop	Whitehey Lane, Skelmersdale	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £55,300 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme, in relation to CIL funding required and delivery, to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19. Scheme will help accessibility improvement for vulnerable road users. This proposal is 5th in proposal priorities and has a high LTP score of 16.	
101	Not started	Cycle footpath linking to industrial estates in Skelmersdale (Whiteledge South to Nipe Lane)	Cycle footpaths linking to industrial estates. 2 schemes possible. Scheme A - Whiteledge South footbridge to Nipe Lane	Whiteledge South to Nipe Lane, Skelmersdale	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £79,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme, in relation to CIL funding required and delivery, to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19. Scheme ranks 2nd in proposals priorities and has a high LTP score of 18.	
100	Not started	Puffin pedestrian crossing	Construct a staggered puffin pedestrian crossing on the A570 at the junction of Derby Street West / Southport Road / Church Street	A570 at the junction of Derby Street West / Southport Road / Church Street, Ormskirk	LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: £125,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified Ormskirk has seen sufficient levels of development across the town, which arguably contribute to an increase in pedestrian and transport traffic. However, insufficient information has been provided about this scheme, in relation to the CIL funding required and delivery of the scheme, to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
96	Not started	Newburgh-Parbold Canal towpath improvements	Improvements to the towpath between Newburgh and Parbold	Newburgh	Canal & Rivers Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Minimal levels of development have taken place in Newburgh, or are anticipated for the future, but towpath forms part of the wider Pier-to-Pier route connecting Wigan with Southport and so would accommodate increased demand arising from development in outlying areas. However, insufficient information has been provided about this scheme, in relation to CIL funding required and delivery, to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>	

95	Not started	Hesketh Avenue / Aveling Drive sports pavilion	Construction of a new purpose built pavilion	Hesketh Avenue, Banks	North Meols Parish Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £150,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Banks has seen significant levels of development at Hoole Lane, Guinea Hall Ave and The Close, with further large scale development planned at the former Greaves Hall Hospital site, which would support infrastructure delivery in this area. The Parish Council have proposed the construction of a new pavilion which support sports and leisure activities for the local community. The project has been costed at £150,000 but insufficient information has been provided about the amount of CIL funding required, and anticipated delivery timescales, to be able to currently recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>
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ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
94	Not started	North Meols Community Centre renovations	Renovations for existing community centre	Hoole Lane, Banks	North Meols Parish Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £15,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Banks has seen significant levels of development at Hoole Lane, Guinea Hall Ave and The Close, with further large scale development planned at the former Greaves Hall Hospital site, which would support infrastructure delivery in this area. The Parish Council have proposed the renovations of the existing community centre to serve the local community. The project has been costed at £15,000 but insufficient information has been provided about what those renovations consist of, the amount of CIL funding required, and anticipated delivery timescales, to be able to currently recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>	
76	Not started	Burscough-Parbold Towpath Improvements	Improvement works to the towpath between Parbold and Burscough, in particular the section between Ring O'Bells Lane and Spencer's Bridge	Burscough / Parbold	Canal & Rivers Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme in relation to being able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>	
51	Not started	Skelmersdale Sports Centre	New £12 million sports centre to replace the existing sports centre	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £12 million CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>A sports centre is required for Skelmersdale and Up Holland, but proposals are still in the early stages and so this cannot be delivered in the short-term. There are insufficient CIL monies available to fund this wholly through CIL.</p>	

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
49	Not started	New Visitor Centre at Beacon Country Park	New Visitor Centre at Beacon Country Park	Skelmersdale & Up Holland	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £750,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding: unspecified</p> <p>Skelmersdale has the greatest levels of development growth proposed for delivery. This project would meet a local need or demand arising from new development. There are increased public open space requirements through development of town centre development plan and new residential developments in Whalleys area. The project cost has been estimated at £750,000 however insufficient details have been provided regarding CIL funding required, available match funding or delivery timescales to be able to recommend this project for CIL funding in the next financial year.</p>	
41	Not started	Park Pool	Replacement of, or improvements to, existing facility	Ormskirk & Aughton	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<p>Total cost: £5 million - £12 million (dependent on option) CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified</p> <p>This cannot be delivered in the short-term as proposals are still in the early stages. There are insufficient CIL monies available to currently fund this wholly through CIL.</p>	
31	Not started	Community Woodland	New community woodland to be created in Burscough	Burscough	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	No	<p>Total cost: £200,000 CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified</p> <p>Burscough has seen sufficient levels of development, including at Ainscough Mill and Ivy Close, with further development expected in future through Yew Tree Farm and Abbey Lane. This project would meet a local need or demand arising from new development. The project has been estimated at £200,000 however insufficient details have been provided regarding CIL funding required, available match funding or delivery timescales to be able to currently recommend this project for CIL funding in the next financial year.</p>

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
29	Not started	Burscough Sports Centre	The existing sports centre will be upgraded	Burscough	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£58,491	No	<p>Total cost: £5 million CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified</p> <p>This cannot be delivered in the short-term as proposals are at an early stage. There are insufficient CIL monies available to currently fund this wholly through CIL.</p>
13	Not started	Banks Linear Park	New multi use linear park providing an off road path following former railway line	Banks	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No	<p>Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified</p> <p>Sufficient development levels have occurred in Banks, including that at Guinea Hall Lane. Further development is proposed in future at the former Greaves Hall Hospital site. Major new developments in Banks will increase existing demand for improved sustainable transport options. The Council have plans to deliver a linear park although this is unlikely to be delivered in the short-term future. Feasibility studies will be required to ascertain the costs and timescales for this project. Insufficient details have been provided regarding CIL funding required, available match funding or delivery timescales to be able to recommend this project for CIL funding in the next financial year. Note that \$106 monies have been collected to be used on the linear park and will be able to comprise some of the match funding.</p>
12	Not started	Ormskirk to Skelmersdale Linear Park	New multi use linear park providing a largely off road path following route of former railway line	Ormskirk/Skelmersdale	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No	<p>Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified</p> <p>Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.</p>

ID	Status	Project name	Project description	Location	Lead Organisation	Considerations A					Considerations B		Does the Parish council have local CIL monies?	Local CIL monies available at April 2017?	Short-list for 2018/19 strategic CIL funding?	2017 Commentary
						Does the project meet a local need arising from new development?	Is it identified in strategy / policy?	Does it meet a corporate priority?	Is it an item listed on the R123 list?	Are CIL monies requested/required?	Are costs known?	Can it be delivered short-term?				
10	Not started	River Douglas Linear Park	New multi use linear park providing an off road path linking Hesketh Bank to Tarleton	Tarleton/Hesketh Bank	WLBC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Total cost: unknown CIL funding requested: unspecified Other funding required: unspecified Insufficient information has been provided about this scheme to be able to recommend this scheme for CIL funding in 2018/19.	

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CIL FUNDING PROGRAMME 2017

SHORTLISTED PROJECTS

ID 48

Project name **New changing facilities at Chequer Lane**

Location

Project description

Status

Lead agency

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need?

Is it identified in strategy / policy?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Is it an item on the R123?

Can it be delivered short-term?:

Are CIL monies requested/required?:

Are costs known?:

Remove from CIL assessment?:

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Up Holland has had sufficient levels of development completed including Chequer Lane (Phase I), with Chequer Lane (Phase II) planned for the future. New housing developments increasing demand for recreational facilities

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Type of infrastructure:

Provision of new infrastructure?

Improvement of existing?

Replacement of existing?

Operation?

Maintenance?

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Local Plan 2012-2027?

Transport and Highways?

Leisure Strategy?

Green Infrastructure?

Policy Links

Health and Wellbeing?

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Ambitious for our economy?

Ambitious for our environment?

Ambitious for health and wellbeing?

Comments:

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level

Town level

Borough level

No

Comments:

Skelmersdale / Up Holland

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Yes

Comments:

Use for all. Lease provides for disability sports club being accommodated on the site.

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Yes

Comments:

Requests from 2 separate teams to develop the facility

Can it be delivered short-term

Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Yes

Delivery within 3-5 years?

No

Delivery over 5 years?

No

Delivery unknown?

No

Comments:

Dependent on planning consent and resourcing

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Minor risks / impacts

Comments:

If project does not come forward recreational provision would be reduced.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

Club will be engaged to manage and maintain facility

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

£120,000

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: £120,000
CIL funding requested: £60,000 (50%)
Match funding: £60,000 (50%) from Football Foundation

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment CommentsTotal cost: £120,000
CIL funding requested: £60,000 (50%)
Match funding: £60,000 (50%) from Football Foundation

Skelmersdale Youth Academy have accepted the lease for the site, and will provide for Skem Menaces (disability club) being accommodated on the site. Facility plans are to be drawn up with FA during 2017 for planning consent and implementation in 2018. There has been sufficient development in the area (Phase 1) with further development (Phase 2) planned in the future on

ID 48

Project name New changing facilities at Chequer Lane

the housing site at Chequer Lane.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 58

Project name Tawd Valley Improvements

Location Tawd Valley, Skelmersdale

Project description Improvements to enhance the Tawd Valley, including improved access, recreation and landscaping improvements

Status Not started

Lead agency WLBC

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Skelmersdale has the greatest levels of development growth proposed for delivery and this project would support environmental improvements to the Tawd. This project would meet a local need or demand arising from new development. There are increased public open space requirements through development of town centre development plan and new residential developments in Whalleys area. Widespread recognition of need to regenerate Tawd and expand its use, especially in context of housing and town centre development.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Semi natural open space; strategic green infrastructure

Provision of new infrastructure? Yes

Improvement of existing? Yes

Replacement of existing? No

Operation? No

Maintenance? No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027? Yes

Transport and Highways? No

Leisure Strategy? Yes

Green Infrastructure? Yes

Policy Links IF3

Health and Wellbeing? Yes

Other? Council Plan

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy? Yes

Ambitious for our environment? Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing? Yes

Comments: Improvement to public parkland, improved healthy recreational facilities, possible specialist adventure play facilities. A Masterplan is

currently in progress which will provide the detailed information regarding provision, delivery and costs.

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level

Yes

Town level

Yes

Borough level

No

Comments:

Skelmersdale. Development of Tawd Valley vital to town's prospects

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Yes

Comments:

Access for all. Will foster economic balance in borough

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Yes

Comments:

Public consultation and development of Friends group.

Can it be delivered short-term

Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Yes

Delivery within 3-5 years?

Yes

Delivery over 5 years?

Yes

Delivery unknown?

No

Comments:

2017/18 will see public consultation, development of Masterplan, designs and costings. 2018/19 onwards will see the implementation of the project. The project will be a staged project, and different stages will commence and progress at different times.

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Minor risks / impacts

Comments:

Degradation of major public open space in Skelmersdale. Failure to regenerate the Tawd as an access route through to the town will lead to residents in new housing 'turning' to other areas outside Skem for their services/leisure, and will further dislocate the town. The Tawd is a vital piece in the jigsaw of the town's overall development.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

Management systems are currently being established but WLBC will be lead agency

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

In excess of £300,000 - Subject to Masterplan which is currently being prepared

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

ID 58

Project name

Tawd Valley Improvements

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: £300,000 to be confirmed through Masterplan.
CIL funding requested: £300,000 to help lever in match funding and start early delivery of Masterplan projects.

Additional funding may derive from external grant funding and possibly S106 funds from the development at Whalleys. Other contributions may include Env Agency £15,000 and LCC £3,000 but details unknown at this stage.

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment Comments

Total cost: £300,000 to be confirmed through Masterplan.

CIL funding required: £300,000 to help lever in match funding and start early delivery of Masterplan projects.

This scheme would serve to deliver green infrastructure improvements to the Tawd Valley, improving access to recreation, improving biodiversity, increasing visitor numbers to Skelmersdale, encouraging the improvement of health and helping to regenerate the area. Skelmersdale has the greatest levels of development growth proposed for delivery and, with that, the need for increased public space requirements. A Masterplan is currently being prepared, but it is considered short-term delivery can be achieved due to the fact the project will be staged. This project is a high priority for the Council.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 61

Project name Hunters Hill Country Park

Location Hunters Hill, Parbold

Project description Improvements to Hunters Hill Country Park

Status Not started

Lead agency WLBC

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Whilst the Parbold area has not seen sufficient levels of development, Hunters Hill accommodates tourism and use from residents in outlying areas. This project would therefore meet an increased local need or demand arising from new development.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Semi natural open space

Provision of new infrastructure?

No

Improvement of existing?

Yes

Replacement of existing?

No

Operation?

No

Maintenance?

No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027?

No

Transport and Highways?

No

Leisure Strategy?

Yes

Green Infrastructure?

No

Policy Links

IF3/EN3

Health and Wellbeing?

No

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy?

Yes

Ambitious for our environment?

Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing?

Yes

Comments:

Improves provision of public open space

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level

Yes

Town level

Yes

ID 61

Project name

Hunters Hill Country Park

Borough level

No

Comments:

Hilldale

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Yes

Comments:

Access for all

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Yes

Comments:

Through planning process and discussion with parish council

Can it be delivered short-term

Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Yes

Delivery within 3-5 years?

No

Delivery over 5 years?

No

Delivery unknown?

No

Comments:

Delivery expected in 1-2 years. WLBC own the land. Procurement of works and specifications would take 3-4 months.

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Minor risks / impacts

Comments:

Degradation of public open space if project does not come forward

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

WLBC

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

£60,000

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: unknown
CIL funding requested: £60,000
Other funding: none

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

£4,801

2017 Assessment Comments

Total cost: £60,000
CIL requested: £60,000
Match funding: none

Whilst the Parbold area has not seen sufficient levels of development to justify the spending of CIL monies, Hunters Hill attracts users from a wider area than just Parbold. This project would therefore meet an increased local need or demand arising from new development in the Borough in general.

ID 61

Project name

Hunters Hill Country Park

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 70

Project name Cheshire Lines Path

Location Great Altcar/Downholland

Project description Improvements to access, signage, surfacing and interpretation.

Status Not started

Lead agency WLBC

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Whilst Great Altcar and Downholland have not seen sufficient levels of development, the Cheshire Lines form part of a strategic route which accommodates tourism and use from residents from a wider outlying area. This project would therefore meet a local need or demand arising from new development.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Cycle network

Provision of new infrastructure? Yes

Improvement of existing? Yes

Replacement of existing? No

Operation? No

Maintenance? No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027? Yes

Transport and Highways? No

Leisure Strategy? Yes

Green Infrastructure? No

Policy Links

Health and Wellbeing? No

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy? Yes

Ambitious for our environment? Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing? Yes

Comments: Healthy outdoor cycling / walking provision. Promotes tourism.

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level Yes

Town level Yes

ID 70

Project name

Cheshire Lines Path

Borough level

Yes

Comments:

Facility will be available to all Borough and further afield through links of TransPennine Trail.

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Yes

Comments:

Access for all

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Yes

Comments:

Extensive local consultation at start of project

Can it be delivered short-term

Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Yes

Delivery within 3-5 years?

No

Delivery over 5 years?

No

Delivery unknown?

No

Comments:

Project can start in short term but will take medium term to complete

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Minor risks / impacts

Comments:

If project does not come forward, quality of provision may be reduced.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

WLBC has responsibility to maintain and manage the facility

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

£40,000

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: £40,000
CIL funding requested: £40,000 (100%)
Other funding: none

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment Comments

Total cost: £40,000
CIL funding requested: £40,000 (100%)
Match funding: none

This project seeks to provide improvements to the existing strategic cycle / footpath route known as the Cheshire Lines which cuts across the south-west corner of West Lancashire providing links to Formby and Southport and to Maghull and beyond as

ID 70

Project name

Cheshire Lines Path

part of a national cycle route. The Council's Leisure service has confirmed that this project could be delivered by 31 March 2019 if it were to receive CIL funding. Given its location, the project is not in the vicinity of new development, but it is a strategic route that serves a much wider area being part of a national cycle route, and is part a strategic network of cycle routes, and so CIL funding could be invested in the project.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 80

Project name New changing facilities at Whittle Drive, Ormskirk

Location Whittle Drive playing fields

Project description Improvement / re-building of existing changing facility

Status Not started

Lead agency WLBC

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Ormskirk has seen sufficient levels of development, and new development is in progress at Grove Farm (313 units). This project would meet a local need or demand arising from new development.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Outdoor sports facilities

Provision of new infrastructure?

No

Improvement of existing?

Yes

Replacement of existing?

No

Operation?

No

Maintenance?

No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027?

Yes

Transport and Highways?

No

Leisure Strategy?

Yes

Green Infrastructure?

No

Policy Links

Health and Wellbeing?

Yes

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy?

No

Ambitious for our environment?

Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing?

Yes

Comments:

Allows for extended level of club football. Supported by the FA.

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level Yes

Town level Yes

Borough level

No

Comments:

Ormskirk

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Yes

Comments:

Access for all

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Yes

Comments:

Discussions with football club

Can it be delivered short-term

Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Yes

Delivery within 3-5 years?

No

Delivery over 5 years?

No

Delivery unknown?

No

Comments:

Design and build can be established quickly

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Minor risks / impacts

Comments:

Degradation of existing facility if project does not come forward

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

Full maintaining lease will be for West End Football Club

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

£80,000

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: £80,000
 CIL funding requested: £40,000 (50%)
 Match funding secured: £40,000 (50%) from the Football Foundation

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment Comments

Total cost: £80,000
 CIL funding requested: £40,000 (50%)
 Match funding secured: £40,000 (50%) from the Football Foundation

Whittle Drive Playing Fields are well-used but could be used more if the changing facilities were upgraded. This project seeks to deliver that upgrade at a cost of £80,000. The Council's Leisure Service have confirmed this could be delivered by 31 March 2019 if it were to receive CIL funding. £40,000 of match funding has been secured from the Football Foundation. Ormskirk has seen plenty of new development in recent years, and more is to come with the Grove Farm housing site in particular, and

ID 80

Project name New changing facilities at Whittle Drive, Ormskirk

playing fields such as Whittle Drive serve clubs that draw players from across the town (and beyond), so CIL funding could be invested in this project. This is a considered a high priority for delivery and would allow for an extended level of club football.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 111

Project name Ormskirk allotments

Location Site to be confirmed, Ormskirk

Project description Creation of new allotment site in Ormskirk

Status Not started

Lead agency WLBC

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Ormskirk has seen sufficient levels of development. This project will meet a local need or demand arising from new development.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Allotments

Provision of new infrastructure?

Yes

Improvement of existing?

No

Replacement of existing?

No

Operation?

No

Maintenance?

No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027?

Yes

Transport and Highways?

No

Leisure Strategy?

Yes

Green Infrastructure?

Yes

Policy Links

Health and Wellbeing?

No

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy?

Yes

Ambitious for our environment?

Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing?

Yes

Comments:

Provides healthy outdoor activity and healthy food growing and improves social interaction.

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level

Yes

Town level

Yes

Borough level

No

ID 111

Project name Ormskirk allotments

Comments: Ormskirk

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality Yes

Comments: Allotment gardening tends to interest the older community which otherwise tends to be under provided for.

Has the project already benefitted from engagement No

Comments:

Can it be delivered short-term Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years? No

Delivery within 3-5 years? No

Delivery over 5 years? No

Delivery unknown? Yes

Comments: Creation/construction of site is a short term project. Approvals & legal arrangements may take some time. 12 month run in for public consultation, legal arrangements for use of land , and planning consent.

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward? Minor risks / impacts

Comments: Inability to promote this aspect of healthy living in the Ormskirk area, contrary to Council objectives. Reduction in size of Thompson Ave public open space.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents? Access to the site. Legal arrangement for use of land. Planning consent. Public consultation.

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure? Maintenance will be undertaken by an allotment society established specifically for this site.

Are project costs known? Yes

Project cost £40,000

Are CIL monies requested/required Yes

CIL / Match funding Total cost: £40,000
CIL funding requested: £40,000
Other funding: none

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment Comments

ID 111

Project name Ormskirk allotments

Total cost: £40,000
CIL funding requested: £40,000 (100%)
Match funding: none

This project proposes the creation of new allotment plots at Thompson Avenue / Tower Hill Road in Ormskirk, in line with the Council's Leisure Strategy. There is significant demand for more allotments in the Ormskirk area. The project is strategic, serving the whole of Ormskirk and surrounding areas where at least 750 dwellings are proposed in the Local Plan. The Council's Leisure Service anticipate they could begin to deliver the new plots from April 2018, subject to planning permission and resolution of access.

It may be more appropriate to consider this project in the future (together with the Thompson Avenue Play Area project) once further consideration has been given to an improved access to this site, as it may be that an alternative site needs to be identified if a suitable access cannot be achieved.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 113

Project name Thompson Avenue play area improvements

Location Thompson Ave, Ormskirk

Project description Upgrade play area at Thompson Avenue public open space

Status Not started

Lead agency WLBC

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Sufficient development levels have occurred in Ormskirk - including Ormskirk Hospital and Atkinson and Kirkby developments which are both within walking distance of Thompson Ave. Further development is underway at Grove Farm.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Play areas

Provision of new infrastructure? No

Improvement of existing? Yes

Replacement of existing? No

Operation? No

Maintenance? No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027? Yes

Transport and Highways? No

Leisure Strategy? Yes

Green Infrastructure? No

Policy Links

Health and Wellbeing? Yes

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy? No

Ambitious for our environment? Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing? Yes

Comments:

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level Yes

Town level Yes

Borough level

No

Comments:

Derby ward

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Yes

Comments:

-

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

No

Comments:

-

Can it be delivered short-term

Yes

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Yes

Delivery within 3-5 years?

No

Delivery over 5 years?

No

Delivery unknown?

No

Comments:

-

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Minor risks / impacts

Comments:

Will be unable to deliver improvements.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Insufficient local support, agreed access and use of site.

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

Will be added to WLBC maintenance schedule at approx. cost of £4000 per annum.

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

£60,000

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: £60,000
CIL funding requested: £60,000
Other funding: none

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment CommentsTotal cost: £60,000
CIL funding requested: £60,000 (100%)
Match funding: none

The Thompson Avenue play area was assessed as high value and high quality in the Council's Play Strategy but there are improvements that could be made to it. The project has been proposed by the Council's Leisure Service and is deliverable by 31 March 2019. However, while Derby ward (which the play area falls within) has seen amongst the highest levels of housing development of all West Lancashire wards since 1 April 2012, the entrance to the play area is not especially close or accessible

ID 113

Project name Thompson Avenue play area improvements

to any new development or any housing allocations or other potential housing sites. It may be more appropriate to consider this project in the future (together with the Ormskirk allotments project) once further consideration has been given to an improved access to this site.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 128

Project name Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre Phase 2

Location Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Holmeswood Road, Rufford

Project description Extension and refurbishment of Mere Sands Wood visitor Centre to improve public facilities and financial sustainability of attraction. Phase 2 would include creation of café & activity room and pre-fabricated modular buildings.

Status Not started

Lead agency Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Mere Sands Wood covers 42 hectares of diverse habitat and species. It is an SSSI. It serves to provide facilities for people to visit and enjoy wildlife, whilst protecting and conserving biodiversity. Mere Sands Wood is an important wildlife site, and serves biodiversity and ecological tourism for the residents of the Borough and outlying areas. Therefore, this project would support development across West Lancashire by providing a site for wildlife to thrive and mitigating some of the impacts of development.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Strategic green infrastructure. Community facility.

Provision of new infrastructure? Yes

Improvement of existing? Yes

Replacement of existing? Yes

Operation? No

Maintenance? No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027? No

Transport and Highways? No

Leisure Strategy? Yes

Green Infrastructure? Yes

Policy Links EN3, IF3

Health and Wellbeing? Yes

Other?

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy? Yes

Ambitious for our environment? Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing? Yes

Comments:

Phase 2 will create 3.6 jobs; 3 FTE posts in the cafe and one part time community engagement officer post. It will also enhance the reserve as a visitor attraction, bringing in visitors and income from outside West Lancashire.

The income from the cafe will help safeguard the long term future of the nature reserve, ensuring it can continue to be managed for the benefit of wildlife and the natural environment.

Ensuring the reserve's financial sustainability will mean it will continue to be a place where people have the opportunity to enjoy a tranquil outdoor green space and connect with the natural world, which has proven benefits for mental wellbeing.

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level

Town level

Borough level

Comments:

Visitors travel to the site from across Lancashire and further afield. A survey in 2015 recorded that 15% of visitors travelled more than 20 miles to visit the reserve, and 5% travelled more than 30 miles.

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Comments:

The reserve has excellent access for people with impaired mobility, with well-surfaced level paths. The new building will add improved indoor facilities for people with disabilities.

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Comments:

- Two public open events at the Visitor Centre
- Presentation to Rufford Parish Council (who have provided a letter of support).
- Pre-application meeting with WLBC Planning Department

Can it be delivered short-term

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Delivery within 3-5 years?

Delivery over 5 years?

Delivery unknown?

Comments:

Subject to funding, we plan to start the project in FY 2018/19 and complete no later than FY 2019/2020.

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Comments:

Visitor facilities and staff accommodation at Mere Sands Wood may have to close if not renewed, and if new sources of income (ie the cafe) cannot be found to sustain the operation and management of the nature reserve.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

A visitor survey was carried out in 2015 which demonstrated a high level of support for the project and also a potential high level of use of the cafe facilities. 64% of visitors surveyed said they would definitely use a cafe at Mere Sands Wood; there are 84,000 visits a

year, so this represents a good potential market.

The Wildlife Trust's project steering group (which includes the Trust's Finance Director and the General Manager of our large Brockholes visitor centre) has produced a business plan which demonstrates the feasibility of this project.

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

Planning permission will be required; an application will be submitted in 2017.
Funding will be required; we have a funding strategy in place and are currently preparing applications.

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Planning permission secured by autumn 2017
Funding secured by autumn 2018.
Work completed in 2019.

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

Lancashire Wildlife Trust will maintain the building from its own funds

Are project costs known?

Yes

Project cost

Total: £250,000
Groundworks - £10,000
Services - £12,000
Sewage treatment plant - £20,000
Pre-fabricated modular building - £180,000
Acoustic room divider - £10,000
Furnishings, equipment, kitchen fit out - £12,000
Landscaping & outdoor - £5000

Are CIL monies requested/required

Yes

CIL / Match funding

Total cost: £250,00
CIL funding requested: £25,000
Other funding: £225,000

CIL - £25,000 (10%)
Remainder - £225,000 to be provided through other bids/grants/funds. See file for provided breakdown.

Note: LWT cannot apply for funding from Landfill Community Funds and charitable trusts until we have secured planning permission; hence most funding is "proposed". LWT will apply for more funding than we need as it is unlikely that all funding applications will be successful; the total percentages add up to 114% of the amount required.

Has the parish council received Local CIL?

Total held by parish council at April 2017:

2017 Assessment Comments

ID 128

Project name Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre Phase 2

Total cost: £250,000
CIL funding requested: £25,000 (10%)
Match funding: £225,000 (90%) from various sources

Lancashire Wildlife Trust seek £25,000 of CIL monies, comprising 10% of the total funding required to deliver this scheme. Whilst Holmeswood has seen little development, Mere Sands Wood is a strategic facility that attracts visitors from across West Lancashire and beyond. There have been developments in the surrounding area (including Burscough, Rufford and the Northern Parishes) which would justify the allocation of CIL funds to this scheme.

£3,000 of CIL funds were awarded to the first Phase of this scheme for use in the financial year 2017/18.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

ID 130

Project name Martin Mere Filtration Reed Bed

Location Langley's Farm on the Southern Boundary of Martin Mere SSSI, SPA

Project description Creation of a filtration reed bed. The work will require the removal of topsoil from approximately 74 acres of land, the landscaping of the site, installation of water control mechanisms, planting of reed and installation of platforms/interpretation.

Status Not started

Lead agency Martin Mere WWT

Project partners

Does the project meet a local need? Yes

Is it identified in strategy / policy? Yes

Does it meet a corporate priority? Yes

Is it an item on the R123? Yes

Can it be delivered short-term?: Yes

Are CIL monies requested/required?: Yes

Are costs known?: Yes

Remove from CIL assessment?: No

Does the project meet a local need or demand that has arisen or been exacerbated by new development?

Yes

How would the project support or enable growth or planned development in West Lancashire?

Burscough has seen sufficient levels of development, including at Ainscough Mill and Ivy Close, with further development expected in future through Yew Tree Farm and Abbey Lane. This project would meet a local need or demand arising from new development. The project would also serve to increase local biodiversity, countryside recreation provision and boost eco-tourism.

Is it a project listed on the R123 list?

Yes

Type of infrastructure:

Strategic green infrastructure - natural open space

Provision of new infrastructure? Yes

Improvement of existing? No

Replacement of existing? No

Operation? No

Maintenance? No

Is the project identified in strategy / policy

Yes

Local Plan 2012-2027? Yes

Transport and Highways? No

Leisure Strategy? No

Green Infrastructure? Yes

Policy Links SP1, SP3, GN3, EN2, EN3, EC

Health and Wellbeing? No

Other? WLBC Council Plan 2016-201

Does it meet a corporate priority?

Yes

Ambitious for our economy? Yes

Ambitious for our environment? Yes

Ambitious for health and wellbeing? Yes

Comments: The new reed bed will help support biodiversity and enhance the role of Martin Mere as an SPA and SSSI. The new reed bed can also

be used to support economic growth in the Parish of Burscough in that it will make Martin Mere perhaps the most iconic nature reserve in the north of England, thus increasing tourism to the area. Martin Mere is already worth over £5 million to the local economy every year and this reed bed will increase that worth. Up to 150,000 eco tourists visit the RSPB site at Leighton Moss, on Morecambe Bay, every year. They do this to see breeding birds such as Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit, which currently Martin Mere does not attract. A new reed bed would attract these species and therefore also attract many more visitors to the site, with many birdwatchers from the big cities in Northern England not having to travel for an extra hour to Leighton Moss to see these birds.

What level will improvements be delivered at?

Local level

Town level

Borough level

Comments:

Local (yew tree farm estate), Town (Burscough) and Borough – due to facility being used by people as a place for countryside recreation exercise.

Town and Borough wide, through increasing tourism to the area and thus increasing the need for tourism support service industries (more beds taken up in hotels/B&Bs, more cafes/restaurants/local shops being used by visitors).

Does the proposal have a positive impact on equality

Comments:

Has the project already benefitted from engagement

Comments:

Discussions have been held with members of Burscough Parish Council, WLBC, Environment Agency, United Utilities and The Healthy Rivers trust

Can it be delivered short-term

Delivery within 1-2 years?

Delivery within 3-5 years?

Delivery over 5 years?

Delivery unknown?

Comments:

We would like to see the project commence in financial year 18-19 and be completed by 20/21.

Are there any risks if this project does not come forward?

Comments:

Opportunities for recreation, improving the local economy and increasing local biodiversity will be lost.

Has any work been undertaken to assess the feasibility of the project?

Yes, an outline plan for a reed bed has been prepared and an assessment of the value of the top soil

Are there any risks to delivery? Is it reliant on other projects or consents?

The project is reliant on planning permission and ensuring that a large part can be paid for through other sources i.e. the sale of topsoil that will be removed to create the reed bed and

ID 130

Project name

Martin Mere Filtration Reed Bed

grants/sponsorship from other organisations such as the Environment Agency

Provide key milestones/tasks for the project:

Who will be responsible for future management and maintenance of the infrastructure?

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Are project costs known?

Project cost

Yes

TOTAL = £745,000

Value of farmland being converted (already purchased) - £500,000
Reedbed work (see bid) - £110,000
Reed planting - £100,000
Hides - £30,000
Interpretation - £5,000

Are CIL monies requested/required

CIL / Match funding

Yes

Total cost: £745,000
CIL funding requested: £200,000
Other funding: £545,000

CIL - £200,000 (bid submitted)
Grant - £95,000 (proposed)
Selling of topsoil - £450,000 (estimated based on sale from previous similar project)

Has the parish council received Local CIL?



Total held by parish council at April 2017:

£58,491

2017 Assessment Comments

Total cost: £745,000
CIL funding requested: £200,000 (27%)
Match funding: £545,00 (73%) from various sources

Martin Mere is a SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI, making it a site of international importance for threatened bird habitats and species. Martin Mere is also a key strategic tourism site for the Borough that attracts visitors from across West Lancashire and beyond. There has been, and is planned in future, sufficient development in Burscough, and in outlying areas, to justify this scheme as a result of new development. This project, put forward under Green Infrastructure, would serve to increase biodiversity, increase countryside recreation provision and boost eco-tourism.

However, while the project has obvious green infrastructure benefits and could boost leisure and tourism in the Borough, over two thirds of the overall project costs are made up of the value of the farmland to be converted which is already in the ownership of Martin Mere WWT and would remain in their ownership after conversion to a reed bed. While there would be a loss of financial value to the land through this conversion, it is questionable whether this value should be included as a cost against the project. Without this cost, the selling of the topsoil would more than cover the cost of the conversion to a reedbed and no CIL monies would be required.

Therefore, while this project ticks all the right boxes in the assessment, and is correctly shortlisted, the breakdown of the costs, and therefore the need for CIL monies, must be questioned, and the value for money of spending CIL in this way must be questioned.

Shortlisted for potential funding in 2018/19?

Yes

Richards, Peter

To: Richards, Peter
Subject: RE: CIL Funding Programme - All Member Briefing - 10th July 2017

From: Richards, Peter
Sent: 01 August 2017 12:22
To: Pendleton, Councillor Bob <Cllr.BPendleton@westlancs.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CIL Funding Programme - All Member Briefing - 10th July 2017

Cllr Pendleton,

Thank you for your comments on the project assessments for the CIL Funding Programme.

In relation to the Tanhouse Community Enterprise proposals, the assessment of the two projects reflect that these could be beneficial facilities, but that does not necessarily mean that they will meet all the assessment criteria for the spending of CIL monies.

With regard the wider proposals for the leisure complex, the information provided to the Council clearly shows that not all the funding for the project has been identified and so there can be no certainty that, were the Council to allocate CIL monies toward the project, the project would actually go ahead in the next couple of years. As such, under the assessment criteria, this project cannot be shortlisted.

With regard the construction of the bowling green specifically, as a project in its own right, the information submitted to the Council shows that the combination of CIL monies and S106 monies identified would enable the delivery of the bowling green, and this is not in question. However, the S106 monies would only be allocated to the project if the Council are satisfied that the bowling green would be maintained in perpetuity. The advice from colleagues in the Council's Leisure Service is that no information has been provided that shows that there is a maintenance plan in place or how it will be funded. Ultimately, this would be a key concern for the Council in allocating S106 or CIL monies, as it would be an inappropriate use of funds to deliver a new bowling green only for it to fall into disrepair and become unusable because of a lack of proper maintenance. As such, the bowling green project could also not be shortlisted by the assessment.

In relation to your comments on the amount of development in Tanhouse, CIL is to be used to deliver infrastructure needed to support development in the Local Plan. The Local Plan has a base date of 1 April 2012 and, since that date, only 68 new dwellings have been completed in Tanhouse ward. While this is the highest of any Skelmersdale ward, compared to other parts of the Borough it is a relatively small amount and, unlike other areas, Tanhouse has no housing allocations or other sizeable sites likely to come forward for development in the near future.

However, this is not to say that the level of development in Tanhouse does not potentially justify the spending of CIL monies on a relevant project such as a bowling green (as the assessment of the project does conclude that the project would meet a local need arising from new development) but it is relevant, in the overall consideration of projects on the IDS, to have regard to whether other areas have seen, or will see, more development and so may have a greater need for infrastructure that CIL monies could be spent on.

Thank you again for your comments, and I hope the above adds to the explanation as to why the projects you refer to have not been shortlisted through the assessment process.

Kind regards,
Peter

Peter Richards *MTCP DipHE MRTPI*
Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager
West Lancashire Borough Council

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Mob: 07795 541190

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From: Pendleton, Councillor Bob
Sent: 30 July 2017 18:59
To: Richards, Peter <Peter.Richards@westlancs.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CIL Funding Programme - All Member Briefing - 10th July 2017

Hi Peter

Tanhouse Community Enterprise Cill bid for Bowling green and upgrade All-weather pitch MUGA Youth Shelter and Landscaping.

You say that the is insufficient Information on this I have submitted Three Bids and I have provide this information Each time . The Enterprise will be responsible for the delivery of the project. I Engaged J Mallison who has provide me with Quote that is Attached to my Cill bid. Length of Time for project Approx. 4 months. I Accept the survey might be out of date but when I speak to the people who come in to the centre And the Wider Community I do not get any negative response,(I notice that no survey were done on The Green Lane Bowling Green or the Cricket Club) On the 106 Moneys as ward Member The Council have asked me to submit Project that the Money can be spent on my view is spend it on the Bowling Green.

You say that Tanhouse has Seen the most houses built in Skem but then be-little it by saying That it not Especially Large Some 400 house Built that Adds about 20% in total Housing stock In Tanhouse, Plus the Delph plot has just been sold with Planning permission that could bring more development to Tanhouse.

Regards the Maintenance Of the Green T C E will work with users of the Green to Manage the day today Running this can be done by membership fees and charging for use off the green.

I attach some more reasons why the Cill money Should be Spent on this Project

More Community Cohesion between the generation of Young and Old. Reduction in A S Bs, Improvement in users Health

Better Partnership working,

Public opinion surveys have shown that people living in deprived areas are just as concerned about the environment as other people, and listed pollution, poor public transport and lack of out door facilitys in their neighbourhoods as major concerns (Social Exclusion Unit, 1998). By re-energising local "landscape grot spots" this will make a difference to the whole environment as it will encourage people living there to be involved It has also been proven that a poor environment can affect the health and wellbeing of the residents living in it. In clue-ding the Fear Of Crime

It will all so give the older people insight in to what makes young People tick. And problems /issue the young face on daily base

The More we engage with the Young People the more we can help them though the issues

Communication

Through the local press, local community newsletters, sent out in school letters.

Including resident living in the Neighbourhood, User groups of the community centres, members of local faith groups, the Police, Lancs Fire and Rescue, the local Housing provider, Age Concern, Officers from both local authorities including Young Peoples services, this group can be used as a way of communicating information both from and into the community. The Board will also run information days this will also be used to cascade information about this project into the wider community

DETAIL HOW YOU WILL FUND THE PROJECT IN FUTURE YEARS.

Charges to be developed in conjunction with user groups and Tanhouse Community Enterprise Board

The Board alongside the community Volunteers and members of the bowling club with support from West Lancs B C will be responsible for maintaining the Project Following Completion

From: Richards, Peter

Sent: 11 July 2017 11:20

To: Councillors

Cc: Harrison, John; Gill, Ian; Hatch, Helen; Councillor J Hodson

Subject: RE: CIL Funding Programme - All Member Briefing - 10th July 2017

Dear Councillors,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the CIL Funding Programme Briefing last night – I hope you found it helpful and informative.

As promised at the Briefing, please find attached four documents for you to consider:

- The presentation from last night's briefing
- The information about projects withdrawn from further consideration for CIL Funding in 2018/19 based on the first three "requisite" criteria of the assessment process
- The information about all other projects on the IDS, which have been assessed further as to their suitability for CIL Funding in 2018/19 based on all eight criteria of the assessment process
- More detailed information on the nine shortlisted projects identified in that assessment, which performed well against the first six criteria in particular.

If you have any comments on the assessment undertaken thus far, please provide them via email to me by **Monday 31st July**, so that officers can consider those comments and amend the assessment as appropriate before making recommendations on the options for the CIL Funding Programme 2018/19 to Cabinet in September.

There was also a request for information regarding further information on CIL receipts and expenditure, particularly in relation to the 15% "neighbourhood" or Parish portion, and regarding S106 monies received by the Council. The [2017 Annual Monitoring Report](#) contains a summary of CIL receipts and expenditure, as well as details of those neighbourhood monies passed to Parish Councils. The report also contains a breakdown of S106 monies by ward, including those monies available for allocation on suitable projects. Copies of Parish Council CIL Annual Reports can be found at <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy/cil-receipts-and-expenditure/annual-reports.aspx>

If you have any queries on any of the above or attached, please don't hesitate to call me or email me.

Kind regards,
Peter

Peter Richards MTCP DipHE MRTPI
Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager
West Lancashire Borough Council

Tel: 01695 585046
Mob: 07795 541190

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52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF

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From: Richards, Peter
Sent: 03 July 2017 13:52
To: Councillors <Councillors@westlancs.gov.uk>
Cc: Harrison, John <John.Harrison@westlancs.gov.uk>; Gill, Ian <Ian.Gill@westlancs.gov.uk>; Hatch, Helen <helen.hatch@westlancs.gov.uk>
Subject: CIL Funding Programme - All Member Briefing - 10th July 2017

Dear Councillor,

I just wanted to remind you about the All Member Briefing next Monday (10th July) on the CIL Funding Programme.

It will start at 6pm in the Council Chamber.

I hope to see you there.

Kind regards,
Peter

Peter Richards MTCP DipHE MRTPI
Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager
West Lancashire Borough Council

Tel: 01695 585046
Mob: 07795 541190

West Lancashire Borough Council,
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF

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Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Transformation	Service: Planning
Completed by: Peter Richards	Date: 14 July 2017
Subject Title: Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Programme 2018/19	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	No <i>*delete as appropriate</i>
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	Yes
Is a programme or project being planned:	Yes
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	Yes
Details of the matter under consideration:	The approval of public consultation on the proposed funding priorities for spending CIL monies in 2018/19.
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i></p> <p><i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>	
2. RELEVANCE	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	Yes/No* <i>*delete as appropriate</i>
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>	-
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>	-
3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	CIL provides funding to provide or improve infrastructure required as a result of new development and growth in the Borough. CIL expenditure will benefit the residents and

	<p>businesses within the Borough by delivering improvements to infrastructure. Infrastructure projects, identified as suitable for expenditure in 2018/19, have been shortlisted from the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS). The IDS has been compiled through consultation with infrastructure providers. Some schemes on the IDS will need to be delivered in partnership with the infrastructure providers and their deliverability, timescales and costs have been a consideration in identifying project priorities.</p>
<p>If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?</p>	<p>This report seeks approval to consult on the proposed funding priorities for spending CIL monies in 2018/19 but does not seek to make any final recommendations at this stage. Such recommendations will be made following receipt and consideration of consultation responses.</p> <p>The schemes proposed for funding serve to provide or make improvements to public open space, sports facilities and allotments in the Borough which arise as a result of new development. Such projects will be prepared in acknowledgement of equality and diversity to ensure that all groups may access the schemes.</p> <p>Consultation on the proposed schemes for delivery will be available to all, and materials may be accessed online, in libraries and council offices. Materials will be available in large print or translated into other languages upon request. Publicity will be undertaken through a range of media to ensure that protected characteristics groups have the opportunity to respond.</p>
<p>Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out?</p> <p>Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>*delete as appropriate</i></p> <p>Yes Yes Yes Yes No No No No No</p>
<p>4. DATA ANALYSIS</p>	
<p>In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?</p>	<p>All groups must be given an equal opportunity to respond to consultation.</p> <p>Service-users will include, but not be limited to, members of the public, sports groups and local</p>

	community groups.
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	Residents of the Borough will be given the opportunity to respond to consultation on which infrastructure schemes should be funded through CIL monies in 2018/19 and whether any CIL monies should be retained and carried into future years to fund costlier schemes.
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	This consultation will seek to gather people's views on infrastructure schemes. Comments will be considered in preparing the final recommendations for CIL expenditure in 2018/19.
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	An equality survey form will be attached to all comments forms, although will not be a mandatory requirement for respondents to complete in order for their comments to be accepted. Any completed equality surveys will be analysed and reported on.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	-
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	<p>This report seeks approval to undertake public consultation on the proposals for CIL expenditure in 2018/19. It does not seek to make any final recommendations at this stage.</p> <p>Public consultation will provide the opportunity for people with particular protected characteristics to respond on any issues that may potentially affect them should any of the IDS projects be brought into fruition.</p>
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	Any negative impacts identified through the public consultation will be considered and action taken to mitigate.
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	- <i>If no actions are planned state no actions</i>
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	Consultation will be undertaken on an annual basis, in line with the CIL Governance

	<p>Framework. Consultation methods will be reviewed annually. All comments we received will be considered in preparing the final recommendations for CIL expenditure in 2018/19. A feedback report will be prepared and published following consultation to document how we have considered all comments and any changes made as a result.</p>
--	--



CABINET: 12 September 2017

COUNCIL: 18 October 2017

Report of: Director of Development and Regeneration

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson

Contact for further information: Mr Peter Richards (Extn. 5046)
(E-mail: peter.richards@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER AND PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Cabinet of new Regulations which impose a requirement on the Council to prepare and maintain a Brownfield Land Register, the consequences of placing land on Part 2 of that Register, the resulting implications for the Council and to make provision in the Council's constitution for effective decision making.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That authority is delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to publish, review and maintain Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register and to propose land for inclusion in Part 2 of the Register.

2.2 That authority is delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration to carry out all necessary publication, notification and consultation procedures pursuant to recommendation 2.1 above.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

3.1 That the following functions are delegated to the Planning Committee:

3.1.1 Power to approve sites for entry into Part 2 of the Brownfield Land Register and so grant Permission in Principle;

- 3.1.2 Power to decline to approve sites for entry into Part 2 of the Brownfield Land Register;
 - 3.1.3 Power to determine applications for Permission in Principle; and
 - 3.1.4 Power to determine applications for Technical Details Consent.
- 3.2 That authority is fully delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration to determine applications for Technical Details Consent.
-

4.0 NEW LEGISLATION

4.1 In April 2017 the following two new pieces of legislation came into force:

- The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 (to be referred to as “the Regulations” in this report) - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/403/contents/made>
- The Town and Country Planning (Permission in Principle) Order 2017 (to be referred to as “the Order” in this report) - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/402/made>

4.2 The Regulations require local planning authorities to prepare and maintain a Brownfield Land Register of previously developed land in their area which meet four criteria related to residential development and to publish their first such Register by 31st December 2017. The Register should have two parts. Part 1 includes all previously developed land in the local planning authority’s area that meets the following four criteria:

- (a) the land has an area of at least 0.25 hectares or is capable of supporting at least 5 dwellings;
- (b) the land is suitable for residential development;
- (c) the land is available for residential development; and
- (d) residential development of the land is achievable.

The criteria are defined further in Regulation 4, with the terms “suitable”, “available” and “achievable” specifically defined to aid the local planning authority in discerning which sites should be included on the Register.

4.3 Part 2 of the Register is a subset of Part 1. Part 2 will comprise only those sites in Part 1 that the LPA has decided that the land would be suitable for a grant of "Permission in Principle" (PiP) for residential development under Article 4 of the Order. PiP is similar to an outline planning permission in that further details must be submitted to and approved by the Council before any development can proceed, although only very basic details of the development proposal are required at PiP stage, including a red-line boundary plan for the site and a range for the number of housing units that the site could accommodate.

- 4.4 In order to include a site in Part 2, the local planning authority must first comply with Regulations 6 to 13 of the Regulations in that it must publicise, notify and consult on the intention to include sites in Part 2. The Regulations include exemptions for certain types of land where residential development of that land would be Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 development under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011.
- 4.5 When deciding which sites to enter on the Register and exercising their functions under the Regulations a local planning authority must have regard to the Development Plan, national policies and advice and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the purpose of the Regulations.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THAT NEW LEGISLATION

- 5.1 The Council has an obligation to prepare a Brownfield Land Register and update it at least once a year. In doing so, it must consider whether to place any of the sites in Part 1 of the Register on Part 2, and in so doing grant PiP to those sites. This new requirement is not especially onerous, even with the consultation requirements associated with Part 2 of the Register, but it does introduce a new burden on the Council, for which a New Burdens Grant has been given to the Council.
- 5.2 The Council will need to ensure its constitution provides for effective decision-making under the Regulations and the Order and some of the time periods for decisions are very short. The decision to grant planning permission is a non-executive function under the Local Authorities (Functions & Responsibilities) Regulations 2000, and the new Regulations provide for an amendment to the 2000 Regulations to the effect that the decision to enter sites on Part 2 of the Register is a non-executive function, as entering sites on Part 2 grants those sites PiP. The authority for making decisions on traditional planning applications rests with the Planning Committee, and so this report recommends to Council that the starting point for decision-making on those sites to be entered on Part 2 of the Register should be delegated to the Planning Committee.
- 5.3 Once sites have been entered on to Part 2 of the Register and have PiP, it is possible for applicants to bring forward applications for Technical Details Consent. Technical Details Consent (TDC) would be similar to the approval of reserved matters following the grant of outline planning permission.
- 5.4 The new procedures under the Regulations and the Order will ultimately create additional work for the Council in considering those sites that should be placed on the Register and dealing with any applications for TDC. There is a need to consider appropriate delegations for dealing with TDC applications given the short timescales required by the Order to determine such applications (10 weeks for a major development and 5 weeks for a development not considered to be major, compared to 13 weeks and 8 weeks respectively for a standard planning application), especially given that the implication of not determining TDC applications within the required timescales is that they will automatically be granted.

- 5.5 Further to the above, it is expected that, in due course, there will be two other routes created to granting PiP. The first will be through the allocation of sites in a Local Plan document, where local planning authorities will be able to choose to grant PiP to sites allocated in a newly adopted Local Plan document if they wish. The second will be through independent applications for PiP for non-major development made to local planning authorities.

6.0 PROPOSED ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The preparation of the Brownfield Land Register (Parts 1 and 2), the publication of Part 1 and the consultation on proposals to include sites on Part 2 are all executive functions and are the subject of the recommendations to Cabinet in this report
- 6.2 It was hoped that a proposed Part 1 of the Register would be available for Cabinet to approve as part of this report, but DCLG only made Authorities aware in July of the very specific way in which they will require all Brownfield Land Registers to be published as part of their open data agenda, and the requirements will involve a significant level of work for authorities to prepare their first Register. As such, only a draft version in the Council's own format can be shared for information with Cabinet at the current time (see Appendix A).
- 6.3 This draft includes 32 previously developed sites that have been assessed as suitable and available for residential development, of which 21 already have planning permission or benefit from a Local Development Order. These must automatically be placed on Part 1 of the Register. The remaining 11 sites do not currently benefit from a planning permission (although one is the subject of a current application and several have recently expired permissions) but have been assessed against the four criteria listed at paragraph 4.2 above and found to be deliverable for residential development within the next 15 years. This draft gives an idea of what Part 1 of the Register will include in its first edition this year. By comparison, only 8 previously developed sites were assessed as not suitable and/or not available for residential development and have been excluded from the draft Part 1 of the Register.
- 6.4 Aside from DCLG's requirements for publication, the preparation of Part 1 of the Register is fairly straight forward, drawing from the Council's existing information on previously developed land contained within the Council's databases of sites with planning permission and from the Council's Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) which is updated each year and supported by frequent Call for Sites exercises. As such, the preparation and publication of Part 1 of the Register is not controversial and simply a reflection of facts and information available to the Council. To this end, recommendation 2.1 includes for the delegation of the authority to publish Part 1 of the Register each year to the Director of Development and Regeneration.
- 6.5 Government guidance indicates that local planning authorities should consider the suitability of all relevant sites on their Register for a grant of PiP, taking into account relevant policies in the development plan and other material considerations. A decision on whether to grant PiP to a site must be made in accordance with relevant policies in the development plan unless there are

material considerations, such as those in the National Planning Policy Framework and national guidance, which indicate otherwise.

- 6.6 The decision to include sites on part 2 of the Register, based on the sites included in the Part 1 of the Register as proposed, would be relatively uncontroversial, as all the sites would, in principle, be acceptable for residential development under the current Local Plan and be likely to gain outline planning permission if applied for. Therefore, recommendation 2.2 also includes for the delegation of the authority to consult on Part 2 of the Register, and on those sites to be entered on Part 2 of the Register, to the Director of Development and Regeneration.
- 6.7 With regard to the decision to enter sites into Part 2 and so grant PiP to those sites, it is considered that the final decision on this should be delegated by Council to the Planning Committee.
- 6.8 The requirements for a valid TDC application are the same as those for an application for full planning permission. A fee is payable for applications for TDC. An application for TDC must be decided in accordance with the terms of the permission in principle granted for the site. The requirements that apply to decisions on other types of application for planning permission also apply. When granting PiP to a site, local planning authorities can provide information on the relevant entry on the Register about what they expect the detailed proposals to include at the TDC stage.
- 6.9 In relation to making decisions regarding applications for TDC on sites granted PiP, it is recommended that decision-making on TDC applications is fully delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration due to the short timescales for determining such applications (10 weeks for major developments and 5 weeks for non-major developments) and so these applications will not be able to be called-in by, or referred to, Planning Committee.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 7.1 The creation of a Brownfield Land Register is intended to facilitate the development of previously developed sites for residential uses where appropriate by, in essence, fast-tracking them through the planning process. To this end, the re-use of previously developed sites for new development, in principle, is sustainable and any negative implications of such a development should either be planned out through the TDC application process or the site should not even make it onto Part 1 of the Register in the first place.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The preparation and publication of a Brownfield Land Register, in itself, does not create a particular financial or resource implication for the Council, particularly as the Council has been awarded £14,645 in New Burdens monies from DCLG to cover the costs of the first Brownfield Land Register. (Local planning authorities will receive further grant payments from DCLG for the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 Brownfield Land Registers; the amount of funding for these years is yet

to be determined.) However, there may well be financial and resource implications of Permission in Principle, in particular applications for Technical Details Consent, unless new guidance / legislation that is yet to be published allows local planning authorities to charge for dealing with such applications (and that charge covers the costs of dealing with those applications).

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 There is minimal risk with the preparation and publication of Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register and only a slight risk with preparing and publishing a Part 2 of the Register, other than the potential financial and resource implications discussed above in relation to dealing with applications for Technical Details Consent.

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 Cabinet are being asked to make is simply related to the delegation of authority in relation to Brownfield Land Registers and so there is no direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register 2017 (Council's format)
Appendix B – Minute of Cabinet 12 September 2017 (Council only) – to follow

REF: WL002

Site Name	Former Hope High School, Tanhouse Road
Site Address	Former Hope High School, Tanhouse Road Skelmersdale WN8 9DP
Grid Ref	350304 405598
Gross Size Ha	1.8

Latest Planning Application	2002/0570
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.178
Planning Status	Not Permitted
Construction Status	Not Permitted

Constraints/ Info	Site submitted as part of the 2015 call for sites; site previously parked on account of its open space (WLLP policy EN3) designation, however there is potential to develop part of the site for residential purpose and retain an element of public open space.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Other Public		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	54	Max Capacity	54
To be included on the register	Yes		

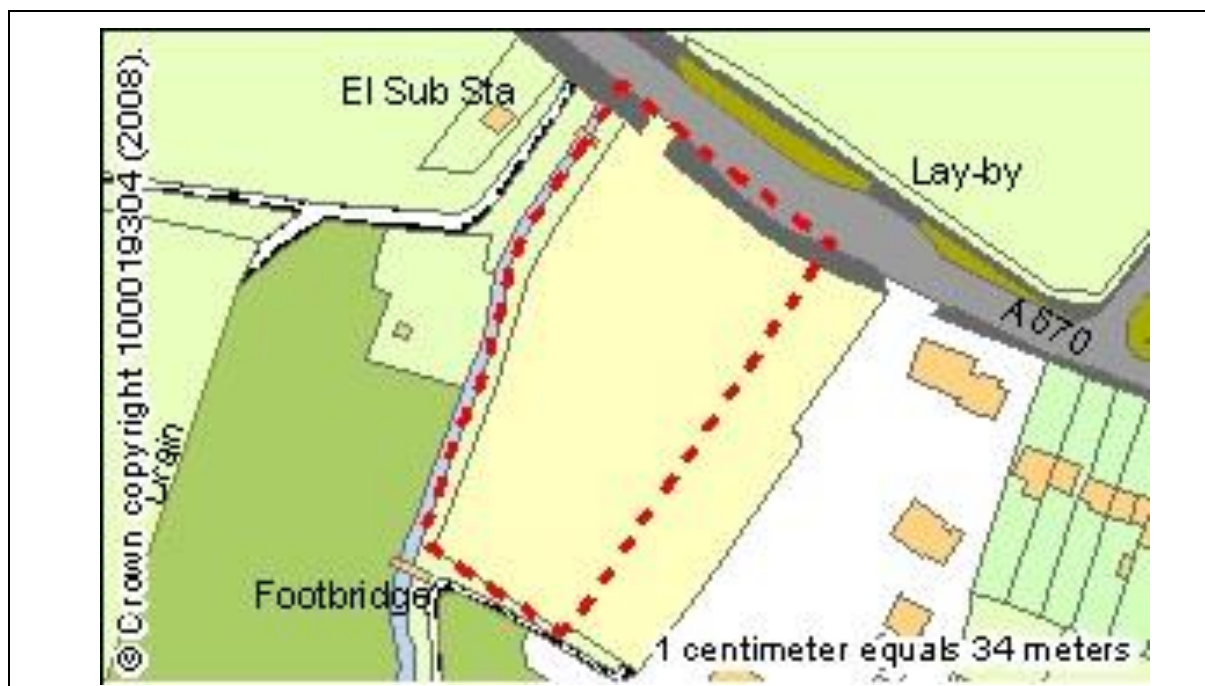


REF: WL003

Site Name	Former Reynolds Garage (part), Southport Road, Brown Edge, Scarisbrick
Site Address	Former Reynolds Garage (part), Southport Road, Brown Edge, Scarisbrick Scarisbrick
Grid Ref	336882 414161
Gross Size Ha	0.71

Latest Planning Application	2017/0427/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – SR.036
Planning Status	Pending Decision
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Owner has expressed desire for market housing on site (via agent). Under Local Plan policy, development of site would have to be for mainly affordable housing, with the minimum amount of market housing to ensure overall viability. Housing has been built on the adjacent land (formerly part of the same site).		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	19	Max Capacity	19
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL004

Site Name	Land at Findon, Skelmersdale
Site Address	Land at Findon, Skelmersdale Skelmersdale
Grid Ref	349022 406400
Gross Size Ha	3.34

Latest Planning Application	2015/1328/LDO
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.135
Planning Status	Local Development Order
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Adjacent to a nature conservation site and Biological Heritage Site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Other Public		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	128	Max Capacity	140
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL005

Site Name	Site Of Former Sports Centre
Site Address	Site Of Former Sports Centre Digmaor Road Digmaor Skelmersdale Lancashire
Grid Ref	349173 405263
Gross Size Ha	2.56

Latest Planning Application	2015/1327/LDO
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.033
Planning Status	Local Development Order
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Development will need to integrate into an existing built up area.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Local Authority		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	45	Max Capacity	100
To be included on the register	Yes		

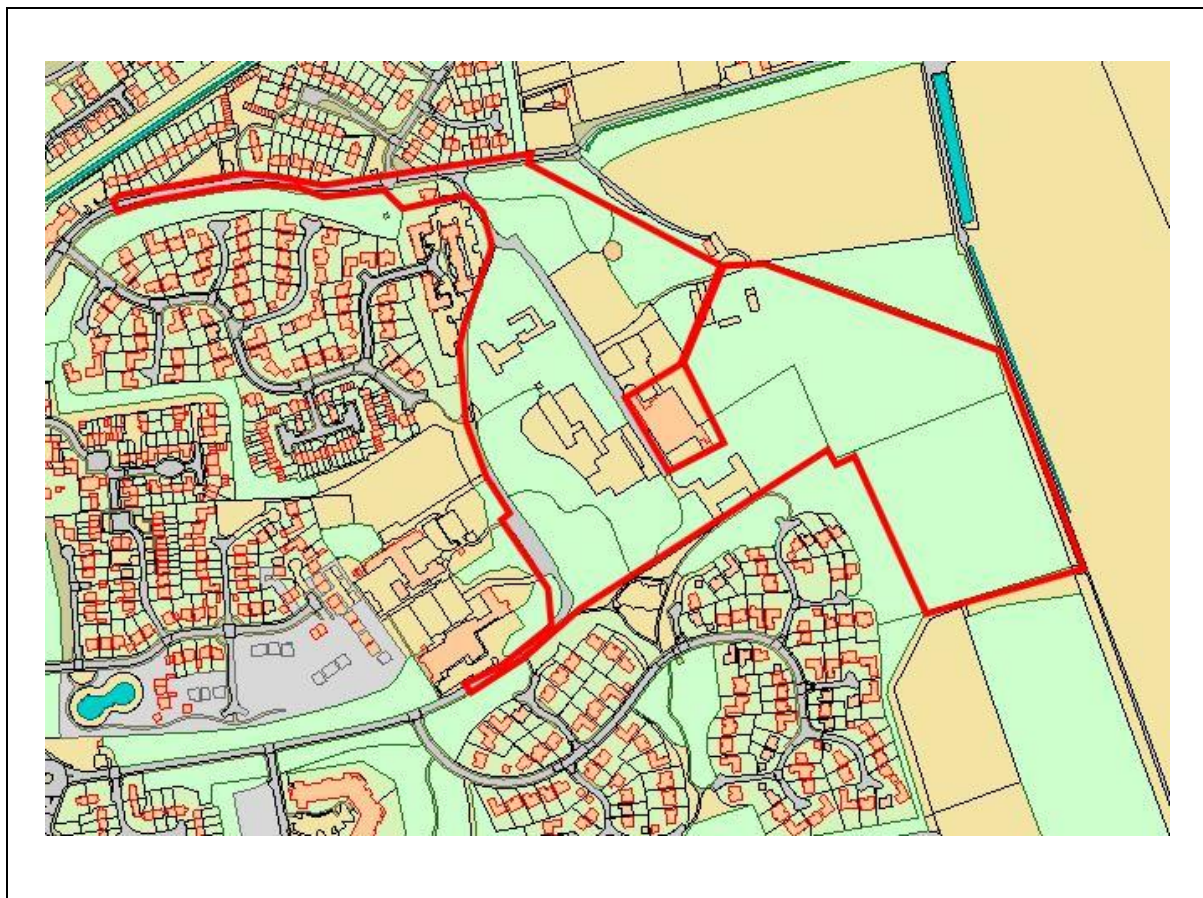


REF: WL008

Site Name	Site Of Former Greaves Hall Hospital
Site Address	Site Of Former Greaves Hall Hospital, Greaves Hall Avenue, Banks, Lancashire
Grid Ref	339496 420224
Gross Size Ha	10.26

Latest Planning Application	2013/0104/OUT
Planning History	SHELAA – BA.009
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not Started

Constraints/ Info	Rural development opportunity site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	140	Max Capacity	140
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL011

Site Name	Longreach, Warpers Moss Lane
Site Address	Longreach, Warpers Moss Lane, Burscough
Grid Ref	344790 412625
Gross Size Ha	0.51

Latest Planning Application	2013/0517/OUT
Planning History	SHELAA – BU.012
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Trees on site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	6	Max Capacity	6
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL015

Site Name	Site Of Former 111 Aughton Street
Site Address	Site Of Former 111 Aughton Street, Ormskirk
Grid Ref	341191 407943
Gross Size Ha	0.26

Latest Planning Application	2013/0975/OUT
Planning History	
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Located with the town centre. Mixed Use development		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	10	Max Capacity	15
To be included on the register	Yes		

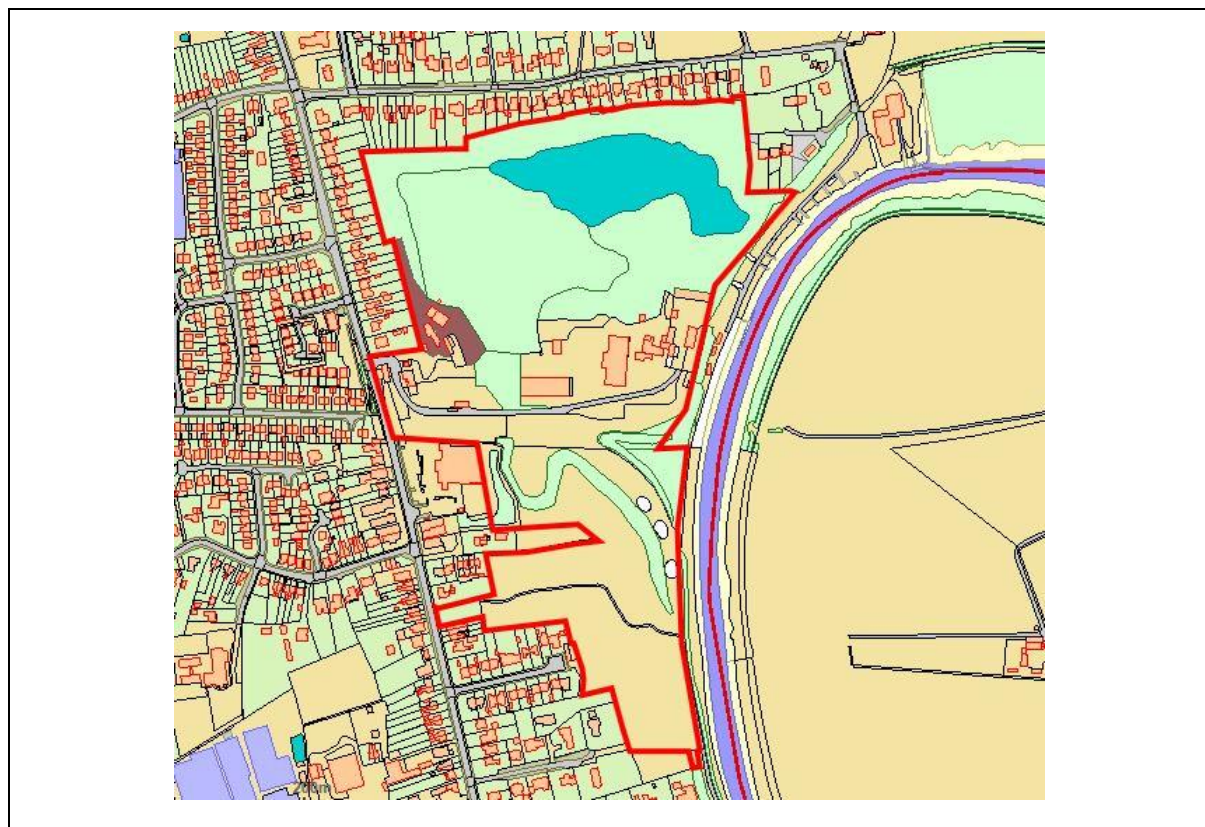


REF: WL016

Site Name	Henry Alty Ltd, Station Road
Site Address	Henry Alty Ltd, Station Road, Hesketh Bank, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 6SP
Grid Ref	344911 422843
Gross Size Ha	16.5

Latest Planning Application	2013/1258/OUT
Planning History	
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Designated EC3 Rural Development Opportunity Site, adjacent to the River Douglas, lake on site, TPOs and a Biological Heritage Site. Linear park designation through the site. Possible land contamination due to previous uses.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	275	Max Capacity	275
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL018

Site Name	Bull And Dog Inn, 5 Liverpool Road
Site Address	Bull And Dog Inn, 5 Liverpool Road South, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 7SS
Grid Ref	343053 410475
Gross Size Ha	0.27

Latest Planning Application	2014/0079/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – BU.045
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Trees located on site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	8	Max Capacity	8
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL021

Site Name	Rear Of 94 Church Road
Site Address	Rear Of 94 Church Road, Tarleton
Grid Ref	345228 420591
Gross Size Ha	0.19

Latest Planning Application	2014/1177/ARM
Planning History	SHELAA – TA.035
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	TPO to the north west of the site, and a small part of the site is located within the Plox Brow Conservation Area.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	5	Max Capacity	5
To be included on the register	Yes		

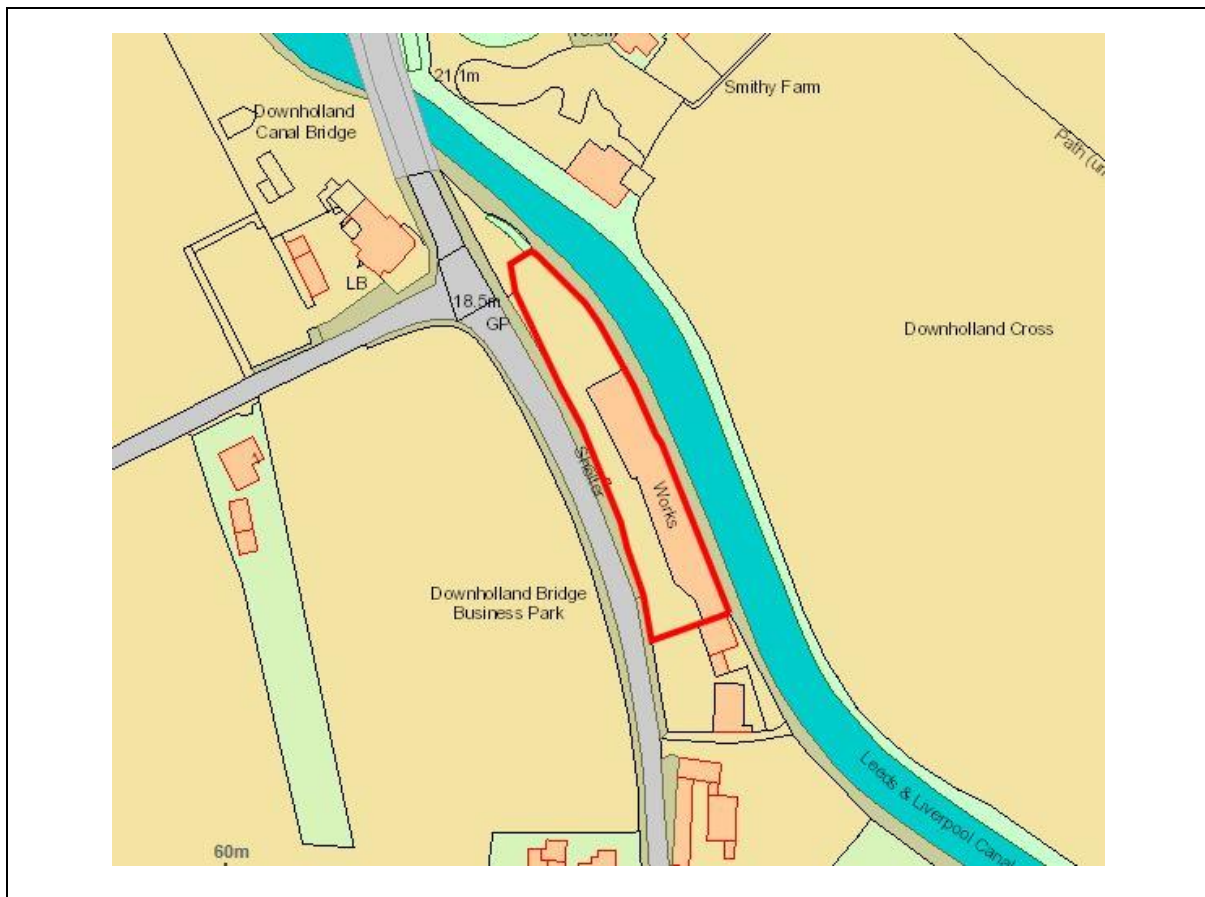


REF: WL029

Site Name	Downholland Bridge Business Park
Site Address	Downholland Bridge Business Park, Mairscough Lane, Downholland
Grid Ref	366607 406697
Gross Size Ha	0.26

Latest Planning Application	2015/0959/OUT
Planning History	SHELAA – HA.005
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Site located within the Greenbelt, existing employment site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	6	Max Capacity	6
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL030

Site Name	The Barrons 104 Church Road
Site Address	The Barrons 104 Church Road, Tarleton
Grid Ref	345322 420672
Gross Size Ha	0.76

Latest Planning Application	2015/0951/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – TA.022
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Located within the local centre boundary, EN3 designation in the east of the site which is to be retained as open space. Corner of the site adjacent to the Plox Brow Conservation Area.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	7	Max Capacity	7
To be included on the register	Yes		

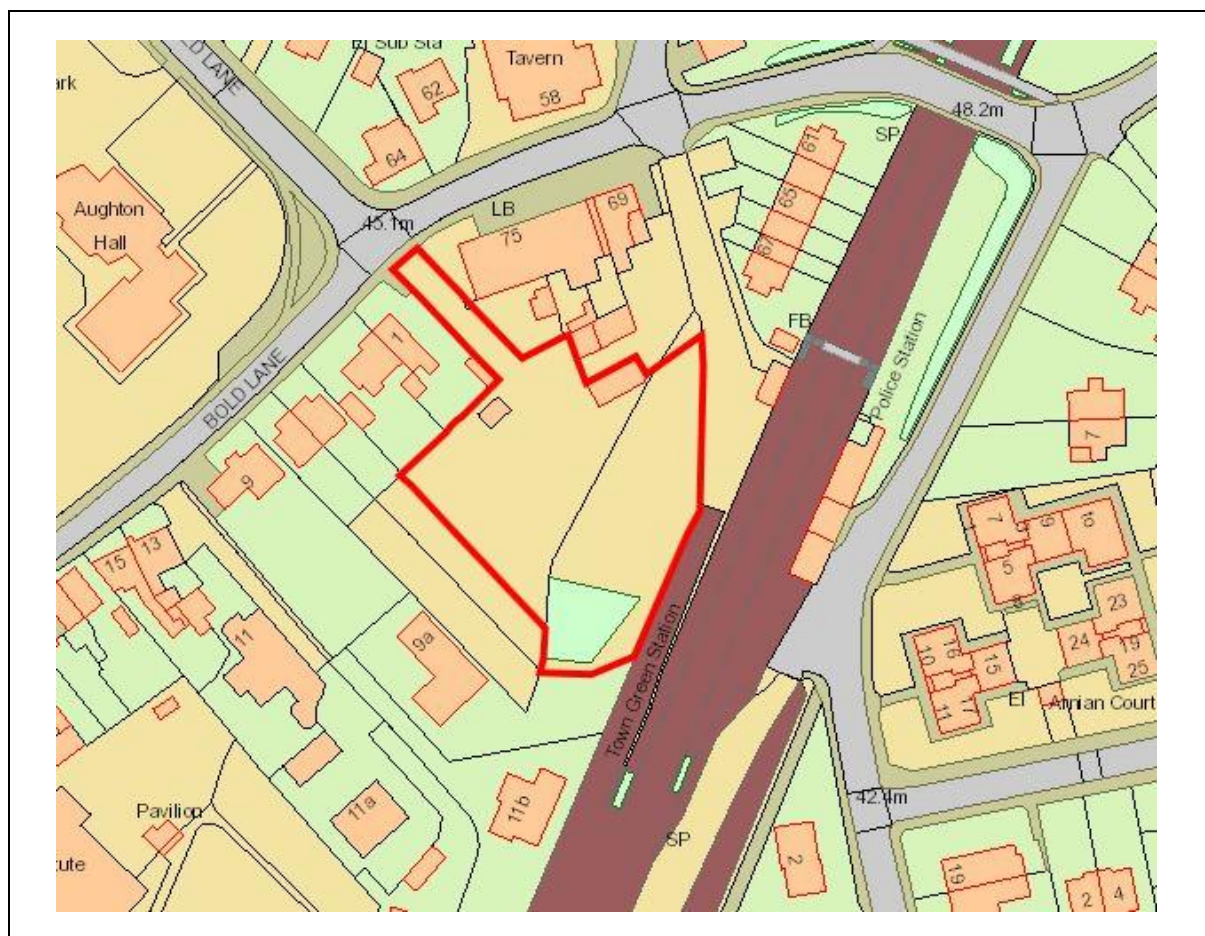


REF: WL031

Site Name	Land To The Rear Of 69 - 75 Town Green Lane
Site Address	Land To The Rear Of 69 - 75 Town Green Lane , Aughton
Grid Ref	340117 405511
Gross Size Ha	0.23

Latest Planning Application	2015/1186/OUT
Planning History	SHELAA – OA.018
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	South east of the site lies the Liverpool to Ormskirk railway line..		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	5	Max Capacity	5
To be included on the register	Yes		

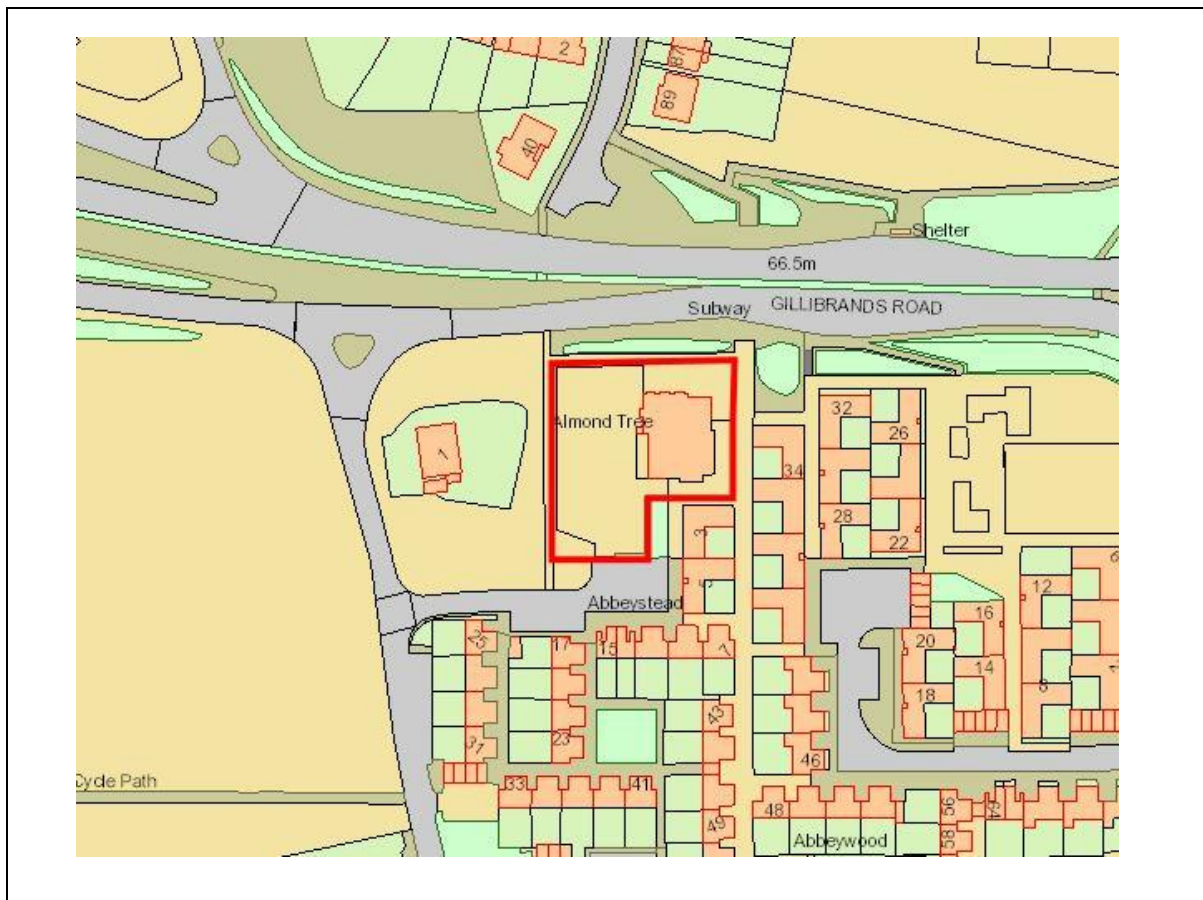


REF: WL032

Site Name	The Almond Tree
Site Address	The Almond Tree Abbeystead Digmoor Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 9LP
Grid Ref	349071 405105
Gross Size Ha	0.17

Latest Planning Application	2015/0723/OUT 2015/0139/FUL
Planning History	
Planning Status	Permissioned
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info			
Suitability		Suitable	
Ownership		Private	
Availability		Available	
Min Capacity	12	Max Capacity	12
To be included on the register		Yes	

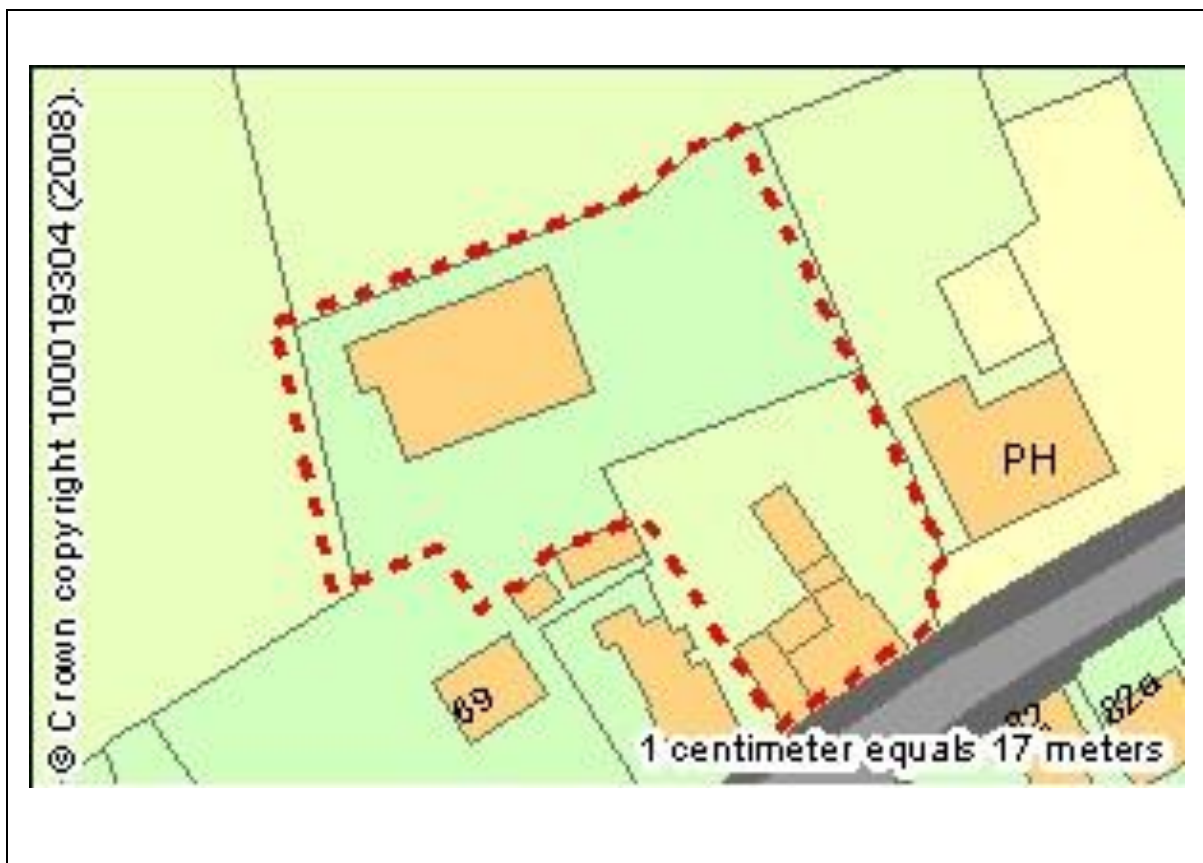


REF: WL033

Site Name	Land between 73 & 75 Liverpool Road South
Site Address	Land between 73 & 75 Liverpool Road South, Burscough
Grid Ref	343405 410777
Gross Size Ha	0.3

Latest Planning Application	2015/0645/OUT - Refused
Planning History	
Planning Status	Not Permitted
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Located in close proximity to Listed Buildings.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	5	Max Capacity	5
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL035

Site Name	Land at Carlton Avenue/ Ormskirk Road
Site Address	Land at Carlton Avenue/ Ormskirk Road
Grid Ref	351186 405184
Gross Size Ha	0.42

Latest Planning Application	1996/0443 23 dwellings refused
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.077
Planning Status	Not Permitted
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info			
Suitability		Suitable	
Ownership		Private	
Availability		Available	
Min Capacity	10	Max Capacity	10
To be included on the register		Yes	

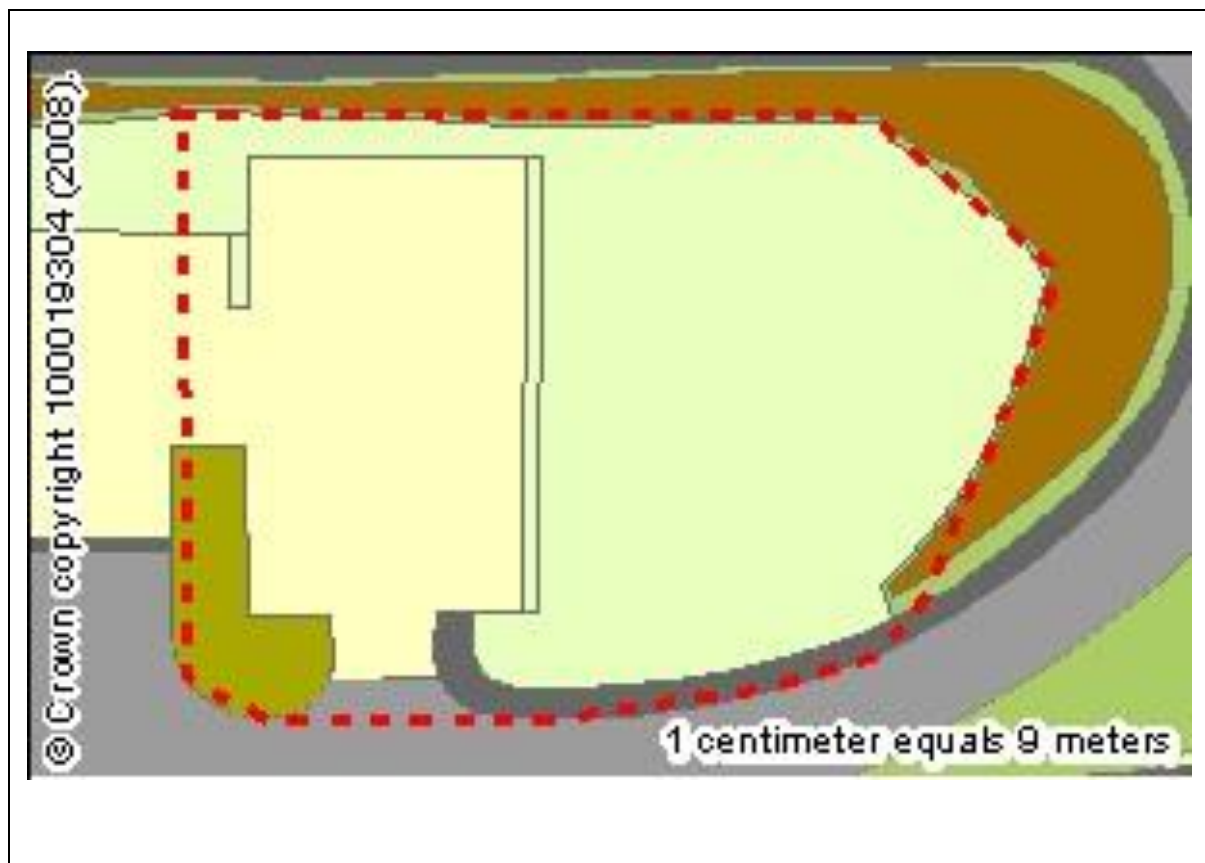


REF: WL036

Site Name	Land adjacent The Highway Man Public House
Site Address	Land adjacent The Highway Man Public House, Blythewood, Digmoor
Grid Ref	349487 405426
Gross Size Ha	0.16

Latest Planning Application	
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.035
Planning Status	Not Permitted
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info		
Suitability	Suitable	
Ownership	Private	
Availability	Available	
Min Capacity	5	Max Capacity 5
To be included on the register	Yes	

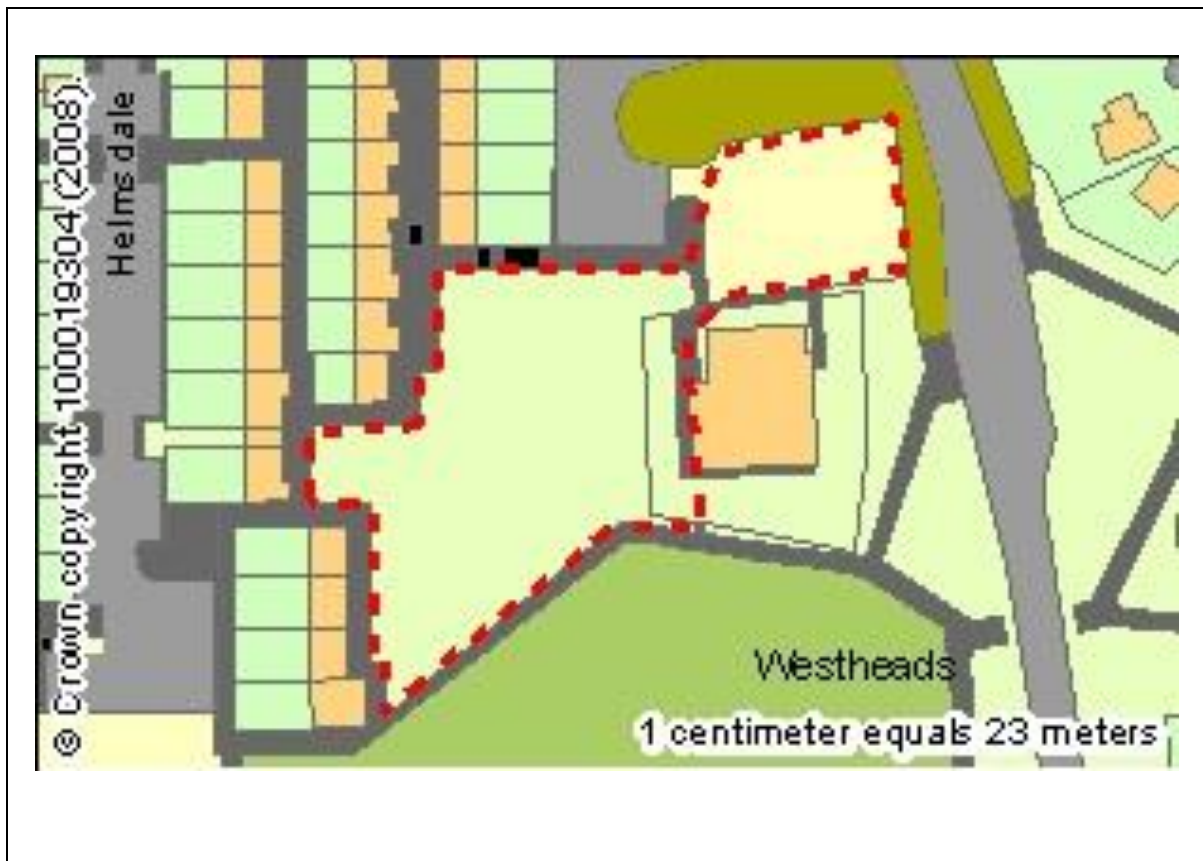


REF: WL037

Site Name	Land adjacent Community Centre, Birch Green, Tanhouse
Site Address	Land adjacent Community Centre, Birch Green, Tanhouse
Grid Ref	349464 406879
Gross Size Ha	0.4

Latest Planning Application	2015/1314/FUL (None Housing)
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.107
Planning Status	Not Permitted
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Adjacent to Westhead Clough Biological Heritage Site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	9	Max Capacity	9
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL038

Site Name	Land at Enstone/Elmridge, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale
Site Address	Land at Enstone/Elmridge, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale
Grid Ref	349718 406011
Gross Size Ha	1.3

Latest Planning Application	2013/0900/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.154
Planning Status	Not permissioned
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info			
Suitability		Suitable	
Ownership		Private	
Availability		Available	
Min Capacity	14	Max Capacity	14
To be included on the register		Yes	



REF: WL039

Site Name	Land at Elswick
Site Address	Land at Elswick, Tanhouse
Grid Ref	349434 405958
Gross Size Ha	0.69

Latest Planning Application	
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.156
Planning Status	Not permissioned
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info			
Suitability		Suitable	
Ownership		Private	
Availability		Available	
Min Capacity	10	Max Capacity	14
To be included on the register		Yes	



REF: WL044

Site Name	Former TPT Factory
Site Address	Railway Road
Grid Ref	346344 406222
Gross Size Ha	1.6

Latest Planning Application	2012/0860/COU
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.009
Planning Status	Not permitted
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Potentially contaminated site, previous employment/industrial uses.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	43	Max Capacity	43
To be included on the register	Yes		

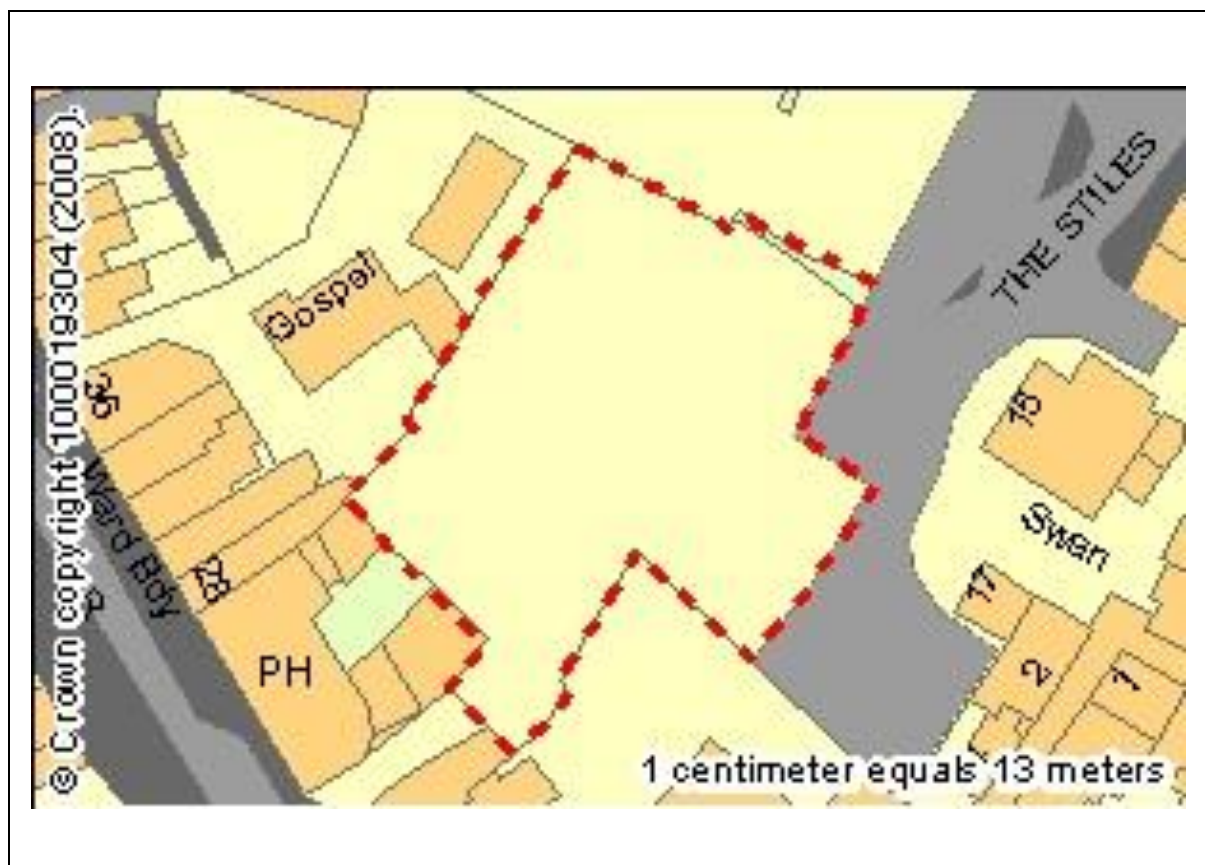


REF: WL046

Site Name	Land at The Stiles
Site Address	Ormskirk
Grid Ref	341391 408439
Gross Size Ha	0.12

Latest Planning Application	2011/0148/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – OA.003
Planning Status	Not permissioned
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Site is located with the town centre boundary, and is also located within the town centre Conservation Area.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	17	Max Capacity	17
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL049

Site Name	Shannons Social Club
Site Address	Spencers Lane
Grid Ref	348913 405206
Gross Size Ha	0.38

Latest Planning Application	2014/0812/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – SK.047
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Adjacent to open recreation EN3 designation. Trees on site worth of merit.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	18	Max Capacity	18
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL052

Site Name	Site of former 82 Orrell Lane
Site Address	82 Orrell Lane
Grid Ref	344089 412297
Gross Size Ha	0.13

Latest Planning Application	2013/0740/FU
Planning History	SHELAA – BU.017
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info			
Suitability		Suitable	
Ownership		Private	
Availability		Available	
Min Capacity	5	Max Capacity	5
To be included on the register		Yes	

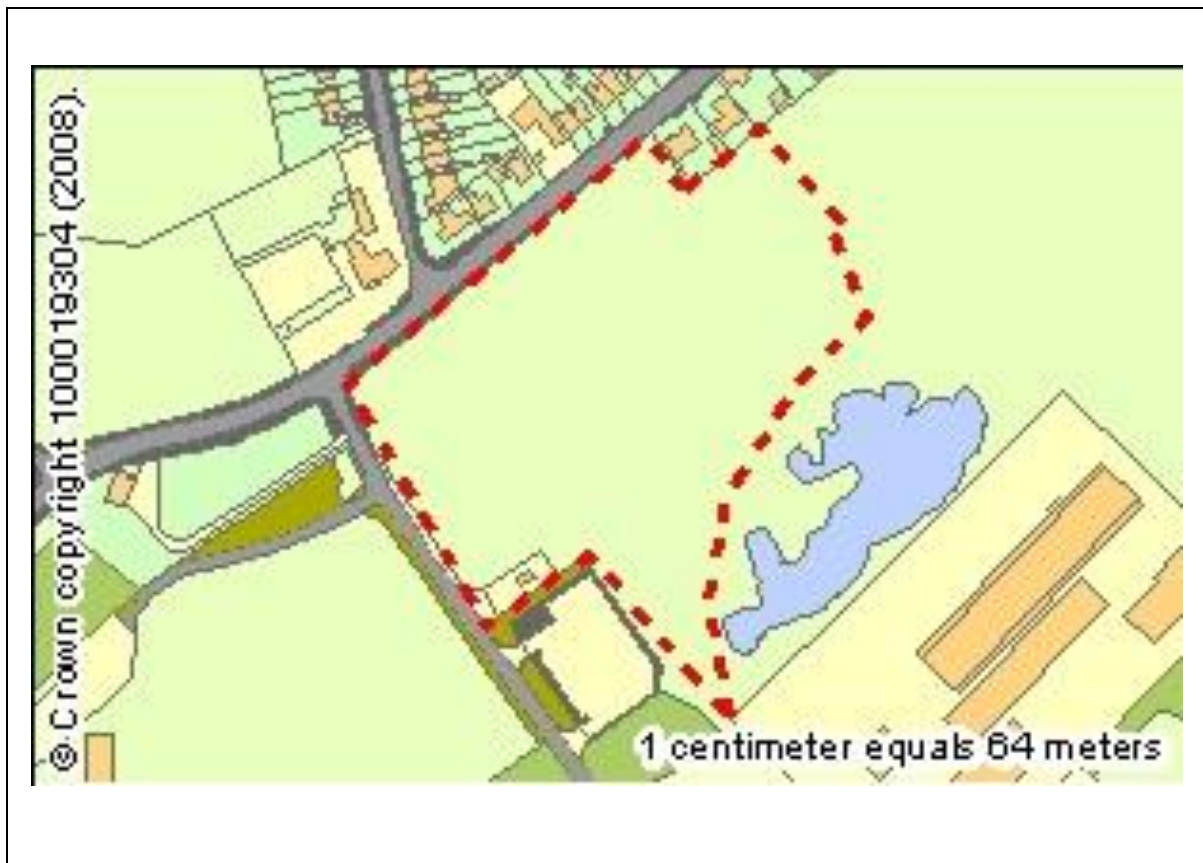


REF: WL053

Site Name	Land bounded by Liverpool Road South
Site Address	Abbey Lane
Grid Ref	343055 410422
Gross Size Ha	4.3

Latest Planning Application	2012/1224/OUT
Planning History	SHELAA – BU.040A
Planning Status	Not permissioned
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Former landfill site, Biological Heritage Site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	100	Max Capacity	100
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL054

Site Name	The Bath House
Site Address	130 Burscough St
Grid Ref	341654 408631
Gross Size Ha	0.48

Latest Planning Application	2015/0265/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – OA.074
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Site is located with the village centre.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	29	Max Capacity	29
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL055

Site Name	9 Shore Road
Site Address	Hesketh Bank
Grid Ref	344283 423876
Gross Size Ha	1.6

Latest Planning Application	2013/1138/FUL
Planning History	
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Partially located within The Brow Conservation Area.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	6	Max Capacity	6
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL057

Site Name	14A New Cut Lane
Site Address	Halsall
Grid Ref	333262 413606
Gross Size Ha	0.3

Latest Planning Application	2016/1173/FUL
Planning History	
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	A number of trees on site, however these are not TPOs.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	8	Max Capacity	8
To be included on the register	Yes		

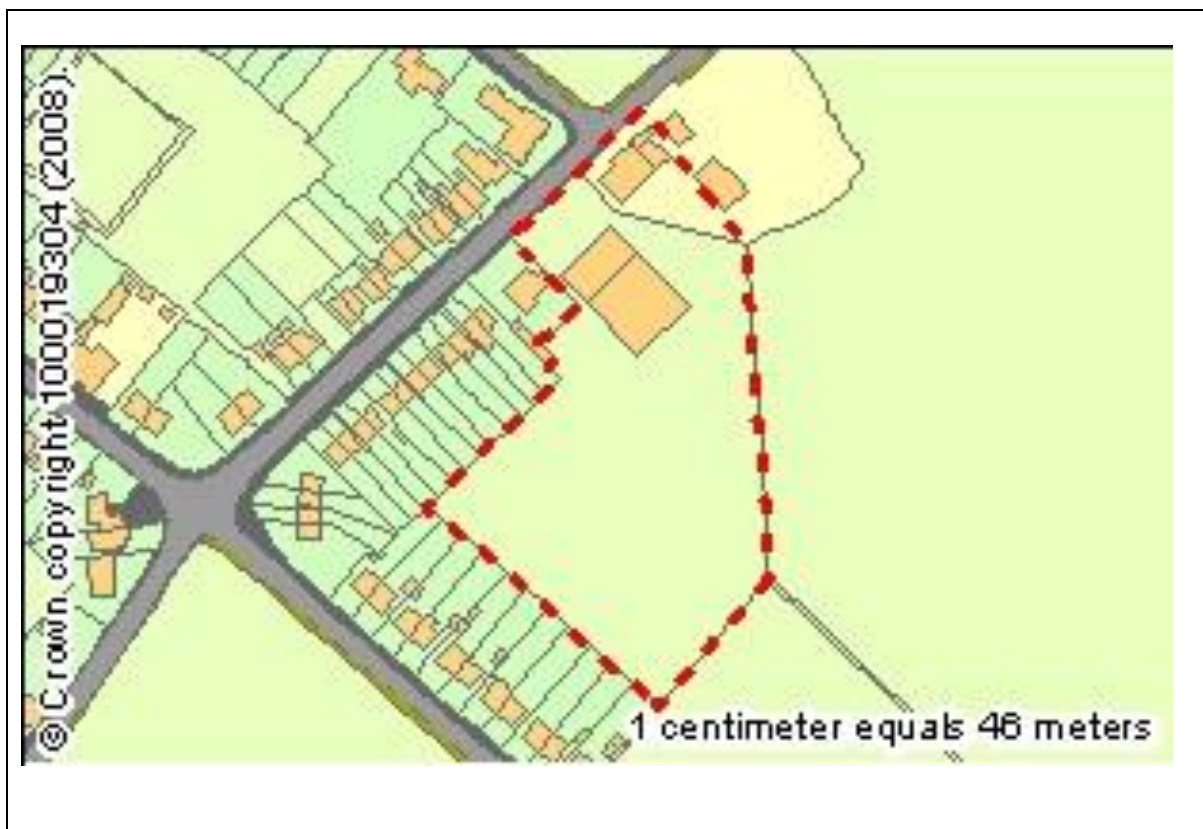


REF: WL058

Site Name	30A Scarth Hill Lane
Site Address	Aughton
Grid Ref	341330 406474
Gross Size Ha	0.29

Latest Planning Application	2016/0878/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – OA.067
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	The site is located within the Greenbelt, Oak tree to the rear of the property.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	8	Max Capacity	8
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL059

Site Name	Former Silver Birch Hotel
Site Address	Flordon, Birch Green
Grid Ref	349562 406586
Gross Size Ha	0.22

Latest Planning Application	2016/0832/FUL
Planning History	
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Demolition of existing vacant commercial building and construction of mixed use development comprising 4 no. retail/commercial units and 18 apartments. Some trees located on the site.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	18	Max Capacity	18
To be included on the register	Yes		

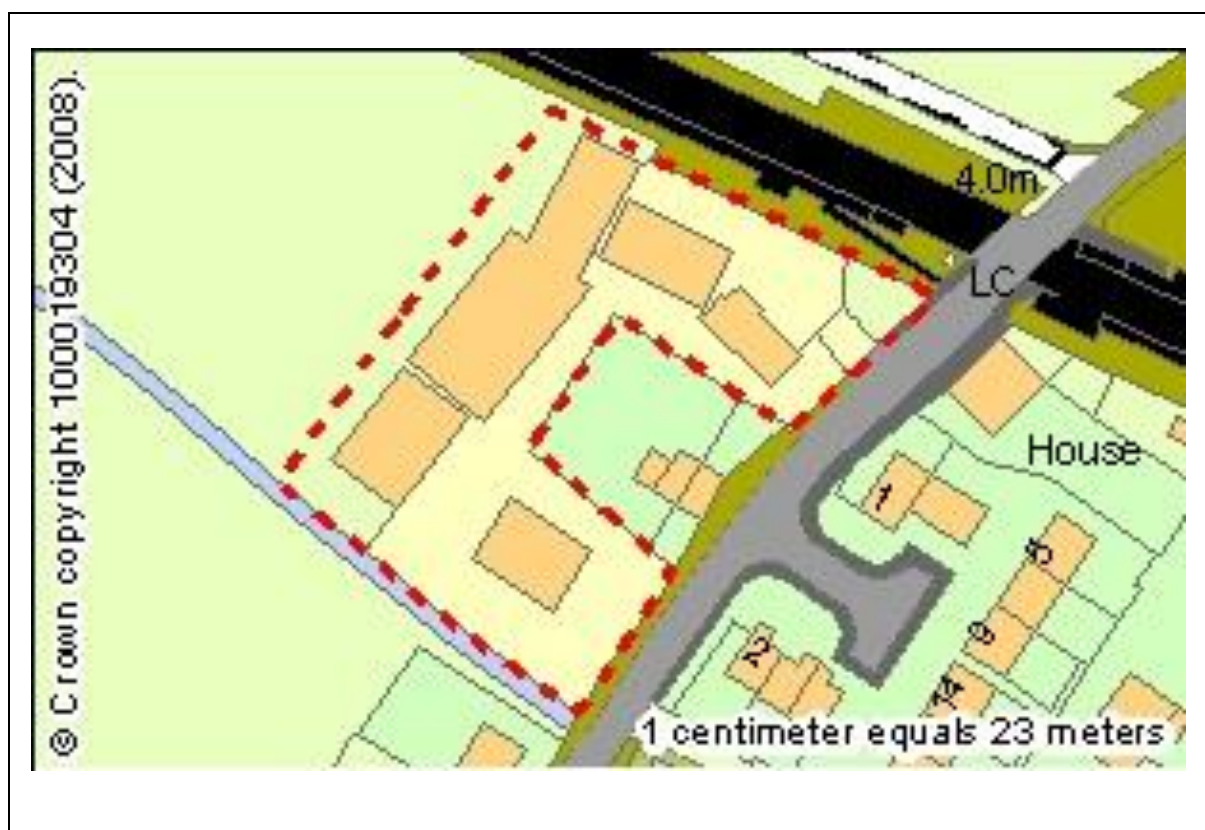


REF: WL060

Site Name	4 Bescar Lane
Site Address	Scarisbrick
Grid Ref	339549 414535
Gross Size Ha	0.22

Latest Planning Application	2016/1050/FUL
Planning History	SHELAA – SR.015
Planning Status	Full Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Adjacent to railway, located within the Greenbelt.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	5	Max Capacity	5
To be included on the register	Yes		



REF: WL062

Site Name	Garages to the east of Arnian Court
Site Address	Molyneux Road
Grid Ref	340257 405511
Gross Size Ha	0.15

Latest Planning Application	2017/0185/OUT
Planning History	
Planning Status	Outline Planning Permission
Construction Status	Not started

Constraints/ Info	Adjacent to the Granville Park Conservation Area.		
Suitability	Suitable		
Ownership	Private		
Availability	Available		
Min Capacity	7	Max Capacity	7
To be included on the register	Yes		



CABINET: 12 September 2017



Report of: Director of Development and Regeneration

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson

Contact for further information: Peter Richards (Extn. 5046)
(E-mail: peter.richards@westlancs.gov.uk) /
Rachel Kneale (Extn. 2611)
(Email: rachel.kneale@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: SELF AND CUSTOM BUILD REGISTER

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for a change in the way the Self Build and Custom Build Register is managed by the Council, including vetting the financial ability of an applicant to undertake a self-build, a protocol for doing so and setting an application fee to cover the costs of this process.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the new Self Build and Custom Build Register Application Form provided at Appendix B be approved.
- 2.2 That the proposal to set a fee of £120 per application to the Self Build and Custom Build Register is approved and that authority is delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to review and amend the application fee to reflect costs associated with the application process as necessary each year.
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3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2015, the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 was enacted by Parliament. This Act placed a duty on local authorities to keep a register of

individuals, and associations of individuals, who wish to acquire serviced plots of land, to bring forward self-build and custom housebuilding projects and to place a duty on those authorities to have regard to those registers in carrying out planning and other functions.

- 3.2 On 1st April 2016, *the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding (Register) Regulations 2016* came into force. These implemented the requirement for local authorities to hold a register of individuals and associations who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in the authority's area in order to build their own home (the Self Build and Custom Build Register, to be referred to as "the Register" in this report).
- 3.3 Through these Regulations, the Council was required to publicise the ability for individuals and associations to apply for entry on the Register, and the Regulations and subsequent national planning practice guidance set out what eligibility criteria the Council could use to assess those applications.
- 3.4 The Council, aware of these Regulations as they moved through Parliament, was prepared for them to come into force and was able to take applications for the Register from 1 April 2016 (see application form at Appendix A). The Register was publicised by a press release which was reproduced as a press article in the *Champion*, through other Council publications (such as the *Let's Talk Business* newsletter) and on the Council's website. As of 31 July 2017, the Register has 33 individuals on it who have advised us that they are seeking a range of plot sizes in various parts of the Borough.
- 3.5 On 31st October 2016, two further sets of regulations came into force, *the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding (Time for Compliance and Fees) Regulations 2016* and *the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Regulations 2016*.
- 3.6 The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding (Time for Compliance and Fees) Regulations 2016 placed a requirement on local authorities to grant sufficient planning permissions for serviced plots of land for self and custom-build to meet the demand evidenced by their Register, specifically to have granted these permissions within 3 years of a given base date.
- 3.7 The first base date is taken to be 31st October 2016 (when the regulations came into force) and the Council had 12 individuals on the Register at that time, and so must grant permission for at least 12 serviced plots by 31st October 2019. At least a further 21 serviced plots (to take the permissions up to the current 33 individuals on the Register) may also be required within the next three years if the number of people on the Register remains the same between now and 31st October 2017.
- 3.8 These regulations also introduced the ability for local authorities to charge a fee for applications to the Register to cover reasonable costs incurred by a local authority in maintaining the Register and in delivering planning permission on serviced plots to meet the demand on the Register.
- 3.9 In order to enable local authorities to implement the Register, and its subsequent requirements for planning permission of serviced plots, the Government is granting local authorities New Burdens funding. An initial one-off payment of

£5,850 was made in June 2016 to help authorities establish their Registers, and the Government has now committed to give each local authority with a Register a further £90,000 over the period 2016-2020. The Council has received the first £15,000 of that additional funding, as well as the original £5,850.

- 3.10 The Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Regulations 2016 (the second set that came into force on 31st October) updated how a local authority might assess eligibility for entry on the Register, introducing the option of local eligibility criteria that a local authority might set that could include a local connection test and/or criteria that demonstrate whether an applicant has sufficient resources to undertake a self or custom build project. The Regulations also introduced the idea of a Part 1 and Part 2 of the Register to distinguish between applicants with and without a local connection. The Regulations do not require the Council to ensure planning permission is granted for sufficient serviced plots to meet the demand on Part 2 of the Register (i.e. that is only required for the demand evidenced by Part 1).

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

- 4.1 The primary implications for the Council of the legislation referred to above are two-fold:

- 1) To continue to maintain a Self Build and Custom Build Register; and
- 2) Ensure that sufficient serviced plots for self and custom build are granted planning permission to meet the demand for self and custom build evidenced by that Register.

- 4.2 As such, it is essential that the Register reflects a robust and reliable evidence base of what the realistic demand for self and custom build is in West Lancashire, so that the Council are able to focus their efforts on ensuring sufficient plots are granted planning permission to meet that demand. There is a concern that the current Register does not provide this reliable evidence base.

- 4.3 At the current time, applications for the Register ask an applicant to give details of:

- Themselves and their connection to West Lancashire;
- What size of plot they would like for a self-build (and what size / type of house they would like to build on that plot);
- (Broadly) where they would want that plot to be;
- How much they would be able to afford to purchase a plot and build their property (and how would they finance the purchase / build); and
- How quickly they would be able to progress once a plot became available to them.

- 4.4 However, under the original Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding (Register) Regulations 2016, which informed the Council's current application process, the Council have to place an applicant on the Register as long as they are aged 18 or over; a British citizen, a national of an EEA State or a national of Switzerland;

and are seeking to acquire a serviced plot of land in West Lancashire in order to build a house which they would occupy as their sole or main residence.

- 4.5 Therefore, at the current time, as long as an applicant answers the questions on the registration form about age and nationality and states their intention / willingness to undertake a self or custom build, they are placed on the Register. As such, anyone with a vague interest in self or custom build can join the Register and the Council have no way of knowing if they are actually financially able to undertake such a project, have a local connection to West Lancashire or are in any way serious about the idea of self or custom build, and so the reliability of the evidence generated by the Register is questionable and the Council may, in due course, be seeking to deliver far more serviced plots for self and custom build with planning permission than is really needed or can be taken up by those who have expressed an interest.
- 4.6 The solution to this issue is for the Council to take advantage of the two sets of Regulations that came into force on 31st October 2016 and set more rigorous criteria, including a local connection test and criteria testing the financial ability of the applicant to undertake such a project and to set a fee for applications to cover the costs of this more rigorous application process.

5.0 AMENDING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- 5.1 Given the above, it is proposed that the Council adopt a new application process from 1st October 2017 with an updated Application Form (see Appendix B) which requires an answer to the local connection test question and seeks information on the resources the applicant has to undertake a self or custom build project. Completed forms will be evaluated either in-house by suitably experienced council officers or by an independent body (such as BuildStore Ltd) to verify an applicant's ability to resource a self or custom build project.
- 5.2 Applicants who meet all the revised criteria will be placed on Part 1 of the Register. Applicants who meet all except the local connections test criteria will be placed on Part 2 of the Register. Applicants who do not meet the criteria regarding financial resources to undertake a self or custom build project will be informed that they have not been placed on the Register but may be kept informed of any land which the Council makes available for sale outside the self-build process.
- 5.3 All those currently on the Register will be required to apply again under the new application process and will be informed that if they fail to submit an application within a set (but reasonable) timescale, that they will be removed from the Register. Once an applicant is successful and is placed on the Register, they will be required to re-apply each year, on the date they were originally entered on the Register under this new application process, so that the Council can check that the applicant is still able to resource a self or custom build project and still has a local connection.
- 5.4 Due to the additional administration and checking that will be required under the new application process, it is proposed that the Council should start to charge a fee of £120 per application to cover these costs. This fee reflects the amount of

officer time typically required to process an application to join housing waiting lists, and the hourly rates of the Council's Housing Officers involved. £120 is also the standard fee for an Estates enquiry.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report will have no, or only limited, implications for sustainability or the community strategy. However, it should be noted that self-builders generally embrace “green” methods of construction and energy generation to a far higher degree than volume house builders as their development will be their home.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In relation to the proposal to charge a fee for applying to the self-build register, this should be cost-neutral in that the additional costs for having a more rigorous application process (including any financial checks), and the subsequent annual renewal applications to remain on the register, will be met by the fees collected. However, for any application which is ultimately unsuccessful, the regulations require that the fee is refunded to the applicant, and so the costs associated with dealing with that application would ultimately have to be borne by the Council.
- 7.2 The regulations allow the fee charged to also reflect the costs to the Council of granting sufficient planning permissions in respect of serviced plots of land to meet the demand on the register. However, such costs are not small and the Council would potentially run the risk of putting off interest in the register if the fee to apply were too large, and so a balance must be struck between recouping some costs (for example for administering the register) but not putting applicants off entirely because of a high application fee.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Should Cabinet approve the introduction of an application fee for the Register, the risks associated with this report are minimal as the additional administrative burden for the Council in assessing applications will be covered by the fee. However, if the introduction of an application fee is not approved, but the protocol and new application process is approved, there will be an additional financial burden on the Council.
- 8.2 Similarly, should Cabinet not approve the proposed new application process, this is likely to have impacts on the related responsibility of the Council to provide serviced plots with planning permission, as the demand arising from the current application process is likely an inflated figure compared to the real demand for self and custom build from those who are able to undertake such a project and have a local connection to West Lancashire.

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 Cabinet are being asked to make is simply related to the process by which the Council will administer the Self Build and Custom Build Register and so there is no direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Appendices

Appendix A – Current West Lancashire Self Build and Custom Build Registration Form

Appendix B – Proposed new West Lancashire Self Build and Custom Build Registration Form

Register of interest in Custom and Self Build

Please use this form to register your interest for custom and self-build plots in West Lancashire.

We will use the information you provide to explore ways in which it might be possible for people and plots to be brought together; where people would like their plot to be and the type of house that they would like to build.

Registration does not, however, guarantee that a suitable plot will be identified or become available.

Please send your completed form to Cerys Edwards:

Email: Localplan@westlancs.gov.uk

Address: West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk L39 2DF

Contact Details

First Name

Last Name

Email address

Telephone Number

Address

Correspondence address (if different from above)

About you

Date of birth

Your nationality

- UK Citizen
- European Economic Area Citizen or a national of Switzerland
- Neither of the above

Connection to West Lancashire

- I live in West Lancashire
- I work in West Lancashire
- I have a family connection in West Lancashire
- I am a member of the Armed Forces or included within the Armed Forces Covenant
- None of the above (please give details below)

Are you on the Council's housing register?

- Yes
- No

Are you on any other housing register?

- Yes (please give details below)
- No

What is the tenure of your current home?

- Social rent
- Private rent
- Shared ownership
- Owner occupier

About your custom build

Have you had previous experience of a self-build or custom-build project?

- Yes
- No

What type of custom build plot are you interested in?

- Individual custom build

A single plot of land to build your own home to live in. You may do some or all of the build yourself, or employ someone to build the house for you.

.....

- Group custom build

A group of people come together to design and develop a custom build housing development which they then live in. They may build this themselves or with help from a developer to manage the project. If this is the method to be used then each member of the association will need to complete a form.

.....

- Developer-led custom build

A developer divides a larger site into individual plots and provides a design and build service to purchasers enabling people to customise existing house designs. It is likely that these plots will be part of a larger housing scheme. This gives people a chance to tailor existing house designs to suit their needs.

.....

- Other (please describe below)

If the applicant is a member of an association please provide the name and address of the lead contact and the name of the association.

What size plot are you interested in?

- Under 150m²
- 150m² to 200m²
- 200m² to 250m²
- 250m² to 300m²
- 300m² to 350m²
- 350m² to 400m²
- Other (please state size below)

What location are you looking for?

- Town
- Village
- Countryside

Please specify which town, village or parish

What type of property would you like to build?

- Detached house
- Semi-detached house
- Terrace house
- Detached bungalow
- Semi-detached bungalow
- Apartment / flat
- Other – please describe type

How many bedrooms do you require?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

Would you like a garage?

- Yes
- No

What is the maximum amount you could afford for the purchase of a plot and the build of the property?

- Under £75,000
- £75,000 to £100,000
- £100,000 to £125,000
- £125,000 to £150,000
- £150,000 to £175,000
- £175,000 to £200,000
- £200,000 to £250,000
- £250,000 to £300,000
- £300,000+

How will you finance your custom build?

- Owned outright by you without a mortgage
- Owned by you with a mortgage
- Part owned with a housing association to share the cost of the project

If you are a home owner, would you have to sell your property in order to proceed with custom build?

- Yes
- No

How quickly do you think you would be able to progress if a site became available?

- Under 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 18-24 months
- 24 months+

Declaration

Will this custom build property be your sole residence?

- Yes
- No

Signed:

Date:

Use of information

West Lancashire Borough Council will use the information from the Custom and Self Build Register to gain a greater understanding of the demand for custom and self-build projects in the district. We will not pass identifiable information onto anyone outside the Council without your written consent. The Council will determine the application for entry onto its register within 28 days of its receipt and will advise the applicant of their success or otherwise.

West Lancashire Borough Council

Custom and Self Build Register



Introduction to the Custom and Self Build Register

The prospect of building your own home (self-build) or having significant input into the design of a property (custom build) is attractive to many, but the realities of such a project need to be thoroughly researched prior to starting the process. The Council wish to help those who are interested self or custom build, have a local connection to West Lancashire and who have the resources to be able to undertake a self or custom build project by granting planning permission to sufficient serviced plots for self and custom build to meet local demand. The Custom and Self Build Register plays a key role in identifying that local demand.

Therefore, if you have such an interest in self or custom build, have a local connection to West Lancashire and have the resources to undertake a self or custom build project the Council encourages you to complete the attached application form to join the Custom and Self Build Register and submit it to the Council with payment for the £120 application fee.

A self or custom build project is an exciting idea for many, but it is a very challenging project as well, especially financially (although, in the end, the total cost of the house you have built can be significantly less than purchasing a house in the usual way. Self-build mortgages are paid out on the completion of various stages of the build, typically in four or five stages. This means that you need to be able to fund each stage, either from your own resources or other borrowing, before you are reimbursed by the next payment from your main lender. In the case of a timber-frame house, where the frame might account for a third of your total budget – payable in one go – this is likely to require careful juggling of finances.

The Council is willing to assist genuine self-builders by granting sufficient planning permissions for serviced plots based upon the demand evidenced by the Self-Build Register. However, there are high costs associated with providing serviced plots for self or custom build and so the Council needs to be certain that applicants on the Custom and Self Build Register are able to undertake a self or custom build project (i.e. that the demand evidenced by the Register is accurate).

The following information is required therefore, to enable the Council to assess an application to the Self-Build Register, together with the payment of the £120 application fee to cover the administrative costs associated with handling and assessing the application.

Where an Association of Self and Custom Builders are applying, an application form must be submitted for each individual in the Association, so that the eligibility of each individual can be assessed, and the application fee of £120 must be paid for each individual in the Association.

West Lancashire Borough Council Custom and Self Build Register



Where Applicants are unable to satisfy the Council, through their application, that they will have access to the financial resources to undertake a self or custom build project, their applications will be rejected and they will not be placed on the Custom and Self Build Register.

Where an Applicant can demonstrate a local connection through the local connection test questions, they will be placed on Part 1 of the Register (assuming they satisfy all other requirements, including that they are aged 18 or over, are a British citizen or a national of an EEA State or Switzerland, and are financially able to resource a self or custom build project).

Where an Applicant cannot demonstrate a local connection but satisfy all other requirements, they will be placed on Part 2 of the Register.

Going forward, the Council will seek to ensure sufficient plots are granted planning permission to meet the demand on Part 1 of the Register. Through the Local Plan, the Council will explore how the wider demand evidenced by Part 2 of the Register might be met.

A successful application grants the applicant a place on the Custom and Self Build Register for 12 months. After 12 months (and each 12 month period thereafter), applicants will be asked to submit a fresh application, updating their answers to the questions as necessary to reflect their current circumstances, together with the payment of a £120 application fee.

West Lancashire Borough Council

Custom and Self Build Register



Contact Details

Individual's Details:

First Name	
Last Name	
Email Address	
Address	
Correspondence address (if different from above)	
Telephone Number	

If the above individual is applying as part of an Association, please provide the details of the Association:

Name of Association	
Name of Lead Contact for Association	
Address	
Email Address	
Telephone Number	

West Lancashire Borough Council

Custom and Self Build Register



About you

Date of Birth	
Nationality	UK Citizen
	European Economic Area Citizen or a national of Switzerland
	Neither of the above

Connection to West Lancashire	
I live in West Lancashire	
I work in West Lancashire	
I have a family connection in West Lancashire	
I am a member of the Armed Forces or included within the Armed Forces Covenant	
None of the above (please give details below)	

Are you on the Council's Housing Register?	
Yes	
No	

Are you on any other Housing Register?	
Yes (please give details below)	
No	

About your build

West Lancashire Borough Council
Custom and Self Build Register



What is your reason for wishing to pursue Self-build / Custom build?

Will this self-build / custom build property be your sole residence?	
Yes	
No	

What type of build are you interested in?	
<p>Individual custom build</p> <p>[A single plot of land to build your own home to live in. You may do some or all of the build yourself or employ someone to build the house for you.]</p>	
<p>Group custom build [otherwise known as associations of individuals]</p> <p>[A group of people who come together to design and develop properties on a number of plots which they then live in. They may build these themselves or with help from a developer/project manager]</p> <p>If you select this option, please state how many serviced plots of land in West Lancashire the members of the association are seeking to acquire</p>	Number:
<p>Developer-led custom build</p> <p>[A developer divides a larger site into individual plots and provides a design and build service to purchasers enabling them to customise existing house designs to suit their needs. These plots may be part of a larger housing scheme.]</p>	

West Lancashire Borough Council
Custom and Self Build Register



What size plot are you interested in?	
Under 150m ²	
150m ² – 200m ²	
200m ² – 250m ²	
250m ² – 300m ²	
300m ² – 350m ²	
350m ² – 400m ²	
Larger? (please state size)	

What type of property would you like to build?					
House		Bungalow		Flat/Apartment	
Detached		Semi-detached		Terraced	

How many bedrooms do you require?	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5+	

Would you like a garage?	
Yes	
No	

**West Lancashire Borough Council
Custom and Self Build Register**



What location are you looking for?
(please specify)

--

Do you have previous experience of self-build / custom build?

--

Do you have contacts with trades?

If so, please provide details below:

--

Do you intend to appoint a professional team?

If YES, please provide details of your preferred:

--

West Lancashire Borough Council

Custom and Self Build Register



Project Manager	
Architect	
Engineer	
Cost consultant	
Other (please specify)	

What are your timescales – from finance, planning to build through to completion?

(Taking into account the length of time required to sell your present house, if required)

What level of insurance are you proposing to purchase whilst construction is underway?



Financial Information

What is the tenure of your current home?	
Social rented	
Private rented	
Shared ownership	
Owner occupied	

If you currently own your current property, please complete the following:	
Approximate value of your property	
Amount of equity held in the property	

What is your budget for the project?	
Costs of land	
Building works	

West Lancashire Borough Council

Custom and Self Build Register



How do you propose to fund your self-build / custom build property?	
Mortgage? (Please provide details – i.e. have you made contact with a mortgage broker?)	
Savings?	
Sale of existing property?	
Other? (please give details)	

West Lancashire Borough Council

Custom and Self Build Register



Declaration

Signed:

Date:

Use of information:

West Lancashire Borough Council will use the information from the Custom and Self Build Register to gain a greater understanding of the demand for custom and self-build projects in the Borough. We will not pass identifiable information onto anyone outside the Council without your written consent. The Council will determine the application for entry onto its register within 28 days of its receipt and will advise the applicant of their success or otherwise.

CABINET: 12 September 2017



Report of: Director of Development and Regeneration

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Hodson

Contact for further information: Mr Peter Richards (Extn. 5046)
(E-mail: peter.richards@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: LOCAL PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for an updated Local Development Scheme, reflecting a slightly amended timetable for the Local Plan Review, and to seek approval for additional funding for evidence base studies that are necessary to inform the Local Plan Review.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix A be approved for publication.

2.2 That funding of £50,000 be approved from the Major Projects Reserve to fund additional evidence base studies required to inform the Local Plan Review.

3.0 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

3.1 The Local Plan Review, approved by Cabinet in September 2016, has progressed well through the first 12 months of the timetable, with only a small delay in the publication of the Issues & Options Papers in March 2017 and the successful completion of the public consultation on those Issues & Options Papers. Officers are now working on the preparation of the Preferred Options for a new Local Plan, with regular input from the Local Plan Cabinet Working Group.

- 3.2 To account for knock-on effects of the small delay in the publication of the Issues & Options Papers and to allow a little more time to prepare the Preferred Options, the timetable for the Local Plan Review has been updated. The timetable is incorporated into the Local Development Scheme, a document which the Council are required to prepare and publish regularly in order to keep it up-to-date and to enable members of the public and interested parties to see the progress on the Local Plan Review.
- 3.3 As such, an updated Local Development Scheme has been prepared (see Appendix A) and Cabinet are asked to approve this for publication at recommendation 2.1 above.

4.0 EVIDENCE BASE STUDIES

- 4.1 A key part of this stage of the Local Plan Review (preparing the Preferred Options) is the preparation of evidence base studies which can then inform the direction policies, or the Local Plan as a whole, take on certain issues. The list of evidence needed to support a Local Plan Review is wide-ranging and extensive and is made up of three broad types:
- Analysis and interpretation of data that is already available to the Council;
 - Studies which Council officers have the expertise to undertake and for which it is a wise use of Council resources to use officers to undertake; and
 - Studies which require expertise that the Council does not have or for which it is more cost-effective to use external support.
- 4.2 Council officers carried out much of the analysis and interpretation of available data (mainly Census data and other ONS statistics) prior to the preparation of the Issues & Options Papers and, indeed, this evidence directly informed the identification of issues that the Local Plan Review might address. Council officers have carried out, and continue to carry out, several studies "in-house" that will form key elements of the evidence base of the Local Plan Review. These include the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- 4.3 In relation to those studies which the Council must seek external, consultancy support on, the Development and Regeneration Service has a small budget for the costs of utilising consultancy expertise, publicity and promotion, and external printing services necessary to prepare a Local Plan and other planning policy related documents. Ordinarily, this budget is sufficient to cover annual costs associated with the above services, but, given the large number of evidence studies that need to be prepared in a short space of time over the financial year 2017/18, the Council needs to spend more on consultancy services to ensure the necessary evidence is prepared in time to support the preparation of the Preferred Options.
- 4.4 The Development and Regeneration Service's revenue budget allocated £44,000 to consultancy, publicity and promotion, and printing costs for the Local Plan review in 2017/18. A similar annual budget has been assigned in the previous

two years but this is a reduced figure compared to the preparation of the last Local Plan given that, in between the preparation of Local Plans, the full budget was not always being fully utilised. In addition to this £44,000 budget, Council agreed in July 2017 that £15,600 of unspent funding should be rolled forward from 2016/17, giving a total of £59,600 available to spend this year.

4.5 Thus far, this budget has been allocated to the following evidence base studies:

- Housing Requirement Policy-on Scenarios
- Affordable and Specialist Housing Needs Study
- Traveller Needs Assessment
- Retail and Commercial Leisure Study
- Playing Pitch Strategy Review

4.6 However, the Council still needs to commission several more studies in 2017/18, including:

- Open Space Study (estimated cost £25,000)
- Traffic Impact Assessment for the Local Plan Preferred Options (costs to be shared with Highways England) (estimated cost £20,000)
- Renewable Energy Study (possibility this would be a joint study with LCR authorities) (estimated cost £15,000)
- Further joint work with LCR authorities to follow-on from the SHELMA (estimated cost £9,000)

4.7 These will cost substantially more than the remaining budget and so Cabinet are asked to agree that £50,000 of Reserves be used to enable these essential studies to be commissioned in 2017/18 and so inform the preparation of the Local Plan Preferred Options.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 While there are no direct implications for sustainability or the community strategy of the recommendations Cabinet are being asked to consider in this report, the outcome of a Local Plan Review (i.e. a new Local Plan) clearly will have implications for sustainability and the community strategy, but it is impossible to predict what those may be at this very early stage.

5.2 However, the Council are required to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Local Plan as it progresses through preparation, with the SA directly informing the policy formulation of the Local Plan, and so the issue of sustainability will be directly addressed and the principle of sustainable will necessarily run through the Local Plan as a key guiding principle (or golden thread, as the NPPF calls it).

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 It is anticipated that costs associated with the Local Plan Review and the preparation of the new Local Plan will be met from existing budget provisions of the Development and Regeneration Service, aside from the additional budget

requested in this report for further consultancy support on evidence base studies. However, the Examination of the Local Plan, once it has been prepared and submitted for Examination, will be a significant separate cost that will require additional funding and will form part of a budget growth bid for 2019/20.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The primary risk associated with the above recommendations would be the delay in the preparation of the Local Plan Review should additional funding not be allocated to the preparation of evidence studies as it would be unwise to publish Preferred Options for the Local Plan without a full set of evidence base studies.

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 Cabinet are being asked to make is simply related to the publication of the Local Development Scheme (essentially a timetable and project plan for the Local Plan Review) and the provision of Council funds to allow the preparation of additional evidence required for the Local Plan Review and so there is no direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Appendices

Appendix A – Local Development Scheme (September 2017)



Local Development Scheme

West Lancashire Borough Council

September 2017

WEST LANCASHIRE



LOCAL PLAN

John Harrison, DipEnvP, MRTPI

Director of Development and Regeneration

West Lancashire Borough Council

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Chapter 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan for the Local Plan for West Lancashire. The production of an LDS is a requirement on Local Planning Authorities arising from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by Section 111 of the Localism Act 2011. Furthermore, the Council's adherence to the timescale it has set itself within the LDS will be used as a performance measure.
- 1.2 This Local Development Scheme provides a guide for the preparation of a Local Plan Review which will culminate in a new Local Plan for West Lancashire as well as selected Supplementary Planning Documents that will also need to be prepared. This version of the LDS replaces that previously produced in September 2016. It includes the following Chapters:
- Chapter 1 provides an introduction and offers a background to why we have prepared an LDS and what the purpose of it is, as well providing a list of the current set of local planning policy documents;
 - Chapter 2 identifies the topics that we envisage will make up a new Local Plan for West Lancashire and the likely timescale for preparing the Local Plan;
 - Chapter 3 looks at the evidence base that will underpin the production of the Local Plan;
 - Chapter 4 identifies the resources available to the Development and Regeneration Service of the Council to support the preparation of a new Local Plan; and
 - Chapter 5 considers the risks that exist which could slow progress on the Local Plan and some of the mitigation measures which can be put in place.

Background

- 1.3 The current West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 was adopted in October 2013 and while it is only four years old, the context surrounding planning and development is constantly changing and national planning policy is evolving with it. This means that local planning policy, such as Local Plans, can quickly become out of date if they are not reviewed and updated accordingly, which can have two main negative consequences.

- 1.4 First, an out-of-date Local Plan can stymie necessary growth, both economically and in terms of providing the right kind of development in the right place in a timely fashion. Secondly, if local planning policy is out of date it can be ineffective in managing and guiding where appropriate development should take place and can lead to a situation where the Council has less control or choice in its decisions.
- 1.5 Therefore, while the current adopted Local Plan for West Lancashire is not out of date at this point in time, the Council considered it prudent to begin work on a Local Plan Review in September 2016 with the aim of preparing a new Local Plan, especially given that the gathering and review of all evidence, the preparation of a Local Plan and the Examination of the final document by a Planning Inspector can, all together, take several years. However, all policies in the current, adopted Local Plan will remain effective and a part of the Development Plan for the Borough until they are replaced by new policies in a newly adopted Local Plan.
- 1.6 Producing any Local Plan is a major project that requires significant resources in order to prepare it and a project management approach is vitally important to enable production within a given timescale. The Council views the LDS as a key project management tool in the production of its Local Plan.
- 1.7 The LDS has three main purposes:
 - To inform people of how the Local Plan will be prepared and the likely timescale involved;
 - To establish work priorities and enable work programmes to be formed; and
 - To set a timescale for the monitoring and review of the preparation of such documents.
- 1.8 This LDS contains all those Development Plan Documents (such as a Local Plan) and Supplementary Planning Documents for which a timetable is known as at September 2017 that the Council is responsible for. Minerals and Waste matters are the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, although the relevant Development Plan Documents (DPDs) related to those matters do form part of the Development Plan for West Lancs.

1.9 It is possible that in the future further documents will be added. These will only be added into this document, however, when a detailed timetable for the work can be established.

Current Local Planning Policy documents

1.10 The current adopted Development Plan for West Lancashire is made up of three documents:

- The West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 DPD (October 2013); and
- The Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy DPD (February 2009)
- The Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Site Allocation and Development Management Policies (September 2013)

1.11 In addition, one policy from the West Lancashire Replacement Local Plan 2001-2016 was saved at the time of the adoption of the current Local Plan. Policy DE4 – Caravan Sites for Gypsies and Travelling Show People – is therefore currently still part of the Development Plan.

1.12 The Council has a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that are current and several Supplementary Planning Guidance documents (SPGs) that have been retained and are still relevant:

- Development in the Green Belt SPD (October 2015)
- Yew Tree Farm, Burscough Masterplan SPD (February 2015)
- Provision of Public Open Space in New Residential Developments SPD (September 2014)
- Skelmersdale Town Centre Masterplan SPD (September 2008)
- Design Guide SPD (January 2008)
- Accommodation for Temporary Agricultural Workers SPG
- Affordable Housing SPG
- Design Guide for Shop Fronts SPG
- Natural Areas and Areas of Landscape History Importance SPG

- [Trees and Development](#) SPG
- [Site Planning - Layout and Design](#) SPG
- [Dalton Village Design Statement](#) SPG
- [Whalleys Housing and Mixed Use Sites](#) SPG
- [Whitemoss Business Park](#) SPG
- [Land West of Stanley Industrial Estate](#) SPG

1.13 The Council also adopted a new **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** in June 2016. The SCI sets out who we will consult on various aspects of planning, and what methods we will use.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

1.14 CIL is not technically local planning policy, or a matter that is required to be reported on in the LDS, but it is inextricably linked to local planning, being a levy that is placed on new development at the time permission is granted. As a new Local Plan is prepared, it is inevitable that a new CIL Charging Schedule will need to be prepared in order to ensure that CIL is charged at the correct level based on viability evidence that incorporates the new local planning policy context. The Council will determine in due course the most appropriate time to review the CIL Charging Schedule.

Chapter 2 A Local Plan Review – a timetable

2.1 The timetable for the Local Plan Review and preparation of a new Local Plan is set out in the chart on the following page, but there are a number of key stages in the process that it is worth explaining a little more:

Regulation 18 “Scoping” consultation and Preparation of Evidence

2.2 In order to begin to satisfy the first part of Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (and alongside the publication of this LDS) the Council wrote to a wide range of key stakeholders in September 2016 to consult on the scope of the Local Plan Review, i.e. what topics a new Local Plan for West Lancashire should cover and what time period it should cover. Feedback received from this consultation is available on the Council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/localplan.

2.3 A further stage of Scoping consultation was carried out with the general public and any other interested parties alongside the Issues & Options consultation discussed below. The feedback received from this additional Scoping consultation is also available at www.westlancs.gov.uk/localplan.

2.4 Preparation of evidence to better understand key planning issues is an essential part of the Local Plan Review and directly informs the preparation of new local planning policy and so the Council have already begun to collate the evidence needed to formulate policies for a Local Plan, and will consider collating further evidence as necessary based upon the feedback in the above scoping consultation with key stakeholders. Preparation of evidence is covered in greater detail in the next chapter but it will include undertaking some studies in-house and, in other cases, commissioning consultants to prepare studies where the Council does not have the relevant expertise in-house.

Issues & Options stage

2.5 Following the scoping consultation, the Council prepared a series of Issues & Options Papers for the Local Plan Review, and consulted on them in March / April 2017. This Issues & Options stage is a key step in the early preparation of the new Local Plan, as it sets out the full range of potential planning-related issues in West Lancashire and begins to consider how those issues can be addressed through a Local Plan (i.e. policy options).

Local Plan Review Timetable
September 2017

Document / Stage	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Local Plan Review																
Preparation of Evidence																
Regulation 18 "Scoping" Consultation																
Preparation of Issues & Options Paper																
Issues & Options Consultation																
Preparation of Preferred Options																
Preferred Options Consultation																
Preparation of Publication version																
Publication / Pre-Submission Consultation																
Submission to Planning Inspectorate																
Examination in Public (inc. Hearings and any Modifications consultation)																
Receipt of Inspector's Report																
Adoption of Local Plan																

- 2.6 Overlying the consideration of the issues, the Issues & Options Papers also proposed a draft Vision & Objectives for a new Local Plan and considered a series of Strategic Options for the amount of development (housing and employment land) together with the spatial distribution of that development.
- 2.7 The responses and feedback generated through the Issues & Options consultation is available to view at www.westlancs.gov.uk/localplan.

Preferred Options stage

- 2.8 Following the consultation on the Issues & Options Paper, the Council have started the process of preparing a Preferred Options Paper, which involves narrowing down to a single, preferred option for the amount of new development to be included in the Local Plan and the spatial distribution of that new development, considering what site allocations will be necessary for different uses in order to deliver that amount of development and drafting new planning policies to guide new development proposals in the new Local Plan.
- 2.9 Whichever option is ultimately settled on, it is likely that every part of the Borough will need to see some new development in order to meet local needs, and in many locations this could well involve Green Belt release due to the way that the Green Belt boundary is so tightly defined around West Lancashire's settlements. Therefore, a wide range of sites will need to be assessed.
- 2.10 The culmination of this stage of the Local Plan Review will be a public consultation on the Preferred Options Paper, which is essentially a draft Local Plan, with proposed policies included in draft and proposed site allocations. This Paper would be publicly consulted on in June / July 2018. This stage, together with the previous Issues & Options stage, forms the bulk of the requirements of Regulation 18.

Publication of Pre-Submission Local Plan, Submission and Examination and Adoption

- 2.11 The final few stages of the Local Plan Review reflect the more formal stages of the Local Plan preparation, starting with the publication of the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan. This is essentially the "final draft" version of the Local Plan which the Council wishes to submit for Examination. It is published to give members of the public and other stakeholders the opportunity to make formal representations on the

Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan. These representations are then submitted, with the Local Plan, to the Secretary of State for the Examination of the Local Plan.

- 2.12 As such, this “publication” stage is not consultation, but simply seeking representations, and so the only events the Council would have at this stage would be "Drop-In" events for information only, to help individuals to make their representations.
- 2.13 Following this publication period, the Council would then decide on whether to submit the Local Plan for Examination. Once the Local Plan is submitted, it is then in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate to appoint an Inspector to undertake the Examination and write a report concluding whether or not the Local Plan is sound, and outlining any changes that are necessary to make it sound. Once the Local Plan has been found sound, the Council can adopt it. If there are significant changes proposed by the Inspector (known as main modifications) there may need to be a further stage of consultation during the Examination, with all responses ultimately being considered by the Inspector.

Other local planning policy documents

- 2.14 As well as the Local Plan, the Council may choose to prepare new SPDs as the Local Plan progresses and specific matters arise which are best addressed in detail through an SPD, but at this time the Council are not proposing to begin preparation of any SPDs until there is a firmer idea of what Local Plan policies will cover (and in what detail) and so what further detail may be needed in an SPD.
- 2.15 Two years ago, the Council were preparing an Affordable and Specialist Housing SPD, and even consulted on a draft version. However, uncertainty about the status of national guidance on affordable housing in the Planning Practice Guidance following a challenge in the Court of Appeal and the subsequent proposed introduction of Starter Homes as affordable housing caused the Council to pause work on the SPD until greater clarity was available. As of last year, it was expected that this clarity would begin to emerge and enable the Council to prepare the SPD, but this has not been the case and so the Council will consider a new Affordable and Specialist Housing SPD once this clarity has been provided and the Council has decided upon a clear direction in affordable and specialist housing policy in the proposed new Local Plan.

Summary of Planning Policy documents to be produced

West Lancashire Local Plan															
Document Details	<p>Role & Content: Sets out the main planning context of the Borough, the development strategy for the Borough and priority locations for development, development management policies and site allocations;</p> <p>Status: Development Plan Document (DPD);</p> <p>Chain of Conformity: The Local Plan should conform with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Any additional DPDs or SPDs, and any Neighbourhood Plans, should conform with the Local Plan;</p> <p>Geographic Coverage: Whole Borough.</p>														
Timetable	<table> <tr> <td>Initial Regulation 18 Scoping Consultation</td> <td>October 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Issues & Options Consultation</td> <td>March / April 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preferred Options Consultation</td> <td>June / July 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publication / Pre-Submission Consultation</td> <td>January / February 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Submission to Planning Inspectorate</td> <td>April 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examination Period (inc. Hearings)</td> <td>April 2019 – March 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adoption</td> <td>April 2020</td> </tr> </table>	Initial Regulation 18 Scoping Consultation	October 2016	Issues & Options Consultation	March / April 2017	Preferred Options Consultation	June / July 2018	Publication / Pre-Submission Consultation	January / February 2019	Submission to Planning Inspectorate	April 2019	Examination Period (inc. Hearings)	April 2019 – March 2020	Adoption	April 2020
Initial Regulation 18 Scoping Consultation	October 2016														
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Submission to Planning Inspectorate	April 2019														
Examination Period (inc. Hearings)	April 2019 – March 2020														
Adoption	April 2020														
Arrangements for Production	<p>Prepared by Strategic Planning & Implementation Team;</p> <p>Input from other Council services;</p> <p>Input and approval from Members via Cabinet, Local Plan Cabinet Working Group, Planning Committee, Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and, for submission and adoption, Council;</p> <p>Adequate staffing resource is available within Department for production.</p>														
Commentary on Progress	<p>In broad terms, the preparation of a new Local Plan has progressed as planned in the LDS published in September 2016. There was a slight delay in the publication of the Issues & Options Papers for public consultation and this has caused a knock-on delay in the remainder of the timetable, but the current timetable still anticipates submission of the Local Plan for examination by April 2019 (compared to December 2018 in the previous LDS) and adoption by April 2020 (compared to December 2019 in the previous LDS). This would still represent a shorter than typical preparation time for a new Local Plan of only 3.5 years.</p>														

Chapter 3 The Evidence Base

3.1 A Local Plan Review requires an extensive evidence base covering a wide range of topics and the following provides a summary of what evidence the Council are collecting, and when, to inform the Local Plan Review. This list could well change, especially if feedback from consultation with stakeholders identifies a gap in the proposed evidence base. All published versions of the various evidence base studies (whether in draft or as a final version) are available on the Council's website at:

<http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/the-local-plan/local-plan-review/evidence-base.aspx> .

- **Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)**

The Council have been working with the Liverpool City Region Authorities on the preparation of a Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) since the start of 2016. The SHELMA will identify the objectively-assessed need (OAN) for housing and employment land across the City Region and by individual Authority to 2037. While a draft report has been prepared by the appointed consultants (GL Hearn), the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has not yet agreed its publication.

In light of this delay, the Council asked GL Hearn to prepare a HEDNA report just for West Lancashire, drawing down the OAN calculations emerging from the draft SHELMA for West Lancashire into a discrete report that West Lancashire could publish to support the Local Plan Review Issues & Options consultation.

Since the Issues & Options consultation, the Council have asked GL Hearn to undertake a further piece of HEDNA-related evidence work to consider what are known as "policy-on" scenarios to understand what the implications of certain policy decisions would be for economic growth and the accompanying growth in housing demand. Further evidence work may be required to follow-up on aspects of this work either on a West Lancashire basis or a joint LCR basis.

- **Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)**

The Council prepared a draft SHELAA that was published alongside the Issues & Options consultation. The SHELAA has two functions: 1) to enable all sites that are potentially available for development to be brought to the attention of the Council and ultimately be assessed as to their suitability for development, and 2) to identify the 5, 10 and 15-year supply of sites in the SHELAA that are currently, in principle, policy-compliant with the current adopted Local Plan.

More information on existing and several new sites were submitted by landowners and developers in response to the draft SHELAA, and the Council have taken this information into consideration and will publish a final 2017 SHELAA in September 2017. The SHELAA will be updated each year following a call for any new information on existing or new sites.

- **Affordable and Specialist Housing Needs Study (ASHNS)**

Whilst the SHELMA (above) looks at overall housing needs, the ASHNS looks specifically at the local need for affordable housing in its various forms (social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, etc.), as well as the need for housing for the elderly, and for people living in houseboats in caravans (non-travellers). The study is being undertaken by consultants and is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2017.

- **Traveller Needs Assessment**

A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was undertaken by consultants in 2013/14 for Merseyside and West Lancashire. Since then, the government have changed the definition of "traveller". The 2017 Traveller Needs Assessment will provide an updated figure for accommodation needs for the travelling community in West Lancashire, taking into account the government's revised definition of traveller. This study should be complete mid-autumn 2017.

- **Student Accommodation Needs Assessment**

The Council, with support from Edge Hill University, are assessing how many students are currently studying at the University and live (or would like to live)

in student accommodation in West Lancashire (in particular in Ormskirk) and how this demand for student accommodation may change in the future. Alongside this, the Council is assessing where students currently live in West Lancashire in order to get a more complete picture of existing provision of student accommodation. From these two sets of information, the Council hope to be able to identify how best to meet student accommodation needs in West Lancashire going forward in the Local Plan, be that through on-campus accommodation, off-campus purpose built accommodation, Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) or other, smaller units (e.g. properties converted to individual flats).

- **Traffic / Transport Impact Assessment**

The Council will work with Highways England, Lancashire County Council and consultants Mouchel to identify the additional traffic flows that are likely to be created by new sites proposed in the Local Plan Preferred Options and how that traffic will affect the existing Key Route Network and Strategic Route Network. This will allow Highways England and Lancashire County Council to consider where improvements may be required on particular routes / junctions to mitigate for the additional flows.

- **Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)**

The Council published a draft IDP alongside the Issues & Options consultation. This could only consider existing infrastructure capacity compared to existing demand. However, as the Preferred Options are developed, the IDP can be expanded to consider how the existing infrastructure in the Borough will be able to cope with the additional demands placed upon it by new development and identify any improvements that will need to be made to infrastructure to meet the increased demand.

- **Sustainable Settlement Study**

The Council have prepared a Sustainable Settlement Study to consider how sustainable each town and village in West Lancashire is, when considering access to key services. This then allows a settlement hierarchy to be identified and inform deliberations in the Local Plan Review of which settlements should be the focus for new development.

- **Retail and Commercial Leisure Study**

The Council have appointed consultants Peter Brett Associates to produce a Borough wide Retail and Leisure Study in order to meet requirements set out by paragraph 23 of the NPPF. The Study will establish future retail and leisure floorspace requirements for the Borough with a view to informing the allocation of sites for future town centre uses in the Local Plan, undertake health checks of Burscough, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale town centres and identify future strategies for each of these centres. It is expected to be completed by October 2017.

- **Playing Pitch Strategy Review**

A West Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) was adopted as Council policy in February 2016. The PPS considers a range of sports including football, rugby union, cricket, hockey and bowls and identifies future needs for pitches. It recommends a number of priority projects which should be implemented between 2015 and 2025 for pitches and associated facilities such as changing rooms and will be used to identify which pitches and facilities should be protected and where any new provision should be made. In order to identify progress with recommendations and identify any important changes that have taken place, the PPS is currently being refreshed in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance for keeping a strategy robust and up to date. This will be completed by November.

- **Open Space Study**

The Council plan to update a Borough wide Open Space Study to identify local open space needs, audit local site provision, set local open space standards and apply those standards to identify surpluses and deficiencies in different types of open space across the Borough. The Study will develop a strategy identifying where and how open space should be protected, enhanced and where future new provision should be created. This will then be used to determine open space designations and planning policies in the new Local Plan. Robust and up to date assessments of the needs for both open space and sports provision are required by paragraph 73 of the NPPF.

- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)**

Paragraph 100 of the NPPF indicates that Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The Council have consulted on a draft Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) between March and April 2017.

The primary purpose of the SFRA is to provide information on flood risk from all sources in the Borough and inform decision making in the emerging Local Plan in terms of the allocation of land and drafting of policies to manage flood risk.

The Level 1 SFRA will be revised in light of comments received during consultation and published alongside the Preferred Options version of the Local Plan. If it becomes apparent that draft Local Plan site allocations cannot be located in areas at least risk from flooding then a more detailed Level 2 SFRA will be required.

- **Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy**

The Council have prepared a Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy which is due to be finalised and approved in September 2017. The Strategy sets out the Council's aspirations for new Green Infrastructure and cycling infrastructure across West Lancashire, in particular the proposed Linear Parks and the West Lancs Wheel. As such, the Local Plan will be prepared with regard to how parts of the Strategy might be delivered alongside (or by) new development.

- **Renewables / Low Carbon Development Study**

The Council will appoint consultants to prepare a study that assesses the potential capacity of West Lancashire to provide Renewable Energy or Low Carbon Developments, taking into account constraints that would impact on the suitability of such developments in a given location. The study may identify areas which are most suitable for particular types of Renewable Energy developments, and this will inform any policy on Renewable Energy developments in the new Local Plan.

- **Thematic and Spatial Evidence Papers**

The Council have prepared a range of thematic papers to summarise the available data and information on particular topics that form the baseline evidence for the Local Plan Review. This information has also been

summarised in spatial papers to identify the key issues affecting each spatial area.

- **Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment**

A Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) is a legal requirement as part of a Local Plan preparation to assess the sustainability merits and environmental impacts of the preferred options selected in the Local Plan and the alternative options that have been considered. As such, it is an integral part of the evidence and decision-making process on the Local Plan.

- **Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

A HRA is another legal requirement to consider the impacts that the Local Plan may have on internationally-designated nature sites, such as Martin Mere and the Ribble Estuary. The HRA must first scope out whether impacts are potentially likely and then carry out an Appropriate Assessment of those impacts to identify any issues which the Local Plan must address or mitigation required to minimise the impacts of new development.

- **Health and Equality Impact Assessment**

Many aspects of new development and the way a place functions can have impacts on the health of the population and can have different effects on different groups of the population. As such, the Council will prepare a Health and Equality Impact Assessment of the Local Plan Preferred Options in order to identify ways in which the Local Plan can be improved to support a healthier population and to ensure that no particular group in society is prejudiced by the proposals.

Chapter 4 Resources

- 4.1 The Local Plan Review and subsequent new Local Plan will be produced by the Council's Strategic Planning & Implementation Team but a document as wide ranging as a Local Plan will inevitably involve input from various parts of the Council as well as from external partners.
- 4.2 The Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager will take the lead role in developing the Local Plan Review, project managing the process and the preparation of a new Local Plan and all other local planning policy documents and CIL documents.
- 4.3 The Strategic Planning & Implementation Team will liaise closely with a number of other Council sections in developing the Plan, including:
- The Development Management Team (who will use the Local Plan to make decisions on planning applications)
 - The Heritage & Environment Team (on design, heritage, trees and landscaping)
 - The Economic Regeneration Team (on economic development and regeneration matters, town centre proposals and employment land)
 - The Housing Strategy and Development Programme Manager (on affordable and specialist housing)
 - The Technical Services Team (on flooding, drainage and other engineering matters)
 - The Leisure and Wellbeing Service (on leisure / public open space and health matters)
 - The Environmental Protection and Community Safety Team (on environmental protection, public health and community safety matters)
- 4.4 The staffing resource of the Strategic Planning & Implementation Team is as per the team structure chart below. It is considered that this level of staff, supplemented by a small budget to cover the costs of external specialist consultancy advice, is sufficient to adequately resource the preparation of a new Local Plan, and its evidence, up to the point of submission as well as the following:
- Preparation of all other local planning policy documents;
 - Responding to new Government planning policies, and other Government strategies and plans related to Planning;
 - Engaging with adjacent authorities and other agencies on planning matters;

- All monitoring required to prepare the Annual Monitoring Report and Housing Land Supply;
- The on-going maintenance of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule;
- Administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy and how it is spent;
- Implementation of key projects to help deliver the proposals within the Local Plan and other documents, particularly transport and infrastructure related;
- Involvement in the preparation of key Council strategies; and
- Advising the Council's Development Management Team on the interpretation of planning policies and, where necessary, attending planning appeals.

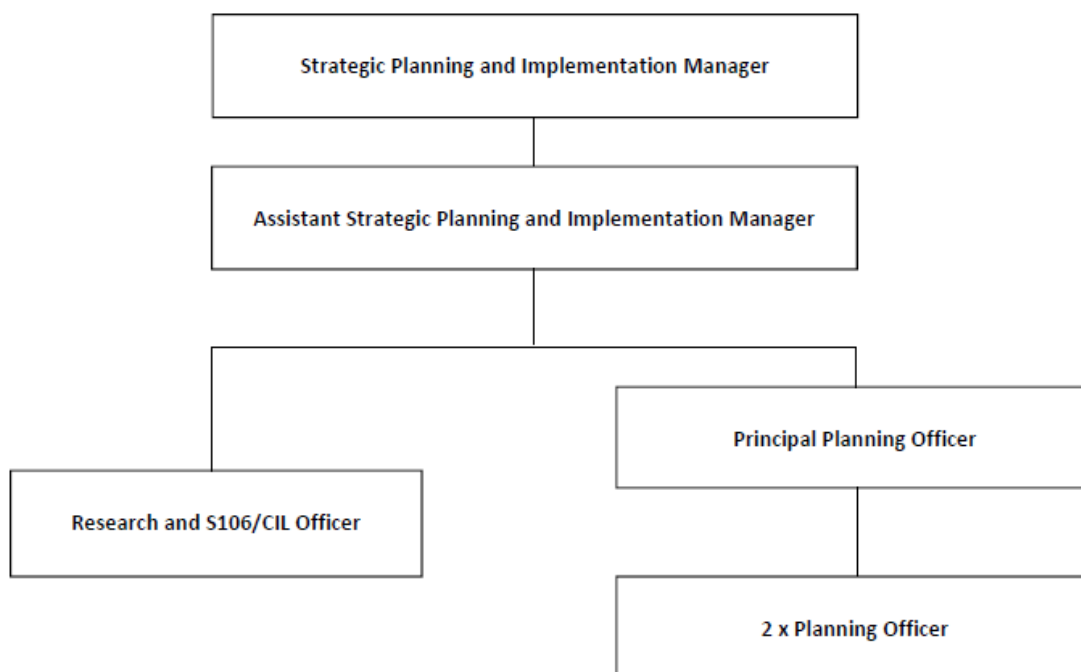


Figure 1: Strategic Planning & Implementation Team Structure

4.5 Given that West Lancashire Borough Council is a two-tier Authority with Lancashire County Council, the Strategic Planning & Implementation Team will also continue to liaise closely with the County, especially on issues of highways and transportation, as well as having reference to the County's planning policy work on Minerals and Waste and their role as Education Authority. On the issue of transport, the Strategic Planning & Implementation Team also liaise closely with Merseytravel as the public transport

executive for Merseyside, extending into parts of West Lancashire, and Transport for Greater Manchester.

- 4.6 Resources have also been, and will continue to be, saved through effective partnership working with neighbouring Local Authorities. The Strategic Planning & Implementation Team are working closely with their peers in Merseyside, Lancashire and Greater Manchester in order to deliver "joined-up" cross-border planning on many issues that are not restricted by Local Authority boundaries. This also helps to fulfil the Duty to Co-operate introduced by the Localism Act 2011.
- 4.7 The Strategic Planning & Implementation Team will also continue to liaise closely with a wide range of infrastructure providers to ensure that development is located where infrastructure is already provided or to consider how infrastructure can be provided over the Local Plan period to meet the needs created by development in the Local Plan.

Chapter 5 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 The planning system requires effective project management techniques to ensure, as far as possible, that stated timetables for Local Plan, and other local planning policy document, preparation are adhered to. Through the use of such techniques, the Strategic Planning & Implementation Team will endeavour to ensure that progress is kept 'on track', in accordance with the dates set out within this LDS. However, there are a variety of circumstances which alone, or in combination, can conspire to delay the preparation process.
- 5.2 It is important that the Council, the local community and all other stakeholders in the planning process, are aware of the possible risks to preparation. This is so that the risks can be minimised or mitigation measures put in place in the case of delays being occasioned. The following table identifies some of the more likely risks that could prejudice Local Plan preparation and the mitigation measures that could be employed.

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Legislation / Government Guidance</p> <p>Publication of national planning policy statements can generate new issues that the Local Plan, or its preparation, must address, sometimes causing delays.</p>	<p>Maintain close liaison with latest national guidance and its preparation.</p> <p>Revise Local Plan timetable if necessary.</p> <p>Adequate budgetary provision for consultancy support if required.</p>
<p>Planning Inspectorate</p> <p>Delays could be caused if the Local Plan or other documents takes longer than expected in the Examination process.</p>	<p>Keep in touch with Inspectorate and advise them of requests for Examinations at the earliest possible time.</p> <p>The Council will monitor Inspector's decisions elsewhere to seek to ensure the Council is following best practice.</p>
<p>Legal / Soundness</p> <p>Local Plan fails tests of soundness which would significantly delay process.</p> <p>Legal challenge to document could see Local Plan, or part of it, quashed.</p>	<p>Ensure robust evidence base and use soundness self-assessment toolkit.</p> <p>Draw on external expertise where necessary to ensure evidence and approach to policy is robust.</p> <p>Ensure procedures, Acts and Regulations are complied with.</p>

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Other External Bodies</p> <p>The planning system involves complex arrangements for co-operation, consultation, engagement and evidence gathering. Failure on the part of other bodies to respond on time or to provide adequate responses (which require subsequent clarification) could cause significant delay to work programmes.</p>	<p>Contact external bodies at the earliest opportunity and communicate clearly and regularly with them to minimise risk of no / poor responses and therefore delays.</p>
<p>Joint Working</p> <p>There can be challenges in achieving joint working with other local authorities on evidence base and ensuring that the Duty to Co-operate is fulfilled as each authority is working to their own programme and has their own particular concerns with regard an area of evidence. As such, projects / evidence studies can take longer when joint working is involved.</p>	<p>Establish clear working arrangements with other local authorities and ensure strong programme / project management.</p>
<p>Staffing</p> <p>Individual absences due to leave, personnel changes or sickness can cause delays in document production.</p> <p>Staff could leave the authority and could be difficult to replace, therefore causing delays to document production while the team is under-strength.</p>	<p>Local Plan timetable should be set on a realistic basis taking into account the staff resources available.</p> <p>Ensure quick replacement of staff wherever possible.</p> <p>Flexibility of staff within the Development and Regeneration Service enables secondment opportunities from other planning-related teams in the Service to help with workload.</p> <p>Some elements of work can be undertaken by consultants where there is financial resource available.</p>
<p>Political Direction / Management</p> <p>Members requiring late amendment to proposed documents or not willing to approve a document for consultation / submission / adoption.</p>	<p>Early consultation and information sharing with Members will reduce the likelihood of late amendments being required or documents being rejected.</p>
<p>Reduced Council Resources</p> <p>In the current climate of austerity, and reducing Council budgets, it is possible the resource available to the Development and Regeneration Service would be reduced affecting the speed at which a Local Plan can be prepared.</p>	<p>Explore all opportunities for joint working and service sharing.</p> <p>Maximise flexibility across the service.</p> <p>Revise Local Plan timetable if necessary.</p>



CABINET: 12 September 2017

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
28 September 2017

Report of: Borough Treasurer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C. Wynn

Contact for further information: Liz Fearn (Ext. 5605)
(E-mail: liz.fearn@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2016/2017

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide a summary of the capital outturn position for the 2016/2017 financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That the final position, including slippage, on the Capital Programme for the 2016/2017 financial year be noted and endorsed.

2.2 That Call In is not appropriate for this item as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 September 2017.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 That the final position on the Capital Programme for the 2016/2017 financial year be noted.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Members have been kept informed of the financial position of the Capital Programme with regular monitoring reports. This report provides Members with the final position on capital schemes for the 2016/2017 financial year. The position on the current year's Programme for 2017/2018 is discussed elsewhere on this Agenda.

5.0 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 5.1 The Capital Programme of £22.747m at the end of the 2016/2017 financial year is analysed by Service in Appendix A. The key result for the year is that good progress has been made in delivering schemes.
- 5.2 The total capital expenditure for the year was £16.852m which represents 74% of the total Budget for the year. This is slightly higher than 2015/2016 but consistent with earlier programmes as indicated in Table 1:

Year	Expenditure £m	Budget £m	% Spend against Budget
2016/2017	16.852	22.747	74%
2015/2016	17.470	26.661	66%
2014/2015	13.102	17.386	75%
2013/2014	15.129	19.503	78%

- 5.3 In total spending was £0.618m less than 2015/2016 and £3.750m more than 2014/2015. However the percentage spend of 74% was in line with recent experience.

6.0 SLIPPAGE OF EXPENDITURE APPROVALS

- 6.1 100% spend against the Budget is never anticipated due mainly to reasons beyond the Council's control. For example, some schemes are reliant on a significant amount of match funding and external contributions, and others are demand led or dependant upon decisions made by partners.
- 6.2 Schemes that are not completed within the financial year for which they are scheduled are slipped into the following financial year along with their unused expenditure and resource approvals. The total slippage figure for capital schemes from 2016/2017 is £6.383m. The main area of slippage was on the Housing Public Sector programme and details on this position were included in the HRA Revenue and Capital Outturn report to Council in July. Slippage has primarily been allocated to the current financial year (£5.475m) with the balance (£0.908m) slipped into later years.

7.0 SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES

- 7.1 There will always be some variances between the original estimated cost of a capital scheme and its final position and the Council has established budgetary management and control procedures in place to minimise such variances. While there have been a number of over and under spends this year, in total expenditure was £0.489m over budget, which is a variance of around 2%. This was primarily as a result of bringing forward the timing of Property Purchases to ensure that the opportunities from one for capital receipt funding were maximised.

8.0 CAPITAL RESOURCES

- 8.1 A breakdown of the budgeted resources of £22.747m identified to fund the programme is shown in Appendix A. The main area of the capital resources budget that is subject to variation is in relation to capital receipts. These are the useable proceeds from the sale of Council assets, mainly houses under Right to Buy sales, that are available to fund capital expenditure. Receipts are also generated from land sales through the Strategic Asset Management Process (SAMP). These receipts can vary significantly depending on the number and value of assets sold.
- 8.2 81 Right to Buy Council House sales were generated against the target of 50 for the year with further monies received from the sale of land. This is analysed in Table 2 below:

Year	Estimate £'000	Actual £'000	% Received against Budget
Right to Buy Sales	480	1,018	212%
Other Sales	100	155	155%
Total	580	1,173	202%

- 8.3 Estimates for the year are based on historical averages as the actual pattern of sales is volatile and can vary significantly from year to year. The level of receipts generated is above the budget target, and consideration will be given to how these additional funds can be allocated through the budget setting process for 2018/19.
- 8.4 In addition to the Usable Capital Receipt figures shown above, the Council is also able to retain a proportion of the proceeds generated by Council House sales for specific purposes. In this respect, by the end of the financial year £0.895m had been generated for “One for One Replacement Funding”.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 9.1 The Capital Programme includes schemes that the Council plans to implement to enhance service delivery and assets. Individual project plans address sustainability and Community Strategy issues and links to Corporate Priorities. The Capital Programme also achieves the objectives of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities by ensuring capital investment plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable.

10.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 Capital assets shape the way services are delivered for the long term and, as a result, create financial commitments. The formal reporting of performance against the Capital Programme is part of the overall budgetary management and control framework that is designed to minimise the financial risks facing the Council.

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

A 2016-2017 Capital Programme Outturn

APPENDIX A - 2016/2017 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN

Service	Budget Approval	Actual		Variance		Slippage	
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
EXPENDITURE							
Central Items							
Financial Services	61	17	28%	0	0%	44	72%
Central Schemes	306	5	2%	0	0%	301	98%
Leisure and Wellbeing							
Leisure and Wellbeing - General	977	855	87%	78	8%	201	21%
Housing Private Sector	1,066	660	62%	-29	-3%	377	35%
Development and Regeneration							
Planning	84	15	18%	0	0%	69	82%
Regeneration & Estates	3,834	3,852	100%	18	0%	0	0%
Housing Strategy	247	0	0%	0	0%	247	100%
Technical Services	111	74	67%	-15	-14%	22	19%
Housing and Inclusion							
Corporate Property	298	195	66%	0	0%	102	34%
Transformation	693	398	57%	0	0%	294	43%
Housing Public Sector	15,071	10,781	72%	436	3%	4,726	31%
Total Expenditure	22,747	16,852	74%	489	2%	6,383	28%
RESOURCES							
Capital Grants	1,381	1,069	77%	88	6%	400	29%
HRA Funding	7,936	10,506	132%	2,570	32%	0	0%
HRA Borrowing	7,041	0	0%	-2,466	-35%	4,575	65%
GRA Funding	1,145	942	82%	4	0%	207	18%
GRA Borrowing	2,905	2,969	102%	64	2%	0	0%
Capital Receipts	2,339	1,367	58%	229	10%	1,201	52%
Total Resources	22,747	16,852	74%	489	2%	6,383	28%



CABINET: 12 September 2017

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
28 September 2017

Report of: Borough Treasurer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C. Wynn

Contact for further information: Liz Fearn (Ext. 5605)
(E-mail: liz.fearn@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2017/2018

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview of the current progress on the Capital Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That Members note the progress on the Capital Programme as at the end of July, 2017.

2.2 That Call In is not appropriate for this item as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2017.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 That Members note the current progress on the Capital Programme.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 It is an agreed policy and best practice that monitoring reports are produced on a regular basis to ensure that Members are kept informed of the financial position of the Capital Programme. This is the first such report for the 2017/2018 financial year.

5.0 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGETS

- 5.1 A Capital Programme totalling £9.914m was approved at Council on 22nd February 2017. Slippage totalling £5.475m from the 2016/2017 Programme is included for consideration elsewhere on this Agenda and has been added to the 2017/2018 Programme. The Capital Programme for 2017/2018 is, therefore, now £15.389m and this is analysed by Service in Appendix A.

6.0 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- 6.1 Normally, new capital schemes are profiled with relatively low spending compared to budget in the early part of the financial year with increased spending as the year progresses. This reflects the fact that many new schemes have considerable lead in times, for example, because of the need to undertake a tendering process and award contracts at the start of the scheme. Other schemes are dependent on external partner funding and these schemes can only begin once their funding details have been finalised.
- 6.2 This year so far there has been a relatively low level of expenditure totalling £1.37m by the end of July compared to £6.48m at the same point in 2016/2017 and £2.23m in 2015/16. The expenditure level was particularly high in 2016/17 due to the £3.01m purchase of the W heatsheaf Walks site, and expenditure of £1.3m for the Firbeck Revival scheme.
- 6.3 It is anticipated that most schemes will progress and spend in line with their budget targets by the year end. All schemes, however, will be reviewed over the coming months and a Revised Medium Term Programme will be reported to Members in the Autumn taking into account new information and recent developments.

7.0 CAPITAL RESOURCES

- 7.1 Total budgeted resources for the year are £15.389m. This is analysed in Appendix A and includes funding for slippage.
- 7.2 The main area of the capital resources budget that is subject to variation is in relation to capital receipts. These are the useable proceeds from the sale of Council assets (mainly houses under Right to Buy legislation) that are available to fund capital expenditure. These receipts can vary significantly depending on the number and value of assets sold. The budget for usable capital receipts to be generated from Council House sales in the year is set at £0.695m from 45 sales. By the end June 22 sales were completed generating £0.479m with a further 6 sales in July. In addition there was also £0.250m of one for one capital receipt funding that was generated.
- 7.3 In addition to receipts from council house sales the Council also has a programme to sell plots of its land and other assets under the Strategic Asset Management Plan. The budget for this in the 2017/2018 Programme is £100,000, although no land sales had taken place by the end of July.

- 7.4 Overall budgeted capital receipts from in year asset sales provide a relatively small proportion of the total funding for capital schemes. If the level of receipts from asset sales falls below the budget target, then this position will be taken into account as part of the process for reviewing and updating the three year capital programme, but at the current time the level of receipts being generated is above the budget target.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY.IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 8.1 The Capital Programme includes schemes that the Council plans to implement to enhance service delivery and assets. Individual project plans address sustainability and Community Strategy issues and links to Corporate Priorities. The Capital Programme also achieves the objectives of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities by ensuring capital investment plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Capital assets shape the way services are delivered for the long term and, as a result, create financial commitments. The formal reporting of performance against the Capital Programme is part of the overall budgetary management and control framework that is designed to minimise the financial risks facing the Council. Schemes within the Programme that are reliant on external contributions or decisions are not started until funding is secured and other resources that are subject to fluctuation are monitored closely to ensure availability.

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

A Capital Programme Service Budgets

APPENDIX A - CAPITAL PROGRAMME SERVICE BUDGETS 2017/18

Service	Original Budget	Slippage	Revised Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000
EXPENDITURE			
Central Items			
Financial Services	30	45	75
Central Schemes	3	301	304
Leisure and Wellbeing			
Leisure and Wellbeing - General	409	201	610
Housing Private Sector	200	377	577
Development and Regeneration			
Planning	100	68	168
Regeneration & Estates	0	0	0
Housing Strategy	0	247	247
Technical Services	122	22	144
Housing and Inclusion			
Corporate Property	174	102	276
Transformation	208	294	502
Housing Public Sector	8,668	3,818	12,486
	9,914	5,475	15,389
RESOURCES			
Capital Grants	140	400	540
HRA Contributions	8,592	3,667	12,259
GRA Contributions	53	207	260
Capital Receipts	1,129	1,201	2,330
	9,914	5,475	15,389



CABINET: 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

COUNCIL: 18 OCTOBER 2017

Report of: Director of Leisure and Wellbeing (Lead Officer)

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Moran

Contact for further information: Mrs C A Jackson (Extn.5016)
(E-mail: cathryn.jackson@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: WEST LANCASHIRE TOURISM – THE VISITOR ECONOMY - FINAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the final report and recommendations of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee following a review conducted entitled 'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy.'

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee be complimented on their work.

2.2 That the following recommendations contained in the final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee on West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy be considered:

- (1)** That the Council (subject to resource availability) work with our partners to:
 - (i) continue to support West Lancashire as a visitor destination.
 - (ii) continue to work with Marketing Lancashire for the benefit of promoting West Lancashire.
 - (iii) continue to develop and build on relationships established with the Head of Visitor Economy for the Liverpool City Region (Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership) in the promotion of West Lancashire.

- (iv) draw on the experiences of Visit Southport and Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire to include joining Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire.
- (v) continue to work with businesses and organisations within West Lancashire to promote projects and initiatives that benefit the local economy, including bringing forward accommodation projects and increasing advertisement of accommodation.
- (vi) seek to further improve the promotion of West Lancashire and the importance of
 - (a) gaining customer insight to respond to visitor expectations;
 - (b) first impressions for visitors coming into West Lancashire;
 - (c) a collaborative approach to promote West Lancashire as a visitor destination;
 - (d) the Borough's key specialist heritage sites (including Ormskirk Parish Church, National Trust Rufford Old Hall and Moor Hall);
 - (e) enhancing the visitor experience (coach trips; specialist canal boat trips);
 - (f) changing and developing the public's perception of West Lancashire as a "gateway" rather than a "drive-through" or "one stop" destination.
 - (g) continuance of the research being undertaken, as part of the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy, into coach travel to increase knowledge and better target visitor groups.
 - (h) WWT Martin Mere, Burscough and its links with the community, local schools and Parish Council through initiatives, projects and future development of the visitor attraction.

(2) That the final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committees review to be circulated to Marketing Lancashire, Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Liverpool Enterprise Partnership, WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, Edge Hill University, scrutiny at Lancashire County Council and published on the Council and Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) web-sites.

(3) That the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee review its recommendations in March 2018.

2.3 That the final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee on West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy, attached at Appendix A, be approved.

2.4 That the final report and recommendations at 2.2 above (approved, subject to resources) be submitted to Council for approval on 18 October 2017.

2.5 That call in is not appropriate for this item as it has previously been considered by the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- 3.1 That the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee be complimented on their work.
 - 3.2 That the final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee on West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy (attached at Appendix A) be noted and approved for formal publication, subject to resources.
 - 3.3 That the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the recommendations contained in the report in March 2018.
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3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In October 2016 the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee commenced a review on the topic 'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy'. The purpose of the review was to gain a greater understanding of the visitor economy in West Lancashire.
- 3.2 The draft final report of the review topic was considered by the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 July 2017 (Appendix B).

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Members will find attached as Appendix A, the final report of the review 'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy'.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 Enhanced overview and scrutiny arrangements can give a greater level of involvement for non-cabinet members in the decision making process.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are financial/resource implications arising from this report. The actions as set down within recommendation (1) adds to the work already being undertaken at part of the West Lancashire Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025. However, if more significant actions were required to implement the actions, if endorsed, particularly those involving partner organisations and external funding could not be secured, additional proposals would need to come forward for further consideration in accordance with established reporting mechanisms. Recommendation 2, if endorsed, will be met using existing budgets.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 If projects, resulting from proposals at recommendation (1) do come forward, if implemented, may require formal risk assessments to assess the impact on local residents, business users and visitors. These would be undertaken as part of that process.
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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

There will be a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders as a result of recommendations that may come forward, if implemented. An EIA would be undertaken as part of that process.

Appendices

- A Final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee – ‘West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy’
- B Minute of Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 July 2017 (Cabinet and Council)
- C Minute of Cabinet – 12 September 2017 (Council only)



West Lancashire Borough Council

Report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee
'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy'





West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy Report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee

FOREWORD by the Chairman Councillor Nikki Hennessy



“The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out a review on ‘West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy’ in 2016/17. This report sets down the outcomes of the work undertaken by Members of the Committee during that period.

We started the scrutiny project in October 2017 with a presentation from Paula Huber, Economic Regeneration Manager, to assist our understanding of the visitor economy in West Lancashire against the background of the Council’s Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025 and Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy 2015-2020. We have learned from the excellent briefings of Paula who has been very helpful in assisting us to explore the issues.

We would like to thank all those who have been involved in the review in particular those Members and Officers who took the time to attend meetings.

In addition to the information provided by Officers of the Council, we would like to thank External partners who provided detail in respect of the visitor offer both locally and wider afield.”

Ms M M Eames, Head of Partnerships	Marketing Lancashire
Ms E Watson, Head of Multi-Channel Marketing	Marketing Lancashire
Mr P Sandman, Head of Visitor Economy, Liverpool City Region	Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership
Mr N Brooks, General Manager, Martin Mere Wetlands Centre	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

THE REVIEW

BACKGROUND

Following the submission of topics by the public, Members and the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the subsequent scoring exercise, the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 October 2016 agreed to undertake a review entitled 'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy'.

The Project Plan (Appendix 1) was agreed and considered at each meeting.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members of the Committee agreed:

1. To undertake a review entitled 'West Lancashire Tourism – the Visitor Economy'
2. To present a report of the Committee's findings to Cabinet and Council, as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee make the following recommendations:

- (1)** That the Council (subject to resource availability) work with our partners to:
 - (i) continue to support West Lancashire as a visitor destination.
 - (ii) continue to work with Marketing Lancashire for the benefit of promoting West Lancashire.
 - (iii) continue to develop and build on relationships established with the Head of Visitor Economy for the Liverpool City Region (Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership) in the promotion of West Lancashire.
 - (iv) draw on the experiences of Visit Southport and Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire to include joining Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire.
 - (v) continue to work with businesses and organisations within West Lancashire to promote projects and initiatives that benefit the local economy, including bringing forward accommodation projects and increasing advertisement of accommodation.
 - (vi) seek to further improve the promotion of West Lancashire and the importance of
 - (a) gaining customer insight to respond to visitor expectations;
 - (b) first impressions for visitors coming into West Lancashire;

- (c) a collaborative approach to promote West Lancashire as a visitor destination;
 - (d) the Borough's key specialist heritage sites (including Ormskirk Parish Church, National Trust Rufford Old Hall and Moor Hall);
 - (e) enhancing the visitor experience (coach trips; specialist canal boat trips);
 - (f) changing and developing the public's perception of West Lancashire as a "gateway" rather than a "drive-through" or "one stop" destination.
 - (g) continuance of the research being undertaken, as part of the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy, into coach travel to increase knowledge and better target visitor groups.
 - (h) WWT Martin Mere, Burscough and its links with the community, local schools and Parish Council through initiatives, projects and future development of the visitor attraction.
- (2) That the final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committees review to be circulated to Marketing Lancashire, Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Liverpool Enterprise Partnership, WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, Edge Hill University, scrutiny at Lancashire County Council and published on the Council and Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) web-sites.
- (3) That the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee review its recommendations in March 2018.

Membership of the Committee 2016/17

Chairman: Councillor N Hennessy

Vice Chairman: Councillor D West

Councillors: M Barron, S Bailey, T Blane, P Cotterill, S Currie, D Evans, P Greenall, G Hodson, J Kay, D McKay, M Nixon, N Pryce-Roberts and A Yates.

Membership of the Committee 2017/18

Chairman: Councillor N Hennessy

Vice Chairman: Councillor D Evans

Councillors: M Barron, Mrs M Blake, T Blane, P Cotterill, S Currie, G Hodson, J Kay, D McKay, M Nixon, N Pryce-Roberts, Savage, West and Westley.

Substitutes

The following Members acted as substitute Members for one or more of the meetings held when considering the review:

Councillors: C Cooper, T Devine, Mrs C Evans, J Gordon, Ms R Melling, G Owen, R Pendleton and A Yates.

INFORMATION GATHERED

Meeting of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 October 2016 in the Cabinet and Committee Room, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk

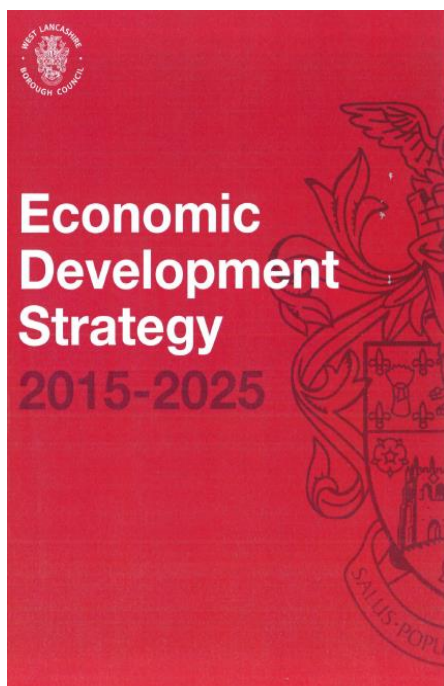
Members agreed to undertake an in-depth study entitled 'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy' and confirmed the Project Plan for the review.

Presentation 1 – West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy

Members considered information presented by the Economic Regeneration Manager. The information presented was supported by a series of slides.¹

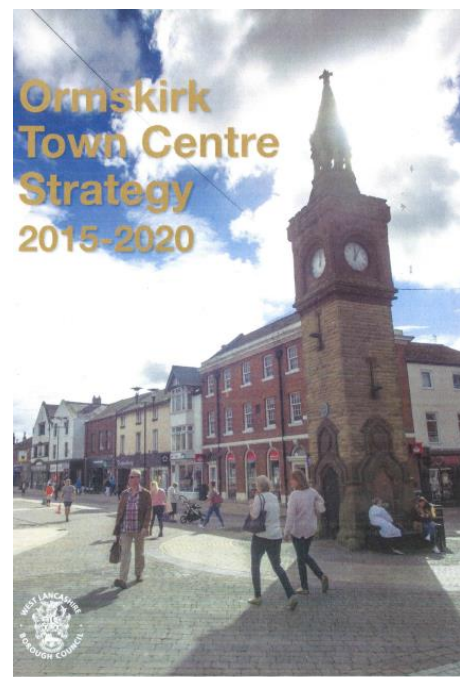
Evidence presented included reference to the following:

- Background to the West Lancashire Visitor Economy



- West Lancashire Strategies: Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025²

- Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy 2015-2020³



Web-page link <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/regeneration-projects.aspx>



- Marketing and Promotion

- Marketing Lancashire
- Beyond West Lancashire and Lancashire boundaries
- Data collection in relation to promotion through the web-site (www.visitLancashire.com), the official Lancashire Tourism website and the campaigns and publications undertaken.

The website statistics (Table 1) for West Lancashire were considered.

Table 1*

Website Statistics

West Lancashire	Page views Apr - Sep 15	Page views Apr - Sep 16	% Change
Accommodation	16,684	19,702	18%
Destinations	10,261	9,535	-7%
Events	43,168	41,214	-5%
F&D	13,474	22,947	70%
Retail	15,380	18,160	18%
Things to do	50,611	65,725	30%
Total	149,578	177,283	19%



Following conclusion of the presentation, Members discussed, raised questions and comments in respect of:

- seasonal tourism – impact on local attractions;
- accommodation promotion – to encourage overnight stays;
- promotion of ‘newer’ local events - Burscough Heritage Weekend;
- Burscough Wharf – attracting canal tourists (moorings; canal side services - restaurants and promotion of local shops.



Leeds and Liverpool Canal – Burscough Wharf*

*Source: Visit Lancashire

Meeting of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 December 2016 in the Cabinet and Committee Room, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk

Presentation 2 – ‘We are Lancashire’

Members considered information presented by Maria Moriarty Eames, Head of Partnerships and Emma Watson, Head of Multi-Channel Marketing, Marketing Lancashire. The information presented was supported by a series of slides.⁴

The presentation included reference to the:

- official visitor brand for Lancashire – “Visit Lancashire – where life feels good”;
- partnerships, including Visit England / Visit Britain and the work being undertaken with the private and public sector;
- opportunities to raise the profile of Lancashire as a “must-visit” destination;
- growth in visitor numbers and increasing the economic impact;
- opportunities to support job creation.

In relation to efforts to increase the visitor economy it was reported that 64.38 million visitors visited Lancashire and the aim was to increase this to 70 million by 2020. (Table 2) In order to achieve this the initiatives to promote the Count, were highlighted.

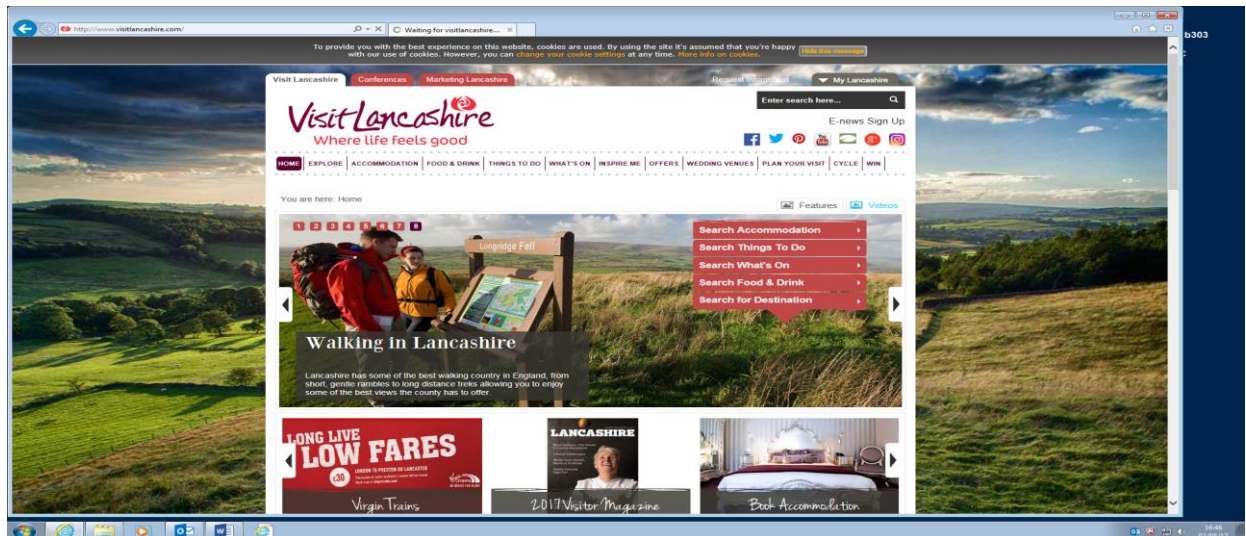
Table 2

Lancashire Visitor Economy – Overview*

NOW	By 2020
64.38 million visitors	70 million visitors
£3.81 billion value to economy	£4.3 billion
56,551 full-time equivalent jobs	+ 5000 employment

Of particular note was how on-line promotion through the Visit Lancashire web-site was increasing.

Reference was also made to the West Lancashire pages that highlighted things to do and events in the Borough that collectively drew over 325,000 pages views. Data in relation to social media showed 150,000 followers.*



Visit Lancashire – web shot (www.visitlancashire.com)

As well as on-line promotion, the Annual destination guide (Visitor Magazine) 'Lancashire' profiled the lifestyle of the County.

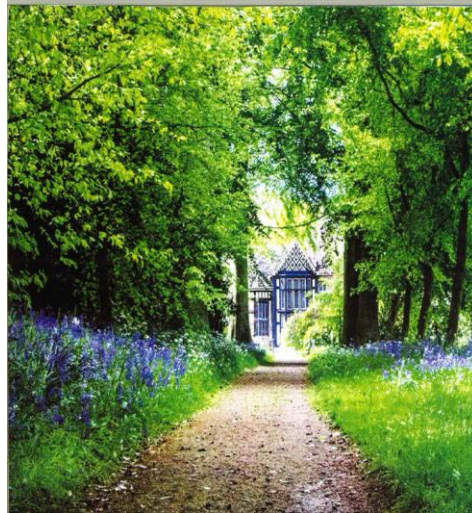


The guide, available in print and as a digital edition, has been distributed to service stations (M6, M62 & M1), railway stations, visitor information centres as well as in major hotels and attractions.* Copies were also distributed at key regional and national events.⁵

The Head of Partnerships highlighted the strategic importance of West Lancashire that included:

- a welcome point to the County;
- as a gateway to capture more visitors / repeat visitors - Edge Hill University;

- product assets in the Borough that have been matched to the County’s identified key strengths:
 - “Food and drink” – West Lancashire’s importance as a culinary destination, with award winning restaurants and artisan food producers.
 - “Great outdoors” – as a tourist destination (Wetland Centre; canal and cycle routes)
 - Heritage and Culture” – unique National Trust Property (Rufford Old Hall)



Rufford Old Hall*

*Source: Visit Lancashire

In discussion questions and comments were raised in relation to:

- The position of West Lancashire as a visitor destination in the County of Lancashire.
- Ratio of day visitors to overnight visitors.
- Accommodation provision (availability / type / strategies to enhance and encourage overnight / lengthier stays in West Lancashire).
- Lancashire Visitor Economy Data – compilation of data; extracting data to analyse impact; model / sources used.
- Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – mechanism to feed into the Group.
- Provision of accurate “intelligence” to support visitor experience data.
- Transport infrastructure (updating rolling stock; enhancements to rail network).
- Opportunities to work with neighbouring authorities.
- Promotion of key / unique heritage sites in the Borough (Ormskirk Parish Church; National Trust Rufford Old Hall; Moor Hall).
- Multi-media promotion (Tourist board; Visit Lancashire; media platforms; coach and liner companies)

The representatives from Marketing Lancashire answered questions, providing clarification on the points raised.

As a result of the discussion on the presentation it was concluded:

- Conclusion:**
- (1) Where possible, in relation to visitor economy data for West Lancashire, that data based on postcodes be extracted to ascertain the accuracy of the overnight visitor numbers. (This information was provided during the course of the review.)⁶
 - (2) The importance of gaining customer insight to respond to visitor expectations.
 - (3) The importance of first impressions for visitors coming into West Lancashire.
 - (4) The importance of a collaborative approach to promote West Lancashire as a visitor destination.
 - (5) The importance / promotion of the Borough's key specialist heritage sites (including Ormskirk Parish Church; National Trust Rufford Old Hall; Moor Hall)
 - (6) Enhancing the day visitor experience (coach trips; specialist canal boat trips)
 - (7) The need to change / develop the public perception of West Lancashire as a "gateway" rather than a "drive-through" or "one stop" destination.

Meeting of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 March 2017 in the Cabinet and Committee Room, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk

Presentation 3 – Liverpool City Region – Visitor Economy Development

Members considered a presentation by Peter Sandman, Head of Visitor Economy, Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy. The information was supported by a series of slides.⁷

The presentation opened with an explanation of the role of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and its stakeholders.

Mr Sandman then went on to explain the destination management of Visit Liverpool, its membership; the role of the LCR Visitor Economy Board and the composition of its Visitor Economy Networks to promote the international brand of Liverpool.

Information presented included the value of the Visitor Economy to the Liverpool Region, the importance of tourism and the infrastructure. Reference was made to the Visitor Economy Strategy and Destination Management Plan to 2025 and its targets.⁸

The Head of Visitor Economy referred to how Liverpool, since being the Capital of Culture in 2008 had seen an increase in its visitor numbers, both day and staying visitors, and went on to explain the model in terms of visitor spread to attract and disperse visitors across the City and geographically. The importance of an area to play to its strengths, position and packaging a town and area, to attract visitors was highlighted. This could include accessing and assessing: demographics; customer needs; inbound visitors and inbound motivations to visit.**

Table 3

Where Visitors Come From (2015)**

Top overseas markets:	Top domestic markets:
Ireland 4% USA 3% Spain 3% Germany 2% Australia 3% France 3%	London & Southeast 26% Yorkshire 18% Northeast 8% Wales 7% Cheshire 6% Scotland 6%

Source: ** Liverpool Destination Survey 2015 (extract)

Members considered the opportunities for West Lancashire. These included:

- Identifying and investing in its key assets – Ormskirk Town Centre; closeness to WWT Martin Mere; Leeds & Liverpool Canal; Rufford Old Hall; strength of the West Lancashire’s rural recreation offer (walking; cycling; barging).⁹
- Customer focus – Packaging and Itineraries.
- Visibility – thematic marketing.
- Ease of access – transport connectivity; journey planning.
- Welcoming Visitors – value of place / location.
- Value of Tourism for West Lancashire – Intelligence & Research.

Potential areas for engagement outside the Borough and joint promotion of the visitor economy included:

- Southport – growth as a visitor destination; marketing opportunities
- Thematic links – Heritage, Wildlife, Local Produce
- Funding opportunities – Discover England Fund¹⁰ – focused on international visitors to Northern Coastal Resorts.
- Cruise Liner Terminal – investment opportunity for excursions.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- John Lennon Airport – its importance to Liverpool and connection to the wider region.
- LCR Single Investment Fund – investment in business tourism with a specific focus on Southport – possibly widening scope into West Lancashire.
- Liverpool Enterprise Partnership – packages / proposition promotions / opportunities for joint working.
- Value of technology – digital applications to access / promote West Lancashire
- Visitor Dispersment – District representation (Visitor Economy Board)

Mr Sandman contributed to the discussion and provided clarification on the points raised in relation to his presentation.

- Conclusion:** (1) Officers should continue to engage with the Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership to build on the links with West Lancashire.
- (2) Draw on the experiences of Visit Southport and Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire.
- (3) Explore how West Lancashire tourism can tie-in with the City of Liverpool.

Presentation 4 – The Visitor Economy in West Lancashire – An Update

Members considered an update by the Economic Regeneration Manager in relation to the visitor economy. It was noted that requested visitor data based on postcodes had been provided.⁶

Information was provided in relation to visitor use of the canal network and access of the Borough by coach parties:

Canals

The canals are accessed and used for many reasons, including leisurely walks, dog walking, fishing, canoeing, boating and nature walks.

There are around 40 pubs, cafes and accommodation on or close to the Liverpool and Leeds canal running through West Lancashire.

The Borough has three large marinas:

- Fettle's Wharf, Scarisbrick
- Fettle's Wharf, Rufford
- St Mary's Marina, Rufford

All of the marinas offer a large number of moorings and offer additional facilities for those boaters that are passing through. They each have a café that are very popular with visitors and provide a stop-off for cyclists.

Burscough Wharf is an important visitor destination alongside the canal. The Wharf is host to the Annual Burscough Heritage Weekend. Council owned Burscough Stables is home to a number of businesses that support the boating community and is a focus point for canal boat users, including acting as a regular mooring for a mobile fuel barge. There are pro-active businesses in the Burscough Stables who are actively working with the Canals and Rivers Trust to develop projects around the Canal at Burscough.

Coach Parties

As a visitor destination Ormskirk is advertised in coach travel magazines and a number of coach companies come into Ormskirk.

As part of the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy more research will be undertaken into coach travel to increase knowledge and better target visitor groups.

The Visitor Lancashire Magazine 2017 that is being widely circulated features 24 hours In and Around Ormskirk. The article includes reference to many of the tourist attractions in the Borough including Burscough Wharf, WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, National Trust Rufford Old Hall as well as Ormskirk.



Source: Visit Lancashire – Lancashire Visitor Magazine 2017 (digital edition)

Meeting of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2017 in the Cabinet and Committee Room, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk

Presentation 5 - The Visitor Economy in West Lancashire – An Update

Members considered an update by the Economic Regeneration Manager in relation to the promotion of West Lancashire on the Visit Liverpool and Visit Southport web-site.

It was reported that a listing on the Visit Liverpool website and a presence in the Visitor Guide costs £3,500. Other promotional websites were referred to but it was felt that the joining of the Visit Liverpool website was worth pursuing.

Presentation 6 – WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre

Members considered a presentation by Nick Brooks, General Manager of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, Burscough on recent projects and upcoming initiatives. The information presented was supported by a series of slides.¹¹

The presentation opened with an explanation of the year round family-friendly visitor attraction and its contribution to the local economy. Mr Brooks reported that over 200,000 people visited Martin Mere each year and the facility provided employment for 65 people.

Information presented included reference to the wildlife viewing opportunities that brought to Martin Mere a wide range of visitors each year to see the variety of birds that migrate to or inhabit the site.

The General Manager referred to the income generated on-site at Martin Mere where a visitor averaged spending £4 per visit and contributed to the visitor economy in West Lancashire and the wider North West, through travel and overnight stays, estimated to generate £70 per visitor.

Members considered some of the projects and initiatives that were being pursued at Martin Mere. These included:

- A focus on the Whooper Swan, 3,000 of which migrate from Iceland each winter, to Martin Mere. It was stated that this event attracted many visitors and Mr Brooks went on to explain that, in consultation with Burscough Parish Council, they were looking at opportunities to promote the Whooper swan as the possible “symbol of Burscough.”
- Town twinning and educational links – developing closer links with Akureyn, Iceland.
- Linking up with the Yew Tree Farm development – creation of filtration “reed beds” that are known to attract such rare species of birds as the Bearded Tit and Marsh Harriers. It was understood that the proposed reed beds site would be the second biggest in England.
- Cycle Routes – to link Martin Mere with Burscough and the wider rural landscape of West Lancashire.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Excavation of the “reed beds” – investment costs.
- Facilities to encourage visitors to stay overnight or visit other parts of West Lancashire – advertising events to and through Martin Mere; targeting rail, cruise and coach companies; availability of accommodation in and around the Borough.
- Linking visits to two or more tourist sites in West Lancashire.
- Opportunities to attract specialist visitors to Martin Mere – promotion of the rarer migratory birds and habitat; events in the migration period.
- Exploitation of tourist opportunities at Martin Mere – what’s on in West Lancashire
- Involvement of local schools – artwork; special environmental events.

Mr Brooks contributed to the discussion and provided clarification on the points raised in relation to his presentation.

Conclusion: That initiatives that could enhance the visitor experience of Martin Mere and provide a benefit to the wider visitor economy of West Lancashire be supported



Source: WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

Other Information

Information that has assisted the work of the review and compilation of this report:

- 1 West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy (*Presentation slides – October 2016*)
- 2 Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025 (*West Lancashire Borough Council*)
- 3 Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy 2015-2020 (*West Lancashire Borough Council*)
- 4 Visit Lancashire – We are Lancashire (*Presentation slides – December 2016*)
5. Visitor Magazine 2017 – ‘Lancashire’ (*Visit Lancashire*)
6. Accommodation Stock Dataset – West Lancashire Postcodes (*circulated by email 20 December 2016*)
7. Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy (*Presentation slides – March 2017*)
8. Visitor Economy Strategy and Destination Management Plan (*Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership*)
9. Wetlands and Waterways Routes (*Visit Sefton & West Lancashire*)
10. Discover England Fund – Visit Britain (*web-site information*)
- 11 WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre (*Presentation slides – July 2017*)

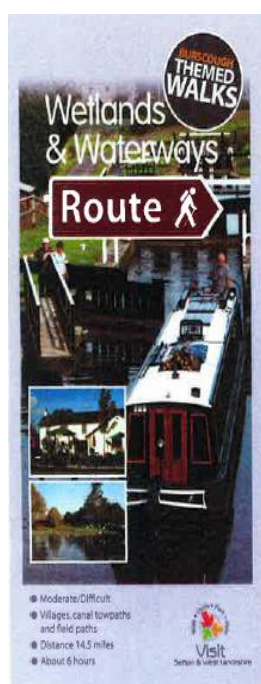
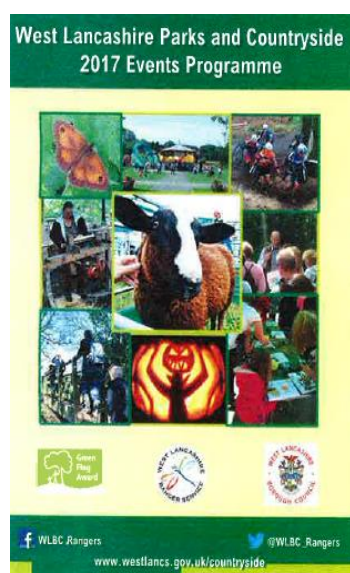
Referenced pictures / data, with thanks to:

*Visit Lancashire

**Liverpool Destination Survey 2015

***WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, Burscough

****West Lancashire Ranger Service and Visit Sefton & West Lancashire



****Source: West Lancashire Ranger Service and Visit Sefton & West Lancashire

Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 October 2016, 1 December 2016, 2 March 2017 and 13 July 2017.

Web links:

- <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/regeneration-projects.aspx>
- <http://www.visitlancashire.com/information/request-information/lancashire-visitor-magazine-2017>
- <https://www.liverpoollep.org/growth-sectors/visitor-economy/>
- <http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/>
- <https://www.visitengland.com/>
- <https://www.visitbritain.com>
- <https://www.visitbritain.org/discover-england-fund-overview>
- <http://www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk/>

OFFICER SUPPORT

- Lead Officer: Dave Tilleray, Director of Leisure and Wellbeing
- Scrutiny Support Officer: Cathryn Jackson, Principal Overview & Scrutiny Officer
- Officers Reporting: Paula Huber, Economic Regeneration Manager

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report. There are links to the West Lancashire Economic Strategy that promotes the West Lancashire visitor economy and the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy developed to help deliver growth in Ormskirk Town Centre. The West Lancashire Economic Strategy aims to address a number of issues that have been looked at, as part of this review and will add to that work and an understanding of the Visitor economy in West Lancashire and also a wider understanding of the West Lancashire visitor economy in the sub-regional context of Lancashire and the Liverpool City Region.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are financial/resource implications arising from this report. The actions as set down within recommendation (1) adds to the work already being undertaken at part of the West Lancashire Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025. However, if more significant actions were required to implement the actions, if endorsed, particularly those involving partner organisations and external funding could not be secured, additional proposals would need to come forward for further consideration in accordance with established reporting mechanisms. Recommendation 2, if endorsed, will be met using existing budgets.

RISK ASSESSMENT

If projects, resulting from proposals at recommendation (1) do come forward, if implemented, may require formal risk assessments to assess the impact on local residents, business users and visitors. These would be undertaken as part of that process.

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

There will be a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders as a result of recommendations that may come forward, if implemented. An EIA would be undertaken as part of that process.

Appendices

- (1) Project Plan

CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PROJECT PLAN

Title: **WEST LANCASHIRE TOURISM – THE VISITOR ECONOMY**

MEMBERSHIP 2016/17:

Chairman: Councillor N Hennessy Vice-Chairman: Councillor D West

Councillors: Barron, Mrs Blake, Blane, Cotterill, Currie, D Evans, Greenall, G Hodson, Kay, McKay, Nixon, Pryce-Roberts and Yates

MEMBERSHIP 2017/18:

Chairman: Councillor N Hennessy **Vice Chairman:** Councillor D Evans

Councillors: M Barron, Mrs M Blake, T Blane, P Cotterill, S Currie, G Hodson, J Kay, D McKay, M Nixon, N Pryce-Roberts, Savage, West and Westley.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To undertake a review entitled 'West Lancashire Tourism – the Visitor Economy'
2. To present a report of the Committee's findings to Cabinet and Council, as appropriate.

OBJECTIVES

The present –

- To understand the visitor economy in West Lancashire in 2016
- To understand the West Lancashire visitor economy in the sub-regional context of Lancashire and the Liverpool City Region
- To understand a private sector perspective of a tourism project, working with the Borough Council and Parish Council

The future –

- To continue to promote West Lancashire as a visitor destination
- To continue to work with Marketing Lancashire and continue to develop relationships with the Head of Visitor Economy Development for the Liverpool City Region for the benefit of promoting West Lancashire
- To continue to work with businesses and organisations within West Lancashire to promote projects and initiatives that benefit the local economy

Comparison –

- Marketing Lancashire, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership – how they promote

West Lancashire as part of the Lancashire visitor offer

- Liverpool City Region, Liverpool Enterprise Partnership – how can the Borough Council and Liverpool LEP work together to better promote the visitor offer

Resources -

- The Council’s Director of Development and Regeneration will provide technical support and guidance, together with Officers from across the Authority, including Leisure and Wellbeing Services, to be consulted as appropriate.
- External contribution, as appropriate
- Any funding requirements will be included in the final recommendations of the Committee.

INFORMATION

<http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/regeneration-projects.aspx>
<http://www.visitlancashire.com>
<https://www.liverpoollep.org>
<http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/>
<https://www.visitengland.com>
<https://www.visitbritain.com>
<https://www.visitbritain.org/discover-england-fund-overview>
<http://www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk/>

Witnesses:

Who?	Why?	How?
Representatives from Marketing Lancashire, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership	To provide insight into how West Lancashire is promoted as a visitor destination	<u>Attendance at a meeting, if appropriate or presentation or information.</u>
Representatives from Liverpool City Region, Liverpool Enterprise Partnership	To provide insight into how West Lancashire could be promoted as a visitor destination within the Liverpool City Region.	<u>Attendance at a meeting, if appropriate or presentation of information</u>
Representative from WWT Martin Mere, Burscough	To provide information on this important visitor attraction and how organisations are working together to promote it	<u>Attendance at a meeting, if appropriate or presentation of information</u>

ESTABLISH WAYS OF WORKING

Officer Support

Lead Officer (Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee) – Dave Tilleray, Director of Leisure and Wellbeing

Scrutiny Support Officer (SSO) – Cathryn Jackson, Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Legal Officer (LO) – Neil Astles, Assistant Solicitor

Officers reporting as and when required –

John Harrison, Director of Development and Regeneration, or Officers on his behalf
Ian Gill, Deputy Director of Development and Regeneration

Paula Huber, Economic Regeneration Manager

Dave Tilleray, Director of Leisure and Wellbeing, or Officers on his behalf

Reporting Arrangements

The Director of Development and Regeneration, or Officers on his behalf, will contribute as appropriate to aspects of the review relating to West Lancashire as a visitor destination.

The Director of Leisure and Wellbeing, or Officers on his behalf, will contribute, as appropriate, to aspects of the review related to leisure.

The Lead Officer (Director of Leisure and Wellbeing)/Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer will co-ordinate the generic elements of the review and submit reports as required.

The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit its final report and recommendations to Cabinet and Council September/October 2017.

TIME SCALES

Meeting 1 – 13 October 2016

- Introduction of the theme of the topic from the Deputy Director Development and Regeneration, presentation from the Economic Regeneration Manager on the background to the West Lancashire visitor economy
- Review confirmed to commence.
- To agree the Project Plan

Meeting 2 – 1 December 2016

- To consider a presentation from Marketing Lancashire on the Lancashire visitor economy and how West Lancashire is promoted as a visitor destination
- To agree and review the Project Plan

Meeting 3 – 2 March 2017

- To consider a presentation from Liverpool City Region to provide some insight into how we could work together on joint promotion of the visitor economy

Meeting 4 – 13 July 2017

- To consider a presentation from WWT Martin Mere on their ambitions for this important visitor attraction and how organisations, including the Borough Council can help with promotion and marketing
- To agree the draft final report and final recommendations for submission to Cabinet and Council, if applicable in September/October 2017.

Cabinet – 12 September 2017

Submission of final report

Council - 18 October 2017

To receive the final report, if applicable.

INFORMATION GATHERED

13 October 2016	Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025) Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy 2015-2020
13 October 2016	West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy (<i>Presentation Slides</i>)
1 December 2016	'We are Lancashire' - Marketing Lancashire - ' <i>(Presentation Slides)</i>
2 March 2017	Liverpool City Region – Visitor Economy Development (<i>Presentation slides</i>)
2 March 2017	Visitor Economy – Strategic & Destination Management Plan November 2014)
13 July 2017	WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre (<i>Presentation slides</i>)
OTHER	
	Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025) Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy 2015-2020
	Visitor Economy – Strategic & Destination Management Plan November 2014)
	Branding information – Ormskirk Town Centre (<i>WLBC/Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group</i>
	Great Days Out by Train (<i>Visit Southport & West Lancashire</i>)
	Themed Cycle Routes (<i>Lapwing Route Burscough / Moorhen Route Hoscarr</i>) – (<i>Visit Southport & West Lancashire</i>)
	Wetlands & Waterways (<i>Burscough Themed Walks</i>) – (<i>Visit Southport & West Lancashire</i>)
	West Lancashire Parks and Countryside 2017 Events Programme (<i>West Lancashire Borough Council</i>)
	Lancashire – Visitor Magazine 2017 (<i>Marketing Lancashire</i>)

CONCLUSION:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee make the following recommendations:

- (1)** That the Council (subject to resource availability) work with our partners to:
 - (i) continue to support West Lancashire as a visitor destination.
 - (ii) continue to work with Marketing Lancashire for the benefit of promoting West Lancashire.
 - (iii) continue to develop and build on relationships established with the Head of Visitor Economy for the Liverpool City Region (Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership) in the promotion of West Lancashire.
 - (iv) draw on the experiences of Visit Southport and Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire to include joining Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire.
 - (v) continue to work with businesses and organisations within West Lancashire to promote projects and initiatives that benefit the local economy, including bringing forward accommodation projects and increasing advertisement of accommodation.
 - (vi) seek to further improve the promotion of West Lancashire and the importance of
 - (a) gaining customer insight to respond to visitor expectations;
 - (b) first impressions for visitors coming into West Lancashire;
 - (c) a collaborative approach to promote West Lancashire as a visitor destination;
 - (d) the Borough's key specialist heritage sites (including Ormskirk Parish Church, National Trust Rufford Old Hall and Moor Hall);
 - (e) enhancing the visitor experience (coach trips; specialist canal boat trips);
 - (f) changing and developing the public's perception of West Lancashire as a "gateway" rather than a "drive-through" or "one stop" destination.
 - (g) continuance of the research being undertaken, as part of the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy, into coach travel to increase knowledge and better target visitor groups.
 - (h) WWT Martin Mere, Burscough and its links with the community, local schools and Parish Council through initiatives, projects and future development of the visitor attraction.
- (2)** That the final report of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committees review to be circulated to Marketing Lancashire, Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Liverpool Enterprise Partnership, WWT Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, Edge Hill University, scrutiny at Lancashire County Council and published on the Council and Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) web-sites.

(3) That the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee review its recommendations in March 2018.

REVIEW DATE – 1 March 2018

**MINUTE OF THE CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JULY 2017**

Consideration was given to the draft final report of the Committee, attached as Appendix A, on the findings of the review 'West Lancashire Tourism – The Visitor Economy'.

Members discussed the report, its findings and the recommendations within it. It was noted that amendments in relation to the presentation from the General Manager WWT Martin Mere and additional information presented by the Economy Regeneration Manager would be included in the final report prior to submission to Cabinet.

In considering visitor accommodation within the Borough, Members felt, in order to promote tourism effectively, that the focus of the visitor economy should be shared across the wider functions of the Council.

As a result of the discussion it was concluded that the recommendations be amended to include reference to the following, at

(1)(iv) "draw on the experiences of Visit Southport and Visit Liverpool *to include joining Visit Liverpool to provide something similar for West Lancashire*".

(1)(v) "continue to work with businesses and organisations within West Lancashire to promote projects and initiatives that benefit the local economy . . . *including bringing forward accommodation projects and increasing advertisement of accommodation.*"

(1)(vi) "seek to further improve the promotion of West Lancashire and the importance of . . .

(h) WWT Martin Mere, Burscough and its links with the community, local schools and Parish Council through initiatives, projects and future development of the visitor attraction.

In relation to actions on the recommendations it was noted that these would come back for consideration at the meeting of the Committee in March 2018.

RESOLVED: That the draft final report and recommendations therein be approved, subject to amendment as noted, be submitted to Cabinet on 12 September 2017 and Council on 18 October 2017, if appropriate.

