

Council

Wednesday, 19th July, 2023, 6.00 pm

Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

Agenda

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to indicate at this stage in the proceedings any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that if the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct) they must leave the room for the whole of that item.

If the interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but is such that a member of the public could reasonably regard it as being so significant that it is likely that it would prejudice their judgment of the public interest (as explained in the Code of Conduct) then they may make representations, but then must leave the meeting for the remainder of the item.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

(Pages 5 - 24)

4 Mayors Announcements

5 Cabinet

(Pages 25 - 28)

To receive and consider the report of the Cabinet held on 21 June and 5 July.

6 Governance Committee

(Pages 29 - 32)

To receive and consider the report of the Governance Committee held on 23 May.

7 Scrutiny Committees

(Pages 33 - 34)

To receive and consider the report of the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June.

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| <p>8 Climate Emergency, Air Quality, and Biodiversity Action Plan Updates & Annual Greenhouse Gas Report</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Communities.</p> | <p>(Pages 35 - 74)</p> |
| <p>9 Adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Communities.</p> | <p>(Pages 75 - 130)</p> |
| <p>10 Household Support Fund Round 4</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Communities.</p> | <p>(Pages 131 - 150)</p> |
| <p>11 Refugee and Asylum Seeker Grant Funding</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Communities.</p> | <p>(Pages 151 - 162)</p> |
| <p>12 New Budget for Tardy Gate Play area and Skate Park</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Chief Executive.</p> | <p>(Pages 163 - 168)</p> |
| <p>13 Enhancement of Community Hub Structures</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Communities.</p> | <p>(Pages 169 - 172)</p> |
| <p>14 South Ribble Equality Objectives 2023/2027</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.</p> | <p>(Pages 173 - 186)</p> |
| <p>15 South Ribble UKSPF Programme</p> <p>To receive and consider the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.</p> | <p>(Pages 187 - 198)</p> |
| <p>16 Questions to the Leader of the Council</p> <p>A question has been received and is enclosed.</p> | <p>(Pages 199 - 200)</p> |
| <p>17 Questions to Cabinet Members</p> | |

18 Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

By Virtue of Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Condition:

Information is not exempt if it is required to be registered under-

The Companies Act 1985

The Friendly Societies Act 1974

The Friendly Societies Act 1992

The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978

The Building Societies Act 1986 (recorded in the public file of any building society, within the meaning of the Act)

The Charities Act 1993

Information is exempt to the extent that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Information is not exempt if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992(a).

19 South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre

(Pages 201 - 254)

To receive and consider the report of the Director of Communities.

20 Jubilee Gardens Project Update (Budget & Procurement Strategy)

(Pages 255 - 282)

To receive and consider the report of the Chief Executive.

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Council.

The minutes of this meeting will be available on the internet at www.southribble.gov.uk

Forthcoming Meetings

6.00 pm Wednesday, 20 September 2023 - Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

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Minutes of Council

Meeting date **Wednesday, 17 May 2023**

Committee members present: Councillors David Howarth (Mayor), Chris Lomax (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Colin Coulton, Matthew Farnworth, James Flannery, Mathew Forshaw, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, Jasmine Gleave, James Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jo Hindle-Taylor, Clare Hunter, Lou Jackson, Will King, James Lillis, Keith Martin, Peter Mullineaux, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, George Rear, Wesley Roberts, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Emma Stevens, Elaine Stringfellow, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Angela Turner, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Connor Watson, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams

Officers present: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Louise Mattinson (Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer) and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Public: 12

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor John Rainsbury.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved (unanimously):

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record for signing by the Mayor.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

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4 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor gave an update on the engagements he had carried out across the Borough which included:

The Mayor of Rossendale's Charity Ball in Whitworth
The Mayor of Burnley's Charity Ball at Burnley Football Club
The Mayor of Preston's Coronation Ball at UCLan
The official opening of radio Leyland's new studio
Autism Awareness Fun Day at St Mary's Community Centre, Leyland
St Teresa's Primary School, Penwortham
Mental Health Awareness Day at St Mary's Community Centre

He also announced that the Mayor Making Ceremony for the new Mayor Elect, Councillor Chris Lomax, will take place on Wednesday ,24 May 2023 at 6.00pm.

5 Returning Officer's Report

The Chief Executive presented a report detailing all persons elected as councillors for the wards stated at the Borough elections on 4 May 2023 as follows:

Ward	Councillor
Bamber Bridge East	Clare Hunter Emma Stevens
Bamber Bridge West	Paul Foster Caleb Tomlinson
Broad Oak	Harold Hancock Ange Turner
Broadfield	Matthew Tomlinson Kath Unsworth
Buckshaw and Worden	Pete Pillinger Wes Roberts
Charnock	Deborah Ashton Ian Watkinson
Coupe Green and Gregson Lane	Mathew Forshaw James Gleeson
Earnshaw Bridge	Lou Jackson Colin Sharples
Farington East	Jacky Alty Paul Wharton-Hardman
Farington West	Karen Walton George Rear
Hoole	John Rainsbury Connor Watson
Howick and Priory	David Howarth James Lillis David Shaw
Leyland Central	Aniela Bylinski Gelder

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	Haydn Williams
Longton and Hutton West	Julie Buttery Colin Coulton Will King
Lostock Hall	Peter Gabbott Lesley Pritchard Elaine Stringfellow
Middleforth	Will Adams James Flannery Keith Martin
Moss Side	Mary Green Michael Green
New Longton and Hutton East	Margaret Smith Phil Smith
Samlesbury and Walton	Jasmine Gleave Peter Mullineaux
Seven Stars	Jane Bell Matthew Farnworth
St Ambrose	Jo Hindle-Taylor Nicky Peet
Walton-le-Dale East	Hilary Bedford Chris Lomax
Walton-le-Dale West	Damian Bretherton Matt Campbell

It was moved by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Bylinski Gelder, and it was

Resolved:

That the persons elected as Councillors for the wards as stated at the Borough elections on 4 May 2023 be noted.

6 Suspension of Standing Orders

Prior to consideration of the following agenda items, it was moved by Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, and it was

Resolved:

That standing orders in relation to Part 4A, paragraph 1.2 relating to the First Business Meeting after Mayoral Installation be waived.

7 Election of the Leader of the Council

It was moved by Councillor James Flannery, seconded by Councillor Jane Bell, and it was

Resolved: (by majority 33:15):

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That Councillor Paul Foster be appointed Leader of the Council for a four year term until the Annual Council meeting of the Municipal Year 2027/28.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Howarth, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Bretherton, Buttery, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Walton, Watson.

8 Appointment of Deputy Leader and members of the Cabinet

The Council considered a report that was circulated on behalf of the new Leader that set out the following details of the membership of the Cabinet along with their portfolio responsibilities for 2023/24. The report also confirmed Lead Members and Member Champions for 2023/24.

<p>Councillor Paul Foster</p> <p>Leader and Cabinet Member - Policy, Reform, Comms</p>	<p>CE/Director Change and Delivery</p>	<p>This portfolio will focus on the overall strategic direction for the Council including the strategic partnerships and physical developments that will shape and influence the longer term outcomes for the borough. This portfolio will also incorporate management of the relationship with the County Council, and wider partners.</p>	<p>Corporate Strategy Shared Services Public Service Reform Transformation Strategic Partnerships Strategic developments (cyber centre, Cuerden, Cuerdale etc & Town Deal) Communications and events</p>
<p>Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder</p> <p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, Assets, Commercial</p>	<p>Director Commercial</p>	<p>This portfolio will focus on developing, delivering and managing the councils' high profile assets across the borough to support strategic priorities.</p>	<p>Delivery and management of major developments (Council housing, Jubilee Gardens & Worden Hall) Community centres Parks and play space Car Parking</p>

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Services & Major Developments		Delivering Jubilee Gardens and growing Worden Hall will be key priorities.	
Councillor Matthew Tomlinson Cabinet Member for Finance & Public Protection	Director Finance	This portfolio focuses on the approach to use of resources and financial strategy. It also has oversight for public protection through regulatory functions.	MTFS Budget Licencing Environmental Health Public Safety
Councillor Deborah Ashton Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Waste Services	Director Customer and Digital	This portfolio focuses on achieving a cleaner, greener borough. Future policy and service delivery changes linked to the Environment Act will be big priorities.	Streetscene Grounds maintenance Waste and recycling Climate Change & Biodiversity
Councillor Ian Watkinson Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Digital	Director Customer and Digital	The Customer and Digital portfolio is focussed on delivering excellent customer services to meet the current and future needs of our residents. It also incorporates ICT as a major enabler of service delivery.	Customer Services and Gateway Digital strategy & IT
Councillor James Flannery Cabinet Member for Planning, Business Support & Economic Development	Director Planning & Development	This portfolio focuses on the physical development of our borough and links with investment and skills as key enablers for growth and prosperity.	Development Control Local Plan and Planning Policy Investment and Skills including Skills Factory UKSPF

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<p>Councillor Jacky Alty</p> <p>Wealth building, social justice, equality & diversity</p>	<p>Director Change and Delivery</p>	<p>This portfolio will align policy and strategy to achieve fairer outcomes for all residents and communities. Consolidating and enhancing the Community Wealth Building agenda as a main pillar of the Corporate Strategy will be central to this portfolio.</p>	<p>Cross cutting administrations' policy and organisational priorities Equality, Inclusion & Diversity</p>
<p>Councillor Clare Hunter</p> <p>Communities, Leisure & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Director Communities</p>	<p>The Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing portfolio focuses on how we support greater overall wellbeing through the way that we use our assets, engage with our communities and design our services.</p>	<p>Leisure centres (via leisure company) Active Health HAF Community hubs Homelessness</p>

Lead Members:

- Climate Change – Councillor Keith Martin
- Young People – Councillor Kath Unsworth
- Member Development, Welfare and Mental Health – Councillor Lou Jackson
- Social Justice and Equality Champion – Councillor Paul Wharton Hardman

Member Champions:

- Safeguarding and Older People Champion – Councillor Jane Bell
- Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Matthew Farnworth

Resolved (unanimously):

1. That the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Members of the Cabinet appointed by the Leader of the Council be noted;

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2. That the amendments to the Cabinet portfolios and Lead Member roles be noted.

9 Appointments to Committees, Panels and Working Groups for 2023/24

The Council considered a report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer in order to allocate places on the various committees of the Council in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to make appointments to those committees in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, together with the appointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the appropriate Committees. The report also appoints to a number of panels and working groups.

One member asked a question with regard to the continuation of meetings of the Local Plan Working Group.

Arising from the above a question was asked by a member of the public in which it was suggested that the Local Plan Working Group look into concerns regarding sewage discharge into UK rivers as detailed on the Rivers Trust website.

The Leader indicated that the Working Group was currently under review and that arrangements would be confirmed in due course.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela

Bylinski Gelder, and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

1. That the composition and allocation of committee places in accordance with the Political Balance Rules as set out in the report be approved;
2. That the Members, Chairs and Vice Chairs for the committees, panels and working groups set out in the appendix to the report and agreed at the meeting be appointed for the period of twelve months until the First Business Meeting of the Council in May 2024 as follows:

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	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
<p>Appeals Committee (2:1:0)</p>	<p>Cllr Bell Cllr Martin</p> <p>Sub: Cllr C Tomlinson Cllr Williams</p>	<p>Cllr Rear</p> <p>Sub: Cllr Michael Green Cllr M Smith</p>	-
<p>Appointment & Employment Panel (3:2:0)</p>	<p>Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Flannery Cllr Foster</p> <p>Sub: Cllr Hunter Cllr M Tomlinson</p>	<p>Cllr Walton Cllr Smith</p> <p>Sub: Cllr Bretherton Cllr Mullineaux</p>	-
<p>Corporate, Performance & Budget Scrutiny Committee (4:2:1)</p>	<p>Cllr Adams (Chair) Cllr Peet Cllr Pillinger Cllr Williams</p> <p>Sub: Cllr Gabbott Cllr Unsworth</p>	<p>Cllr Michael Green (Vice) Cllr King</p> <p>Sub: Cllr Walton Cllr Forshaw</p>	<p>Cllr D Howarth</p> <p>Sub:</p>
<p>Community & External Scrutiny Committee (4:2:1)</p>	<p>Cllr Jackson (Vice) Cllr Martin Cllr Pritchard</p>	<p>Cllr Coulton Cllr Campbell</p>	<p>Cllr Turner (Chair)</p> <p>Sub:</p>

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	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
	<p>Cllr Wharton Hardman</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Bedford</p> <p>Cllr Stevens</p>	<p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Gleave</p> <p>Cllr Michael Green</p>	
<p>Governance Committee</p> <p>(4:2:1)</p>	<p>Cllr Sharples (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Roberts (Vice)</p> <p>Cllr Gabbott</p> <p>Cllr Pillinger</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Jackson</p> <p>Cllr Stringfellow</p>	<p>Cllr M Smith</p> <p>Cllr Bretherton</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr King</p> <p>Cllr Campbell</p>	<p>Cllr Turner</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Councillor Shaw</p> <p>Cllr Howarth</p>
<p>Licensing & Public Safety Committee</p> <p>(6:3:1)</p>	<p>Cllr Bell (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Wharton Hardman (Vice)</p> <p>Cllr Bedford</p> <p>Cllr Gabbott</p> <p>Cllr Gleeson</p> <p>Cllr Stevens</p> <p>Subs:</p> <p>Councillor Farnworth</p> <p>Councillor Pritchard</p>	<p>Cllr Forshaw</p> <p>Cllr Gleave</p> <p>Cllr Buttery</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Rainsbury</p> <p>Cllr C Watson</p>	<p>Cllr Hancock</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr James Lillis</p> <p>Cllr David Howarth</p>
<p>Planning Committee</p> <p>(6:3:1)</p>	<p>Cllr C Tomlinson (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Stringfellow (Vice)</p>	<p>Cllr P Smith</p> <p>Cllr Mullineaux</p>	<p>Cllr Shaw</p>

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	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
	<p>Cllr Adams</p> <p>Cllr Farnworth</p> <p>Cllr Unsworth</p> <p>Cllr Williams</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Cllr Sharples</p>	<p>Cllr Mary Green</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Bretherton</p> <p>Cllr Rainsbury</p>	<p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Turner</p> <p>Cllr Hancock</p>
<p>Shared Services Joint Committee (3:2:0)</p>	<p>Cllr Bylinski Gelder</p> <p>Cllr Foster</p> <p>Cllr M Tomlinson</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Ashton</p> <p>Cllr Watkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Walton</p> <p>Cllr M Smith</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Bretherton</p> <p>Cllr P Smith</p>	-
<p>Standards Committee (4:2:1)</p>	<p>Cllr Unsworth (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Gleeson</p> <p>Cllr Hindle-Taylor</p> <p>Cllr Sharples</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Adams</p> <p>Cllr Bell</p>	<p>Cllr Rainsbury (Vice)</p> <p>Cllr Watson</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Coulton</p> <p>Cllr Buttery</p>	<p>Cllr Lillis</p> <p>Sub:</p> <p>Cllr Shaw</p> <p>Cllr Turner</p>

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Working Groups and Panels

	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
Climate Emergency Working Group (11 Members: 5 Community Hubs, Relevant Cabinet Member and 3:2:1)	Cllr Martin (Chair) Cllr Ashton (Cab Mem) Cllr Bedford Cllr Pillinger	Cllr Watson Cllr Gleave	Cllr Turner
Member Development Steering Group (3:2:1)	Cllr Jackson (Chair) Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Gleeson	Cllr Mary Green Cllr BATTERY	Cllr Hancock
Shared Services Appointments Panel (2:1:0)	Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Foster Sub: Cllr M Tomlinson	Cllr Walton Sub: Cllr P Smith	-

- That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution to take into account the consequential changes as a result of the report.

10 Appointment of Community Hub Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2023/24

Council considered a report of that allocated the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's Community Hubs for 2023/24.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

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Resolved (unanimously):

That the appointment of Community Hub Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2023/24 be approved as follows:

Community Hub Area	Chair	Vice Chair
Leyland & Farington	Councillor Colin Sharples	Councillor Jane Bell
Penwortham	Councillor Will Adams	Councillor David Howarth
Western Parishes	Councillor Margaret Smith	Councillor Will King
Eastern Parishes	Councillor Peter Mullineaux	Councillor Mathew Forshaw
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale	Councillor Leslie Pritchard	Councillor Emma Stevens

11 Appointment to outside bodies for 2023/24

The Council considered a report outlining the nominations for Appointments to Outside Bodies 2023/24.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

Resolved (43:3:2):-

That those nominated Members of Council be appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies in 2023/24 as follows:

Outside Body	Council Nominee
Chorley and South Ribble Partnership Executive (Leader)	Councillor Paul Foster
Determinants of Health Board (Relevant Cabinet Member)	Councillor Clare Hunter
Lancashire Police and Crime Panel (Leader / Cabinet Member)	Councillor James Flannery
Lancashire Waste Partnership (Relevant Cabinet Member / SR Councillor)	Councillor Deborah Ashton Councillor Paul Foster (Reserve)
Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee	Councillor James Flannery Councillor Caleb Tomlinson

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Outside Body	Council Nominee
	Councillor Elaine Stringfellow Councillor Kath Unsworth (Reserve) Councillor Paul Foster (Reserve)
Leyland Town Deal Advisory Board (at the invitation of the Cabinet Member)	Councillor Jane Bell Councillor James Flannery Councillor Paul Foster
Local Government Association - District Councils' Network (Leader)	Councillor Paul Foster
Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal Stewardship Board and Executive - Combined Meeting (Leader)	Councillor Paul Foster Observer: Councillor Matthew Tomlinson
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Joint Committee	Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder

12 Council Meetings in 2023/24

The Council was provided with the programme of Council meetings 2023/24 for information.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

That the following programme of Council meetings for 2023/24 be noted:

- 19 July 2023
- 20 September 2023
- 22 November 2023
- 31 January 2024
- 28 February 2024
- 27 March 2024
- 15 May 2024
- 22 May 2024

13 Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group

The Chair of the Scrutiny Task Review Task Group, Councillor Michael Green, presented a report of the Task Group "Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods". He requested that Cabinet consider the proposals for implementation listed within the report.

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Further to the above a member of public asked whether Cabinet may consider the following additional proposals:

1. That there be a requirement for waste bins and dog mess bins in new developments
2. As Parished areas attract a 25% Community Infrastructure Levy, should areas of the Borough currently unparished (such as Leyland and Bamber Bridge) be parished to obtain this CIL?

It was moved by Councillor Michael green, seconded by Councillor Walton, and it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted and Cabinet be requested to consider the proposals for implementation.

14 Protocol on creating Honorary Aldermen

Council considered a report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer request approval for a protocol for the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Members of the Council who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service.

A member of the public queried an aspect of the proposed protocol as follows "Honorary Aldermen shall not have the right to influence meetings of the Council or its Committees". It was suggested that this would disadvantage the Council by preventing it from benefiting from the experience Honorary Aldermen may offer.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster responded that the Council would consult with the Monitoring Officer on this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

Resolved: (by majority 43:3:2)

That the draft protocol on conferring the title of Honorary Alderman, as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bretherton, Buttery, Bylinski Gelder, Campbell, Coulton, Farnworth, Flannery, Forshaw, Foster, Gabbott, Gleave, Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, King, Lomax, Martin, Peet, Pritchard, Rear, Roberts, Sharples, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Unsworth, Walton, Watkinson, Watson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Hancock, Howarth, and Turner

Abstain: Councillors Lillis and Shaw

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15 Policy Review: Discretionary Council Tax Reductions Policy

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Property, Assets, Commercial Services & Major Developments) presented report of the Director of Customer and Digital on the proposed revised and updated Council Tax Discretionary Reductions Policy.

It was moved by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, seconded by Councillor Paul Foster and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

1. That the revised Council Tax Discretionary Reductions Policy be approved.
2. That in view of the economic climate and the likely increase in applications, the financial position in respect of discretionary reductions be reviewed after 6 months.

16 The Council's Capital Programme and Withy Grove Play area

The Cabinet Member Finance & Public Protection presented a report of the Director of Planning and Development requesting that Council to approve an addition to the agreed Capital Programme by including a project costed at £110,000, to replace the central tower at Withy Grove Park Playground in Bamber Bridge, following an agreement reached with the Council's insurers. The report also provided context as to how this project was part of a wider improvement programme for Withy Grove Park and Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre.

It was moved by Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor Paul Foster, and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

That Council agrees to amending the Capital Programme by the sum of £110,000 to replace the tower slides at Withy Grove Park Playground.

17 Changes to director structure

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications) presented a report of the Chief Executive outlining proposals for changes to the director structure to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

It was then moved by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder:

To approve the proposed changes to the director structure for consultation in line with the council's Change Policy.

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Councillor Karen Walton, Leader of the Opposition criticised the fact that the report had not been considered at the Shared Services Joint Committee.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Phil Smith, seconded by Councillor Walton, that there be a variation to the proposed structure in the report, namely that South Ribble Borough Council appoint its own Director of Planning rather than it being a Shared Services post.

The amendment was put to the vote as follows (13:34):

For: Councillors Buttery, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Watson.

Against: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Howarth, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams.

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

It was then moved by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and it was

Resolved (by majority 29:15) – That Council moves to the vote on the substantive motion.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Gabbott, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Roberts, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Buttery, Bretherton, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Mary Green, Michael Green, Howarth, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Walton, Watson.

The substantive motion was put to the Council and it was

Resolved (by majority 34:15):

That Council approves the proposed changes to the director structure for consultation in line with the council's Change Policy.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Howarth, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Bretherton, Buttery, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Walton, Watson.

Agenda Item 3

17

Chair

Date

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Minutes of Council

Meeting date Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Committee members present: Councillors David Howarth (Mayor), Chris Lomax (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Damian Bretherton, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Matthew Farnworth, James Flannery, Mathew Forshaw, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, Jasmine Gleave, James Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jo Hindle-Taylor, Clare Hunter, Lou Jackson, Will King, Keith Martin, Peter Mullineaux, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, Wesley Roberts, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Emma Stevens, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Angela Turner, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Connor Watson, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams

Officers present: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Darren Cranshaw (Head of Democratic Services), Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader) and Louise Bamber (PA to the CEO)

Public: 130

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Julie Buttery, Colin Coulton, James Lillis, John Rainsbury, George Rear and Elaine Stringfellow.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3 Proposals for the Election of the Mayor for 2023/34

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter and subsequently

Resolved (unanimously) that Councillor Chris Lomax be elected the Mayor of South Ribble Borough Council for 2023/24.

The Retiring Mayor and Mayoress and the newly elected Mayor and Mayoress exchanged robes and badges of office.

Councillor Chris Lomax signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Mayor, and thanked Councillors for his appointment. He introduced his Mayoress, Kim Lomax.

Councillor Chris Lomax in the Chair

4 Vote of thanks to the Retiring Mayor, Councillor David Howarth

It was proposed by Councillor Harry Hancock, seconded by Councillor David Shaw and subsequently

Resolved (unanimously)

That a vote of thanks be placed on record to the Retiring Mayor, Councillor David Howarth in recognition of the Council's appreciation of his services during his year of office.

Councillor David Howarth responded, thanking Councillors for their kind words and support over the year.

The Mayor presented commemorative badges and album to Councillor David Howarth and Councillor Ange Turner to commemorate their year of office.

5 Proposals for the Election of the Deputy Mayor for 2023/24

It was proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton, seconded by the Councillor Margaret Smith and subsequently

Resolved (unanimously) that

Councillor Peter Mullineaux be elected the Deputy Mayor of South Ribble Borough Council for 2023/24.

The Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress with their chains of office.

Councillor Peter Mullineaux signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Deputy Mayor, and thanked Councillors for his appointment. He introduced his Deputy Mayoress Margaret McManus.

Mayor

Date

Agenda Item 5

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.
2. Please note that the report may not reflect the wording used in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed.
3. All decisions taken by Cabinet on 21 June 2023 can be found on the published Decision Notice.

Meeting held on 21 June 2023

South Ribble Tourism Strategy

4. I presented a report that provided the new South Ribble Tourism Strategy for consideration.
5. I explained a vision had been created for the borough and by 2028 it was expected that South Ribble would thrive as a popular tourist destination with a recognised events programme that collectively supports the local economy.
6. The strategy contained a delivery plan on how this vision would be delivered and managed for success through the three-year period.
7. We thanked the officers for a clear and accessible report, and we celebrated recent successes such as Music in the Park and Leyland festival.

Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2022-23

8. I presented a report that sought to provide Cabinet with a position statement for the Corporate Strategy for quarter four (January – March 2022/23)
9. The authority is continuing to deliver services well. We noted the Credit Union had not met its KPI's due to other factors, but we acknowledged there was more to be done with the union and overall, it was performing well.
10. I accepted the recommendations from the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee.

Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2022-23

11. The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection) presented a report that outlined the financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31 March 2023.
12. We noted the authority had spent less than expected due to delays in high profile projects. However, assurances were given that the funds would be spent,

Agenda Item 5

and investment placed into local communities.

13. We accepted the recommendations from the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee.

Revenue Budget Outturn 2022-23

14. The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection) presented a report that set out the revenue and reserves provisional outturn for 2022/23 for the Council, based on the position as at 31 March 2023.
15. We noted that despite the current economic climate the authority had slightly underspent on the budget. It was intended that the underspend be used to boost the general reserve fund which was currently at £4.53 million.
16. We asked for confirmation of the authority's debt position and the Cabinet Member advised that short and long term borrowing was nil. The authorities total borrowing was also nil.

Enhancement of Community Hub Structures

17. The Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing) presented a report of the Director of Communities that brought forward a proposed enhancement to the boundaries of the community hubs. It also recommended the appointment of the new Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the hubs.
18. We noted these changes had been proposed as a result of members listening to comments from residents and fellow members. The proposal would be to re-establish the previous boundaries in order to strengthen communications with members of the local community and to increase their involvement in Council decisions about the services which affect them.

I would like to recommend that Council note the report.

Councillor Paul Foster
Leader of the Council

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.
2. Please note that the report may not reflect the wording used in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed.
3. All decisions taken by Cabinet on 5 July 2023 can be found on the published Decision Notice.

Meeting held on 5 July 2023

Key Contracts and Partnerships Update 2023

4. I presented a report that provided an update on the performance of the council's key contracts and partnership arrangements.
5. Overall performance is progressing well and the Council's standing with key partners is strong.

Adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan

6. The Cabinet Member (Neighbourhoods and Waste) presented the Biodiversity Action Plan and sought approval for the plan to be presented at full Council.
7. We noted the council's statutory duty to publish a biodiversity report and to provide updates on its actions. Following the interim action plan in 2022 extensive consultation had been undertaken with staff, community groups, partners and other government bodies. This feedback had been considered and incorporated into the action plan.
8. We endorsed the action plan and thanked the Lead Member for Climate Change and Officers for their work. We also acknowledged that South Ribble was leading the way in the North West for the work undertaken on climate change and actions to help us achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
9. We also expressed concern at recent reports that central government were considering abolishing the International Climate Finance Pledge and were not taking climate change seriously. We asked the Cabinet Member (Neighbourhoods and Waste) to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to express our concern.

Content Management System

10. The Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital) presented a report that sought to agree the future for the Council's Content Management System (CMS)
11. We noted that officers would be trying to seek a contract with favourable commercial terms for a five year term, if this could not be achieved a full procurement exercise would be undertaken.
12. The Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital) explained that both value for money and quality of service would be considered when procuring new contracts.

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods, Enhancing Housing Standards in South Ribble – Response to recommendations

13. The Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development) presented a report that provided the Cabinet's response to the final report from the Scrutiny Committee's review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods.
14. Although we accepted the majority of the recommendations we were unable to accept recommendations four and five as it was important to retain flexibility on Section 106 and CIL monies.

Property and Assets Management System – Contract Award

15. The Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital) presented a confidential report that updated members on the requirement for a property and assets management system, including aims, objectives and benefits of the system.

I would like to recommend that Council note the report.

Councillor Paul Foster
Leader of the Council

Agenda Item 6

Report of the Governance Committee

1. Any recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.
2. Please note that the report may not necessarily reflect the wording used in the minutes.

Meeting held on 23 May 2023

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

3. Councillors raised queries on information requested at the previous meeting and officers undertook to provide this as soon as possible.
4. The queries related to item 44: Internal Audit Plan and progress update as follows:
 - The number of residential properties not recycling correctly;
 - Details of near miss incidents to staff working on the waste service (both before and after insourcing);
 - An update on the CCTV procurement;
 - Confirmation that the testing in relation to hyperlinks on the website has been completed.

CIPFA Resilience Index 2021/22

5. Principal Financial Accountant, Jean Waddington presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the latest CIPFA Resilience Index (2021/22) compared to the previous published indices.
6. Members noted the need for the Council to look for opportunities to generate income as there had been a reduced rate of growth on reserves.
7. Members agreed to note the index and the continued strong position of the Council.

Management Responses to External Audit Planning Queries 2022/23

8. The Director of Finance, Louise Mattinson, presented her report.
9. In line with Auditing Standards, and to support the Audit Planning process, the External Auditors need to establish the risk of fraud or error. The Auditors' questions, answers provided by Management, and details of estimates / methodology used were outlined in the report.
10. Members agreed to approve the management responses to the auditors enquiries.

Agenda Item 6

Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2022-23

11. The Head of Audit and Risk, Dawn Highton, presented her report which summarised the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service during 2022/2023 and to give an opinion as required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control.
12. Members noted the reports which had received a 'limited' assurance rating and raised concerns. Dawn Highton advised that the vacant posts within the senior leadership team had been recruited to and stability within the structure would assist in the completion of management actions. The Heads of Service would contribute to the governance structures within the Council and ensure relevant training and processes were followed as agreed.
13. Members discussed the report relating to utilities management and noted that the asset register was subject to audit each year and that valuations were undertaken every five years. Work had been undertaken to highlight any duplicate items.
14. The audited accounts were available on the website.
15. The Committee discussed the water management review and heard from the Head of Neighbourhoods and Waste, Barry Elder. Work was ongoing within the team and a policy relating to water management was in development, as was the recording of related open water assets within the borough.
16. Members acknowledged and welcomed the openness of the organisation in identifying and reporting areas which required improvements and the action plans in place, which was evidence of an organisation that was seeking to improve.
17. The Director of Governance, Chris Moister, presented the GDPR report and acknowledged that policies had been in place, but not adhered to. The actions required were set out in the report and would be monitored by the Information Security Council.

Internal Audit Effectiveness Review

18. The Head of Audit and Risk, Dawn Highton, presented her report which set out the results of the self-assessment carried out by Internal Audit against the requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and Local Government Application Note (LGAN) as a means of assessing the effectiveness of Internal Audit.
19. The Committee thanked the service for their work.
20. The Committee noted the results of the self -assessment recently undertaken as part of the Governance Committee's consideration of the system of internal control.

Agenda Item 6

Annual Governance Statement

21. The Director of Governance, Chris Moister, presented his report.
22. The council was required to ensure that it has in place a sound system of governance, that it regularly reviews the effectiveness of that system and the it continuously seeks to achieve best value in service delivery. As part of that, the council is required to publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
23. The Annual Governance Statement is developed alongside the Statement of Accounts but assesses the governance framework for the whole council and all of its activities. The form of the AGS and the approach taken to its development is based on guidance that is produced by CIPFA and SOLACE.
24. Members raised queries on staff training around procurement and the few complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman.
25. In section 'The end of the pandemic' 'procedural restrictions relating to the attendance of the public and their participation' it was suggested that a comment be included to included members.
26. Members discussed work relating to business continuity priorities and fraud risks.
27. Subject to the proposed changes the Annual Governance Statement in draft form was approved for inclusion with the draft statement of accounts.

External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

28. The External Auditor, Georgia Jones, from Grant Thornton presented the report.
29. The report included deadlines when the different elements of work would be undertaken, challenges surrounding the audit and set out the related fees.
30. Members noted the challenges and fees. Responses to queries relating to technicalities were given.

Audit Plan 2022-23

31. External Auditor, Georgia Jones, from Grant Thornton presented the report.
32. The report set out the audit plan in detail, and set out key matters and risks identified.
33. An updated audit plan would be presented to a future meeting.
34. The Committee agreed that the proposed work plan and proposed fee be approved.

Agenda Item 6

Closure of Dormant Bank Account

35. The Director of Finance, Louise Mattinson, presented her report.
36. The Committee noted that the bank require a formal minute from an established Council Committee meeting in order to change account signatories and subsequently close the account. It was therefore resolved:
 1. To approve the addition of signatories as follows;
 - Louise Mattinson Director of Finance
 - Jean Waddington Principal Financial Accountant
 2. To approve the subsequent closure of this dormant bank account.

Recommendation:

That Council notes the report of the Governance Committee.

Councillor Colin Sharples
Chair of the Governance Committee

CG

Agenda Item 7

Report of the Corporate, Performance & Budget Scrutiny Committee

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Corporate, Performance & Budget Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 June 2023.

Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2022-2023

2. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Change and Delivery were welcomed to the meeting to present the most recent quarterly performance monitoring report.
3. We welcomed the success of Music in the Park and looks forward to an evaluation of return on investment and future plans being made available to members;
4. The Committee was grateful for the offer of further information and statistics with regards to the uptake of the cost of living support;
5. We asked that the council work with the credit union to increase the opening hours of their office and to provide outreach to other parts of the borough;
6. We requested further information on the councils contribution to the credit union and how the council ensures value for money;
7. We welcomed the offer of a response to the query raised on the criteria of the Select Move process;
8. The Committee invited the new cabinet member for Customer and Digital to the next meeting to discuss customer services indicators, including the abandoned call rates;
9. We asked that the new planning committee be advised of the implications of deferring applications and the risk of non-determination and;
10. We thanked the Leader and Director for attending and answering the Committee's questions.

Revenue Budget Outturn 2022-23

11. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance were invited to present the most recent quarterly revenue budget monitoring report.
12. We welcomed the offer of a copy of the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) Business Plan being provided to the committee;
13. We asked that the total agency and contractor costs mapped across the directorate staffing underspends be provided;
14. The Committee encouraged the greater use of LinkedIn and other social media platforms to attract and recruit employees to the council;

Agenda Item 7

15. We requested that the apprenticeship underspends be explored further and;
16. We thanked the Leader and Director for attending and answering the Committee's questions.

Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2022-23

17. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Change and Delivery were invited to present the most recent quarterly monitoring report on the Capital Programme and Balance Sheet.
18. We requested that further focus be given to reduce the level of slippage in the capital programme;
19. The Committee expressed concern of the delays with the County Council turning Disabled Facilities Grant referrals around;
20. We wished the Leader well in his lobbying of the county council and in making alternative arrangements for progressing Disabled Facilities Grant applications and;
21. We thanked the Leader and Director for attending and answering the Committee's questions.

Recommendation(s)

That Council note the report.

Councillor Will Adams
Chair of the Corporate, Performance & Budget Scrutiny Committee
BS

Agenda Item 8



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by the Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services))	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Climate Emergency, Air Quality, and Biodiversity Action Plan Updates & Annual Greenhouse Gas Report

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Not applicable

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the actions and progress that has been around the Climate Emergency and Air Quality and Biodiversity work streams.
2. To provide members with an update on the Council's and borough's carbon footprint.

Recommendations to Council

3. To note the progress that has been achieved towards the Council's net-zero goal and completion of the Air Quality and Climate Emergency Action Plans, and the Biodiversity Strategy and Interim Action plan.
4. That members note the current carbon footprint of both the Council and the borough.
5. Council approves that the portfolio holder for Neighbourhood and Waste writes to the Secretary of State to express the Council's concerns about the plans to drop the £11.6bn climate and nature pledge funding.

Reasons for recommendations

6. Further to the Council declaring a climate emergency and adoption of the Climate Emergency Strategy a commitment was made to present each year an update of the progress made towards the carbon net-zero goal by 2030, improvements on air quality and biodiversity, including the updated carbon footprint for the Council and the borough.
7. The Climate Emergency Strategy provided a background to the carbon footprint of the Council and the borough and identified categories of areas to concentrate on to achieve the overall goal of net-carbon neutral by 2030.

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8. This update report and the attached annual Greenhouse Gas report provides an annual update on the actions taken to date towards the goal of carbon net zero, cleaner air and improved Biodiversity within the borough together with an appreciation of the emissions arising from the Council 's own estate and operations, the borough as a whole.
9. Both members and our residents have expressed concerns that plans have been made by the government to drop the UK's flagship £11.6bn climate and nature funding. This funding has been seen as a vital tool in the government's commitment to tackle climate change internationally. This funding was linked to supporting developing countries to deal with the causes of climate change, including preventing deforestation and reducing carbon emissions, as well as preparing for its effects.

Other options considered and rejected

10. No other options have been considered as a commitment was given by the Task Group and accepted by Full Council that an annual update would be provided each year on the progress being made and the Councils and boroughs Carbon footprint.

Corporate priorities

11. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

Climate Emergency

12. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) latest report states "it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, oceans and cryosphere and biosphere have occurred" and confirmed that the global warming target of 1.5°C will be exceeded within the next 20 years, with escalating and compounding impacts on severe weather events, flooding, climate refugees, food production and the spread of disease.
13. The effects of man-made climate change are identified as one of, if not the biggest, threat to humankind and the wider environment. Understanding, acceptance and desire for action to combat this threat has grown over the last few years.
14. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which advised that we must limit global warming to 1.5°C, as opposed to the previous target of 2°C. Their review of over 6,000 sources of evidence found that, with a rise of 1.5°C, there would be risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. It warned that we have only 12 years left within which to take the serious action required to avert this crisis and avoid the worst impacts.
15. In 2021 the IPCC report stating "it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, oceans and cryosphere and biosphere have occurred."
16. It is imperative that humans take all possible action to limit the impacts of the above events. The Council as a social leader, regulator, employer and developer has a moral

Agenda Item 8

and legal duty to minimise its emissions and impact on the environment, prepare for the impact of climate change, adapt and encourage others to do the same.

17. In July 2019 this Council declared that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the health and well-being of our residents and therefore proclaimed a Climate Emergency with immediate effect.
18. To combat this threat, the Council set a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030, against 1990 emission figures. For avoidance of doubt, this goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking into account of actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment.
19. In order to implement this decision, a Standing Working Group on the Climate Emergency was created. In July 2020 members approved and adopted a Climate Emergency Strategy, followed by an Action Plan in 2021. Five key categories were identified on which any future actions would be aligned to assist with achieving the net carbon neutral goal.

These categories were;

- Transport
 - Energy and Built Environment
 - Waste and water
 - Consumption
 - Resilience – preparing for the consequences of climate change
20. The Task Group also committed to providing a yearly update to Full Council on the progress being made towards the Councils Goals, including a Green House Gas Emissions inventory.
 21. The annual Greenhouse Gas report, for Council operated buildings and other operations is attached in Appendix 2 of this report.
 22. The report includes greenhouse gas emissions (measured as CO₂ equivalent) from energy and water use in our buildings (eg. The Civic Centre, leisure centres, depot) along with fuel used by our fleet and by staff-owned cars as part of their work.

Air Quality

23. Poor Air Quality affects the most deprived within our society, but no-one is immune from the harmful effects. As a result, over 38,000 premature deaths are caused each year across the country and 4.6% of all premature deaths in South Ribble are attributed to poor air quality.
24. Much of the work on air quality is linked to that being undertaken for Climate Emergency with both areas looking at similar outcomes.
25. The Council currently has five declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) all of which have been declared for the likely exceedance of the annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide Emissions value of 40µg/m³.
26. The Council have continued to monitor air quality across the borough through the network of diffusion tubes, and following additional funding obtained towards the end of 2022 has now employed a further three continuous analysers. These allow the monitoring of Particulate Matter in addition to Nitrogen Dioxide.

Agenda Item 8

27. Monitoring results indicate that pollutant levels across the borough are generally declining and the continuous monitor data suggests that the particulate matter levels are not currently at significantly high enough levels to require any formal action by the Council.
28. It is also planned to carry out a further consultation in later half of 2023 to revise the Air Quality Action Plan.

Biodiversity

29. Biodiversity is the term that describes the biological variety of our planet. It includes all plants and animals and the ecosystems that supports them and us. At a local level biodiversity shapes the landscape of our area, our local distinctiveness and our economic prosperity. It contributes to good mental health and a sense of wellbeing. It has a role to play in our response to climate change, flood management, air, water and land quality.
30. In 2022 the Council adopted the Biodiversity Strategy which identifies the strategic vision for the borough – ‘For a Borough where biodiversity is bigger, better and more joined up’ and the objectives.
31. An interim action plan was proposed and adopted to cover the year, during which a full public consultation would and has been undertaken and a draft Action Plan written for submission to Full Council for adoption.
32. Biodiversity is not just something the Council are working on. Section 40 of the Environment Act 2021 places a legal responsibility on public authorities in England to have due regard for habitats and species of the greatest conservation importance, whilst protecting all biodiversity.
33. A requirement under the act stipulates that Local Authorities must publish biodiversity reports which summarise the actions the authority has taken and the plans for the next five years.
34. By January 2024 all Local authorities must consider the actions they will take on Biodiversity and must report formally by January 2026. We are therefore ahead of most Local Authorities in this regard.
35. Biodiversity must also be considered under the planning regime, with the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in November 2023, where eligible applications must demonstrate a minimum of 10% BNG as part of the development, either delivered on site or off site at registered locations.

Progress Update

36. A summary of the key achievements over the last year are detailed below, in addition Appendix A of this report contains a more in-depth list of the actions that have been achieved over the last year.

Climate Emergency

37. The Council have continued, since the previous update report, to make progress on the adopted action plan. Achieving the aims is not the sole responsibility of any particular member or officer and everyone needs to do their part to reduce carbon emissions, from

Agenda Item 8

recycling waste, turning off the lights or considering the carbon impact from larger projects.

38. Work has continued with the PSDS decarbonisation works of the largest five buildings under the Council ownership, with solar panels, LED lighting and Air Source Heat Pumps now being delivered and commissioned. Along with the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps at the Coach House, Hurst Grange Park.
39. Energy reduction and improvements has been delivered through the “South Ribble Business Energy Efficiency” (BEE) Scheme, helping businesses to carry out energy audits and grant funding to purchase equipment to reduce energy usage. In addition to this the minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) enforcement project was successful in increasing EPC ratings of rental properties.
40. Help for low income families and vulnerable households and owner occupiers was delivered to improve energy efficiency of properties and lower household bills through ECO4:
 - LAD2 – administered by CHiL – low income properties with an EPC banding of E - G
 - HUG – Energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating for low income households or those in receipt of benefits without gas central heating.
 - Affordable Warmth Scheme – LCC funding for low income households with additional vulnerabilities
 - Household Support Fund – for those in receipt of Disabilities facilities Grants
41. Development of retrofit action plan was completed, following officer training on retrofit. The plan sets out how the Council will consider improvements to existing housing stock to ensure the owners have the necessary information to reduce the carbon footprint of their properties.
42. The Council signed up to the don't let go campaign, banning the use, sale and distribution of balloons and sky lanterns on our land. All thanks to a letter sent in by a local primary school pupil.

Air Quality

43. The Council has continued of the air quality monitoring program and has added in real time monitoring.
44. Grant funding of £54k has been secured to enable all schools within South Ribble to have access to an air quality online resource and lesson plans, Clean Air Crew, to raise awareness across the borough. Through immediate and extended family and friends this message will reach the majority of the borough's population.
45. 19 Electric Vehicles Charging units have been installed with proposals for a further installation of 21 charging points being progressed.
46. The Council has purchased electric vehicles within the council's fleet and replacement of petrol-powered hand tools with electric battery-operated ones.

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47. The team are continuing to request EV charging points on planning applications and to have air quality assessed as part of these.

Biodiversity

48. Officers have produced a baseline GIS mapping of current key biodiversity information across the borough.
49. The team have completed the Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation and writing the draft Action Plan is on the Council Agenda for approval.
50. Work has started on the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in November through the planning process.
51. Continued to plant trees across the borough with the help of businesses, schools, community groups, and tree giveaways. Exceeding the target of 27,500 trees planted for the fourth year running.
52. The council are also an active member of the Lancashire Nature Partnership allowing information sharing and collaborative working on green infrastructure projects.

Climate change and air quality

53. The work noted in this report provides the result of the direct impacts the Council is having on the climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's Green Agenda.

Equality and diversity

49. The report does not have any equality or diversity impacts associated with it. It is acknowledged that the wider work being undertaken on the climate emergency agenda may have impacts that need to be addressed as the work progresses.

Risk

50. Please Climate change is one of the biggest if not the biggest threat to human-kind (if action is not taken now). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified that we must prevent a 1.5°C rise in global temperatures to prevent a significant risk to risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.
51. The Council has made a commitment to achieving a net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, along with a commitment to review the Climate Emergency Strategy and provide an update on the Council's current carbon footprint. Failure to understand the current situation and the level of carbon emissions being generated by the Council and the borough will hamper any attempts to achieve this goal.
52. The revised strategy and associated greenhouse gas emissions report is therefore a key component to achieving this overarching goal and minimising the risk to both council and the borough as a whole from the impacts of climate change.

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Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

53. This report presents an update on the progress of the delivery of the Air Quality and Climate Emergency Action plans and the Biodiversity Strategy. As such, there are no financial implications arising from the report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

54. This is an update report and there are no legal comments.

Background documents

Climate Emergency Strategy revised July 2021

Climate Emergency Action Plan, July 2021

Air Quality Action Plan, 2018

Biodiversity Strategy 2022

Biodiversity Interim Action Plan 2022

Retrofit Action Plan 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Overview of progress towards the Climate Emergency, Air Quality and Biodiversity work, quarterly updates to task group and four yearly review.

Appendix 2 – Annual Greenhouse Gas Report

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Martin (Senior Environmental Health Officer)	nmartin@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625336	June 2023

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Climate Emergency Update's

June 2022- June 2023



Climate Emergency Task Group meetings moved to quarterly from mid-2022 and have continued to meet, some of the topics covered include;

with a number of projects being completed by s including;

- Councillor lead projects
 - takeaway containers, and the willingness & practicality of changing these to more environmentally friendly products. While options are available, they are prohibitively expensive at the current time, although it appears there is a will to consider them in the future.
 - Rewilding projects in Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall
 - Planning Policy
- Review of Strategies and consultations
 - The neighbourhood's strategy
 - The Draft Local plan
 - Biodiversity Strategy

Community Groups, officers have been working with a variety of community groups to progress work on carbon reduction, improved biodiversity, some of the projects include;

- 7 rewilding areas in Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall through the Hub groups as a trial with suggestions for more next year.
- An article on Climate and biodiversity included in the Eastern Parishes newsletter.
- Broadfield Community Garden and Worden pond plants funded by Leyland and Farington Hub.
- Collaborative working with Penwortham Town Council
- Officers attended Penwortham Town Council first Climate Action Group meeting
- Papermaking and climate emergency engagement sessions with church youth group and craft group in Penwortham
- Working with Community Payback – Balsam and Ragwort removal as part of our invasive species management
- Bamber Bridge - Bug hotel project
- Bamber Bridge - Yellow Rattle meadow project funding application submitted
- Climate Change talk – Food for Thought Preston Group
- BB & LH – Funding secured for wildflower plants to create a new meadow at The Holme. Habitat improvement works carried out on the ditch at Holland House. Installing planters at two locations in Bamber Bridge, School planter project – planters, soil, gardening tools and seeds given to primary schools in the Hub area
- L & F - Farington Lodges improvement works underway, plants ordered for pond at Worden Park
- Penwortham - Guardians of Nature have taken on responsibility for the Pumpkin Patch and have held their first volunteer day aided by the Youth Council.
- Edge Hill University Climate Event in May.
- Liaising with Natural England about involving our community groups in their Community Nature projects and Social Prescribing engagement activities
- Presentation to Lancashire Badger Group,
- Guardians of Nature – pond survey training,
- Lancashire Business Park – biodiversity improvement advice
- White Ribbon Garden – Guardians of Nature to take on the general maintenance of the garden with support from SRBC, Progress and The Refuge
- BB & LH – Beehive planters in Bamber Bridge, meadow creation trial at The Holme
- Penwortham – Active travel project – Wheel Walk Penwortham,
- Middleforth Community Garden and work on the Pumpkin Patch

Campaigns, officers have been involved in a several campaigns around the air quality, climate emergency and biodiversity workstreams;

- Refill Campaign to reduce the consumption of single use plastics by encouraging businesses and public buildings to provide opportunities for refilling personal water bottles for free. Delayed by Refill, they then wanted to charge us £3000+ per year. Decision to look at running a similar SR scheme made, Comms working on our own internal branding starting with the new water fountain in reception.
- Consultation undertaken for the revocation of Penwortham Air Quality Management Area.
- Don't Let Go – South Ribble has formally signed up to the Marine Conservation Society campaign. Details and guidelines on our website <https://southribble.gov.uk/article/2478/Balloons-and-sky-lanterns>
- Cost of Living Marketplace attended with Environmental Health Housing
- Bra recycling banks – suggested by Longton Eco Group, bra banks have now been installed at the Civic Centre, all our leisure centres, Wade Hall Community Centre (Progress Housing) and Priory lane Community Centre (Penwortham Town Council)

Consultations

- Planning - Comments submitted on the draft Local Plan.
- Comments provided on a several large planning applications
- Edge Hill university Climate Day May 2023, SRBC one of several authorities who attended and provided assistance to get representation from community groups to be present. (The majority in attendance came from South Ribble)

Schools – officers have continued to work with schools from across the borough offering advice and assistance where required, including them within the tree planting work and involving them within consultations on action plans etc.

- Visits and work with Cop Lane Primary on developing their school grounds,
- Lever House Primary's Environment Day,
- Lostock Hall Academy – tree planting scheme,
- Lostock Hall Academy advice on developing their wildlife area,
- Cuerden Church School borrowed litter picking kit for the Big Help Out.

Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

- The Strategy was adopted at Full Council in July 2022
- Lancaster University Internships – 2 interns completed GIS mapping of habitats and species in South Ribble to create the baseline data for the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Consultation events held with Neighbourhoods.
- Consultation events with hubs and councillors.
- Schools Biodiversity Competition as part of the consultation – Broad Oak Primary school won the Schools Biodiversity Competition with Northbrook Primary Academy and Lostock Hall Academy as runners up
- Members Briefing – Biodiversity was held on the 4th October and follow up linking work with schools and U3A groups is under discussion
- Working with Natural England on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Consultation finished at the end of June, with 161 responses from residents aged 9 – 84 and c40 comments from the Facebook posts.

Social media and comms A full communication plan was developed at the beginning of the year, although there has been some restrictions on messages being released.

- Complete refresh of SRBC website with regard to the three areas of work.
- Rewilding information page added to the website
- Urban meadows page updated
- Dnata travel – advice of development of their grounds.
- James Fisher Nuclear – team volunteered for a balsam bashing session at Moss Side Rugby Pitches.
- Officers attended New Business Energy Support Scheme marketplace

Tree planting schemes in pursuit of the corporate goal to plant a tree for every resident (110,000, over four years): planned for winter 22/23 to deliver the 27,000 trees promised in the Corporate Strategy.

- Three resident tree giveaways completed
- 28,586 trees planted in 22/23.
- 139,381 in total over 4 years
- Work progressing to identify sites for future planting.

Training, officers have attended a number of training events to help progress various aspects of the three areas of work. In addition, officers have provided advice and training to others. These include

- Carbon Literacy Training, now completed this is to be rolled out across the Council
- Retro fit training – how to make existing properties more carbon neutral.
- UK100 Local Climate Engagement Training course completed – invaluable for biodiversity consultation work

Grant funding: several grant applications have been submitted over the year along with continual progress on previous successful applications.

- Decarbonisation works are progress at the four leisure centre's and Civic Centre progressing with the installation of air source heat pumps have been delivered, solar panel and LED lighting
- EV chargers
 - 19 chargers are installed, awaiting for DNO connection
 - A further £154,000 secured for an additional 21 EV chargers (42 sockets) during 2023/24
- £54,000 for Defra Air Quality Grant – Clean Air Crew Project.

Upcoming events

- Balsam Bashing – 3rd – 9th July 2023 at sites along the River Lostock
- Climate Emergency event at Civic Centre 29th and 30th September
- Clean Air Crew Launch event 29th September 2023

Four Yearly Summary of Works Completed.

Strategies and Plans

- Council approval of the Climate Emergency Strategy, 2020
- Public consultation on the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Council approval of the Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2021
- Council approval of the Biodiversity Strategy in 2022
- Public consultation commenced in 2023 in preparation for presentation of the Biodiversity Action Plan to full Council in July 2023
- Annual submission of the air quality ASR (annual status report) to Defra.
- South Ribble Retrofit Action Plan 2023
- Annual greenhouse Gas report Update to Full Council

Active Travel

- Walking and cycling routes
<https://www.southribble.gov.uk/walking>
- Bikeability training for school children
- Installed several kilometres of new pathways and cycleways to encourage active transport and reduce reliance on carbon fuelled transport
- Provided secure cycle storage facilities at the Civic Centre and Moss Side depot, along with improved changing facilities at the Civic Centre, to encourage staff to cycle or run to work
- Provided Community Dr Bike bicycle repair projects to encourage active transport
- Encouraged our employees to use active transport, as an employer, we offer initiatives such as the cycle to work scheme, free use of pool electric bikes and 1-1 training to build commuting confidence.
- Active Health are working with schools to create bespoke Active Travel Programmes.

FREE BIKE REPAIRS AND SERVICE

DROP-INS WELCOME

Tuesday 18th April, 2pm - 5pm
Tesco Superstore, Liverpool Road, Penwortham

Advance bookings taken by email to:
jonathan.garston@southribble.gov.uk
Please state 'Tesco Dr Bike' when booking

South Ribble Borough Council

Biodiversity

- The Tree for Every Resident Project has resulted in more than 140,000 trees being planted across South Ribble on our own land, in school groups and on private land.
- To date we have given away 27,000 free trees to residents as part of our Free Tree Giveaways <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/treegiveaways>

- We are working with schools to develop their grounds and have gift trees to them as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy project and our own Tree for Every Resident project
- The Council’s Tree Team retain tree stumps as monoliths, also known as ‘wildlife sticks’ as oppose to felling trees to ground level where appropriate, taking into account proximity to paths, benches and street furniture.
- Created a new woodland on land bought by South Ribble – 8624 trees planted



Carbon reduction measures in our own buildings and developments

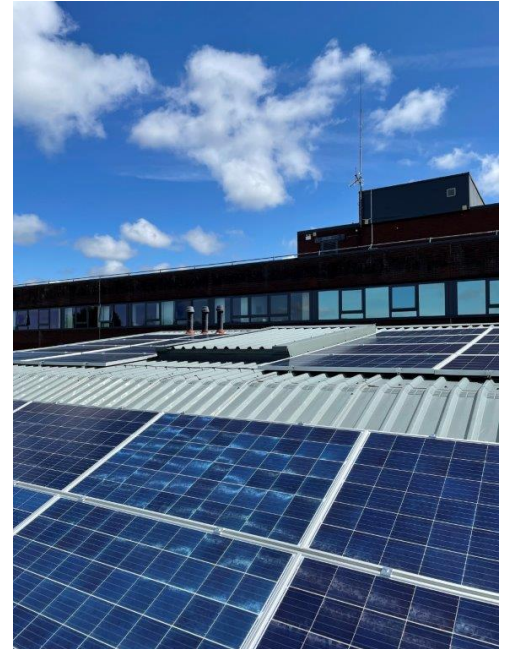
- McKenzie Arms - Incorporated carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures into our own new developments, such as the new McKenzie Arms development – including solar panels, LED lighting and mechanical heat ventilation units – as well as secure cycle storage facilities and EV charging points.

Case Study on UK100 - [Energy-efficient, high quality, affordable rented homes in South Ribble](#)

- Installed an air source heat pump as part of the redesign of the Coach House at Hurst Grange Park.
- Secured £145,000 grant funding to install further solar panels to the Civic Centre, along with installation of LED lighting, a solar panel battery pack system, energy efficient hot water heaters and a new building management system to improve energy efficiency
- Undertaken energy audits at six of the biggest energy using buildings in our estate – the Civic Centre, Moss Side depot, Leyland leisure Centre, Penwortham Leisure Centre, Bamber Bridge Leisure centre and the Tennis Centre. The findings of these audits will inform future investment to improve energy efficiency and move to decarbonise energy production on site.



- Secured £223,000 grant funding to produce decarbonisation plans for the Council estate, identifying the works and costs of making them carbon neutral by 2030
- Securing almost £5 million grant funding to decarbonise the Council's largest energy using buildings between April 2022 – March 2023, replacing the use of gas as a heating source at these buildings and improving our use of renewable energy
- We continue to implement more carbon reduction measures within council buildings, such as solar panels, LED lighting, and improved building management systems to make our buildings energy efficient.
- Working to improve the carbon emissions of Council run events
- Annual reporting of the Council's own annual greenhouse gas emissions



Carbon reduction measures across the wider Borough

- We have been working to ensure all tenanted and rented properties in the Borough reach the minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) and have an EPC rating no lower than E, by signposting funding opportunities and taking enforcement action on landlords where required. This is improving energy efficiency, reducing heating costs, improving public health and improving living conditions. (£45,004 grant funding)
- South Ribble Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Scheme, helping businesses to carry out energy audits and grant funding to purchase equipment to reduce energy usage.

Community Hubs

Our 5 Community Hubs have completed a number of projects including

- Pop up shops for school uniform and winter coat exchange
- Practical support funding of c£50,000 for local facilities and volunteer groups hosting social isolation cafes / welcoming warm spaces where people can walk to and make friends find out about what is happening locally to them
- Supporting community food banks to transfer to a Community Shop / Pantry system, utilising goods from Fair Share, local supermarkets and reducing food waste locally
- Supporting local In Bloom schemes who are championing rainwater harvesting and plant shares and increasing biodiversity.
- Winter Warmth Scheme to all residents in the Eastern Parishes with advice and basic supplies such as radiator keys, socks and hot water bottles to promote keeping warm whilst saving on electricity bills.
- Supporting the establishments of the Pumpkin Patch and Broadfield Community Gardens
- A new Active Penwortham Project
- Meadow creation and rewilding trials Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall
- Planters for schools and along Station Road
- Improvement works at Farington Lodges
- Funding of pond plants for the new pond at Worden Park
- Bike repair workshops and pop up shops
- Cost of Living event / Warm spaces

WHEEL, WALK, PENWORTHAM.

A CALENDAR OF FREE ACTIVE TRAVEL EVENTS FOR PENWORTHAM & BEYOND
VISIT WWW.SOUTHRIBBLE.GOV.UK/CYCLING FOR BOOKING INFORMATION

Activity	Venue/Starting Point	Date & Time
8-Mile Guided Ride Penwortham Tracks & Trails	Vernon Carus Sports Club	7th March, 1pm
Bike Donation Day	Civic Centre, Leyland	14th March, 2pm-5pm
Higher Penwortham Heritage Trail Guided Walk	Hurst Grange Car Park, Hill Road	21st March, 11am
Bike Donation Day	Walby Grove Sports Hub	20th April, 2pm-5pm
Dr Bike Free Bike Servicing	Penwortham Town Council, Kingsfold Drive	25th April, 10am - 4pm
Tour of the Mosses Guided Ride	St Teresa's Parish Centre	2nd May, 10am
Preston Guild Wheel Guided Ride	Penwortham Holme West Allotments	8th May, 10am
Family Guided Ride Penwortham Tracks & Trails	Tesco Store, Liverpool Road	26th May
Dr Bike Free Bike Servicing	Tesco Store, Liverpool Road	26th May
Penwortham Gala Dr Bike, Guided Rides, Cycle Obstacle Course	Penwortham Gala Hurst Grange Park	6th June
Guided Walk Lower Penwortham Heritage Walk	Kingsfold Library, Hawksbury Drive	13th June
Cycle Maintenance Course	Penwortham Town Council, Kingsfold Drive	13th, 20th, 27th June
Tour of the Mosses Guided Ride	St Teresa's Parish Centre	23rd June
Pop-Up Bike Shop Low Cost Bikes and Kit	Penwortham Town Council, Kingsfold Drive	12th July

Suitable for all abilities

USE YOUR PHONE TO SCAN ME AND GO STRAIGHT TO OUR WEBSITE





WHAT WE ARE DOING

FRUIT TREES
Following extensive consultation, we plan to plant 4-6 Fruit Bearing Trees for the benefit of local residents.

NEW BENCHES
Upgrading and adding to the existing benches will offer residents the opportunity to sit, relax and unwind with nature.

COMMUNITY PLANTERS
Local residents will have the opportunity to plant a wide variety produce in the raised planting beds.

VOLUNTEERING
The community garden will afford residents the opportunity to come together to care for the site and ensure the space is maximised for the community to benefit.

RE-SURFACE THE PATH
The existing path is in a poor state of repair; the plan aim to resurface the path through the garden and improve access at either end.

**JOIN OUR
BROADFIELD
COMMUNITY
GARDEN
OPEN DAY**

Pop along to our open day!

- Meet some of our volunteers!
- Find out how to get involved!
- Have a go at some gardening tasks!
- See the fruit and veg that we are growing
- No experience necessary!

**THURSDAY
30 MARCH 2023
11-6PM**

Bannister Drive, Opp Northbrook Primary, PR25 2GB

EVERYONE WELCOME

For queries: sam.jones@southeribble.gov.uk

Education and engagement

- Hosting a virtual event for World Environment Day 2021, to promote local actions and opportunities
- Sharing messages via social media posts and press
- Providing up to date information on our website.
- Started work on the South Ribble Primary Schools Dance Festival 2023 – “Recycle and Save a Tree in ‘23”
- Working with Town and Parish Councils on Climate projects
- Enabling corporate volunteering projects



Planning

- Planning applications are routinely reviewed to request where possible, air quality, noise, climate and biodiversity elements are considered.
- Increased the number of domestic dwellings provided with electric vehicle (EV) charging points (every new dwelling to be installed with an EV charger and 10% of communal spaces)
- Increased the number commercial premises providing EV charging points for staff and customers
- Increased number of secure cycle storage facilities to encourage active transport within the Borough
- The Task Group and officers have each submitted responses to the central Lancashire local plan consultation

EV charging points

- Installed free public electric vehicle charging points at the Civic Centre
- Worked with partners to provide 4 additional EV charging point sites at Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Penwortham - £106,000 grant funding

- Through the use of government funding, we are planning to install at least another 57 electric vehicle charging bays throughout the Borough on our way to a target of 200 EV points by 2030.



Procurement

- When we look to purchase products, the green agenda is always in our thoughts - for example, consideration of where the products are coming from in order to reduce transport miles
- As an organisation we also seek to reduce our purchase and use of high energy commodities, for example single use plastics which we have already committed to eliminating the use of by 2025.
- The Council purchases recycled paper

Investment & Skills

- Biodiversity suggestions are being included in advice to businesses on delivering social value in South Ribble
- Volunteering opportunities are being arranged for local businesses to assist with environmental projects such as balsam bashing and tree planting
- Working with the Chamber Low Carbon and Making Carbon Work programmes to maximise the number of businesses engaging with energy use audits to reduce their carbon footprint
- A new South Ribble business support scheme is being developed to assist businesses to install energy use reduction measures

Business Energy Efficiency (BEE)

The South Ribble BEE scheme offers

- Access to fully funded energy audits for your business
- Grant support up to £2,000 to install energy saving equipment

See www.businessinsouthribble.com/srbcbee for full details

Email: businessgrants@southribble.gov.uk

Support to reduce your energy bills and carbon footprint



Reduced reliance on conventional fuel

- The last few years have accelerated our investment into technology to enable remote working where possible which has allowed our response to the pandemic and our vital services to continue. This has reduced the

corporate mileage, and the miles being driven by employees.

- To encourage our employees to use active transport, as an employer, we offer initiatives such as the cycle to work scheme, plus we have installed Electric Vehicle Charging points at the Civic Centre (as well as other locations in the borough) to encourage the use of electric vehicles.
- Construction of secure cycle shelters at the Civic Centre and Moss Side depot, along with changing facilities at the Civic Centre, to encourage cycling to work
- We have a rolling programme to change our Council fleet over to electric vehicles to help reduce emissions
- Electric vehicle used on Worden Park by staff emptying bins and transporting tools and equipment across the Park.
- Battery operated machinery (strimmers, leaf blowers etc.) are now in use by Gardeners on Worden Park Formal Gardens, with additional items being researched for use across the Borough.
- The Council is in the process of procuring battery powered chainsaws, hedge cutters and pole saws to reduce our usage of petrol-powered hand tools.
- The tree team will look to replace diesel powered woodchippers with Stage V Compliant petrol-powered models.
- Visits conducted at garages, garden centres and hardware store across the Borough to ensure businesses are selling Ready to Burn compliant products

Waste

- Signed up to the Marine Conservation Society 'Don't Let Go' campaign
- We have started to reduce our use of Single Use Plastics, with a commitment to eliminate them by 2025
- Installed recycling points at the Civic Centre and Moss Side to encourage staff recycling of paper and plastic.
- Reduction in paper use - The Council has invested heavily in technology to provide officers and elected members with tablets and laptops as an alternative to using paper at meetings and during site visits
- Elected members are using Modgov, an electronic alternative to the use of paper agenda and minutes for meetings
- Officer and elected member inductions are done electronically to avoid the use of paper
- Bra banks installed at Civic Centre, all 4 SR leisure centres, and 2 community centres
- 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' campaign to promote, encourage and increase recycling and reduction in single use plastics



Retrofit / Cost of Living Crisis

- We have produced a Retrofit Action plan to target carbon reduction from dwellings in South Ribble as they account for 49% of our CO₂e emissions.
- Grant funding has been secured to deliver the following carbon reduction and fuel poverty projects
 - MEES – Audit of privately rented properties with EPC bands rating below an E
 - ECO4 – For low income and vulnerable households
 - LAD2 – administered by CHiL – low income properties with an EPC banding of E - G
 - HUG – Energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating for low income households or those in receipt of benefits without gas central heating.
 - Affordable Warmth Scheme – LCC funding for low income households with additional vulnerabilities
 - Household Support Fund – for those in receipt of Disabilities facilities Grants



Draft Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2022/23

July 2023



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Document Control

Publication Date	July 2023
Related Documents	<p>SRBC Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021</p> <p>SRBC Climate Emergency Strategy 2022</p> <p>All related documents may be viewed via the SRBC website</p> <p>South Ribble Borough Council</p>
Owner (Department)	Environmental Health
Author (Team)	Environmental Health / Climate Emergency Task Group

Review of Strategy

Review Date	July 2024
Version	1.0

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) from Local Authority own estate and operations for financial year 2022/23

1.0 Introduction

In 2019 South Ribble Borough Council declared a climate emergency, committing to the Borough becoming carbon net zero by 2030.

The Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan affirm the Council's own commitment as a major local employer, energy user and community leader in leading by example in reducing its own corporate carbon emissions.

To this end the Council has commenced an accelerated route to tackling greenhouse gas emissions arising from our own estate and operations, particularly the powering and heating of our largest buildings, whilst also addressing our water consumption, and transition to electric fleet vehicles.

This report provides an annual overview of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from the Council's estate and operations to the end of March 2023.

The majority of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions come from:

- Gas and electricity consumption in Council operational sites (e.g. Civic Centre, Moss Side Depot, and leisure centres)
- Fuel for Council fleet vehicles
- Water consumption in Council operational sites

The GHG emissions have been calculated using guidance and emissions factors published by the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Where UK emissions factors are not yet available the Council has estimated carbon emissions using the methodology of One Carbon World, as used for the first detailed carbon footprint calculations for the period of 2018/19. The links to source material are provided as references.

2.0 Results

A summary of Greenhouse Gas emissions for 2022/23, along with previous reporting years, is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – GHG emissions reported as kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO₂e).

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Scope 1					
Natural Gas	218,422.70	199,093.47	143,663.47	895,024.71	848,044.37
Petrol for Council vehicles	10,694.30	12,445.73	12,537.66	11,290.05	11,565.90
Diesel for Council vehicles *	714,557.63	1,326,358.07	1,370,161.32	1,218,887.05	841,224.98
Gas oil / Red diesel	70,091.68	67,634.07	66,018.02	68,964.25	50,763.21
Other, including lubricants, weed killer, antifreeze, etc.	20,469.79	35,363.24	32,226.52	21,721.55	25,355.87
Scope 2					
Electricity	117,441.21	197,654.71	134,636.72	381,690.03	372,646.70
Scope 3					

Electrical transmission and distribution	28,913.27	46,691.67	34,040.32	141,958.56	131,364.8
Business travel	Not included	32,515.00	15,181.15	24,520.04	21,351.89
Water supply	Not included	5,285.51	3,005.92	3,183.09**	3,343.88
Waste water	Not included	10,865.68	6,179.42	5,810.74**	6,104.27
Other, including ,material use, waste disposal and well to tank ***calculations for all fuels	605,890.96	710,544.60	632,529.00	600,907.10	596,660.77
Total gross emissions	1,786,482	2,644,452	2,450,179	3,373,957	2,908,426
Carbon off-setting	300 tonnes from One Carbon World	-	-	-	-
Total annual net emissions	1,786,182	2,644,452	2,450,179	3,373,957	2,908,426

Intensity measurement (kg CO2e per No. FTE employees)****	6,603	9,794	8,292	10,188	7,895
Intensity measurement (kg CO2e per Total number Employees)****	5,895	8,800	7,470	8,341	6,513

*In April 2019 Chorley FCC began to operate from the SRBC depot, including supply of fuel from the depot. As the service has operated directly by SRBC from 11 June 2022, FCC no long sold fuel)

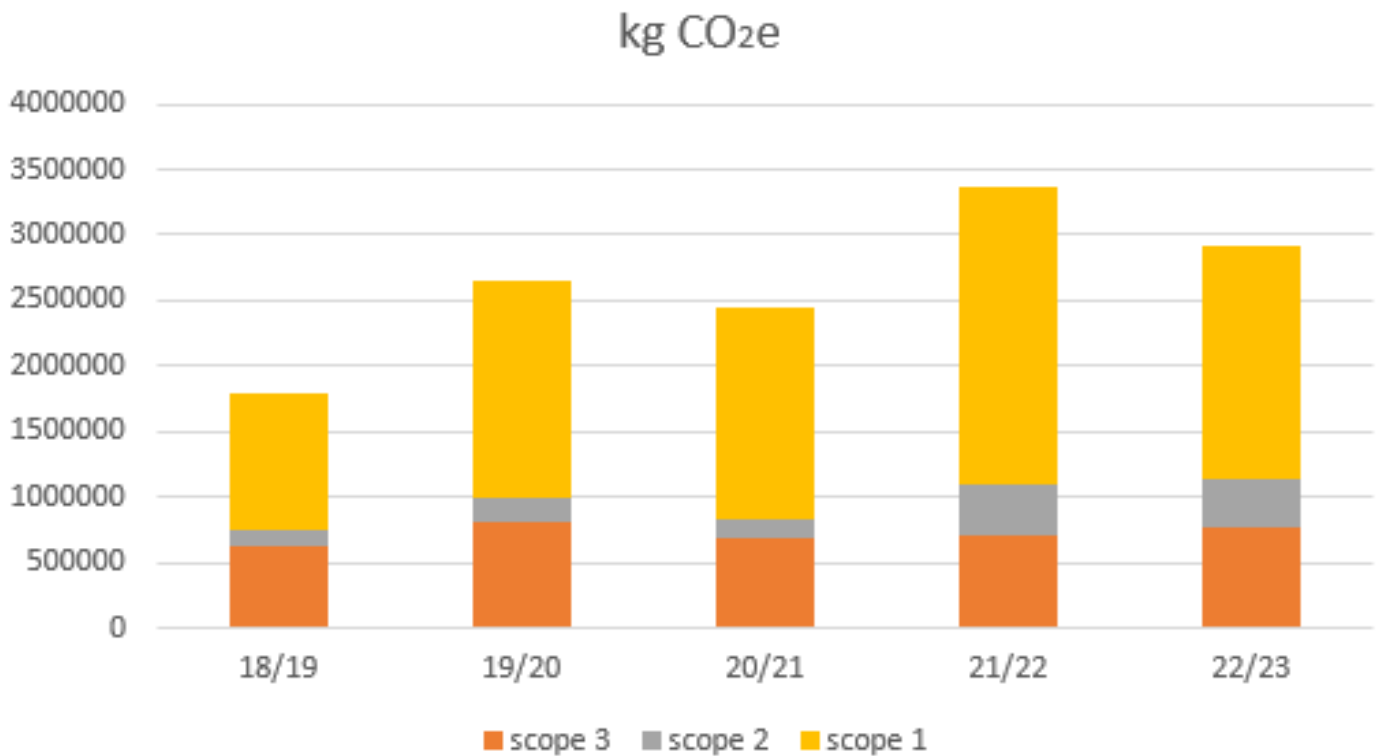
The pandemic lockdown restrictions were introduced in March 2020

**The Council's water usage increasing from April 2021, due to operation of the leisure centre returning to Council control

***Well to tank is the energy usage in the fuel supply chain, ahead of the fuel being utilised by the Council (including extraction, refining and transportation of primary fuels)

****Those staff employed in a shared service arrangement with Chorley Borough Council are classed as 0.5 of a post for the purposes of these calculations.

Figure 1 – Annual changes in emissions



Notes –

- From April 2019 onwards the data includes staff travel, water consumption and waste water within the Scope 3 emissions
- From April 2019 Chorley FCC began to operate from the SRBC depot, including supply of fuel from the depot (This service was brought back in house from 11 June 2022).
- The pandemic lockdown restrictions were introduced in March 2020
- From April 2021 the operation of the leisure services, including 4 leisure centres, was brought in house and have been included within the GHG emissions

Table 2 – South Ribble Borough Council’s operational scopes

Scope 1 (direct)	Scope 2 (energy)	Scope 3 (other indirect)
Fuel used for heating Council operated buildings (not tenanted buildings)	Electricity consumption within operated Council Buildings (not tenanted buildings)	Employee business travel
Fuel consumption from SRBC fleet vehicles		Electrical transmission and distribution
Chemical use such as anti-freeze, weed killer, Ad Blue, engine oil, etc.		Waste disposal
		Water consumption (from April 2019)
		Waste water (from April 2019)
Excluding	Excluding	Excluding
Refrigerant emissions from air conditioning and other equipment		Some material use and disposal, including items such as books, tyres, clothing / uniforms, and electrical items
		Employee and elected member commuting

3.0 Supporting Information

3.1 Organisation Information

South Ribble Borough Council is responsible for providing a wide range of services to residents of the Borough, those visiting the Borough and to businesses operating within the Borough.

The Council serves a population of approximately 111,000 and has approximately 447 employees, either employed solely by SBRC or in a shared service agreement with Chorley Borough Council.

The carbon footprint boundary includes those activities under the operational control of the Council, under Scopes 1,2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas protocol.

In April 2021 the operation of four leisure centres transferred back into Council control and so the data for April 2021 onwards includes the four leisure centres. However, it is anticipated that in the coming year the emissions arising from the operation of the leisure centres will reduce significantly as a result of the heat decarbonisation works underway.

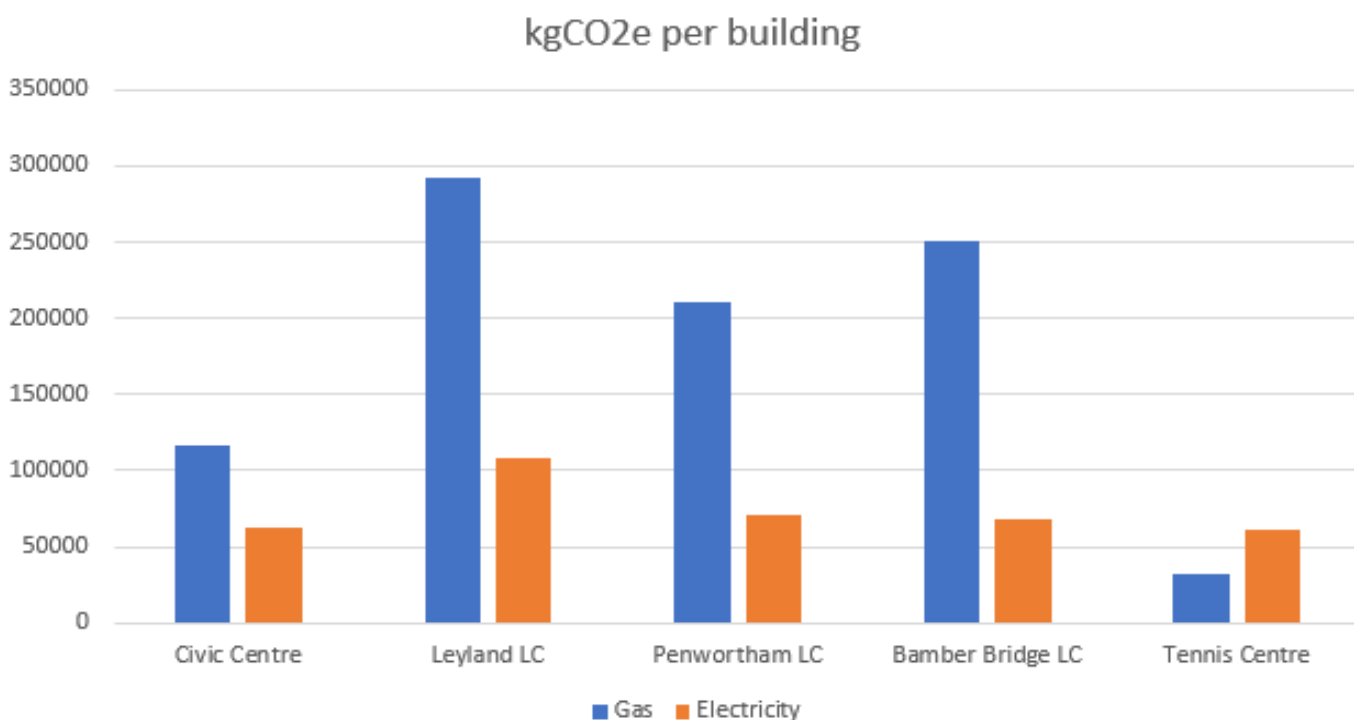
The Council has received almost £5 million grant funding to undertake heat decarbonisation works at 5 of our largest energy using buildings within our estate -

- Civic Centre, Leyland
- Leyland Leisure Centre
- Penwortham Leisure Centre
- Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
- South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre

During 22/23 works have commenced to design and install measures to remove mains gas as a primary source of heating, introduce new heating technologies, e.g. air source heat pumps, and improve our use of renewable energy. The technologies are presently being installed but the final commissioning date is yet to be provided by the local distribution network operator (DNO), Electricity North West. In reporting years to come this reduced reliance on mains gas, and the resulting reduction in carbon emissions, will be evidenced.

In order to report the difference in emissions that these works provide, the energy use for these 5 buildings is given below, as a baseline for future greenhouse gas reports. This data has already been included within Table 1 above, so Figure 2 below represents the baseline energy use in the year preceding commissioning of the heat decarbonisation works.

Figure 2 – Baseline carbon emissions from gas and electricity at the 5 larger energy using buildings



For the reporting period 22/23 the major change across these sites have been the provision of new floodlights and sports pavilion, operational from September 2022 and February 2023 respectively.

3.2 Reporting Period

For the period 2018/2019 One Carbon World calculated the annual GHG emission report for the Council

For the periods 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 the Council has undertaken these assessments internally, using the methodology and data provided by the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Where this data does not provide for activities undertaken by the Council (for example the use of engine oil and weed killer) then these have been estimated using the data and methodology of One Carbon World. As the UK provides for the calculation of emissions from such goods, the Council will transfer to the use of the UK methodology and data.

This report is for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

3.3 Operational Scope

This report includes Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.

Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions resulting from the Council's activities, including the use of fuels and chemicals

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions, associated with the use of electricity. These indirect emissions arise as a result of the Council's electricity consumption, but the emissions occur at sources not owned or controlled by the Council

The Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been measured for all properties and vehicles that the Council owns and controls. Those buildings within the Council

estate that are rented out have been excluded from the scopes.

Scope 3 emissions are other indirect emissions, where the choices and actions of the Council result in emissions occurring at sources not owned or controlled by the Council, for example consumption of goods and waste disposal.

Scope 3 emissions are reported based on the availability of comprehensive and reliable data. The Council will continue to improve the capture of GHG emissions data, which will allow for future enhanced reporting of Scope 3 emissions. For example, the original calculation for 2018/2019 did not include staff travel, water use and waste water. These have been added from April 2020 to more accurately reflect the full range of activities and fuel usage.

In April 2021 the Council's leisure services transferred back to Council control from a partner organisation. Therefore, from April 2021 our emissions calculations also include these leisure services and their staff.

The activities / emissions included within these calculations are:

- Fuels
- Material use
- Transmission and Distribution
- UK electricity
- Water use and water disposal
- Other waste disposal
- Additional factors (WTT – well to tank related emissions) for fuels and electricity

Links to the precise methodology and data utilised are provided as references below, but as a guide the Greenhouse Gas equivalent (CO₂e) emissions are calculated by multiplying the resources used during the reporting year by the relevant emissions factor for that year.

SRBC annual data x emission factor = Greenhouse Gas emissions

All conversion factors used in this report are in units of kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO₂e).

3.4 Assumptions and / or Omissions

To maintain consistency of reporting the same assumptions are used in each of the accounting periods -

Emissions from waste production have been calculated over a 52-week period and using

0.5 tonnes weight for a full 1,100 litre bin

Emissions from use of lubricant and hydraulic oils based on assumption that 1,149 litres weigh 1 tonne (<https://www.quora.com/How-many-litres-of-oil-will-make-one-tonne-oil>).

Emissions from use of compost based on 700 litres = 1 tonne.

Other emissions not included in the scope of this report include emissions from leased commercial properties (such as industrial units), or Council owned housing stock where the tenants pay the utility bills.

3.5 Limitations of Assessment

To date, gas and electricity has been measured as a whole for the entire Council estate. In order to better understand our consumption and evidence the effect of future heat decarbonisation plans, the report also includes specific calculations relating to the use of energy at the Council's largest energy using buildings –

- Civic Centre, Leyland
- Leyland Leisure Centre
- Penwortham Leisure Centre
- Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
- South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre

3.6 Carbon offsetting

The Council has not committed to the use of carbon offsetting, prioritising instead carbon reduction measures.

However, in 2019 the Council commenced a programme to plant 110,00 trees across the Borough – one for each of our residents. Whilst this is not provided as an off-setting figure it forms an important part the Council's response to the climate emergency and improving biodiversity across the Borough.

To date, this programme has seen the planting of 139,381 trees within the Borough and going forwards, the Council has committed to planting a further 200,000 trees in the coming four years.

4.0 Changes in Emissions

4.1 Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions

When One Carbon World was employed to calculate the GHG emissions for the Council's activities for 2018-2019, the resulting report made the following recommendations:

1. 'The amount of natural gas used is reviewed and if possible reduced. As natural gas is primarily used for heating purposes, there could be some very quick wins with a thorough audit of the system. On the back of the audit and identification of energy use over time, there could be better/more efficient methods to insulate Council buildings, improve heating systems, or supply alternative/renewable energy sources for heating, e.g. infrared panel heaters, air source heat pumps (ASHPs), ground source heat pumps (GSHPs), solar thermal, solar PV plus others.'

In 2020, the Council was awarded a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme round 1 grant of £145,004. This provided heat decarbonisation measures at the Civic Centre, Leyland including the installation of further solar PV panels, the installation of LED lighting, and the provision of an improved building management system, to allow for better energy control and efficiency within the building.

In 2021, the Council was awarded a further grant under round 3 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, for the sum of £4,841,414. These works will take place during 2023 and see the removal of mains gas as the primary heat energy source from the

Council's largest energy using buildings, including all of the lesiure centres. They will improve the energy efficiency of the buildings and increase our use of renewable energy sources. It is anticipated that this will have a significant impact upon the Council's carbon footprint.

2. 'The amount of diesel/petrol used is reviewed and if possible reduced. On the back of a thorough audit and identification of diesel/petrol use over time, better/more efficient use of vehicles can be achieved through planning to reduce journey numbers. Also, more and more hybrid and electric vehicles are available in the marketplace with much lower emissions. By phasing out over time vehicles that run on diesel/petrol and replacing them with vehicles that use hybrid technology or that are electric powered, South Ribble Council will be able to reduce the carbon footprint of its operations (and potentially reduce fuel costs).'

The Council has a rolling programme to replace end of life fleet vehicles with electric vehicles, where technology allows.

The Council is working to ensure that as our electric vehicle fleet increases, we will have the infrastructure installed to meet this changing demand.

3. 'To effectively monitor the Carbon Footprint of South Ribble Council over time, it is also recommended that a relevant performance indicator is chosen e.g. tonnes CO₂e per Employee.'

4305.41 tonnes CO₂e / 250 employees = 17.22 tonnes of CO₂e per person per year.

Other performance indicators could also be used, such as those based on financial data

e.g. KgCO₂e per £, with the cost indicator linked to financial turnover and/or profit.'

This has been implemented as part of the data provided within Table 1 of this report, with the both options of total number of employees and full time equivalents (FTE) provided to allow representative benchmarking

Progress towards net zero target

It is anticipated that as the decarbonisation works to the Council's largest energy using buildings are commissioned within the coming months, that the decrease in the use of mains gas, and increase in use of solar powered electricity will provide for a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Further to this as the Council transitions to green energy tariffs, then the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity use, will also reduce.

Renewable energy installations

During 2020 and 2021 the Council installed an array of PV solar panels and a solar battery package at the Civic Centre, Leyland.

During 2022/23 the installation of solar panels has commenced at the Council's lesiure centres, works which will continue into 23/24. These installations form part of the wider decarbonisation works at the lesiure centres to reduce the greenhouse emissions arising from the operations of these leisure facilities.

During 2022/23 the Council has completed its construction of 15 new Council owned properties at the McKenzie Arms site in Bamber Bridge. These affordable rented homes include PV solar panels, and due to their energy efficiency standards appear as a case study on the UK100 knowledge hub

<https://www.uk100.org/projects/knowledgehub/energy-efficient-high-quality-affordable-rented-homes-south-ribble>

Similarly, for Council projects going forward such as the Leyland Town Deal, renewable energy installations form an integral part of their design.

Recently installed solar panels at Bamber Bridge leisure centre



Purchase of renewable energy

The Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan provides a commitment that '*All electricity will be purchased via green tariffs*', which will be actioned on a '*rolling programme as present Council tariffs expire.*'

As the Council is able to move its estate to green energy tariffs this will further reduce the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the heating and use of the Council's estate.

4.2 Carbon Emission Factors

These are revised and published on an annual basis, for the calendar year. The annual Greenhouse Gas emissions depend not only on the resources used by the Council, but the national emission conversion factors, which may change annually. Links to the emissions factors are provided as references.

4.3 Intensity measurement

We have taken the approach of measuring the Council's emissions per total number of employees, and also per full time employee equivalent so we are able to benchmark against other organisations, to learn

from best practice and help others in making improvements within their own organisations.

For the year 22/23 the intensity measurements have declined. This is in part due to the employment of 43 staff during June 2022 as the waste contract was brought back in house from FCC.

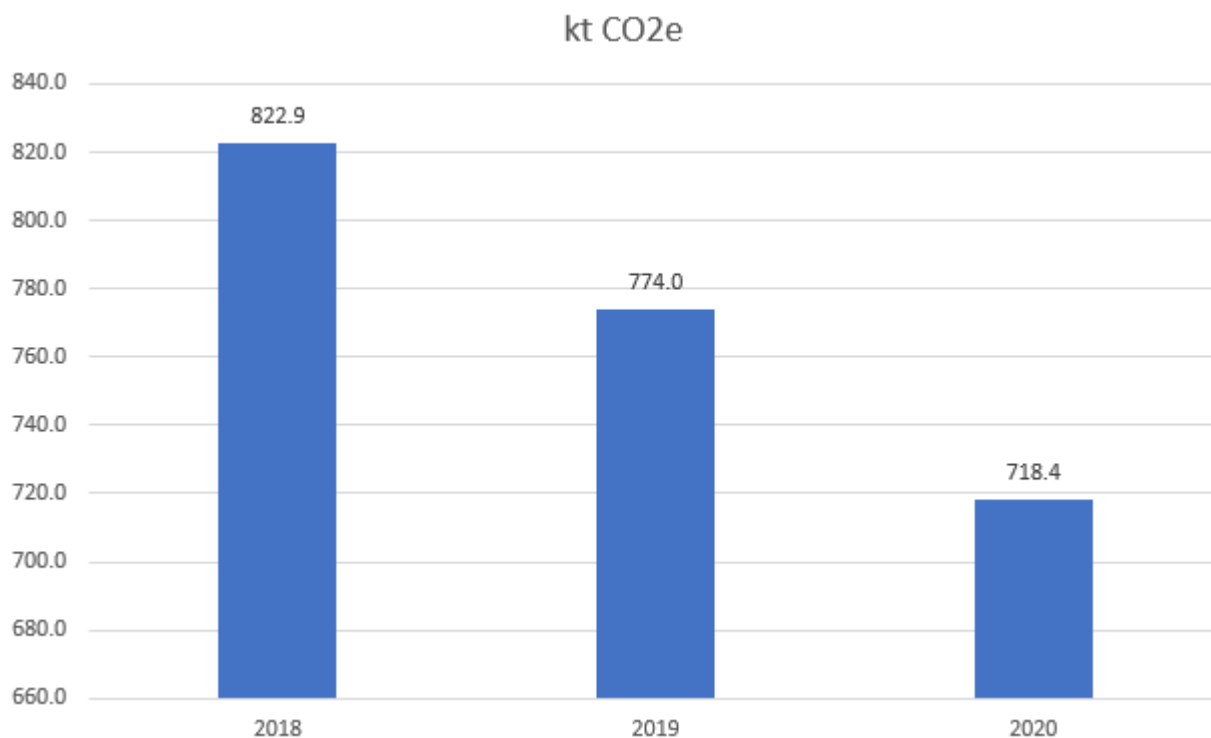
Those employees classed as shared service employees with Chorley Borough Council will be classed as 50% SRBC employees, 50% Chorley Borough Council employees for the purposes of the GHG emissions calculations.

5. Borough of South Ribble

Supplementary to the Borough wide information within the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy 2022, national data, 'UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020' shows that Borough wide greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in recent years.

Figure 3 below, provides the total greenhouse gas emissions for the Borough, from the first available year of 2018 to the most recent year of 2020.

Figure 3, South Ribble total greenhouse gas emissions estimates from the Office for National Statistics



Data source - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020>

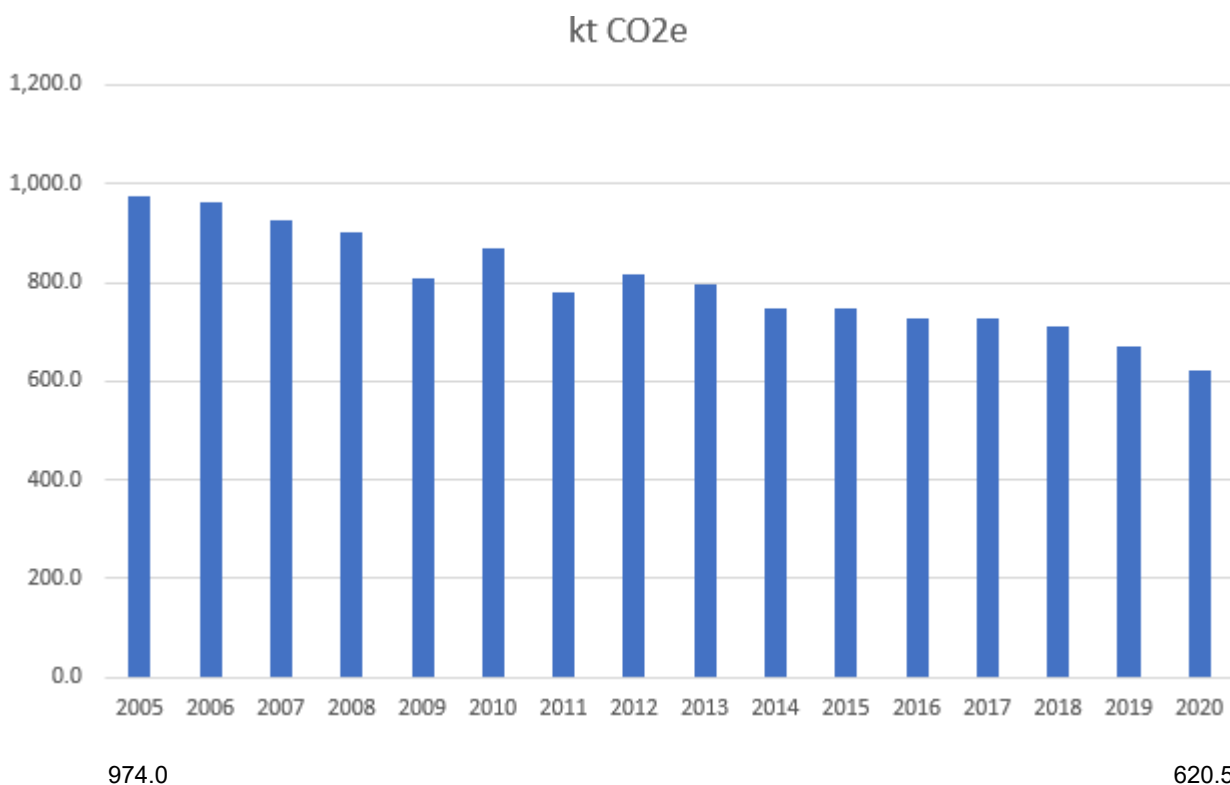
Because estimates of methane and nitrous oxide emissions are not available for all sources prior to 2018, national data and trends going back to 2005 is presented as carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. The table above provides for all greenhouse gas emissions, whilst figure 4 below, is for carbon dioxide.

Within the report 'UK local authority greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2020' the decline in emissions is examined, and broken down by region. The report states that 'When the local authority emissions are aggregated, estimated total CO2 emissions decreased by around 43% since 2005 (the earliest year for which data are available at local authority level) – falling from 539 million tonnes to 306 million tonnes.' A full copy of the report can be found at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086967/uk-local-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2005-2020-release.pdf

For South Ribble specifically, the national statistics supporting this report show that from 2005 – 2020 the total carbon dioxide emissions for the Borough have decreased, as illustrated in Figure 4 below.

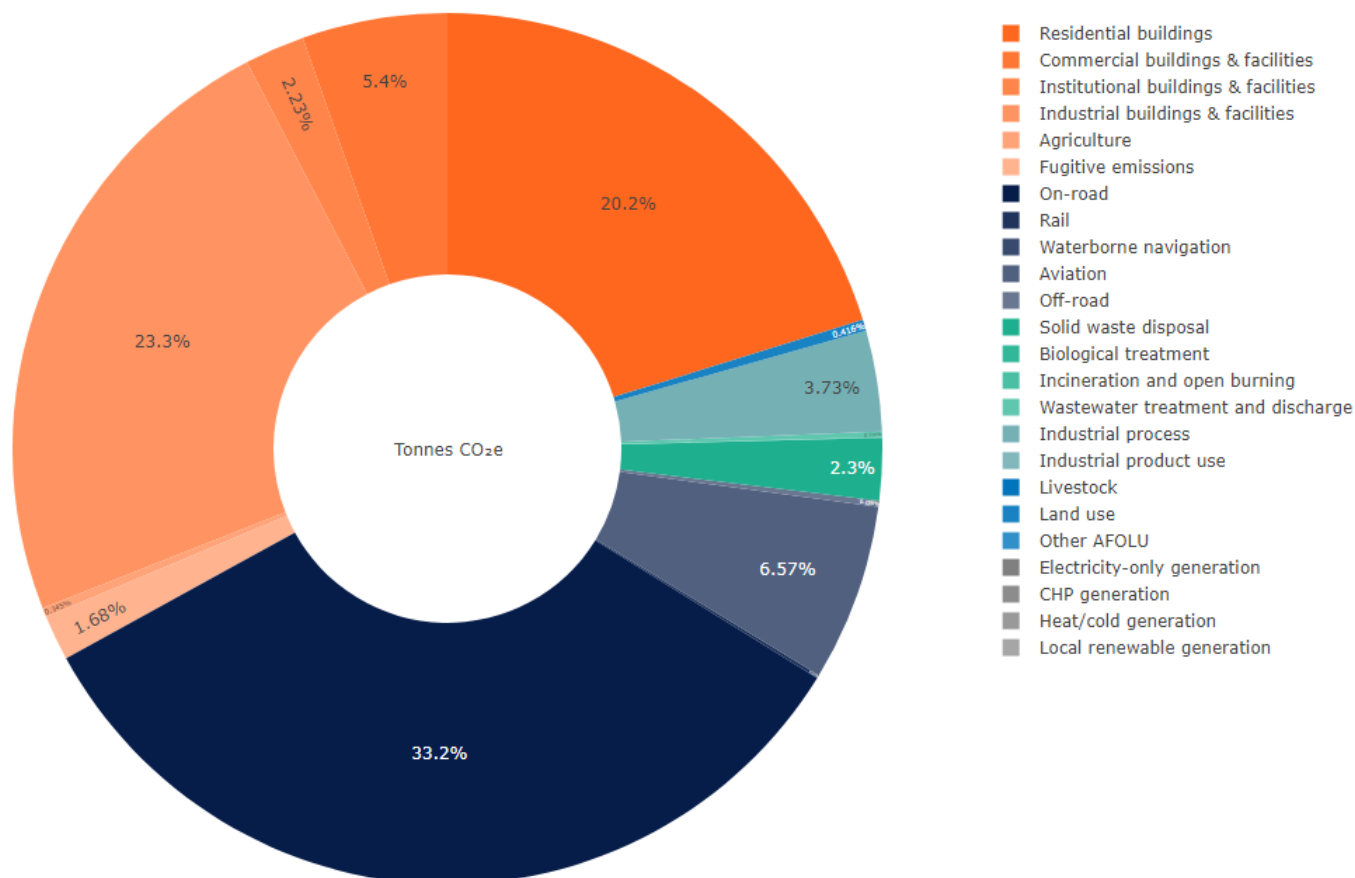
Figure 4, South Ribble carbon dioxide emissions estimates from the Office for National Statistics



Data source - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020>

The chart below shows the sectors and activities that contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions for the Borough

Figure 5, Greenhouse gas emissions inventory summary for the borough of South Ribble



Source – Scattercities, <https://scattercities.com/data/inventory>, from data relating to the most recent, 2019, reporting period

Further information relating to borough wide emissions and actions can be found with the Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan at <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/1254/Climate-Change-Emergency>

6. Conclusion

The annual emissions for the Council’s own estate and operations, for the year April 2022 – March 2023 was 2,908,426 kgCO₂e.

As the Council progresses with works to decarbonise its estate and operations, and move to green energy tariffs it is anticipated that emissions will decrease within the coming years, affirming the Council’s commitment to be carbon net zero by 2030.

In respect to the borough as a whole emissions are identified as reducing, with an approximate 300Kt reduction since 2005. However, the borough still has an emission rate of 630Kt in 2020, indicating a significant way to go to achieve the Council’s goal of net carbon-zero by 2030.

Emissions are concentrated within the boroughs Housing Stock, on-road emissions, and agriculture. Identifying areas that need to be concentrated on to achieve the net zero goal.

References

Greenhouse gas protocol: Corporate accounting and reporting standard, (online) available from <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard> (accessed 7 June 2023)

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2018, (online) available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2018> (accessed 7 June 2023)

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2019, (online) available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2019> (accessed 7 June 2023)

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020, (online) available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2020> (accessed 7 June 2023)

2021 Government Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. Methodology Paper for Conversion factors, (online) available from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1049346/2021-ghg-conversion-factors-methodology.pdf (accessed 7 June 2023)

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020, (online) available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021> (accessed 7 June 2023)

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020, (online) available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2022> (accessed 7 June 2023)

Glossary

BEIS - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Carbon neutral – having no net release of carbon dioxide into the environment

Carbon offsetting – practices to neutralise remaining emissions that cannot be removed entirely

CO₂e - the universal unit of measurement to indicate the global warming potential (GWP) of GHGs, expressed in terms of the GWP of one unit of CO₂.

Cubic metre (m³) – volume made by a cube that is 1 metre on each side. It is equivalent to 1000 litres or 220 gallons

GHG – greenhouse gases - There are seven main GHGs that contribute to climate change, as covered by the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃).

Solar PV – Solar Photovoltaic

Kilowatt (kW) – a measure of power, a universal standard for measuring gas and electricity

kWh – a kilowatt hour, the amount of energy being used per hour

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services))	Council	19 th July 2023

Biodiversity Action Plan

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Not applicable

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members approval and adoption of the draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Ribble.

Recommendations to Council

2. That the report be noted, and the Biodiversity Action Plan is adopted.

Reasons for recommendations

3. Across the world biodiversity is under threat, either from pollution, development or changes in the climate. The lives we currently lead compromises our biodiversity. Habitats are being lost or fragmented, isolating plant and animal communities into ever smaller areas.
4. Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and recently updated by the Environment Act 2021 public authorities in England are under a legal duty to have due regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the exercise of its functions. The Environment Act 2021 requires the creation of 48 'Local Nature Recovery Strategies' (LNRS) to cover all areas of England to reverse the ongoing decline of nature.
5. LNRS, alongside the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from development, means that Local Authorities have a proactive role to play in nature recovery.
6. Public bodies must also determine what action is required to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and must determine such policies and objectives as appropriate to achieve this.

Agenda Item 9

7. They must also publish biodiversity reports providing a summary of the action taken and planned and detailing the resulting biodiversity gains achieved.

Other options considered and rejected

8. Do nothing, this would negatively impact on the biodiversity of the borough and result in the council failing in its statutory duties to consider, conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its duties.

Corporate priorities

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

10. Biodiversity is the term that describes the biological variety of our planet. It includes all plants and animals and the ecosystems that support them and us. It helps to shape the landscape of our area and our local distinctiveness and prosperity.
11. It contributes to good mental and physical health and wellbeing and has a role to play in our response to Climate Change, Flooding, air, water and land quality.
12. Of those areas specifically identified as providing important biodiversity over 40% of are showing signs of declining. In addition, over 30% of priority species have also been identified as struggling. Given the importance of these, action needs to be taken to protect them, and this is specifically identified within the legislation.
13. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 has recently been updated by the Environment Act 2021, reemphasising the Government's commitment to protection wildlife across the country.
14. The changes set requirements for public bodies and the wider population. These include:
 - The Local Authority must publish a biodiversity report and update on actions,
 - Ensuring, by condition if required, a 10% net gain on biodiversity for all planning applications above a single dwelling.
15. The Environment Act 2021 received royal consent on 9th November 2021, Chapter 1 of which aims to 'Improve the Natural Environment' and introduces into law a number of requirements and the ability for the Secretary of State to set Regulations to achieve this aim.
16. Following the enactment of the legislation a Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by Full Council in July 2022 alongside an Interim Action Plan for 12 months.
17. Progress on the Interim Action Plan has been included in Appendix A.

Agenda Item 9

18. One of the Actions in the Interim Plan was to create a draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Ribble, this is included in Appendix B.
19. Prior to developing the draft Biodiversity Action Plan a full consultation exercise has been undertaken, including interactive workshops with internal staff and volunteers and externally with relevant national and local wildlife organisations and groups. There has also been an online public consultation. The results of these are in Appendix C.
20. It is envisaged that the Action Plan will eventually form part of the Climate Emergency and Air Quality Action Plans bring all three overlapping plans into one document which can then be easily referenced, updated and reported upon.
21. In November 2023, it is expected that Biodiversity Net Gain will be adopted into Planning Law and all relevant developments will have to show a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. This net gain is firstly onsite, with offsite options and buying biodiversity credits as a last resort. The net gain will need to be financed by the developer and monitored and maintained for 30 years post development. The Local Planning Authority is expected to monitor and report on Net Gain in their area.
22. In order to assist with the requirement for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain through the planning process, another action to be taken forward will be the collection of baseline data to enable the Council to registry its land for BNG projects and therefore attract external funding through the planning process.
23. Work has started in Lancashire on the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Lancashire County Council have been appointed as lead authority by Defra and are being supported through the process by Natural England. District Authorities will have a Supporting Authority role and will play a key part in the production of the LNRS, ensuring that it dovetails into the Local Plan and planning system.
24. All Authorities and partners are still waiting for final guidance from Government around content and timings of BNG and LNRS and as such, timescales and actions within the draft Biodiversity Action Plan regarding these are slightly unclear.
25. There is currently no budget allocated to implement this action plan. Requests for funding will need to be submitted for approval against the relevant actions.

Climate change and air quality

26. This report impacts on the work being undertaken by the Council on the Climate Emergency Agenda, helping to strengthen and prioritise the actions being undertaken to improve the sustainability and biodiversity across the borough. While increasing engagement with the residents and businesses and help to achieve the overall aim of net carbon zero by 2030.
27. Specifically, the report addresses improvements to green areas and biodiversity across the borough.

Equality and diversity

28. The biodiversity action plan has been developed following a full open consultation process and views received have been included.

Agenda Item 9

Risk

29. The changes to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty upon the Local Authority to produce an action plan and apply set conditions to planning permissions granted by the authority.
30. Failure to undertake these duties would result in the Council failing to meet its statutory functions, potential bad publicity, and failure of the Council to achieve its corporate vision and priorities.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

31. This report has no direct financial implications at this time. Any schemes or funding required as part of the action plan will be approved through appropriate channels when developed.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

33. The purpose of the report is to adopt a Biodiversity Action Plan. This is to accord with our statutory duties and seeks to achieve a positive impact on biodiversity in the borough. Clearly it is important that we continue to take these issues very seriously.

Background documents

Cabinet Report Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Act 2021, 23rd March 2022
Environment Act 2021 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

Appendices

Update on the Interim Action Plan
Draft Biodiversity Action Plan
Responses from the consultation

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Martin (Senior Environmental Health Officer)	nmartin@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625336	June 2023



Biodiversity Strategy Interim Action Plan

July 2022 - 23

Introduction

In order to move forward and achieve the aims and objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy it is acknowledged that further work is required to engage with all stakeholders as only with their help will the Council achieve its ambition.

Before improvements can be made, we need to understand where we are currently in relation to biodiversity, only then can we fully understand what is required to maintain and improve the borough as a whole.

This document identifies the immediate actions that will be undertaken by South Ribble following the adoption by Full Council of the South Ribble Biodiversity Strategy in July 2022. The document is intended to ensure progress is made towards the aims and objectives of the strategy over the immediate months following its adoption.

Interim Actions

The following actions have been taken forward over the last 12 months, progressing the aims and objectives of the Strategy and in co-ordination with the work and action plans currently being pursued on the Air Quality, Climate Emergency, Single Use Plastic and Waste Minimisation agendas.

1. To undertake a review of all currently available information in order to provide a baseline assessment of the biodiversity within South Ribble.
2. To map the above collated information to enable a visual representation of the current baseline.
3. To identify the gaps, opportunities and challenges to improve biodiversity across the borough.
4. To build on and improve engagement with stakeholder groups, some of whom will be relied upon in the future to deliver further actions.
5. To undertake a full consultation exercise in order to develop a action plan to achieve the strategy aims and objectives.
6. To present a Biodiversity Action Plan to Full Council in July 2023 for adoption.
7. To liaise with the planning department with regard to biodiversity, changing legislation and the emerging local plan, with a view to developing guidance notes for developers.
8. To undertake Member learning around biodiversity in order to clarify current understanding and to begin the process of community engagement.

Key actions, Milestone and targets

Action	Key action, milestone to achieve identified action	Target Date	Progress
1	Review all publicly held datasets to gather information Discuss with stakeholders to obtain permission to use their data on SRB's biodiversity To undertake surveys of the borough (Phase 1 habitat surveys) to identify the current situation on the ground where information is missing from the above exercises.	Sep 2022	Completed by Interns from Lancaster University summer 2022
2	To plot the above information on GIS	Oct 2022	Completed by Interns from Lancaster University summer 2022
3	Review the above gathered information to identify gaps, areas for improvement and/or protection.	Nov 2022	Work ongoing and has been written into the Action Plan to complete in year 1
4	Continue to engage with Community Hubs, local Friends groups etc to raise awareness and gain support for future consultations and actions.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5	Consultation methodology to be determined, but to ensure Officers, suitable public bodies, businesses, schools, public and community groups are included within the consultation. The consultation to run until end of May 2023 to allow the formulation of a draft action plan to be developed.	Sept 2022 - May 2023	Completed
6	Present the draft Biodiversity Action Plan to full Council for adoption.	July 2023	Completed
7	To raise awareness, Agree consultation issues, Provide baseline data (GIS mapping) To develop guidance notes/supplementary planning documents for developers.	Feb 2023	Ongoing
8	To arrange at least 1 Members training session to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the strategy and baseline data To develop an action plan for consultation To promote and recruit assistance to achieve other actions identified within the Climate Emergency and Air Quality Action Plans. 	March 2023	Completed Members Briefing on Biodiversity Oct 2022 Included in Climate Task Group briefings and meetings

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Draft Biodiversity Action Plan July 2023

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Document Control

Publication Date	July 2023
Related Documents	<p>SRBC Biodiversity Strategy 2022</p> <p>SRBC Climate Emergency Strategy 2022</p> <p>SRBC Air Quality Action Plan</p> <p>All related documents may be viewed via the SRBC website South Ribble Borough Council</p>
Owner (Department)	Environmental Health
Author (Team)	Environmental Health / Climate Emergency Task Group

Review of Strategy

Review Date	July 2025
Version	1.0

Introduction

In 2022, South Ribble Borough Council adopted a Biodiversity Strategy, pledging to restore, conserve and enhance the biodiversity in the Borough.

This Action Plan sets out the actions that will be taken over the next 5 years.

Strategy Vision – For a Borough where biodiversity is bigger, better and more joined up. With networks of accessible, natural greenspace, linking areas of habitat that are positively managed for wildlife, biodiversity gains, as well as resident enjoyment and wellbeing.

Strategy Aims - To ensure that South Ribble Borough Council's responsibilities to restore, conserve and enhance biodiversity is integrated into the work of all departments and there is a clear understanding of biodiversity and how it relates to decision making. That residents and businesses benefit from maintaining and improving a healthy green environment.

Strategy Objectives –

- To act as a responsible landowner and land manager and conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- To highlight priority habitats and species that have value locally and nationally
- To highlight threats and issues that may adversely impact priority habitats and species
- To maintain, restore and create habitat connectivity
- To share good practice and develop partnerships
- To encourage education and community action / involvement
- To instigate a cross department ethos that will inform decisions
- To ensure development does not negatively impact on existing biodiversity across the Borough and where possible actively improves it.

This Action Plan details those actions required to be taken across the Borough but also the actions that it intends to take as an organisation and local employer.

The Council has 3 spheres of influence within the Borough




- Exemplar – To set our own high standards and be a model of good practice for the Borough.
- Enabler – To play our part in partnership working, sharing responsibility, facilitating, coordinating, and promoting projects.
- Encourager – To provide information, support and introductions that will make a positive contribution to our response to the biodiversity and climate emergency.

In implementing our actions, we are seeking to act as a community leader, setting high standards and working collaboratively to show the changes and improvements that can be achieved, so that we are able to help others across the borough do the same.

Due to the seasonal nature of some of the work required in this action plan, even short-term targets may take two years to complete and longer than that for habitats to become established and develop to their full potential. The impacts of weather and associated ground conditions may further hamper progress, but this is outside of the control of those delivering on actions.

Some of the actions will require a cultural and behavioural change inside South Ribble to alter long established practices. It may also require residents to change their perspective on amended maintenance regimes where parks and open spaces no longer look as neat and tidy as they once did. Engagement and education are key to this being delivered successfully.

There will be an annual updated on progress taken to Council each summer alongside the Climate and Air Quality reports. It is noted that this Action Plan is very comprehensive and that it cannot all be achieved and reported on every year. For this reason, 10 key actions will be identified for each year and these will form the basis of the annual report on progress. The full Action Plan will be reviewed every four years.









	Biodiversity
	Climate Emergency
	Air Quality




This Action Plan links and crosses over with the existing Climate Emergency and Air Quality Action Plans. In time they will all be incorporated in to one single Action Plan but in the meantime, links are indicated using the following symbology.

Key actions for 2023 / 2024




1. To comply with national directives to imbed Biodiversity Net Gain into the Planning system, scheduled to commence in November 2023
2. Identify Council owned sites which are appropriate for registering for developer contributions for Biodiversity Net Gain.
3. To comply with our role as a Supporting Authority and support Lancashire County Council as the Responsible Authority, in the development of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
4. To undertake a green corridors mapping exercise to identify opportunities to create and enhance habitats across the Borough
5. To review our mowing schedule to incorporate low intervention areas and provide better habitat for wildlife
6. To create a work programme for ponds on a 5- to 10-year management cycle
7. To ensure South Ribble and its suppliers only use peat free alternatives for compost
8. To promote awareness and understanding of the park's wildlife and associated management in South Ribble using engagement, education, signage and comms
9. To deliver the corporate targets for tree planting in the borough by developing partnerships with landowners and other organisations
10. To continue to support and grow our own Friends Groups by expanding our programme of conservation volunteering opportunities and to help facilitate community groups already committed to biodiversity and climate projects
11. Continue to engage with residents and park users to tackle environmental crimes such as litter, dog fouling and fly tipping



Management






	Outcomes	Measure and Rationale	Timescales	Partners
  	Introduce a best practice approach to management for biodiversity on South Ribble Borough Council owned land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To adapt and regularly review existing park management plans and maintenance schedules to promote biodiversity friendly management practices on Council owned open spaces and parks To create biodiversity management plans for groups of similar smaller parks To identify areas and actions where parks and open spaces can be enhanced through habitat creation, enhancement and management and the creation of wildlife corridors and steppingstones To undertake management / maintenance work during the correct times of the year and with the least disturbance to habitat and wildlife To ensure that there is a net gain of habitat in the Borough 	<p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Short</p>	Lancashire County Council Neighbouring authorities
  	Place South Ribble in a wider conservation context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with other organisations and groups to develop a large-scale regional approach to conservation including joint resources and collaborative working on larger cross border projects, for example through the Lancashire Nature Partnership To deliver our Biodiversity Duty as per the NERC Act 2006 and Environment Act 2021 and report on compliance To link with neighbouring Boroughs and Lancashire County Council to increase connectivity, allowing wildlife to expand their ranges To comply with our role as a Supporting Authority and support the development of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy To comply with Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system to enhance biodiversity through developments in the Borough To aim to achieve a biodiversity net gain for internal projects that do not require planning consent To embed biodiversity and climate in other relevant Council Strategies and Policies 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Long</p> <p>Medium</p>	Natural England Defra Other wildlife organisations and groups Neighbourhood Services Parks
 	Data collection and mapping to benefit biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to update baseline data maps to keep accurate records of biodiversity in the Borough. To undertake a green corridors mapping exercise to identify opportunities to create and enhance habitats across the Borough To support biodiversity surveying by volunteers and wildlife groups to maintain up to date information To continue with and expand biodiversity data sharing with LERN and other partners 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p>	Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN)







	<p>Opportunities for funding and resourcing our conservation work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate registering appropriate pieces of SRBC land for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and potentially creating a habitat bank, as a way of funding creation, enhancement and management of biodiversity improvement works. To secure internal and/or external funding to expand on the successful tree giveaways to residents and landowners To source resources to develop, support and expand opportunities for volunteering and community groups in the Borough To continue to apply for and support community groups to apply for external funding for conservation and climate projects To manage our actions to have the most impact with the resources available. 	<p>Short Medium Medium Annually Annually</p>	<p>Planning Volunteer and Community Groups Neighbourhood Services Parks</p>
	<p>Opportunities for training our staff and volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continuously improving knowledge of the environment and stay up to date with international, national and regional climate and conservation policy and development To develop staff training opportunities to embed conservation practices into our everyday work To develop a volunteer training programme around conservation and climate To develop opportunities for staff to take part in practical climate and conservation action by volunteering 	<p>Annually Medium Medium Medium</p>	<p>SRBC</p>
	<p>To continuously monitor, review and adapt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor and review the Action Plan every 4 years in line with international, national, regional and local developments To report on the key actions and achievements as part of the annual report to full Council To set local targets for biodiversity improvements linking in to regional, national and international projects and opportunities To adjust, adapt and support the new opportunities that will arise from national developments and schemes such as Biodiversity Net Gain, Environmental Land Management and Local Nature Recovery Strategies To monitor habitat improvement projects and use the findings to adapt and amend our management plans and maintenance schedules as necessary 	<p>Long Short Medium Medium Medium</p>	<p>SRBC</p>

Habitats and Species













	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	The creation of habitats that are bigger, better and more joined up, across the Borough and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create specific habitat plans to restore, maintain and enhance habitat types on our estate To create a work programme for specific habitat types on a 5- to 10-year management cycle To ensure our work enables the conservation and expansion of key species populations To undertake a series of surveys and audits of our sites to identify species and habitats that would benefit from improved or amended management practices in conjunction with plans To ensure the correct management of our land to maintain and enhance its biodiversity value – right plant, right place 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Wildlife Groups</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
	Trees, Woodlands and Orchards	<p>To encourage species rich, structurally diverse woodlands on our estate and to encourage others to do the same by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underplanting existing woodlands where required Attention is given to field and shrub layers of woodlands Introducing management techniques such as coppicing where appropriate Retaining brash and logs from tree works as habitat piles or dead hedges Retaining standing and fallen deadwood where it is safe to do so <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use planting and natural regeneration schemes and strategic Biodiversity Net Gain to link up existing woodland habitats, creating corridors and steppingstones for wildlife To link in with existing and developing woodland creation opportunities across the Borough To continue to monitor Ash Dieback on our estate and manage in line with national policy To encourage the creation of orchards and wet woodland 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
	Hedgerows	<p>To encourage species rich hedgerows on our estate and to encourage others to do the same by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allowing hedge bases to thicken to increases the biodiversity value changing management practices to bring hedgerows into favourable condition, including the use of hedge laying over mechanical cutting reducing the frequency of cuts on some hedgerows cutting hedgerows as late as possible to allow birds access to fruits and berries through autumn and winter gapping up our existing hedgerows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting new hedges to create wildlife corridors to link areas of habitat in line with plans (eg BNG) Encouraging time sensitive management of hedgerows to avoid breeding seasons 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p>

 	Ponds	<p>To encourage a mosaic of species rich ponds on our estate and encourage others to do the same by ensuring all ponds have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a diversity of marginal and aquatic plants, with submergent, emergent and floating vegetation • areas of open water • air flow and light to the water surface to maintain oxygen levels • reduced shading, especially on the south side • variations in depth • egg laying plants for newts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish and enhance 3-meter-wide buffer areas around priority wildlife ponds • To continue to work in partnership to create, enhance and restore ponds across the Borough • To create a 5- to 10-year pond survey and maintenance programme with associated budget to improve the condition of our ponds • To increase the area of reed beds in the borough e.g. through Biodiversity Net Gain • To manage selective ponds as an educational resource • To continue to educate and engage park users around the issues of feeding the ducks • To continue to undertake Great Crested Newt surveys on an annual basis • To develop bog gardens in areas adjacent to existing ponds, in failed or failing ponds or in areas where it is not safe to have areas of open water 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Long</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Long</p>	<p>Lancashire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
 	Rivers and Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work at a river catchment level with appropriate partners and landowners on conservation projects including the protection of riverbanks and floodplains, coastal floodplains and grazing marsh, intertidal mudflats and coastal saltmarsh habitats • To maintain and improve water quality of streams and rivers by having regard for management practices in their vicinity • To develop schemes for wetland creation and river restoration • To establish and enhance 3 – 5m wide buffers along rivers and streams where possible. 	<p>Long</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>River Ribble Trust</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>LCC</p> <p>CSF</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services</p>
  	Grasslands	<p>To ensure we have structurally diverse, species rich grasslands supporting pollinators and other invertebrates by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring mowing and grazing regimes are in synch with the seasons • controlling competitive grasses and other species – spot treatment of some species that threaten grassland habitats may be required • ensuring that there is a diverse sward structures and successional areas 	Annually	Neighbourhood Services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting areas on rotation to provide structure and variety for species, prolonging the availability of pollen and nectar and aesthetic value for park users ensuring appropriate seed mixes are used for repair of damage or areas in poor condition, including yellow rattle collecting arisings on all our wildflower meadows ensuring areas of tussocky grass are retained for overwintering invertebrates To instigate differential mowing regimes around some of our amenity grasslands To attempt to create new native wildflower meadows on amenity grassland where appropriate To ensure that Urban Flower Meadows are not planted where they could cause detriment to native species and habitats 	Short Medium Short	Parks
	Roadside Verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with Lancashire County Council on reducing and amending cutting regimes for roadside verges where it is safe to do so, to encourage a network of wildlife corridors and enhance habitat connectivity 	Medium	LCC Neighbourhood Services
	Peat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work in partnership with other bodies and landowners to ensure the protection and restoration of peat bogs in the borough and investigate income opportunities from paludiculture (wetter farming) To ensure South Ribble and its suppliers only use peat free alternatives for compost 	Long Annually	Various
	Arable Field Margins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with landowners and partners to increase the biodiversity value and connectivity of the arable field margins in the borough 	Long	NFU Landowners
	Gardens, cemeteries, allotments and buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with residents, businesses and landowners to encourage a mosaic of different habitat types across the borough, that provide important food and nectar sources to support our wildlife To encourage the ethos of leaving space for nature To encourage the inclusion of wildlife refuges in buildings and structures 	Medium Medium Medium	Residents Landowners Businesses SRBC
	Artificial refuges	<p>To encourage the installation of artificial wildlife refuges where appropriate to enhance what is naturally available to our wildlife, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hibernaculum Hedgehog highways Bird and bat boxes Bee / insect boxes Log / stone piles Deadwood Wildlife bridges and tunnels Green walls and green roofs 	Annually	Planning Resident Landowners Businesses Neighbourhood Services

 	<p>Create some low management intervention areas</p>	<p>To encourage biological diversity in our parks and open spaces by altering management schedules to introduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unmanaged strips of grass – where reduced frequency mowing can help protect flowering plants and longer swards provide structure / shelter for invertebrates and small mammals • a mosaic of habitats to provide a wide range of species with a wide range of habitats to enable them to complete their lifecycles • wilder areas • nettle beds and bramble patches • areas of bare earth • To encourage a mindset of reducing access to identified areas of land at certain times of the year to protect species and habitats • To install information signs to explain these changes 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium Short</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
  	<p>Planting schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the use of locally abundant, native species in planting schemes • To ensure the protection of existing habitats by following a right plant, right place ethos • To consider food and nectar sources and shelter in planting scheme development • To ensure sensitive time management of planting for plants and wildlife • To replace annual planting with more sustainable perennial schemes 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
	<p>Protected species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek to increase populations of protected species by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • positive habitat management to create viable habitat for target species • sensitive maintenance regimes and timings • creation of refuges where appropriate • improving ecological connectivity via the creation of corridors and stepping-stones to allow populations to expand naturally • managing public access to protect sensitive habitat and species • enhancement of existing habitats • creation of new habitat where the opportunity exists or becomes available • use of wildlife sensitive lighting schemes to remove barriers to the movement of nocturnal species • To promote awareness and understanding of the park's wildlife and associated management • To create a pollinator pledge to increase the diversity and numbers of pollinating insects in the Borough 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>





Environmental Pressures and Mitigation Measures


	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
 	Invasive non-native species (INNS), pests and diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create and implement a management strategy against invasive species, pests and diseases which have harmful effects on native and priority species and habitats To carry out regular surveys for INNS, pests and disease To provide advice to landowners on the identification and control of INNS To deliver INNS related conservation activities To improve community action and awareness of INNS To ensure correct biosecurity measures are in place to reduce the spread of INNS, pests and disease through our maintenance work 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
 	Pesticides and herbicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides wherever possible To promote the use of environmentally friendly and natural pest deterrents and weed removal measures To include in this the services offered by our Pest Control team 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p>	Environmental Health
  	To manage our parks and open spaces to help protect communities from the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage our own land and encourage others to manage land in a way that increases the resilience of our Borough to the impacts of climate change To manage and restore habitats and increase species areas to make wildlife more resilient to changes in climate To reuse and recycle our green waste on site wherever possible To ensure the use of sustainable products and materials in our habitat management work 	<p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
  	Threats and pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To highlight threats and issues likely to impact priority habitats and species as they arise and outline measures to combat these threats To work collaboratively to tackle and reduce threats and pressures to habitats and species at a landscape level Failure to recognise biodiversity as a way to adapt to and mitigate for climate change 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Long</p>	Various
 	Pollution	<p>To improve water quality by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaging with residents, businesses and partners to continue to clean up waterways to allow biodiversity to thrive managing our ponds to reduce the likelihood of fish kills occurring due to drops in dissolved oxygen levels managing algal blooms as they occur on our ponds To reduce light pollution by promoting low level lighting schemes 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	Various




	Recreation pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To design in resilience in planting schemes, management and zoning to allow a balance of recreation and conservation 	Medium	Neighbourhood Services Parks
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To design out hotspots of people pressure on sites 	Long	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand and consider and mitigate the negative impacts (damage, noise, lighting or dust) of events that are held on our parks and address these in the planning, implementation and clean up phases. 	Medium	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to engage with residents and park users to tackle environmental crimes such as litter, dog fouling and fly tipping 	Short	

Sustainable Development

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
Page 94	 Designated sites, priority habitats and green belt land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work collaboratively to ensure that all internationally, nationally and locally designated sites are managed in a positive way To have due regard for irreplaceable and priority habitats of strategic significance and distinctiveness To investigate the potential of increasing the number of our sites with local or national designations To look for opportunities to restore, enhance and create habitats outside of designated wildlife sites To continue to maintain our sites to Green Flag standards 	Annually Annually Long Long Annually	LCC Natural England Lancashire Nature Partnership SRBC
 Integrated biodiversity into wider sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with our statutory roles and link biodiversity, Biodiversity Net Gain and Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy details into wider corporate priorities and the new Local Plan Work with developers to add biodiversity value to sites using natural features and artificial refuges on all developments to ensure communities have access to wildlife rich green space To encourage the use of SUDs schemes, the removal of weirs and barriers in watercourses and the creation of swales and ponds To ensure a net gain of habitat across the Borough 	Short / Medium Short Medium Annually	LCC Natural England Planning Parks	
 Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that emerging Local Plan sets strong ambitious targets for improving biodiversity through development To ensure that biodiversity is a key consideration on all planning applications 	Short Short	Planning	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planners to provide annual update on BNG for inclusion in the Climate Report to Council To promote over 10% net gain on planning applications 	Medium Medium	
	Businesses and landowner advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer support for landowners wishing to enhance biodiversity on their land To provide advice to businesses on how they can take positive action for biodiversity 	Annually	
	Delivering social benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximise the contribution that biodiversity makes to the health and wellbeing of residents and economic prosperity of the borough To improve social cohesion by removing barriers to participating in volunteering and engagement activities. To provide opportunities for corporate engagement and volunteering opportunities that support local projects To integrate biodiversity gain into our Procurement process and encourage contractors working on our property to do their bit for biodiversity 	Medium Medium Medium Medium	Investment and Skills Community groups Procurement
	National campaigns and lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To stay up to date with national campaigns and lobbying for biodiversity To implement new policy according to national guidelines 	Annually	
	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider where new roads will be located and whether they will be near any priority site and/or species To incorporate wildlife tunnels and bridges into roads to prevent the fragmentation of habitat 	Annually Annually	Planning

Education and Engagement				
	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Raise awareness of biodiversity in South Ribble and regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage an ethos of caring for and about the natural diversity and uniqueness of the borough To encourage public access to and engagement with nature by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting Citizen Science opportunities to residents, schools, volunteers and community groups such as RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count continuing to promote "What can I Do?" activities on our website providing natural history themed walks and talks for volunteers and residents installing signs and information regarding to biodiversity improvements on our sites 	Medium Medium Short Medium Short	SRBC

	<p>Working with the local community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to put people at the heart of our work on biodiversity, increasing awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment and delivering opportunities for people through education and volunteering by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to support and grow our Friends Groups by expanding our programme of conservation volunteering opportunities continuing to support the activities School Eco Councils continuing to support environmental enhancements in communities continuing to work with businesses and landowners to add biodiversity value to their land To support and encourage the development of wildlife groups and activities in the Borough To continue to support and help facilitate community groups committed to biodiversity and climate projects To develop a Social Prescribing offer that allows residents to connect with and value nature as a route to physical and mental wellbeing 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>SRBC</p>
	<p>Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote biodiversity as an environmental education resource To work with schools to encourage participation in biodiversity initiatives / activities To enable education visits to parks To help develop and support the sustainability agenda in our schools To support forest school programmes and development of wildlife areas or biodiversity improvements in school grounds Provide educational visits and resources for use in schools 	<p>Annually</p>	<p>SRBC</p>
	<p>Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to be a part of the Lancashire Local Nature Partnership and other climate and biodiversity partnerships To continue to network and collaborate with partners, local and national wildlife and climate groups Create links with voluntary, community and health groups to improve the health and wellbeing of residents To bring conflicting interest groups together to encourage and foster understanding 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>LCC</p> <p>LNP</p> <p>Wildlife Groups</p>

Abbreviations

LCC – Lancashire County Council
 LNP – Lancashire Nature Partnership
 BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain

LRNS – Local Nature Recovery Strategy
 CSF – Catchment Sensitive Farming

Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation Responses



The consultation for the Biodiversity Action Plan ran from November 2022 until May 2023 and took on two forms – a series of interactive workshops with identified interest groups and partners and an online public consultation.

1. Interactive Workshops

The Climate Team help three interactive workshops to gather opinions on the content for the Biodiversity Action Plan.

1. November 2022 – Held at the Depot for Neighbourhood Services and Parks staff, there were 15 participants
2. January 2023 – Held at Civic Centre for volunteers from Council Friend’s Groups and local biodiversity focused community groups. The 14 participants came from

Friends of Farington Lodges	Leyland in Bloom
Friends of Paradise Park	Penwortham in Bloom
Friends of Worden Park	Guardians of Nature
Friends of Walton Park	Withnell Anglers
Friends of Hurst Grange Park	Progress Housing Community Inspector

3. January 2023 – Held at Civic Centre for representative of national and local wildlife organisations. The 29 participants came from

The Bee Centre	Merseyside and West Lancs. Bat Group
Chorley and District Natural History Society	Natural England
Dragonfly Surveyor	Preston Society
Environment Agency	River Ribble Trust
Groundwork	RSPB
Lancashire Badger Group	WWT Martin Mere
Lancashire County Council – Ecology Team	SRBC Planner
Lancashire Ecological Records Network	SRBC Operations Supervisor - Grounds Maintenance
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	

Workshop participants were asked to consider the same six areas

1. Threats to sites and biodiversity
2. Opportunities for improvement
3. Challenges and barriers
4. Solutions to the identified threats, challenges and barriers
5. Community involvement
6. Contents for the Action Plan

The results of these sessions have been combined and are included as Appendix one. The responses from each session are colour coded and then grouped in themes to show where there was consensus across the three sessions.

2. Online Public Consultation

The online public consultation on the main themes developed during the workshops ran for 10 weeks in March, April and May 2023. There were 79 responses.

95% of responders felt that it was important to take action to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Ribble, with habitat fragmentation, pollution and development being seen as the things most likely to threaten biodiversity in the Borough.

The preferred ways to improve biodiversity in the borough were

Option	Percent
Make more native wildflower meadows	84%
Creating, restoring and protecting habitats	81%
Wildlife corridors – linking habitats together to allow wildlife to move around safely	77%
Litter / fly tipping / dog fouling enforcement	76%
Plant more trees	75%
Designate more sites for protection	70%
Education and awareness raising	65%
Create artificial refuges for wildlife – bee hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways etc.	65%
Create unmanaged biodiversity areas	63%
Improved management of parks and open space	62%

93% of respondents felt that South Ribble should allocate some areas of the parks and open spaces for nature, reducing maintenance, allowing the grass to grow, excluding dogs and managing for wildlife rather than people

58% respondents said that they would be happy with an increase in the amount of ‘weeds’ in the streets and on our parks, if we reduced the amount of herbicides that we used. Those that were against this suggested more cautious, targeted use or a swap to natural weed killers instead. A decreased use of herbicides in Parks was suggested, or increased community action to keep local areas looking neat and tidy.

90% of respondents agreed that working in partnership between the Council, landowners, businesses and local communities was key to restoring and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough.

When asked about what action they would be prepared to do to help nature, 77% said they work on their own property, 61% said they would volunteer on local projects and 49% saying they would join a local volunteer group / organisation.

Full details of all the questions and the responses are given in Appendix Two.

Appendix One – Interactive Workshops Response Summary

Key to text colours -

SRBC – Grounds and Parks teams

Community Gardening Groups / Friends of Groups / In Bloom Groups

Wildlife Groups and Organisations

1. Threats to Biodiversity and Sites

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money Lack of funding</p> <p>Maintenance resources for planted areas Poor / intensive land management – mowing / tilling Wrong times and too much Lack of habitat maintenance Footpath maintenance Lack of protection for biodiverse land Ivy on trees is a big problem – harbouring overwintering insects that are eating the alder leaves and killing off the trees Drainage ditches aren't being cleared. Ponds are clogged up with duckweed and rubbish Cutting grass verges too much – need to leave long for wildflowers, insects and birds Lack of collaboration Lack of longevity for associated roles Loss of environmental subsidies Changes to agri-environmental schemes Neglect Maintenance needs to be consistent Stuck in ways, using outdated processes Lack of understanding</p>	<p>Trees Lack of tree cover / shade Poor tree planting / poor practice / habitat loss Unsympathetic hedge cutting Ash dieback More TPOs</p> <p>Loosing trees to disease – Ash Dieback</p> <p>Under recording / monitoring of some species / types Habitat loss, fragmentation Loss of ponds, hedgerows, trees, meadows Species or population isolation / fragmentation Loss of / lack of corridor routes / connectivity Loss of habitat for building Loss of green space for car parking Loss of green space Species disturbance by dogs Wildlife displacement</p> <p>Division or larger wildlife areas – lack of wildlife corridors</p>	<p>Agriculture – land use and hedgerow removal Intensive agriculture Farming pressures More control over industry and farming</p> <p>Loss of small farms with many small fields and hedgerows etc to large scale farms Recreational pressure Recreational pressures Human disturbance</p> <p>Population Growth Housing and industrial development Manmade structures / obstacles</p> <p>Treatment plants – poor management Hunting / shooting Direct hunting at home and abroad</p> <p>Impact of game management Cost of living Abstraction INNS – plants, animals, invertebrates, crustaceans Management and eradication of INNS Value of INNS for pollinators – alternatives / phasing Planting on non-native or locally non-native species Escaped species introduction (e.g. mink)</p> <p>Avian Flu</p> <p>Water quality (run off / diffuse pollution Leaching into water courses Management of run off into watercourses Pollution from the road network (including vehicle fumes)</p>	<p>Weaknesses in policing planning conditions Development Local planning policy Local Plan Planning system needs an overhaul Planning to work around ecological sites of interest Built development Fewer new builds – more on brownfield sites Re-evaluation of BNG Lack of experience in LAs – e.g. SRBC consults GMEU Development / urbanisation Too much development / road building Over development – hard paving, human population Planning rules – insufficient protection People pressure on sites Cars People parking on pavements and verges Planting / gardening trends of removing hedgerows, less plants and more tarmac</p> <p>Fake grass Unrealistic Nature Recovery targets</p>	<p>Attitudes towards the environment Cats killing songbirds Dogs disturbing habitats and wildlife Discourage shrines on memorial benches Lack of knowledge Encourage wildlife awareness in private gardens Education in schools Expand knowledge of what are INNS Biosecurity – poor education Have Forest School classes started up again on site to encourage children to respect their green space?</p>

<p>Spraying streets with weed killers – less food for pollinators, less habitat and run off into waterways</p> <p>Alternatives to pesticides / herbicides</p> <p>Over-use of weed killer</p> <p>Pesticides / herbicides / artificial fertilizers</p> <p>Fly tipping and litter is an issue</p> <p>Dogs and dog waste – action needed</p> <p>Training of SRBC workers</p>	<p>Peat degradation – agriculture and recreation</p> <p>Loss of peat through cultivation</p> <p>Persecution of predators</p> <p>Inappropriate development – loss of forage, roost and breeding sites</p> <p>‘Pest’ species surviving mild winters</p>	<p>Agricultural run off – manure</p> <p>Nitrification</p> <p>Pollution – litter / pesticides / agricultural / industrial / household</p> <p>Farm waste and run off from fields and industry</p> <p>Chemical run off – fish kills</p> <p>Pollution – especially waterways, streams and canals</p> <p>Washing machines emptying into streams</p> <p>Soil erosion</p> <p>Electromagnetic radiation</p>	<p>Climate change – water temp / flooding / drought / erosion / Invert lifecycle changes</p> <p>Impact of climate change on coastline</p> <p>Ribble estuary – costal erosion / climate change / loss of habitat</p> <p>Loss of flood plain</p> <p>More extreme weather events</p> <p>Alternative energy too expensive</p>	
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2. Opportunities for improvement

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Identify -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible wildlife corridors through the borough Possible wetland sites <p>Effectively manage existing wildlife sites</p> <p>Connectivity – hedgerows</p> <p>River restoration – de-culverting, bed restoration, better connectivity / flood plains, meandering, more shades, buffers / ecotone</p> <p>Managed realignment</p> <p>Greater protection of large areas of land with a lot of wildlife potential – not little fragments that are not managed</p> <p>Coordinated review of land management (SRBC)</p> <p>Default should be all land as BHS unless designated as not</p> <p>Encourage green land management by landowners</p> <p>Small areas of SRBC land – give to residents where they can improve biodiversity by better management</p> <p>All council sites not mown unless there is a H&S risk</p> <p>Better maintenance of sites</p> <p>No Mow May</p> <p>Mow less</p> <p>Leave strips of unmown grass next to hedges</p> <p>Leave grass under trees (not mown) (Croston Manor)</p> <p>Stop raking out under shrubs and hedges</p>	<p>Grass verge management</p> <p>Manage road verges for wildlife</p> <p>More planting on road verges</p> <p>Native / locally native flower areas – long term at sites currently sown with alien flower mixes</p> <p>Re-establish locally rare / scarce / extinct species in the borough based on historic data</p> <p>More use of indigenous species</p> <p>Pollinators, what has caused the decline and how can it be reverted?</p> <p>Supply of wildflower seeds to SRBC residents for gardens (advert in with Council tax notification)</p> <p>Less amenity grassland – more meadow</p> <p>Support planting of more desirable species in gardens – pollinators etc</p> <p>Tree planting needs to be native species, not conifers and not on valuable habitat – peat bogs and heathland</p> <p>Preserve more hedgerows</p> <p>Right tree for the right area</p> <p>Protect mature trees</p> <p>Remove laurel hedges and swap for alternatives for free</p> <p>Weigh up the best way to manage areas for biodiversity – not just tree planting</p> <p>Nature reserves</p>	<p>Mitigation needs to be rigorous and enforced – developers get away with vague promises and ridiculous policies</p> <p>Restrict development – don't build on green belt, already seen displacement of wildlife</p> <p>Better incentives for farming, improving nutrient management</p> <p>Street lighting to reduce brightness / light pollution</p> <p>Discourage parking on road verges and pavements</p> <p>More incentives for green energy</p>	<p>Swift boxes / sparrow terraces on all developments</p> <p>Artificial badger setts</p> <p>Wildlife warning system</p> <p>Stronger push for SUDs</p> <p>Removal of weirs and barriers</p> <p>Better water quality / bathing water / WFO</p> <p>Making space for water (Coastal retreat)</p> <p>Introduce swales into woodlands as well as ponds</p> <p>Minimum tree requirements – depending on size of development for BNG</p> <p>Carbon market – woodland / peatland</p> <p>BNG</p> <p>LNRS – identify opportunities and priorities</p> <p>Cooperation – organisational LNRS delivery plans</p> <p>Make contractors show us what they are doing to improve biodiversity</p> <p>Reform of the planning system</p> <p>Reduce development to reduce population</p> <p>Pick your own schemes</p>	<p>Cranfield Uni – Peat mapping (shallow peat soils ~30cm)</p> <p>Engage farmers</p> <p>Engage owners of BHS</p> <p>More collaboration / knowledge sharing / better technology</p> <p>Connect groups with residential homes and organisations where we can go and rewild their green spaces</p> <p>Partnership working with ecology firms</p> <p>Citizen Science</p> <p>Encourage communities to engage with their local wildlife group to organise events such as bat walks, bird ringing etc.</p> <p>Downloadable scavenger hunts appropriate to each location</p> <p>Involve local people to care for them</p> <p>Give residents wildflowers to plant to increase the bee population</p> <p>Encourage people to practice improvements at home</p> <p>Educate on the benefits of home composting.</p> <p>Discounts to residents on compost bins and water butts</p>

<p>Stop spraying hedge bases Stop using selective weed killers on sports pitches Schedule changes – hedge cutting out of nesting season Be less tidy to allow insects to live as food for hedgehogs</p> <p>Regular monitoring Stronger enforcement of current rules</p> <p>More funding Ensure biodiversity is adequately funded and prioritised</p> <p>Staff training on the diversity of species</p> <p>Ring up the council to collect the bulbs that are being thrown away</p> <p>Litter picking incentives – need to make litter picking ‘cool’</p> <p>LWT working with farmers at Wrea Green Land below St Mary’s, Penwortham and the churchyard / river area – possibly owned by Anglican church and Blackburn dioceses</p> <p>Land between Longton Drumacre Lane – Walmer Bridge – create as woodland, ponds, hedgerow and paths (one already there)</p> <p>Land between Longton sports and social club to Drumacre Lane – develop as woodland, orchids, ponds, woodland walks from existing footpaths</p>	<p>More hedgerows Create more ponds Encourage living walls Secure beehive areas Encourage species More green roofs More bat and bird boxes Bee friendly flower beds that are not sprayed with weed killer and non-native flowers planted</p> <p>Wildlife friendly parks Hedgehog highways – encourage residents to make gardens more accessible and wildlife friendly</p> <p>Standing dead wood Habitat piles</p> <p>Salt marsh creation / realignment of coastal flood banks</p> <p>Strategic wetland creation and Natural flood management and biodiversity</p> <p>On site water storage – Ponds / reservoirs</p> <p>Encourage diversity around allotments</p> <p>More orchards – edible foods and herbs More community fruit trees (map so know where to find them)</p> <p>Buy up available land to protect it from future development</p>		<p>Council to work with local organic veg growers to incentivise residents to buy veg boxes – local food, less waste, less carbon</p> <p>Refill Stations, household goods Repair cafes or pop up shops – repair items locally so don’t have to throw away</p> <p>Ask local garages to remove free plastic gloves from the pumps</p> <p>Reduce parking outside schools, encourage parents to walk or ride bikes instead Publish local bike riding routes Publish walking routes – encourages families to get outside and engage with nature Green footpaths</p> <p>Sustainable living workshops – grow organic food at home, companion planting to encourage wildflowers at home alongside vegetables Penwortham needs organic food markets, somewhere that sells local produce</p>	<p>More education in schools / extra-curricular Local youth as environmental champions Insect boxes / bird boxes supplied to schools for children to take home Support sustainability in schools Ensure every school in the borough has a green / eco council Gardening, woodland workshops at schools, encourage children to engage with wildlife and nature. After school groups led by community groups getting children outside in nature More education in schools – via events to help people understand how to help Work with younger people to encourage</p> <p>Social prescribing Collation of roadkill data</p> <p>Educate residents to use alternatives to glyphosate and slug pellets</p> <p>Also educate the decision makers</p> <p>Bring back the Ranger Service Brickcroft example – roll out to other parks more education Educational centre at Worden Park</p>
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3. Challenges and Barriers

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money</p> <p>Slow ineffective funding systems</p> <p>Lack of investment in project developments – shovel ready projects</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>Replace mowers with suitable machines to cope with the changes</p> <p>Complexity – regulations and policies / uncertainty / conflict of interest</p> <p>Lack of funding – government priorities</p> <p>Lack of funding – make money more accessible</p> <p>Bureaucracy</p> <p>Lack of money</p> <p>Resources - available land and Financial / budget money</p> <p>Funding for residential giveaways</p> <p>General funding – fixed budgets.</p> <p>Don't waste money on other things eg cladding changing rooms at Worden.</p> <p>Farming policy</p> <p>Incentivisation of landowners to protect / improve land for biodiversity – funding?</p> <p>Lack of staff is keeping volunteer time down</p> <p>Lack of staff</p> <p>Dedicated role for a person to look after volunteers</p> <p>Age of volunteers</p> <p>Adequate staff training levels to carry out more environmentally friendly ways of working, i.e.. Hand weeding more labour intensive</p> <p>Maintenance capacity – coppice woodlands etc</p> <p>Recruit staff and train</p> <p>Reliable data – current state / modelling / predictions / data sharing</p> <p>Box ticking / tokenism</p>	<p>Habitats are valued only if public are informed of the wildlife value</p> <p>External impacts on migratory species</p> <p>Chose the right areas for wildflowers</p> <p>Ponds – safety, cost of fencing</p>	<p>Environmental abuse is profitable</p> <p>Inequitable access to the environment</p> <p>Running out of space for nature</p> <p>Population increases</p> <p>Landowners lack of empathy to biodiversity</p> <p>Untrained dogs</p> <p>Fighting against the weather</p>	<p>Land availability</p> <p>Lack of advisory staff / volunteers to talk to landowners etc.</p> <p>Lack of understanding of how important biodiversity is for humans – food production</p> <p>Awareness of habitat importance</p> <p>Imbalance of politicians – more bias to economics rather than gains to the natural world</p> <p>Organic farming perceived as too costly</p> <p>Getting developers to add in ponds, swales and drainage and to maintain them</p> <p>Industry and businesses</p> <p>Cost of living crisis</p> <p>Plastics</p> <p>Government Policy</p> <p>Government encouraging / can't stop development building</p> <p>Housing demand / car orientated society</p>	<p>Apathy / perception</p> <p>Willingness from public / local authority</p> <p>Ignorance</p> <p>Public awareness improvements</p> <p>Lack of awareness by general public</p> <p>Consumer behaviour, wastefulness</p> <p>Lack of knowledge</p> <p>Lack of knowledge</p> <p>Wider change in culture – human nature</p> <p>Lack of trust in NGOs, charities, Local authorities and government by public and each other</p> <p>Public interest and incentives</p> <p>Changing public view on what looks tidy or 'a mess' – messy is better for wildlife</p> <p>Public understanding</p> <p>Public used to things being done a certain way</p> <p>Lack of education</p> <p>Increased education of school children of need / importance of native wildlife and biodiversity</p> <p>Should be a compulsory part of the</p>

Paper exercise – placing documents away and policies not being implemented
 Lack of co-ordination between different objectives
 Lack of evidence / good practice
 Cross boundary working
 Legislation with no teeth
 Fly tipping / litter – consequences
 Legislation
 Expectations – quick fixes to problems rather than ecologically effective ones
 Poor expectations
 Misinformation
 Short sighted projects that look good
 Too tidy
 Reluctance to change
 Use of pesticides
 Vandalism

Enforce contractors doing their bit for biodiversity.

curriculum that continues to high school
 Resistance to change
 Conflict of interest
 Publicity

4. Solutions

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Effective up to date mapping</p> <p>Innovative financing options</p> <p>Increased funding and staff</p> <p>Funding to develop projects</p> <p>Financial certainty / stability will decrease speculation</p> <p>Financial support for reliable data</p> <p>Better use of funds available</p> <p>Change work patterns to free up money</p> <p>Funds need to be directed to environmental projects because of their importance</p> <p>Biodiversity to have economic value recognising</p> <p>More resources – land and funding</p> <p>Land banking</p> <p>Agencies need to work more closely together</p> <p>Partnerships – catchment areas / coastal / others</p> <p>Partnership based projects</p> <p>Greater coordination / networking</p> <p>Locally agreed priorities / plan</p> <p>Working to strengths (organisations)</p> <p>Certainty / clear direction irrespective of policies</p> <p>Enforce existing byelaws</p> <p>Cabinet minister dedicated to the environment</p> <p>More Lengthsmen to improve footpaths</p> <p>Leave green waste on site – brash and log piles, reducing mechanical usage – fuel, energy, noise</p> <p>Cameras</p>	<p>Turning grazing land into orchards – fruit trees to replace income from lamb, red meat / dairy</p> <p>Legislate so that hedgerows must be planted rather than fences</p> <p>If an area is wet, then create wetland / bog gardens</p> <p>Ponds – design and location</p>	<p>Harsher punishments for environmental crime</p>	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain</p> <p>Why not 15% BNG rather than 10%</p> <p>New government policies</p> <p>Planning conditions</p> <p>Secure by design</p> <p>SPDs for development – reduce / improve design</p> <p>Corporate social responsibility</p> <p>Corporate responsibility</p> <p>Clause in contracts about biodiversity</p> <p>Wildlife bridges and tunnels</p> <p>Improved dialogue with landowners</p> <p>Properly funded countryside stewardship</p> <p>Incentivise ecological practice / increase profits through improved environmental measures</p> <p>Independent monitoring</p> <p>More stringent use of ecological consultants for planning</p> <p>Incentives for families – bottle deposit schemes</p> <p>Supermarket involvement</p> <p>Take away outlets should take more responsibility for their waste. More pressure on corporates like McDonalds and Cadbury's</p>	<p>Grassroot education</p> <p>Environmental apprenticeships</p> <p>Funding for environmental education</p> <p>Information pack to children / parents at school</p> <p>Education via public events / Friend's groups / social media</p> <p>Try to involve Friends Groups more</p> <p>Embrace / value volunteers</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Educate at all levels</p> <p>Use social media to educate</p> <p>Closer liaison with universities (local) to bring more presentations / lectures to general public and / or local wildlife groups / clubs / societies</p> <p>Public involvement in planning / delivering environmental projects</p> <p>Improved education of the public – signs / information boards</p> <p>Include people – ownership</p> <p>Wider engagement</p> <p>Incentives for families – bottle deposit schemes</p> <p>Supermarket involvement</p> <p>Take away outlets should take more responsibility for their waste. More pressure on corporates like McDonalds and Cadbury's</p> <p>Funded, targeted schemes for residents</p> <p>Stand up to the pressure and consult with the public</p>

5. Community Involvement

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money – get some out there</p> <p>Enough staff to manage volunteers</p> <p>Work in partnership with organisations that already have community involvement</p> <p>Links forged between groups</p> <p>Sharing best practice with other Local Authorities</p> <p>More work with Probation Service</p> <p>Government and local government investing in NGOs</p> <p>Monitoring and advertising of sites – before during and after</p> <p>Low cost signage at sites, social media QR codes</p> <p>Friends of groups</p> <p>Working with and supporting more Friends of groups</p> <p>Provision of an indoor space for Friends Groups as a drink / biscuit after sessions adds to social benefits of volunteering</p> <p>Larger membership of Friends Groups and resources to manage</p>	<p>Wildflowers (Longton)</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Continuity of survey work across volunteer groups</p> <p>Target on native plants and let nettles, ivy etc grow for habitat</p>	<p>Ash dieback / INNS – reporting / logging / plotting / education / removing / treating</p>	<p>Get farmers and landowners into the same room and talk to them honestly about the future</p> <p>Farmers / landowners</p> <p>Liaison with landowners / other public sector landowners / farmers and incentives for each group</p> <p>Prison land</p> <p>Golf courses</p> <p>Corporate engagement / volunteering</p> <p>Corporate partnerships – volunteering</p> <p>Local businesses involved in projects</p> <p>Volunteer days – in / out of work</p> <p>Team building days – internal and external</p> <p>Businesses – Bae / Highways England / Railtrack / UU / Canal and Rivers Trust / National Grid</p> <p>Local businesses support local projects</p> <p>Church eco groups</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Promotion at supermarkets, galas etc</p> <p>WCAF – woodland creation accelerator fund</p> <p>Interaction with wildlife groups / organisations</p> <p>Free tree schemes / wildflower schemes</p>	<p>Making use of social influencers</p> <p>Identify the people who are listened to and talk to them / influence them to influence others</p> <p>Use local radio stations</p> <p>Create podcasts for local biodiversity / wildlife</p> <p>Encourage wildlife recording</p> <p>Citizen science</p> <p>CASTO (river specific) citizen science</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Invest more in early years education – nursery / forest schools</p> <p>Should start in schools – Forest Schools, allotments, clubs etc</p> <p>Make more garden areas for schools / community groups</p> <p>Communication between conservation groups</p> <p>Bring members of the public with different interests together e.g. anglers & kayakers</p> <p>Invitation to local landowners / major stakeholders to presentations on biodiversity</p> <p>Encourage landowners to open days on their properties with biodiversity experts to help advise / encourage changes to land use</p> <p>Biodiversity open garden days</p> <p>Volunteer / You Tube / presentations on local walks</p> <p>Flora / plant / bird identification days</p>

<p>Friends Groups – encourage, engage, educate</p>			<p>Social prescribing / free transport and equal access / school twinning for projects</p> <p>Better investment in environmental guardianship / stewardship – start with those who already have a keen interest and get them to do more monitoring / reporting</p> <p>Promote / embrace projects</p> <p>Off road Trampler for mobility</p>	<p>Expert leaders on walks concentrating on seeing things rather than walking as the exercise</p> <p>Events in Parks e.g. – talks with RSPB, bat watching, pond dipping</p> <p>Photography competitions – postcards or calendars</p> <p>Guided walks</p> <p>Citizen Jury – empowering interested local people to be able to direct ideas / funding</p> <p>Development restrictions and structure planning restrictions</p>
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6. Action Plan Content suggestions

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Partnership working – Council should be working with partners not alone to maximise benefits to wildlife</p> <p>Wider environmental group</p> <p>Catchment wide meetings / cooperation</p> <p>Management that is committed</p> <p>More staff and volunteers</p> <p>Investment of time and money</p> <p>Overlay land ownership map with habitats maps</p> <p>Engaging BHS landowners</p> <p>Corporate buy in from landowners and within council</p> <p>Education of landowners – make information available in addition to the top levels such as SSSIs, BHS etc.</p> <p>All areas should be managed locally, preferably by residents who have experience of living there</p> <p>Cutting trees and grass at the right time</p> <p>Reinforcing local byelaws</p> <p>Reducing pesticides, herbicides etc</p> <p>More equipment to enable flexibility of teams – e.g. rough cut mowers</p> <p>More flexible working practices</p> <p>Constantly review working practices</p>	<p>Improve biological recording</p> <p>Important habitats and precise records of species</p> <p>Data sharing / reliability / currency</p> <p>Long term data modelling</p> <p>Nest boxes etc in urban area</p> <p>Connectivity and habitat corridors</p> <p>Identifying risk areas for roadkill</p> <p>Specific habitat targets for receptive Landowners</p> <p>Identify and protect</p> <p>Promote habitats for bats, hedgehogs, deer</p> <p>Replace urban meadows with native</p> <p>Difference between wildflowers and Urban Meadows</p>	<p>INNS initiatives to work to remove such species</p> <p>Information on INNS, especially those escaping from gardens to vulnerable habitats</p> <p>More control of INNS and dedicated Grounds</p> <p>Maintenance team to tackle</p> <p>Accountability and enforcing around mitigation / BNG</p> <p>INNS / pests</p> <p>Removal of INNS</p> <p>Water storage – ponds / reservoirs / tanks for summer irrigation</p> <p>SuDS systems</p>	<p>Effective BNG measures</p> <p>Ensure biodiversity targets are met by developers in the borough</p> <p>BNG and more resources around assessing planning applications, wide skills set needed</p> <p>Ask landowners take responsibility for biodiversity</p> <p>Ensure developers and planners are well informed and educated</p> <p>Lancashire Nature Partnership</p> <p>Lancashire Peat Partnership</p> <p>Projects equivalent to REMADE if funds become available</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Food recycling – what's happening?</p> <p>Renewable Energies</p> <p>Green roof</p>	<p>Who is doing what and where?</p> <p>Older naturalists meet younger people using apps, SM etc.</p> <p>Encourage the use of apps like iRecorder / iNaturalist</p> <p>Send records in to LERN</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Get Lancashire Botany Group active again</p> <p>Church Groups</p> <p>Landowner involvement / target groups at existing NFU events</p> <p>Targeted events</p> <p>Work with schools and colleges to support the biodiversity / sustainability agenda.</p> <p>We like the photography competition idea.</p> <p>Community Hubs and Learning Centre</p> <p>Pop up hubs on parks and town centres</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>Days – promo radio, not all internet</p> <p>Eco areas</p> <p>Skills to develop community groups</p> <p>Incentives to volunteer</p> <p>Educate the public</p>

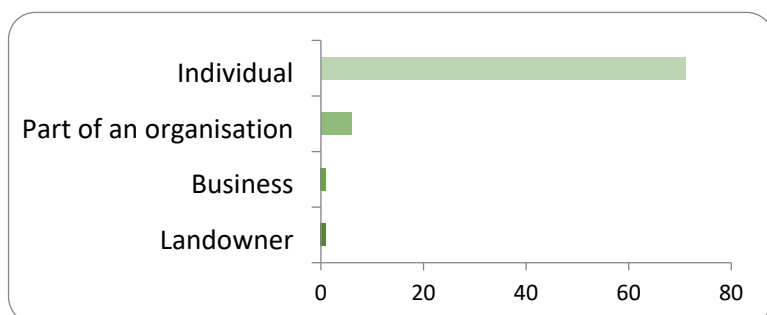
Appendix Two – Summary of responses from the online public consultation

Following on from the development of our Biodiversity Strategy, we're now looking to create the Action Plan to help guide how we deliver conservation at a local scale. The creation of South Ribble's Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership effort to target actions in 5 main areas.

- Management
- Habitats and Species
- Environmental Pressures and Mitigation
- Sustainable Development (ensuring what we do meets current needs but will not compromise the needs of future generations)
- Education / Awareness

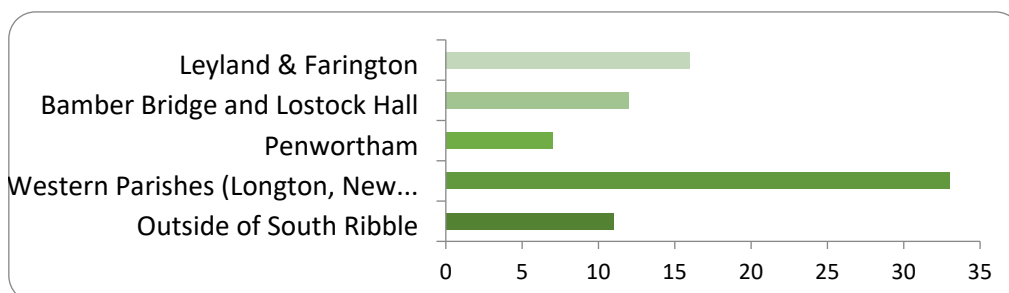
Integral to the creation of the Action Plan is the collaboration of interested parties, sharing knowledge, expertise and resources to deliver action for nature. We have already consulted our own Parks and Grounds staff, our Volunteers and other local volunteer groups, local wildlife groups and national wildlife Non-government organisations. We would now like to know what you think about some of the main themes and issues that have been raised.

1. Are you responding as?



Option	Total	Percent
Individual	71	89.87%
Part of an organisation	6	7.59%
Business	1	1.27%
Landowner	1	1.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

2. Which part of the borough are you from?



Option	Total	Percent
Western Parishes (Longton, New Longton, Much Hoole area)	33	41.77%
Leyland & Farington	16	20.25%
Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall	12	15.19%
Outside of South Ribble	11	13.92%
Penwortham	7	8.86%
Eastern Parishes (Gregson Lane, Samlesbury, Coupe Green area)	0	0.00%

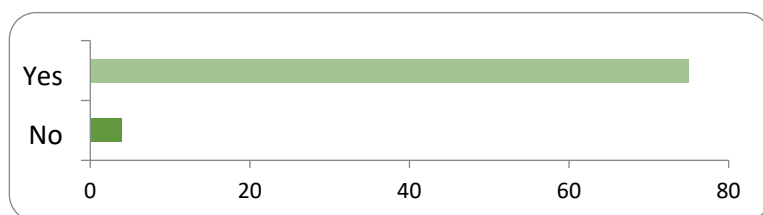
Not Answered

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0.00%

We are aware that Planning laws and developments are emotive issues when it comes to the environment and biodiversity. While this will be referenced in the Action Plan it is not possible for this document to change UK planning law. If this is something that you feel strongly about, then the Local Plan for Chorley, South Ribble and Preston is currently being updated and will be open for a second round of consultation late summer 2023. Adding your views in this arena will have much more impact, than comments here.

3. Do you think that taking action to protect and enhance the natural environment in South Ribble is important?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	75	94.94%
No	4	5.06%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? (there were 9 responses)

There are more important things to sort out, like feeding the poor and making sure they are warm

Nature and green space, with wildlife and natural plants, are absolutely essential for the wellbeing of residents. Previous destruction of green spaces was destroying what little Nature we had left. That must cease, and Nature and wildlife protected for their own sake as well as ours.

There are far more important priorities.

Because you take too much of our money already. I'd rather have it stay in my pocket.

Absolutely, but not to the detriment of existing habitats or local that it might impact.

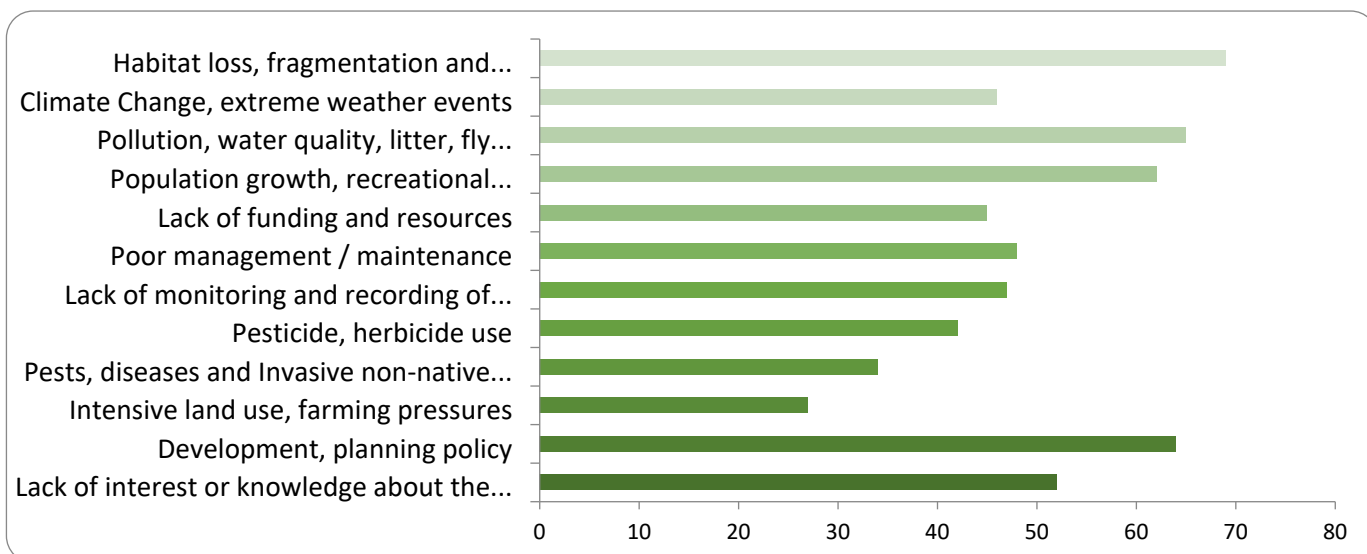
Glamping pods in Longton absolute ridiculous they only want to do this is so then in 5 years they can get planning passed for houses

Very important that we protect what we have left. As we are all aware the UK has lost more wildlife than the rest of Europe and is the least biodiverse country in Europe.

Want to have plenty of greenery and better public services before building g more houses

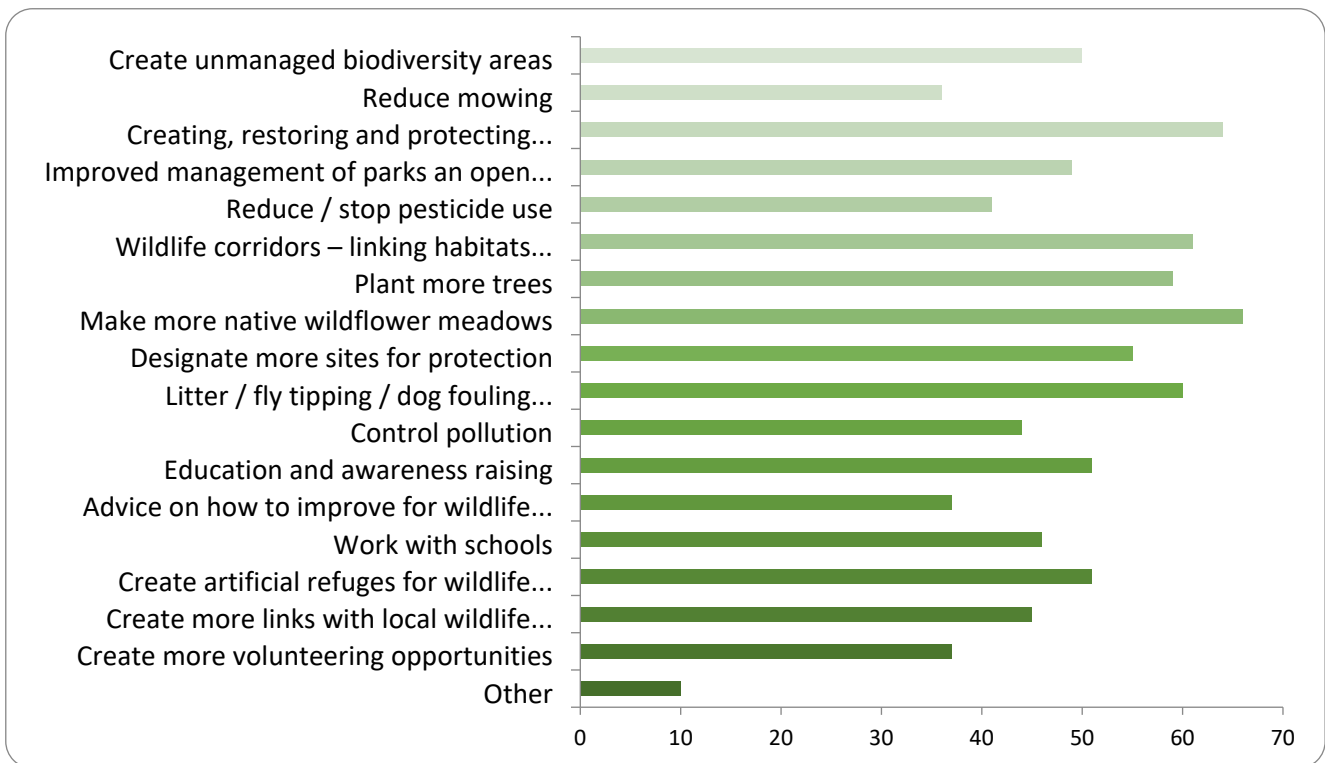
We need nature for our health and wellbeing being and every year green space is lost as more and more houses/factories/ shops are built. Wildlife is in decline and so we need to try and save it from extinction...and that is also for our survival as all life on earth is interconnected. We need natural reserves of green space to help our air quality too.

4. Please pick all the things you feel threaten biodiversity in South Ribble



Option	Total	Percent
Habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance	69	87.34%
Pollution, water quality, litter, fly tipping and dog fouling	65	82.28%
Development, planning policy	64	81.01%
Population growth, recreational pressures, human disturbance	62	78.48%
Lack of interest or knowledge about the environment	52	65.82%
Poor management / maintenance	48	60.76%
Lack of monitoring and recording of species and habitats	47	59.49%
Climate Change, extreme weather events	46	58.23%
Lack of funding and resources	45	56.96%
Pesticide, herbicide use	42	53.16%
Pests, diseases and Invasive non-native species	34	43.04%
Intensive land use, farming pressures	27	34.18%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5. Please pick all the things that you feel should be done to help improve biodiversity in the borough –



Option	Total	Percent
Make more native wildflower meadows	66	83.54%
Creating, restoring and protecting habitats	64	81.01%
Wildlife corridors – linking habitats together to allow wildlife to move around safely	61	77.22%
Litter / fly tipping / dog fouling enforcement	60	75.95%
Plant more trees	59	74.68%
Designate more sites for protection	55	69.62%
Education and awareness raising	51	64.56%
Create artificial refuges for wildlife – bee hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways etc.	51	64.56%
Create unmanaged biodiversity areas	50	63.29%
Improved management of parks and open space	49	62.03%
Work with schools	46	58.23%
Create more links with local wildlife groups and organisations	45	56.96%
Control pollution	44	55.70%
Reduce / stop pesticide use	41	51.90%
Advice on how to improve for wildlife in private gardens	37	46.84%
Create more volunteering opportunities	37	46.84%
Reduce mowing	36	45.57%
Other	10	12.66%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

6. Please tell us what other actions you would like to add (there were 27 responses)

Stop building houses on the wildlife habitats in the first place
I would like to see the introduction of green bus stops so that flowers that grow on the roofs of these bus stops create an urban path for pollinating insects
Regarding native wildflower meadows - the wildflower plantings of the last few years have been lovely but have mostly been annuals and include non-native species. Planting up with native perennials will cost less and require less maintenance in the long run, may look slightly less 'pretty', but will help ensure our native meadow species flourish.
Events in the community to educate children with parents during school holidays and weekends. Council Teaming up and helping promote and advertise with community allotment groups, forest school groups, wildlife charities in the area to promote families getting more connected to nature, joining outdoor extracurricular for health, wellbeing and to environment education and voluntary conservation.
All of the above are key
Encourage secondary as well as primary schools to take an interest in the environment, to turn over some of their land for wildlife conservation and protect and maintain existing trees and woodland within their playing fields. Reduce close mowing on these fields and stop strimming field edges where wildlife live.
Better planning policy to prevent the most damaging industries like intensive livestock get planning permission
Stop cutting down mature trees to make way for development.
Encourage local people to take charge of unused areas such as the piece of land on Gaskell road to be used as a common area for growing fruit, flowers and veg
Avoid building on green belt land
Leave ponds where building is taking place, don't culvert streams. Wildlife needs water. Small mammals died last year in the drought particularly our hedgehogs.
A somewhat biased question assumes that improving biodiversity is anything to do with the council. Get the bins right and slash staff numbers instead.
Stop strimming of grass verges.
Engagement with organisations any information they have about certain areas, species etc to know what is using the habitat. Knowledge is key - for instance more trees are good but to the expense of freshwater areas which maybe more should be created. (Ponds can have a cooling affect, are habitats for dragonflies, newts etc, are good for mental health, are a drinking source for animals).
Ensure planning consents require developments to apply the biodiversity and SUDs hierarchy and that their delivery is guaranteed to be funded by the developer and delivery of targets enforced.
Generally, building on green belt land should be stopped.
Enforce TPOs (that office is impossible to contact despite multiple requests by phone and email)
Stop building more and more houses
More links with school, especially secondary education. Help schools make biodiverse areas within the school grounds
Control of invasive animals and plants. For example, grey squirrels. Red squirrels have been seen in the area but are at risk as long as there are grey squirrels.
Control invasive species e.g. grey squirrels
"Less building of new houses
Less new housing estates
More bridle paths
More effective Grey Squirrel Control in Parks and other land managed by the Council. Removal of Grey Squirrels because they are non-native invasive and make room for Red Squirrels to recolonise.

Stop commercial development and building on green belt land. It's absolutely outrageous that farmland & green belt fields are being sold off and planning permission given to build on these areas. A perfect example of this is the proposal for a glamping site in Longton. It's ridiculous and totally inappropriate. The proposer is paying lip service to biodiversity, using all the "buzz words" in his planning application. It's merely "smoke & mirrors" If this goes ahead, biodiversity will go out of the window and it will make way for a housing estate on farmland. Do not let it pass

Biodiversity would also improve with reduced car dependency and use and an increase in electric car use with corresponding rise in take up of public transport (to reduce air pollution particulates).

Significant reduction in artificial lighting would help biodiversity. Light pollution is a major biodiversity issue. If commercial premises turned off their lights when the premises are not in use it would really help. Encouraging residential occupiers not to have lighting on in their gardens/yards etc etc or even a ban between certain hours, ditto.

A joined-up approach would be most useful. The Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy may help with that, as and when produced and implemented.

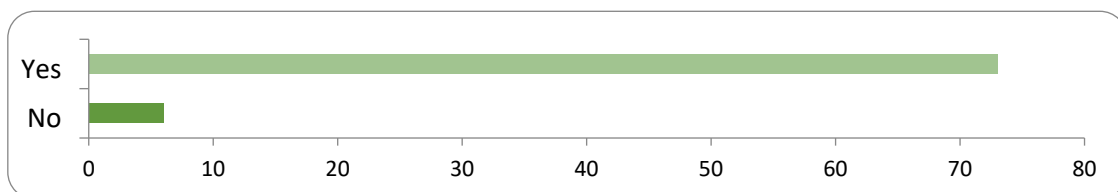
Management of existing woodland, especially ancient woodland, is a greater priority than tree-planting. The latter cannot recreate the ancient soils and the complex ancient ecosystems that ancient woodland supports.

Intertidal and marine management needs addressing: a whole Ribble Estuary approach would be appropriate.

A joined-up approach would be most useful. The Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy may help with that, as and when produced and implemented.

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7. Do you agree that South Ribble Borough Council should allocate some areas of their parks and open spaces to nature, reducing maintenance, allowing grass to grow longer, excluding dogs and managing for wildlife and not people?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	73	92.41%
No	6	7.59%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? There were 7 responses

Only a small area of the borough is made up of parks and they have important value for people to use for recreation, exercise, etc. They should be well planted with trees and plants and ponds maintained but you should keep a good portion where you cut the grass for children to play on, allow dogs for good walks (good for owners too!) Etc.

Controlling where people are allowed to go is wrong

The old railway line Todd Lane Junction needs regular husbandry it is a disgrace. Steps up from embankment falling into disrepair yet money spent tarmacking areas where tree roots spoil the path. Too many brambles.

Basically. A cop out from maintaining local parks to save money by councils. Children need places to play safely. Dogs should not be banned, where are people supposed to exercise dogs when all the fields for miles are being built on

Because you will abuse your perceived authority.

There are already areas like this in my area - places like the Brickcroft with areas fenced off from people and dogs are kept on leads so walkers can still enjoy it but wildlife isn't disturbed. The public footpaths are also overgrown as it is. Areas around the edges of parks can be left unmowed with wildflowers planted. More of these could be planted. It is also a better idea to stop building on the fields we have than to take away parks! Stop building more houses which in turn creates more traffic as well as taking these areas away.

Just educate people to be more aware of their surroundings and environment and they can help to improve the area. If you exclude people, they will be less willing to help.

8. Which parks and open spaces should we create these areas on? There were 55 responses

Worden Park.

Withy Tree park could do with more natural areas, sorting out the small ponds in and around the park, clearing and managing the small overflow stream to make suitable for habitats

More seasonal flowers around the park

Worden Park Leyland

St Catherine's Park Bamber Bridge

Cuerden Valley Park

Hurst Grange Park Penwortham

All parks and open spaces should have a designated area

Hurst Grange, Worden and St George's Playing Fields, Penwortham.

All parks can have some portion where grass is left longer, wildflower meadows created, more trees planted. Just make the size of the area proportional to the size of the park and ensure the balance of space for people the play, exercise, relax Vs space for wildlife is kept.

All play parks surrounded by grass could have a patch with a sign next to it explaining its use to educate families. The sign could also have the suggestion that families create their own "wildlife only patch" in their garden. Connecting with young children and their role models/families to nature is really important.

All of them

Parks without playgrounds, such as paradise lane.

All of them, but particularly Worden park, for years one of the best natural parks in the north west. Stop emphasising the creation of so many children's playgrounds and sports pitches in South Ribble and do more for wildlife. Plastic-filled playgrounds and designated sports areas discourage creativity and awareness of the environment. Prohibit the use of bicycles in Worden Park woods: they destroy pathways, create noise and danger to walkers.

All of them! We need to do this properly to have the impact we need

Withy Grove

All parks. And large open areas should have some of these spaces. They need to be large enough to support some of the bigger animals not just tiny patches of fenced of areas for insects.

Roadside verges

Roundabouts

Motorway verges

Can you not allocate a proportion on all parks / open areas
Unused woodland, overgrown land etc
All parks and open spaces should be able to accommodate wildlife as well as people. They are an integral and necessary part if healthy life.
none
Cuerden Valley park. Farington Moss, all new build developments should have these spaces built into the planning agreement.
Farington park, Worden Park, Leyland town centre, Bamber Bridge town centre
I like the grass being left long at Worden Park with mowed footpaths. New ponds could be protected, or signs added (I believe the one at Worden Park maybe getting something to protect from dogs) as the ponds have been created for more biodiversity.
At Moss Side there is plenty of grassland that could have wildflowers. Also, there is an old skateboard park that could be repurposed for nature as its never used, there is already a football pitch and a bigger playground."
Larger ones. Not great conservation value to have tiny piecemeal bits here and there other than for education and where volunteers are engaged to maintain the habitat.
Please also consider golf courses, churchyards/cemeteries and road verges"
There is land off Back Lane that currently has application in to put caravans on it, this is a perfect location to leave unmanaged or plant bee and butterfly flowers to support pollination
Longton Brick Croft and green belt land where possible.
Longton Brickcroft
Existing green belt land
Worden Park
Farington Park
Cuerden Valley Park
Leyland Golf Course
Paradise Park
Malt Kiln Woods/Nature Area
Hurst Grange Park
Dog Kennel Woods
Middleforth Green/Park
Hurst Grange Park
Worden Park
Longton marshes
Howick Cross
Middleforth Green Park
All
A % on all parks, with signage to help educate and raise awareness of the importance
Hurst grange. Worden. I'm not so familiar with others but I'm sure there are more.
It is hard to answer this when I do not know exactly what the council owns and what is private land. It is important to have a balance of safe places for our children to play as well as areas for wildlife. Wildflowers could be put around the borders of all parks and community fields.
On all council owned areas

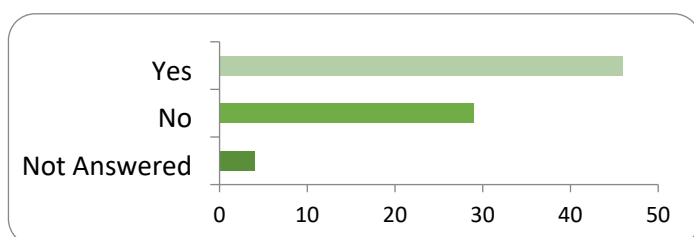
Any that are large enough
As many as possible
All parks
Areas that aren't used for community sport
Plant wildflowers on any grass verges etc"
All parks, but with Worden Park as the flagship and education centre, working with local schools and colleges and the local retail shops to ensure that the message about less mowing, more native wildflowers is getting out
Withy Grove Park, Holland House estate
Any land that isn't currently used by people - hedgerows - areas of grass around the village - the graveyard would look stunning with an area of natural beauty
Walmer bridge park
Any suitable woodland where Red Squirrels can re-establish themselves Cuerden Park, Worden Park Brickcroft would be ideal
Worden Park Leyland
Hurst Grange Penwortham"
All parks should have some of their space allocated.
As many as possible, including wildflower meadows
On the larger parks such as Longton park next to Longton school it's has the space
Wooden park
All of the parks, even the small ones
All of them wherever possible
All
Every park if it is big enough to have a designated "wild" area. The more it is done, the more that people see and learn and can begin to understand the issue. Communication of the right kind and at the right time is important to achieve this.
All parks in the and open spaces in the Borough
Withy Grove Park in Bamber Bridge
I can't immediately say. That would require strategic analysis as to which were most suitable and for what and how each fits into the wider nature recovery network. Off the top of my head I do know that some are identified, at least in part, as Lancashire Biological Heritage Sites.
Wherever possible. Worden park is trying to move towards this.
Farington park - like the new tree area that was planted a few years ago. Could do something similar on 'Trumpet park' by the Oaks estate in Leyland, this is a large open field at the moment and would be perfect for more tree planting.

9. Which parks and open spaces should we not create these areas on? There were 33 responses

Withy trees - keep access for walking dogs into surrounding areas maybe keep on leads though
None
I can't think of any that wouldn't be improved by this
I think parks with playgrounds as kids may want to venture into the wild areas

Existing long-established play and sports areas.
None
Playing fields
Not sure
all of them
All parks should have these areas
Also, don't exclude dogs from all water courses and fields. They need places to run and enjoy. Same with other uses of parks including sports pitches, it isn't to take things away but to protect areas that have been worked on.
Ones with too many dog walkers and too much need for intensive recreational play
All parks would benefit in my opinion.
Some areas of all parks and open spaces in South Ribble could benefit from more diverse habitats
Not sure.
Possibly New Longton, because I believe all the managed green space is dedicated to football pitches and cricket, which is important for the community. But I would love to see more wild spaces there too if there was a suitable site. Possibly between the playground and the football pitch?
Places that are used regularly by families and the community for health and wellbeing.
Any small ones vital to communities
Any that are likely to be vandalised
Ones that are used for walkers / horse riders etc
None
Only small parks which don't have the capacity to create adequate benefit.
None
All
For some families and people, their local park is their only green space. So, it is important that parks in such areas can be used by such people, particularly their children. Urban or suburban "no go" areas in parks in disadvantaged or economically deprived areas should not be used to restrict human access unless the park is big enough to limit movement or apply restrictions that only apply at certain times .
I can't immediately say. That would require strategic analysis as to which were most suitable and for what and how each fits into the wider nature recovery network.
All of them
Not sure

10. If we reduce our herbicide use there will be an increase in weeds in streets, back alleys and on our parks and open spaces won't look as tidy, would you be happy with this?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	46	58.23%
No	29	36.71%
Not Answered	4	5.06%

If no, why is this? There were 29 responses

Better natural maintenance like cutting back areas more frequently using chemicals shouldn't be an excuse to areas looking untidy especially when it comes to walkways
The emergence of weeds makes a place look uncared for. I use white vinegar on my garden.
Everything is there for a reason and instead of employing people to spray herbicides all over the environment employ people to tidy these natural weeds up and maintain areas better
Should be a more balanced approach parks and open spaces should have reduced herbicide use and let the weeds grow. Maybe only use them when essential i.e. streets
There is a biodiversity crisis.
Use herbicides more cautiously. Consider where it is really needed for something other than 'it looks tidy'.
We pay for this maintenance so for the council it's only about reducing costs without reducing council tax
Litter and debris will then amass. Weeds will spread quickly into other areas.
Feels like this is an excuse to not maintain things. General maintenance is already not great in many of these areas.
If back alleys and streets look untidy promotes anti-social behaviour
Think keeping an area tidy helps people to have pride in their environment and improves Health & Wellbeing.
Can these areas be managed under community services where people work/ keep an area tidy"
Again, South Ribble looks scruffy. Roadsides need weeding or the drains become blocked and then the flooding is increased.
It does not look good. I think limited use in residential areas would not be an issue.
don't want untidy environment
Streets and footpaths should be cleared to maintain standards and encourage pride in an area. Herbicides in parks should be minimised where possible, unless as a last resort to manage plants which out-compete wildflowers: Horsetail and Himalayan balsam etc.
Plants around buildings can eventually lead to further damage and if left unmanage could become dangerous
There is no reason not to use herbicides on street and back alleys.
Why not use environmentally friendly ones that do not harm wildlife but keep unwanted plants under control, such as knotweed etc.
South Ribble is a beautiful place and I would not be happy for it to look like a slum area. Hopefully, there is a form of natural herbicide that can be utilised.
This would be where volunteering would help.
Yes and no - there is no reason someone can't be employed to maintain areas if they are already employed to spray herbicide!
However, within reason - some ""weeds"" are good for wildlife and can be left in the right areas if they are causing no harm and not blocking routes."
Maybe. If communities and volunteers are given more responsibility maybe some of the tidying can be done manually without herbicides.
Actually, you could use steam/hot water to kill the plants in streets ad back alleys and this is more sustainable and kinder to the environment
Use more environmentally safe herbicides
A happy medium would be the answer
Not all herbicides are bad

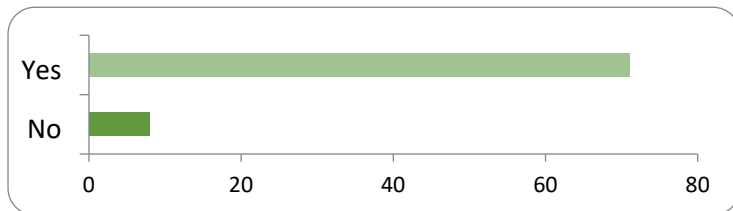
We should be using weed killers which are not harmful to wild life and humans

It would depend where, and what species.

There has to be a measure of management.

As an authority we only own 4% of the land in South Ribble. Building partnerships between the Council, landowners, businesses and local communities is key to restoring and enhancing biodiversity across our borough.

11. Do you agree with this statement?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	71	89.87%
No	8	10.13%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? There were 10 responses

Landowners and local authorities do not always see eye to eye on issues of this nature so some landowners should reserve the right to manage their own land without interference from the relevant authority. However, there will be landowners who will embrace these considerations from councils with mutual agreement to suggestions.

Maybe it's true but again feels like the council are trying to offload their responsibility and accountability. Just look at the destruction created by the monstrosity that was approved for Caddick in Farington. Hundreds of mature trees ripped up to create a monumental eyesore. This was council land that could have been reserved for nature.

assumes biodiversity is anything for the council to get involved with. Stop wasting my money.

It should also specifically include agricultural owners and tenants

Absolutely, there is a piece of land off back lane that should be purchased by the council and used for this very project

Not as a blanket measure. For example, a planning application has been submitted for a glamping site on a green belt field on Back Lane in Longton which includes 10 glamping pods, an administration building and a landscaped park area. This field is currently home to deer, foxes, peregrine falcons, pheasants, rabbits, hares etc. Were this development to be approved, despite the park land area, it would undoubtedly have a negative effect on the current biodiversity of the land.

Not as a blanket approach to achieving biodiversity. South Ribble has only limited green belt land left following previous policies to develop and build. The council needs to work closely with the people of the borough to achieve a balanced environment that will support biodiversity for future generations.

I feel some landowners are paying lip service to biodiversity to further their own agenda

We need to protect what green belt we have left. Use brown field sites and as people are now working more from home could we not utilise the land the empty offices are built on.

To enable less concrete

12. What action would you be prepared to take in the future to help local biodiversity?



Option	Total	Percent
Work on my own property to improve biodiversity	61	77.22%
Volunteer on a local project	48	60.76%
Join a volunteer group / organisation	39	49.37%
Volunteer to do species or habitat survey work	33	41.77%
Donate to a charity	24	30.38%
Other - please specify	10	12.66%
None of the above	6	7.59%
Not Answered	1	1.27%

If other, please let us know what? there were 16 responses

Petition other larger landowners to take responsibility for their contribution
I am elderly and Disabled; otherwise I would volunteer. However, my own garden is a haven for wildlife in the town centre.
There are far more important things to worry about at the current time.
I'm sure there are many willing volunteers, but you need to create the opportunity for people to get involved.
I already run Leyland Hedgehog rescue, give talks on environment, wildlife, and in particular hedgehogs to educate people to their important but simple needs.
Organisation/individual research/survey work. If there are questions the council have about an area or species, then relevant people may be able to bring answers from their insight's surveys or studies. Also, students and other individuals/groups may want to do some research and being able to pass this onto someone.
Support with "backroom" tasks for volunteer organisations
support tree planting programmes via Lancashire Woodland Partnership
promote community activity and school activity (e.g. Carbon Literacy training)"
I would love to volunteer to improve the local environment. Whenever I've looked for organised schemes locally, I've ended up giving my time to projects on the other side of Preston or even as far as north Manchester.
I am a geography teacher so help to educate more on the local environment

Let's Grow Preston would be delighted to assist in delivering workshops and getting the message out

take part in educating the public about biodiversity by running workshops in species identification

I already run a Volunteer Group. Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Squirrel Initiative, working in conjunction with British Red Squirrel

I am a trustee and the Chair of the Lancashire group of CPRE The Countryside Charity. I already do hours of voluntary work every week for the charity and donate to it regularly!

I will continue to work for The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside.

Would be keen to see more volunteering opportunities for young people, local high schools and colleges could be contacted for students to volunteer in litter picking or planting schemes. Lots of litter picking volunteering opportunities run by local counsellors are during the working day, preventing those who work or are in education participating

As part of the new [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) and national register of land for [Biodiversity Net Gain](#), there will be opportunities for new large-scale conservation projects. As these are still to be identified, can you think of any wildlife improvement schemes that we may be able to collaborate on with landowners and partners? These can cross Borough boundaries and pull together land owned by multiple agencies.

13. As these are still to be identified, can you think of any wildlife improvement schemes that will be able to collaborate on with landowners and partners?

Nothing immediately comes to mind.

Everywhere I go I see litter and rubbish especially around works premises. What's the point of having fines for littering when there is no-one around to enforce it. Major country wide media urging people to clear up their mess. Businesses, by law, should be made to keep their surroundings clean and litter free. Actually, more litter in the streets after the refuse collection. This will create healthier spaces and get rid of the unsightly mess. I have visited a few different countries and the UK is the dirtiest but what can we expect as we must be the only country in the world to have our rubbish bins adorning our front step instead of tubs of flowers.

Add Green Wildlife Bus Stops in and around LCC authority's

Rather than specific schemes give consideration to working with colleges and universities in the area to adopt and innovative approach that could benefit all parties.

It would be great to have Incredible Edible across the borough - local shops, railway stations etc having planters with herbs etc which people can harvest.

A bee keeping initiative would be good as well, local hives and teaching people bee keeping skills.

Actually, ensure that areas designated as biological heritage sites are not impacted on by development through the Local Plan.

Teaming up with these wider schemes to create community conversations. Chorley flower show and Leyland in Bloom competitions are great as long as they encourage wildlife and no pesticides.

'No Mow May' (to encourage pollinators) with [plant life.org.uk](http://plantlife.org.uk)

1000 hours outside challenge" (to connect people with nature) 1000hoursoutside.com

30 Days Wild" (to educate and challenge communities to get involved together to create wildlife highways and other things on their street as a community rather than individuals.) wildlifetrusts.org"

Stop building on green land

No more roads - encourage more use of public transport so the demand for roads decreases

Awards and incentives for businesses and landowners that that 'do their bit' for enhancing biodiversity.

Do more of what you already do.

Hedgehog highways - hedgehogs are declining

More butterfly / bee friendly flowers around the area, such as buddleia which is low maintenance

The large school field attached to Wellfield High School has some very old and beautiful trees, which are teeming with wildlife and several species of bats. In the past I have tried to interest the school in creating a wildlife study area here, but despite the school claiming ""Green"" credentials, the response was that it was not part of their curriculum and they were too busy. The trees are neglected and where previously were areas of rough grass are now, with better equipment, mown and strimmed so closely that wildlife is disappearing. Lancashire County Council is responsible for maintenance of the field, and LCC and the school need to be made aware of the wildlife habitat loss they are causing - the many tawny owls that were there have all but disappeared because loss of cover has removed their prey, and if the trees are neglected the bats may go too. Part of the field could be preserved as a valuable town centre nature reserve."

Converting polluting intensive animal farming to agro-ecology and halting any new factory farms from being built. This includes reducing the amount of chemicals used by farmers and shifting what they grow to reflect a more sustainable diet (i.e. less meat, more veg, pulses and legumes). This would produce more food, employ more people, and free up land for rewinding and nature recovery.

All landowners must improve biodiversity on their land by planting trees, halting the use of pesticides and basically getting rid of grass to replace with an array of other plants

Companies that have large areas of restricted land such as BAE Systems.

Some farmers have land that is unworkable or of limited use that could be used.

Verges along train tracks.

Inaccessible land of any kind / reason. Some of the small areas around estates that get mowed could be converted.

Purchase of land should also be considered but needs to be set aside for environmental purposes in perpetuity.

To ensure that light pollution from such things as floodlights is appropriately challenged and acted upon from a planning enforcement perspective.

Ponds in farmers' fields such as the one adjacent to the public footpath at skew bridge Leyland road should be treasured not allowed to fill in with trees and sedges. These are a rarity and need conservation. The stream which runs at the bottom of the same field is unique in the area and has a large amount of ancient hedgerows again the stream is overgrown and blocked with fallen trees and rubbish.

Keep on top of planning and building applications that would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife, one current example being the planning application for glamping pods on back lane in Longton. With the best will in the world birds, insects, bats, general wildlife and the fields will be disturbed, this is not what we want!

Leave hedges in place and do not mow within two feet of them allowing corridors for wildlife to thrive.

More ponds or streams.

More education regarding the dangers of littering. Less strimming under shrubs and hedges.

So many hedgehogs are mutilated and left to die this way, noses and legs chopped off.

We don't need to be so pristine we push wildlife out. Learn to appreciate wonderful diverse nature

Hedgehog highways in all new building developments. Leave existing mature trees in all new building developments.

Hand clearing of shrub areas when clearing for a new development, machine clearing kills and injures so much wildlife

Protected dark areas and roosting spots for nocturnal animals, such as bats.

As mentioned, there is land off Back Lane in Longton that could be purchased for this very idea. It would be ideal as I have seen, deer, foxes, owls, pheasants, rabbits and a range of birds that use the area.

Not in the immediate vicinity.

Work closely with local Farmers and Landowners. A close collaboration between Conservation and Agriculture is the way forward to improve biodiversity and restore habitat, alongside improvement of our local environment i.e. our waterways and hedgerows etc. But making sure to benefit our local Agriculture and through this work support our farmers and as a result also improve our food security and produce levels. Nature friendly farming that is well supported by local authority to benefit our farming too.

Other Schemes such as: Nature friendly initiatives enforced on all Housing Developments. Including keeping corridors for wildlife to surrounding untouched land, bat and swift bricks implemented into the properties, complimentary nest boxes in gardens, creation of small ponds and increased number of trees planted on the development.

Waterways improvement - INNS control, litter and waste cleared from our streams and rivers, monitoring pollution i.e. sewage discharge and industrial run off etc

Wildlife Pond creation targeting protection of Great Crested Newts which ultimately creates habitat for a range of other flora and fauna species.

Offering help to local fisheries who already manage fantastic nature friendly spaces. Collaborate with them to put up bird boxes, bat boxes or create hibernaculum's around their lakes and ponds.

Conservation Grazing - consider this on any pastural land/meadow land that the council may have or have access to. Grazing by cattle/sheep will create better opportunities for wildflowers to grow, improve soil health and provide an opportunity again to work with farmers and landowners.

Public Parks and Play Areas - put up more bird boxes and bat boxes.

Create discrete native wildflower meadows on the quieter areas of the parks or on the edges avoiding vandalism and any damage by dogs.

Don't waste time and money on tree planting initiatives, especially in our public parks and green spaces. (Let any woodlands there are regenerate and extend/connect through their own natural spread.)

Unless it is done on our existing nature reserves or agricultural land where they will not be vandalised and will thrive and actually have an impact on our environment (Collaboration with farmers and landowners again).

The plethora of wild animals that are killed on our highways is exorbitant and unacceptable. Could there be special routes and habitat for the likes of hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, deer and bats etc.

Provide connectivity between habitats

Re-wilding of unused or less-used space should be one an urgent priority - there are a lot of open fields here that don't seem dedicated to growing crops. For example, the council could fund farmers to replace sheep fields with new woodland. I'm sure charities like the woodland trust would happily provide native trees to plant.

We urgently need to enforce green belt legislation and stop the huge wave of inappropriate building that's going on at the moment. For example, around the Whitestake area, large areas of wild land (including valuable woodland) have recently been destroyed in favour of property development, when the emphasis should be on building housing on brownfield sites. One whole field near my house was completely cleared of established woodland (during the nesting season) by developers, to allow for a speculative planning application.

We've been trying to contact the Tree Protection office for months to request a TPO on the few remaining trees in this site, and nobody responds despite many emails and phone calls, which is disgraceful and indicates that the council do not care at all about biodiversity.

Create wildflower verges and mow less aggressively.

Plant more trees and wildflowers corner of Stanisfield Road and Lydiate Road. Get rid of grass verges and sow wildflowers. Plant and sow more on all roundabouts.

Stop building on fields etc

Control of invasive species. For example, Cumbria is doing a fantastic job culling grey squirrels and increasing red squirrel numbers. Targeted Himalayan balsam removal.

If you work with existing organisations like the very active In Bloom groups and garden clubs, local churches, schools, you will be able to identify spaces that matter to local residents. If members of these

local organisations are identifying spaces, then you have more chance of making positive and sustainable changes

Control invasive species e.g. grey squirrels

No more housing as this removes green spaces, hedgerows etc

Encourage all landowners to undertake the removal of the Non-native Invasive Species the Grey Squirrel.

I can provide Lantra accredited Grey Squirrel Management Training for staff and managers. The Course has been developed by British Red Squirrel in conjunction with the main players in the squirrel world including the UK Squirrel Accord."

A field that borders Waverly Drive and Hugh Barn Lane - locally known as Dawson's Pit in New Longton. The pond in this field used to have a thriving newt population about 35 years ago. I don't know the current state of the pond, but it would be wonderful if the habitat could be conserved/improved.

Wildlife corridors

Planting patches of wildflowers

Safeguard green belt by refusing applications to build on green belt land and require builders to include some green space in all developments

The lottery funded 300 km walk " GM Ringway" includes a part of Lancashire bordering Greater Manchester. A wildlife improvement scheme for the Ringway with collaboration between South Ribble Council and other Lancs. councils could "tick boxes", particularly if it could be used to create new wildlife corridors.

A joint venture with the Lancashire Nature Partnership (LNP) to create or add to wildlife improvement scheme(s).

Collaboration with the AONB of Arnsdale & Silverdale (border of Lancs. and Cumbria) to create a wildlife improvement scheme?

The Old Mill Industrial Park, on the Brindle Road site has been flattened and all the Trees cut down... it is now devoid of any wildlife, so it definitely needs some improvement.

These are identified - as Nature Recovery Focus Areas - across Lancashire, Greater Manchester & North Merseyside in the current iteration of The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside's Business Plan. That focussed on the Alt-Crossens Catchment and that on the Ribble Estuary and valley (to the upper tidal limit) cover parts of South Ribble Borough.

Further discussion would be needed internally and with partners as we must prioritise our own and shared resources where these are likely to achieve the most effect across our geographical remit.

Leyland in bloom is a fantastic group of volunteers already helping to improve our open spaces, maybe give them some funding instead of them having to raise their own funds.

Also, workshops for residents to become involved and interested.

Opportunities to purchase environmentally improving products and habitats eg, bird boxes, hedgehog houses and bug hotels.

14. If you are a landowner or a business that would like to work with us, please leave an email address or contact number

There were 6 responses which have been redacted from this summary

15. Are there any further comments you would like to make? There were 28 responses

No.
Bring back the patriotic spirit to the people to urge everyone to clean up their act.
15-minute cities and 20 minute neighbourhood are coming to this area and it's not about conversation it's about controlling the people https://www.facebook.com/billywatsontv/videos/134378899368992/?app=fb
There are local green spaces which are currently suffering due to selective management. We live on an estate bordered by the river Lostock- most days it's polluted and littered why can't the council put things in place to monitor/prevent this more stringently? There are ponds on the estate- unkept, overgrown with relatively low biodiversity value. These are ideal places for people to see and learn about biodiversity in action, free and accessible to all. In all honesty in this case fences are broken that surround the ponds, it's unsightly and dangerous for young children and hasn't been rectified in months. Surely, we could start with the smaller projects as well as the bigger ones?
Educating the community, helping advertise wildlife charities and everything wildlife friendly that the area would like to do would all be best placed in a locally accessed family friendly Facebook Group for example just for Lancashire County Council. Families could share ideas for their allotment gardens, wildlife corners, share successes in the community.
Climate change agendas are making the people poor. Unable to heat their homes or feed their children
Please work to save what remaining wildlife and Nature we have in South Ribble.
We really need to be bold and we support the council in taking strong action on this
Yes. You or Lancs. CC are doing a poor job of the Todd Lane reserve. Some trees have been pruned unnecessarily but not overhanging branches impeding cyclists. Look at existing areas first. Walton Park is another area. Muddy paths etc. If it wasn't for volunteers the area would look far worse.
Small bridge is needed from Central Park development across stream on old railway line. Road ends abruptly at stream.
I really hope we see some meaningful action in this area that is desperately needed to offset the destruction that results from development.
The sports facility development at Lostock Hall Academy is in direct conflict with elements of the Council's biodiversity strategy and has broader environmental impacts that need to be addressed by the Council. Specifically, light and noise pollution alongside disturbing the natural habitat of the associated nature reserve.
Ripping out of ancient hedgerows in fields when planning permission for new housing developments is passed needs to be stopped immediately. The hedgerows should be conserved and fencing erected two metres in front or behind them with hedgehog highways incorporated into the fences there is no need whatsoever to remove hedgerows it's criminal
I really hope this is an effort to make a difference and not just a tick box exercise.
Just empty the bins, bunch of wasters.
Work closer with local wildlife rescues to understand how they are affected by the mass development of green fields around the South Ribble area. Only allow planning
Permission to developers who can prove they are serious about protecting wildlife.
Please buy the land off Back Lane in Longton and preserve our green spaces
No.
A recent planning application for Glamping pods in Longton will destroy the existing biodiversity of the land that supports deer, birds of prey, hare, pheasant, foxes and hedgehogs. Surely this type of development would destroy the biodiversity that you claim to support.
I would highly recommend a strong focus on working with our local farmers, agricultural sector and sensible, like-minded landowners.
This benefits our farmers and public alike.

Provide better financial support to our farmers and encourage nature friendly farming to improve biodiversity, habitat creation/restoration/management and in turn improving the farmers land health and our local food production and overall food security, benefiting our agricultural sector."

Wildlife, biodiversity and sustainability are important issues which have largely been neglected over many years and this situation needs to be addressed immediately.

Groundwork CLM is a member of the Local Nature Partnership and happy to work with South Ribble BC on Nature Recovery activities.

Please please act to stop the tide of development on our previous green belt land. I appreciate that SRBC cannot change the laws, but currently you are not acting to enforce them, particularly with regards to established woodland

Rather than keep building large houses, consider smaller dwellings e.g. Apartments close to amenities and affordable without large maintenance fees to encourage downsizing to free up housing for families etc.

None

Let's Grow Preston is a charity that was created to support a network of community gardens and friends of open spaces in the advancement of conservation, and for maintenance, creation of open spaces and community spaces. We work with local residents and bring people together to encourage and enable community change.

Keep up the good work!

More information should be given to all residents regarding the issues raised above and how they can help to improve the environment

Children need to be made aware of what is happening and what they can do to help

The changes being made to South Ribble are obvious and visible. The wildflower areas are beautiful in summer, but you do need to advertise more what you are doing.

'No Mow May' is not being publicised, I only heard of it through Leyland in bloom last year.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing))	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Household Support Fund Round 4

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not Applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. To confirm South Ribble's allocation of Household Support Fund (HSF) Round 4 and agree the processes and authority to accept and deliver the grant.

Recommendations to Council

2. To accept the grant allocation of £680,000 and create a 2023/24 revenue budget accordingly.
3. To proceed to develop a delivery plan which reflects specific criteria set out in the government guidance published to allocate and administer the grant.
4. That decisions on the delivery plan be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing.

Reasons for recommendations

5. Household Support Fund offers the opportunity for the Council to support both vulnerable residents, and those who have been adversely financially affected by COVID and the Cost of Living crisis.
6. Ensuring best use of this funding is directly in line with the Council's priorities, and provides the opportunity to ease financial pressures

Other options considered and rejected

7. Across Lancashire, district councils are taking a range of approaches in distribution of Household Support Fund, including automatic payments to benefit recipients, energy grants and provision of shopping vouchers.

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8. Conversations have been held with council services, charities and community groups who support vulnerable households, to ascertain current levels of demand. The delivery plan will align with feedback received.

Corporate priorities

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

10. SRBC has been allocated £680,000 in the fourth round of Household Support Fund, resourced by the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) and administered by Lancashire County Council (LCC). A total of £19,356,470 has been awarded for the whole of Lancashire to cover the 23/24 financial year.
11. As with previous rounds, LCC is retaining a portion of the funding to provide shopping vouchers to families with children in receipt of free school meals during holidays, and a number of support services
12. DWP guidance for councils states that HSF should 'primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs.'

Proposals

13. The Council's Communities and Housing Service has successfully delivered three previous rounds of HSF, with excellent feedback received from resident and community groups. DWP guidance sets out an expectation that councils should utilise the round four funding in a similar way as earlier HSF rounds.
14. The main areas that the guidance would like delivery to focus include,
- Focus on groups who have not benefitted from any recent cost of living support payments,
 - There is no ringfence of any proportion of the funding for any cohort of people/households (within HSF 2 there was targets on families and pensioners),
 - Must operate an element of the scheme on an application process,
 - Emphasis on supporting low-income households with cost of energy,
 - Provide support with food and wider essentials,
 - Support with housing costs in exceptional cases of genuine emergency and where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need,
 - The scheme is clearly advertised and is available throughout most of the fund period, either continuously or in regular intervals over the course of the scheme,

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- There is no requirement to apply means testing as a way of determining eligibility,
 - A resident does not need to be on benefits or unemployed to receive this funding if they can demonstrate need,
 - A resident can access the fund on more than one occasion if necessary,
 - This fund is open to people with no recourse to public funds.
15. Key changes for round four include direct promotion of HSF to unpaid carers and care leavers, and up to 10% of the allocation is available for provision of advice services.
16. HSF cannot be used to pay for:
- any requests for items that are not essential.
 - applications from those with sufficient income or savings
 - requests for support where this is the responsibility of the landlord
17. In addition, priority is given to those who have not been eligible for income related benefits and who have not had any other government cost of living support.

Initial Scoping

18. Discussions have taken place with community partners and agencies, both direct and through partnership channels such as the South Ribble Together Network and Community Food Network to understand the needs of our communities, and the best way of utilising the HSF funding.
19. Based on this feedback, insight and lessons learnt from previous rounds, a targeted delivery plan has been drawn up.

Proposed Approach

20. This report sets out recommendations for how the funding could be allocated with the objectives of directing the funding towards those in most need and meeting the guidance provided.
21. The fund will help with short-term living costs such as food, energy, and essential items, develop existing schemes to widen the impact, and signpost to other sources of advice and assistance.

Phased Approach

22. HSF Round Four will be delivered via a phased approach, with the delivery of Phase One commencing immediately following council approval, and Phase Two following later in the year, ready for winter. 50% of the funding will be allocated to each phase, this being £306,000 per phase when deducting the 10% admin fee.
23. This phased approach allows the use of the funds to be more flexible, allowing the team to adapt to changing community needs, and evaluate what works well before committing the funds for Phase Two.
24. In Phase One, funds will be allocated to:

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- Energy vouchers via Citizen's Advice,
- Home adaptations via the council's 'Warm Homes' grants,
- Grants to commission targeted services,
- 'Step Up' grants,
- Holiday clubs (building on already successful School Uniform Shop project),
- Resource for advice services.

Evaluation from Phase One will determine how much funding is allocated to each of the above in Phase Two, and whether any of these schemes are amended or cancelled.

Targeted Approach

25. The Communities team will use a targeted approach to identify those most in need.
26. Internal data will be used to identify residents most in need of support, data sets used will include council tax support scheme, council tax arrears, disabled facilities grants, and assisted bins collection register. From this data, priority cohorts will be identified, and targeted communications will be carried out.
27. Data gathered from the previous phases will be used to highlight those who were assessed and in need as well as reaching new applicants who need support.
28. The South Ribble Integrated Team (SRIT) will be utilised to identify complex cases where financial support is needed.
29. The council's Social Prescribing team will be equipped with knowledge and understanding of the support available through the HSF Round 4 and how this can be accessed. This will enable Social Prescribing Link Workers to access this support for their cases, and signpost other individuals and agencies.
30. The support available and referral pathways will be clearly communicated with key partners through the following partnerships and networks; South Ribble Together Network, South Ribble Community Food Network, South Ribble Social Isolation Network, and South Ribble Dementia Action Alliance. This will ensure that all the groups and agencies engaged in these networks can confidently signpost their service users and customers to appropriate support.
31. Support offers will be communicated through schools to reach parents. This will be via Headteacher Cluster meetings and the Council's Active Health team.
32. Support accessed by working families has been limited in previous rounds, therefore the Communities team sees increasing awareness of the support available through the HSF amongst this group as a priority. This will include working with the Investment and Skills team to send communications through local employers, particularly those with large workforces with lower incomes (warehouses, delivery drivers, social care etc.).
33. Details of the funding and how to access it will be widely shared with partners and community stakeholders and made available on the Council's website.

Commission Grants

34. In previous rounds, grants have been provided directly to key community partners to enhance the support that they provide to their service users. Although this has been

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successful, the reach of this support has been limited as it only available to those already working with these partners.

35. In round 4, funding will be allocated to targeted commissions that provide support to specific groups, in alignment with HSF guidance. More specifically, these are:
 - Households with children,
 - Households with pensioners,
 - Unpaid carers,
 - Care leavers,
 - Households with disabled people.
36. Community partners will be invited to submit applications for grant funding, outlining specific services or projects that will be delivered to directly support these groups. This will make the support more targeted and easier to monitor.
37. 25% of the funding within Phase One will be allocated to 'Commissioned Grants', split equally across the five groups above. Each will be allocated £15,000 each, totalling £75,000. Dependant on the applications received, these may be awarded as single grants to one community partner or agency or split across numerous smaller and more focused grants.
38. This method will be reviewed after Phase One to evaluate its success and effectiveness.

Energy and Housing

39. Citizens Advice will deliver energy support and provide residents with vouchers towards covering the cost of energy bills. An initial rate of £200 to £300 will be set as a guide which residents can apply. In line with the funding criteria, it will prioritise those who have not received other cost of living payments.
40. The phased approach will ensure we can sufficiently support households over the challenging winter months.
41. The Council will continue the delivery of the 'Warm Homes' grants scheme that has been successfully delivered in previous rounds. This will allow residents to benefit from home adaptations that improves the energy efficiency of their homes (such as boiler repairs/replacements, fitting draft excluders, glazing improvements), creating long-term savings on energy bills. This funding will also support the disabled facilities grants scheme.
42. 33% of funding within Phase One will be allocated to these schemes, totalling £100,000.

Food and Essentials

43. Foodbanks and Community Shops will be invited to apply for grant funding to deliver targeted projects. The Community Development team will work closely with these partners to submit applications and develop targeted schemes.
44. The Community Development team will hold a supply of supermarket vouchers supplied through LCC Edenred system which will enable quick support to residents who contact the Council in an emergency and provide support within the mobilisation period. These vouchers have been selected as they do not allow the purchase or

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alcohol, tobacco, or lottery products.

45. The 'Warm Welcome' initiative will be resumed in winter where residents will not only be able to keep warm without paying to heat their homes, but will also have access to food, and wider advice on support.
46. The Council's successful 'School Uniform Shop' project will be delivered throughout summer and developed to incorporate wider support. This will include having access to food to takeaway, and access to support services in the shop, including but not limited to Citizen's Advice, Credit Union, and Social Prescribers.
47. Dependant on findings in the Phase One evaluation, a similar project may be delivered in winter.
48. As in previous rounds, funding will also be allocated to 'Step Up' grants. These grants are used to support residents to fund things that other funding sources often exclude. Examples include, white goods, carpets, cleaning/removal services, debts, and arrears. These grants will be a key resource for Social Prescribers.

20% of funding within Phase One will be allocated to these schemes, totalling £63,000.

Advice services

49. Funding will be allocated to improving local capacity for advice services, this will be through both Citizens Advice and the Council.
50. 22% of funding within Phase One will be allocated to funding this resource, totalling £68,000. This resource will be available for a 12-month period.
51. All partners are made aware of essential support available across the borough and work closely together to provide signposting to residents which ensures a wider range of support can be given.

Breakdown of proposed Phase One spend

52. Shown in table below:

Phase One Total	£306,000	100%
Commission Grants	£75,000	25%
Energy and Housing	£100,000	33%
Food and Essentials	£63,000	20%
Advice Services	£68,000	22%

(% rounded to nearest full number)

53. Phase Two spend will be determined following an evaluation of Phase One. It is recommended that the decision to approve this will be a delegated decision made by the Director of Community in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure, and Wellbeing.

Grant agreements

54. Grant and service level agreements will be drafted for delivery partners and successful recipients of commission grants. These will set out objectives, performance measure, and monitoring requirements. Learnings will be taken from the recent Boost Fund Plus and Leisure Local Community Fund community grant

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schemes.

Funding control

55. Funding is proposed to be allocated to delivery partners in the form of direct payments.
56. There will be a decision-making panel responsible for awarding commissioned grants. This will consist of the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure, and Wellbeing, and representatives from key partner agencies (who have not submitted applications).
57. Delivery partners will record funding issued and support provided in line with the management information template provided by DWP. South Ribble Borough Council will collate this information and submit this to LCC at prescribed intervals during delivery and final submission at the end of the scheme.

Eligibility and evidence

58. As outlined in the grant agreements, management of eligibility and access to the funding and support will be led by the delivery partner, based on their professional judgement. This aims to ensure that people are not refused much needed support due to strict guidelines (i.e. can only access support once), whilst also preventing the scheme from being taken advantage of.
59. Delivery partners will be required to determine that the funding is only used to support residents in South Ribble.
60. Guidance material used to deliver the scheme will be provided to delivery partners to help guide them through assessment and checking processes.

Data control

61. Delivery partners will use their own in-house policies and procedures to control data and will be required to maintain the requirements as set out in grant agreement documentation regarding applicable policies. The council we seek assurance that these policies and procedures are in place.

Scheme Coordination

62. The Communities team will oversee coordination of funding, support delivery partners and liaise with LCC. They will be the point of contact for complex cases, internal communication, and external enquiries.
63. Guidance documentation outlining the delivery approach and any specific details will be provided to delivery partners.
64. Delivery partners will be invited to evaluation meetings to discuss performance/effectiveness of the service and current/emerging community needs.

Monitoring

65. Delivery partners will be expected to record data in accordance the grant agreement and provide this to the Council to collate and report to the DWP via LCC.

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66. Delivery partners will also record wider data to help gather insight on the root causes of the resident's difficulties.

Linking to other workstreams

67. This delivery proposal will link the support provided by the delivery partners to several other existing and emerging workstreams and existing early intervention and support pathways within the Council and other external partners.

68. This will ensure support options are maximised in an efficient way and demonstrates the ambition to co-deliver community impact projects directly with community partners.

Climate change and air quality

69. The proposals in this report do not directly impact the Council's climate change and sustainability targets, but Household Support Funding does cover measures such as:

- Replacing items such as windows and boilers with more energy efficient models.
- Use of CAB to offer fuel vouchers alongside energy advice and support.
- Purchasing new carpets, curtains, and bedding to make homes warmer.

Equality and diversity

70. There are no negative impacts on any of the protected groups because of Household Support Fund. There are positive impacts on age, disability and maternity as financial support given through the fund seeks to reduce vulnerability.

71. An impact assessment has been completed.

Risk

72. The Household Support Fund has been widely publicised, and previous rounds have been used to support people who need assistance with living costs. There is a clear reputational risk in not spending the borough's allocation and having to return funding to the DWP. Mitigation of this risk once again includes using a range of providers, a phased approach, and monitoring of spend and impact.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

73. The Household Support Fund Phase 4 (HSF4) allocation to South Ribble Council of £680,000 will be used to administer the grant based on the specific criteria set out in the government guidance. The funding must be spent by 31st March 2024 or returned to Lancashire County Council and ultimately the government.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

74. There are no concerns from a Monitoring officer perspective with this report. What is proposed is building on previous good practice. In appropriate cases grant agreements will be drawn up and entered into.

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Background documents

75. Impact Assessment.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Reece Drew (Community Development Team Leader)	reece.drew@southribble.gov.uk	01772 62 5461	21/6/23

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Household Support Fund Round 4 Impact Assessment (IA)

Name of the project, policy, service, or strategy:	Household Support Fund Round 4		
Responsible officer:	Reece Drew (Community Development Team Leader)		
Service Lead:	Howard Anthony (Head of Communities and Housing)		
Date of assessment:	26/06/23	Date of review:	October 23



WORKING TOGETHER

Introduction

Overview

What is an Impact Assessment?

The Impact Assessment is a tool to ensure that any policy, project, strategy, or service is assessed to consider any positive or negative impacts for all our residents with regards to equalities, health, and sustainability. It is important that this is done in a timely manner and ideally it should precede the start of the project, policy or strategy concerned at Chorley Council or South Ribble Borough Council.

Who is the Impact Assessment for?

The responsibility of conducting the Impact Assessment is with the leading officer of the policy that is being assessed, with service leads responsible for the final sign off of the assessment. Once complete and signed off, the Impact Assessments are submitted to Performance and Partnerships, who are responsible for storing, monitoring, and ensuring the quality of the assessments. The assessment tool covers both Chorley and South Ribble Borough Council.

Why do we need to do Impact Assessments?

As Councils, we are committed as community leaders, service providers, and employers. Therefore, we will work to ensure that everybody is afforded equality of opportunity and good life chances. The Impact Assessment is a tool we use to ensure that we fulfil these commitments and thus meet our legal duties.

Instructions

Quick steps for completion

Follow the quick steps below when completing the Impact Assessment:

1. Sections: There are three sections to the Impact Assessment. These include:

- Equality impact: the impact on the nine equality strands, which include age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership. See the **Equality Framework**.
- Health and environmental impact: the impact on health and wellbeing as well as the environment.
- Reputational impact: the impact on the Councils' reputation and our ability to deliver our key priorities. Reference should be made to the Corporate Strategies.

2. Rating and evidence: Each section has a number of questions that should be given a rating and evidence given for why the rating has been selected. This allows us to quantify the impact. The rating key is outlined below:

Code	Description
P	Positive impact
N	Negative impact
NI	Neutral impact

3. Actions: Once a rating is given, actions should be identified to mitigate any negative impacts or maximise any positive impacts of the policy, project, or strategy that is being assessed.

4. Sign off: Once the assessment is completed, sign off is required by a Service Lead.

5. Submit: Once signed off, the Impact Assessment should be sent to the Performance and Partnerships Team, who will store the assessment securely and check for quality.

6. Follow up: Actions should be implemented and changes should be made to the policy, project, or strategy that has been assessed, with follow ups conducted annually to monitor progress.

Information and Support

Contact details

To submit your completed Impact Assessment or for guidance and support, please contact Performance and Partnerships at performance@chorley.gov.uk or performance@southribble.gov.uk

Equality Impact

Area for consideration	P	N	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity have upon:					
Those of different ages?	X			There will be direct targeted commission grants focusing on supporting people of different ages i.e. households with children, households with pensioners.	N/A
Those with physical or mental disability?	X			There will be direct targeted commission grants focusing on households with disabilities. The 'Warm Homes' grants will also be used to support Disabled Facilities Grants where residents cannot afford to contribute, and the housing associate do not offer contributions.	N/A
Those who have undergone or are undergoing gender reassignment?			X	No support directly targets this group, however support through the Household Support Fund is open to all residents.	N/A
Those who are pregnant or are parents?	X			In addition to the direct targeted commission grants to support families with children, the funding will be used to build on the already successful School Uniform project.	N/A
Those of different races?			X	Information about the support available through the Household Support Fund will be provided on the council's website, with an option to translate this into different languages.	N/A
Those of different religions or beliefs?	X			Support provided through partners such as Foodbanks are conscious of making support accessible for individuals with different religions or beliefs i.e. Halal, Vegan etc.	N/A
Those of different sexes?			X	No support directly targets this group, however support through the Household Support Fund is open to all residents.	N/A
Those of different sexual orientations?			X	No support directly targets this group, however support through the Household Support Fund is open to all residents.	N/A

Those who are married or in a civil partnership?			X	N/A	N/A
Socio-economic equality or social cohesion?	X			This project focuses on financial inclusion and directly supports residents through the cost of living crisis.	N/A

Health, Social and Environmental Impact

Area for consideration	P	N	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity have upon:					
Enabling residents to start well (pre-birth to 19)? <i>(Please consider childhood obesity, vulnerable families, and pregnancy care)</i>	X			There will be direct targeted commission grants focusing on supporting households with children.	n/a
Enabling residents to live well (16 to 75 years)? <i>(Please consider mental and physical wellbeing, living environment, healthy lifestyles, and improving outcomes)</i>	X			There will be direct targeted commission grants focusing on supporting people of different ages i.e. households with children, households with pensions, households with disabilities.	n/a
Enabling residents to age well (over 65 years)? <i>(Please consider social isolation, living independently, dementia, and supporting carers and families)</i>	X			There will be direct targeted commission grants focusing on supporting, households with pensioners.	n/a
Natural environment? <i>(Please consider impact on habitation, ecosystems, and biodiversity)</i>			X	The project does not directly target improvements to this area; however it also does not create a negative impact.	n/a
Air quality and pollution? <i>(Please consider impact on climate change, waste generation, and health)</i>	X			The pop-up bike shop will encourage active travel. This will be delivered alongside the school uniform shop.	n/a
Natural resources? <i>(Please consider the use of materials and as well as transport methods and their sustainability)</i>	X			Energy support and advice will be available over the telephone, therefore saving to need to travel.	n/a
Rurality? <i>(Please consider the impact of those who live in rural communities, their access to services/activities)</i>	X			Support will be offered to residents from all areas within the borough, including rural areas.	n/a

Strategic Impact

Area for consideration	P	N	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:					
The Councils' reputation? <i>(Please consider impact on trust, confidence, our role as community leaders, and providing value for money)</i>	X			Effective delivery of the Household Support Fund and targeting of resources at those in need is important to the Council. Development of the commission-based approach and targeting of resources is aimed at value for money and ensuring trust in the council to apportion the fund fairly across the borough and at those in need of the support provided through the fund.	n/a
Our ability to deliver the Corporate Strategy? <i>(Please refer to the Strategic Objectives)</i>	X			Thriving communities as a priority directly relates to the Household support fund and contributes the corporate project on delivery of the 'Cost of Living Action Plan'.	n/a

Impact Assessment Action Plan

If any further actions were identified through the Impact Assessment, then they should be listed in the table below:

Action	Start Date	End Date	Lead Officer
Revise impact assessment following the delivery of Phase One. This will reflect the delivery plan for Phase Two.	October 2023	October 2023	Reece Drew
Develop communications plan to ensure that those most in need of support are aware of what's available and how to access to the support, and to also optimise positive news opportunities for the council.	July 2023	July 2023	Reece Drew

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing))	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Refugee and Asylum Seeker Grant Funding

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. The information in this report provides a breakdown of the grant funding that the council has received and is set to receive to support refugees and asylum seekers, including Homes for Ukraine, UK Refugee Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), Full Asylum Dispersal, and Homelessness Prevention Grant.
2. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members and ask that consideration be made to the recommendations listed below.

Recommendations to Council

3. To receive the funding allocations for each of the below schemes:
 - Homes for Ukraine Scheme
 - Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme
 - UK Resettlement Scheme
 - Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy
 - Homelessness Prevention Grant
4. To create budgets allocated to:
 - Homes for Ukraine sponsor 'thank you' payments
 - Asylum seeker support and community integration
 - Refugee support and community integration
 - Homelessness prevention
5. To delegate authority to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure, and Wellbeing for decision making relating to these budgets.

Reasons for recommendations

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5. The policies and procedures associated with refugees and asylum seeker dispersal are constantly changing, from both the Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Consequently, so are the support needs of refugees and asylum seekers and the pressures on local services. The above recommendations will provide the Communities team with the opportunity to further scope proposals for expenditure and align it to the needs of the refugee and asylum-seeker communities which will provide flexibility as needs evolve over time.

Other options considered and rejected

5. To return the funding and not use it to support refugees and asylum seekers in South Ribble or alleviate pressures on local services.

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

6. The council works closely with local partners and agencies to support both refugees and asylum seekers across South Ribble. This support is funded through different schemes, more specifically:
 - Homes for Ukraine (asylum seekers)
 - Asylum Seeker Dispersal (asylum seekers)
 - UK Resettlement Scheme (refugees)
 - Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (refugees)
 - Homelessness Prevention Fund (general)
7. This report provides an overview of the grant funding allocation for South Ribble, the outcomes of scoping activity undertaken to date and the recommendations for funding allocations and approval.

Introduction

8. An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognised as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.
9. Asylum seekers are some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in society. Securing asylum status is difficult and complex and should this status be granted, asylum seekers are not permitted to work, leaving them dependent on government payments of approximately £5 per day. As a result, asylum seekers' lives are stressful and afflicted by hardship.
10. Dispersal is the process by which the Home Office moves asylum seekers to specified local authority areas across the UK. They are first moved to initial accommodation

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while their application for asylum support is processed. Once the application has been processed and approved, they are moved on to dispersal accommodation.

11. A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Refugees can also be highly vulnerable and marginalised, however, unlike asylum seekers they have the right to both work and apply for welfare.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme (HfU)

Background

12. This scheme supports individuals and families escaping the conflict in Ukraine, by matching them with 'sponsors' in the community. Sponsors host Ukrainian guests and receive a monthly 'thank you' payment to cover the costs of hosting.
13. Since March 2022, South Ribble has welcomed 94 guests. 20 of these guests have now moved out of the scheme, either into independent accommodation or by returning to Ukraine.
14. South Ribble Borough Council receives funding from Lancashire County Council on a quarterly basis, this is split between funds that are to be distributed to sponsors as 'thank you' payments, and funds to support those families with housing and community integration, including officer time.

Ukrainian Guest Funding Allocation Year 1

15. From March 2022 to 31st December 2022, DLUHC issued funding at a rate of £10,500 per new arrival to upper tier councils to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. The £10,500 for Ukrainian nationals was initially for the first year but after a government review in October 2022, local authorities have been informed that this tariff is to be used to fund 24 months provision.
16. In two tier areas, it is a condition of the funding that councils must agree a plan locally to make prompt payments to lower tier authorities in relation to all the services which they provide to guests under the HfU scheme, during the full duration of the scheme.
17. This funding comes with several conditions and the government expects councils to use the tariff to meet all their associated costs (both for providing council services and for administering payments).
18. Out of the £10,500 funding, district councils are allocated the following:
 - £2,500 per person to cover housing and homelessness costs
 - £1,000 per person to cover community integration costs

Ukrainian Guest Funding Allocation Year 2 (From January 2023)

19. From 1st January 2023, upper tier councils will receive funding of £5,900 for each new arrival to support guests and their sponsors. Given the significant decrease in the tariff for year two and the change in year one for the funding to cover 24 months instead of 12, Lancashire County Council have informed the Council that the funding to districts is to be further reduced.

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20. Out of the £5,900 funding, district councils have been allocated £1,500 per person to cover housing and homelessness costs.

Sponsor Thank You Payments

21. Since June 2022, monthly Thank You payments of £350 have been allocated to sponsors. Government guidance stipulates that sponsors will receive £350 a month during the first 12 months of their guests' stay. This increases to £500 once the guest(s) have been in the UK for 12 months. The aim of this increase is to support sponsors who can continue hosting for longer, up to a maximum duration of two years.

Funding Received in 2022/2023

22. The table below shows a breakdown of the funding received to date:

Quarter (2022/23)	Amount	Status
Q1	£91,000	Received
Q2	£133,700	To be claimed
Q3	£91,700	To be claimed
Q4	£71,200	To be claimed
TOTAL	£387,600	

Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme

Background

23. In March 2022, the Government announced its decision to move to a full asylum dispersal model supported by grant funding. As part of this move, funding was allocated to local authorities for each new dispersal accommodation bed space occupied until 31st March 2023.
24. South Ribble Borough Council does not have a direct role in the dispersal of asylum seekers. SERCO is the contractor currently employed to source and manage properties nationally, as well as supporting dispersed asylum seekers on a day to day basis.
25. There are currently around 108 asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation (rental properties) in South Ribble.
26. In February 2022, Leyland (Preston) Hotel was opened as an asylum seeker hotel and has been an active site since then. Currently, the hotel has 153 asylum seeker residents. SERCO manage the day to day running of the hotel and are supported by a variety of different partners, which includes the council's Community Development team.

Funding from April 2021 – March 2023

27. For the period between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2023, the Home Office has committed to make funding available to local authorities to assist with the costs of supporting asylum seekers under 'Full Asylum Dispersal'.

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28. The funding has been made available to address concerns raised by local authorities in relation to pressure on local services associated with support for asylum seekers.
29. According to the Home Office's funding instruction, the money must be used to facilitate local authorities to support requests for properties made under Full Asylum Dispersal.
30. The table below shows a breakdown of the funding received to date:

Date Received	Amount	Status
13 February 2023	£37,000	Received
14 February 2023	£21,000	Received
2 June 2023	£21,000	Received
TOTAL	£79,000	

31. There has been no expenditure against this budget to date.
32. The Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) based at Manchester City Council, is the local authority link to the Home Office. They have provided the following guidance regarding the grant funding:
 - A local authority can spend their funding allocation as they wish, to support asylum seekers where there is need. The Home Office does not ask local authorities to specify what they intend to spend the money on,
 - The funding can be utilised over subsequent financial years,
 - The funding is not ring-fenced, so if it remains unallocated before 30 June 2023 it is unlikely that the Home Office will ask for it to be returned.

Next Round of Funding

33. Further measures were also announced to improve the asylum accommodation system which includes:
 - For existing dispersed accommodation and beds in hotels, the Government will provide local authorities with a one off £750 payment for each asylum seeker who is in Home Office accommodation on the 1st April 2023 – up from £250 last year. The payment will be made during the first quarter of 2023/24,
 - A pilot will be introduced to offer local authorities an additional one-off payment of up to £3,000 for new dispersal beds which are brought on and occupied quickly.
34. On 8th June 2023, the Home Office announced the grant 3 funding stream for asylum dispersal. South Ribble's allocation is £195,750. This is calculated based on the number of asylum seekers in the borough as of 1 April 2023.

UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)

Background

35. South Ribble Borough Council has committed to resettling five UKRS refugee families from 2021-24.
36. To date, there are four families who have been resettled in South Ribble as part of this scheme. UKRS offers a safe and legal route to vulnerable refugees in need of

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protection. It is open to people fleeing from any country, accessible to those who have been assessed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) against categories including:

- Legal or physical protection,
- Survivors of violence or torture,
- Women and girls at risk,
- Family reunification.

Funding Allocated

37. The council is set to receive the following funding for this scheme:

Item	Amount	Status
Housing Sourcing	£10,000	To be claimed
Furniture	£10,000	To be claimed
LA Officer Time	£30,000	To be claimed
Local Integration Fund	£20,000	To be claimed
TOTAL	£70,000	

38. These funds can be claimed in full once all five families have been settled within South Ribble, or 20% each time a family is settled.

Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP)

Background

39. South Ribble Borough Council has committed to resettling ten ARAP refugee families from 2021-24.

40. To date, three families have been resettled in South Ribble as part of this scheme; open to individuals/ families who have worked for or alongside the UK government in Afghanistan in 'exposed or meaningful' positions. This heightens the risk of them being targeted by the Taliban or other forces.

41. When an ARAP application is made by an individual, for themselves or their family - it is initially considered by the Ministry of Defence. If deemed suitable when all the required information is submitted, the Home Office will then determine eligibility and communicate a decision.

42. Local authorities are asked to identify any properties which may be suitable for ARAP families; these are then matched by the Home Office. Councils have the right to decline or accept each match on a case by case basis. Factors considered may include availability of school places within a reasonable distance and / or accessibility of health services.

Funding Allocated

43. The council is set to receive the following funding for this scheme:

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Item	Amount	Status
Housing Sourcing	£20,000	To be claimed
Furniture	£20,000	To be claimed
LA Officer Time	£30,000	To be claimed
Local Integration Fund	£40,000	To be claimed
TOTAL	£110,000	

44. These funds can be claimed in full once all five families have been settled within South Ribble, or 10% each time a family is settled.

Homelessness Prevention Grant

Background

45. On 10th June 2023, DLUHC announced that it has allocated £150m to homelessness prevention funding. This funding is allocated in relation to the proportion of Homes for Ukraine arrivals in each part of the UK, with £109.4m to England, £30.0m to Scotland, £8.2m to Wales, and £2.4m to Northern Ireland.
46. In England, the funding will be provided to local authorities as a top-up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), and is allocated 66% based on the existing Homelessness Prevention Grant allocations and 34% based on Homes for Ukraine arrivals (using the local authority data from 4th April 2023).
47. Although these allocations are calculated based on number of Ukrainian arrivals in the borough, the funds received are ringfenced for homelessness support and prevention, for all residents, not just those that are Ukrainian.
48. It is expected that funding will be used to support with private rent, employment access and sponsorship support.
49. The grant can be spent on Homes for Ukraine sponsor top-up, as long as the sponsor is willing to commit to a minimum of six months.
50. It must be spent in this financial year. It will be clawed back if not spent in accordance with the HPG grant conditions.

Funding Allocation for 2023/24

51. The council is set to receive an additional £72,377.

Grant Funding Overview

52. The below table shows an overview of the funds that are currently available and that are incoming imminently from grant funding.

Current budgets

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Scheme	Amount Received	Amount to Receive	Total Amount
Homes for Ukraine	£91,000	£296,600	£387,600
Asylum Seeker Dispersal	£79,000	£195,750	£274,750
UK Resettlement Scheme	£0	£70,000	£70,000
Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy	£0	£110,000	£110,000
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£0	£72,377	£72,377
Total	£170,000	£744,727	£914,727

53. Although each scheme provides funding to support a specific cohort, all these schemes have flexible criteria and guidelines that enables to council to use the funds for both general (i.e. staffing) and specific (targeted support) purposes.

Impact on Internal Teams

54. To date, South Ribble Council has not had specific resource allocated supporting refugees and asylum seekers. These schemes have been managed through using existing resources within the Community Development and Housing Options teams.
55. The Community Development team frequently work with community partners to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers within South Ribble receive the support that they require. This includes but is not limited to:
- Attending drop-in sessions at Leyland Hotel,
 - Coordinating Homes for Ukraine sponsorship payments,
 - Providing essentials for refugee and asylum seeker families i.e. food, clothing, school uniform,
 - Preparing homes for refugee families,
 - Making referrals through to appropriate partner agencies for support.
56. Environmental Health receive requests to undertake postcode checks on areas where asylum seeker dispersal may take place. This is undertaken to ensure that asylum seekers are not accommodated in areas where anti-social behaviour or hate crime is an issue as this could further exacerbate community tensions. They also carry out property checks at all homes before they are approved to be sponsors for Homes for Ukraine guests.
57. The Housing Options team regularly support refugees to find temporary or emergency accommodation once they receive their 'Right to Remain' status. Once this status has been granted, Refugees are served a 28 day notice by the accommodation provider to vacate their Home Office accommodation, which is often not at the start of the process and this leaves little time to secure alternative living arrangements. The resource from the Housing team is intensive due to the complexity of the individuals and the additional support required to ensure they are fully supported.

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Support Available from Community Partners

58. In South Ribble, there are four main organisations that offer support to asylum seekers and refugees; SERCO, Calico, British Red Cross, and Citizens Advice.
59. SERCO is the contractor currently employed to source and manage properties nationally, as well as supporting dispersed asylum seekers on a day to day basis. SERCO also manages the day-to-day support for asylum seekers at Leyland Hotel.
60. Calico is the primary partner for the refugee resettlement programmes (UKRS and ARAP). They work with Lancashire County Council and District Council to identify properties and integrate families into new communities.
61. The British Red Cross have been commissioned by Lancashire County Council to deliver a drop-in support service at Leyland Baptist Church, providing specialist immigration advice and guidance.
62. Citizens Advice has also been offering immigration advice to asylum seekers for many years. However, their advisors are only trained to offer low-level immigration signposting support and access to interpreters can be a challenge.

Feedback from Partners

63. Priority areas for support include:
 - Access to health and wellbeing opportunities, such as gym memberships, exercise classes and alternative therapies,
 - Digital inclusion through access to devices and connectivity,
 - Health advocacy support,
 - Affordable transportation,
 - Access to community-based support and spaces to socialise.

Proposed Spend

64. The Communities team propose to undertake further scoping activity and develop a spending proposal for the grant funding which:
 - Mitigates the impact on internal teams,
 - Aligns to the priorities and needs of asylum seekers and refugees.
65. A Community Integration Officer is to be appointed on a fixed-term basis for 24 months, which will provide the needed capacity to ensure effective delivery of the schemes and its management to deliver targeted projects and interventions.
66. The Community Integration Officer will work across different services which include the Community Development team, Housing Options and the incoming Social Prescribing Team with the purpose of developing targeted community provision and opportunities that ensure refugees and asylum seekers receive the support that they need.
67. A high-level overview of proposed spend is outlined below:

Total Budget	£914,727	100%
Homes for Ukraine sponsor 'thank you' payments	£251,940	27.5%
Asylum seeker community integration support and projects	£410,410	44.9%

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Refugee community integration support and projects	£180,000	19.7%
Homelessness prevention	£72,377	7.9%

68. 27.5% of the funding is ring-fenced to 'Thank You' payments for Homes for Ukraine sponsors, however the remainder of the funding is flexible.
69. Funding from the Homelessness Prevention Grant will be directed into the Housing Options team to support service delivery in response to high demand for services (7.9%).
70. The funding allocated to 'asylum seeker community integration support and projects' (44.9%) will be used for targeted projects and interventions supporting those in Leyland Hotel, and in the Homes for Ukraine, and Asylum Seeker Dispersal schemes.
71. The funding allocated to 'refugee community integration support and projects' (19.7%) will be used for targeted projects and interventions supporting those in UKRS and ARAP schemes.
72. Recruited post(s) will be funded through both the 'asylum seeker community integration support and projects' (70%) and 'refugee community integration support and projects' (30%) budgets, with the officer(s) supporting both groups.
73. A Community Integration Officer will be recruited on a fixed-term 24-month contract to be the operation lead for these workstreams. Further scoping of specific interventions and project will be carried out once they are in post.
74. The Communities team recommend that these spending proposals be delegated for approval to the Executive Member for Communities, Leisure, and Wellbeing.

Climate change and air quality

75. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

76. Any proposals for expenditure will support the council's objectives around promoting equality and diversity. Refugees and asylum seekers are some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in society. The funding made available to local authorities to assist with the costs of supporting these communities will ensure inclusivity by allowing refugees and asylum seekers to participate in activities which encourage the development of personal resilience.
77. An impact assessment will be completed once proposals for expenditure have been fully scoped.

Risk

78. **Not spending funding** – if this funding is not spent within the timeframes outlined within each grant agreement, the funding must be returned to the provider. Scoping work will be carried out to ensure that community benefit is optimised through effective use of the funding.

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79. **Not meeting government requirements** – if government guidelines are not followed when spending the grants, funding could be clawed back. Government requirements will be given consideration throughout the scoping process to ensure that guidelines are followed.
80. All project proposals will be scoped accordingly, and risks identified through appropriate policies and procedures.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

81. We have received £170,000 of grant funding and there is a further allocation of funding yet to be received of £744,727 for the various grants mentioned above in point 54. A high-level overview of the proposed spend has been tabled in point 70 with the total of £914,727. Expenditure will only be made in line with relevant conditions and on assurance it can be fully externally funded.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

82. This is a comprehensive report on the grant funding to be received in this area. Authority is sought to receive these monies and create appropriate budgets. Because of the need to move quickly at times delegated authority is also sought for appropriate decision making powers.

Background documents

83. There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Reece Drew (Community Development Team Leader)	reece.drew@southribble.gov.uk	01772 62 5461	20/06/2023

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Agenda Item 12



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Property, Assets, Commercial Services and Major Developments))	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

New Budget for Tardy Gate Play area and Skate Park

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Not applicable

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is asking Council to approve the addition of a new budget in the Council's approved capital programme for the refurbishment of Tardy Gate Play Area, including the ball court skate area.

Recommendations to Council

2. That Council approve the inclusion of a new budget in the Council's capital programme of £275,000 for the refurbishment of Tardy Gate Play Area, including the ball court and skate area.
3. In order to fund this, that Council agree to the virement of £275,000 from the existing Neighbourhood Improvement Fund capital scheme budget to a new budget for the Tardy Gate Play Area project in Lostock Hall.

Reasons for recommendations

4. To progress the aspirations for the investment in Tardy Gate play area at Lostock Hall, a new budget of over £100,000 is required to be added to the Council's approved capital programme which requires a full Council decision.

Other options considered and rejected

5. The Council could decide not to take this project forward, however, the development of community facilities in the Lostock Hall area is seen as a priority by the Council. This project has also been identified as an objective within the Community Hub Plan.

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Corporate priorities

6. Relevant Corporate priorities highlighted in bold

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

7. Over recent years the Council has embarked on a programme of play area renewal to refurbish the oldest sites and to local community hub and political aspirations. Play areas that have been refurbished and renewed in recent years have included:

- a. Hurst Grange Park, Penwortham
- b. Birch Avenue, Penwortham
- c. Ryden Avenue, Leyland
- d. Strawberry Valley Park, Leyland
- e. Bellis Way, Walton-Le-Dale
- f. The Holme Playing Field, Bamber Bridge
- g. Worden Park, Leyland
- h. Seven Stars, Leyland
- i. Leadale Green, Leyland
- j. Haig Avenue, Leyland
- k. Moss Side, Leyland

8. The programme of playground improvement for the financial year 2023/24 currently has earmarked the refurbishment of the following play areas. The budget for these schemes is already in place:

- a. New Longton Play Area
- b. Longton Play Area
- c. King George V playing field (Penwortham) Play area

9. Over recent months the local community in Lostock Hall through the Community Hub have been asking that the Council consider investment in the Tardy Gate play area site, which currently comprises of a large black bitmac area with the following facilities last refurbished in 2006/7:

- a. A fenced toddler and junior play area
- b. Items of equipment geared towards older children
- c. A ball court with goal ends and basketball hoops and open sides
- d. Four small items of skate equipment including a ramp and grind rails
- e. A youth shelter.

10. Adjacent to the large bitmac area is a grass football pitch to the south and a grass area to the east that may be suitable for moving/extending skate facilities into.

11. The Lostock Hall area is a busy part of the Borough where there are opportunities for investment into the community facilities. This proposed new budget in the capital programme will allow a project to go forward which will improve children's play facilities on the Tardy Gate site. The proposed project is a key ambition in the Community Hub plan and will be welcomed by the local community of Lostock Hall.

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The Proposal

12. The proposal that is been put before Council is the setting up of a new budget for the improvement of children's facilities on the open space at Tardy Gate Lostock Hall.
13. The proposed budget for the project would be £275,000 funded through virement from the existing capital programme budget for neighbourhood improvements which is currently unallocated.
14. The project will be finalised and funded by the budget once set up and agreed by Councillors will include the following elements:
 - a. The refurbishment and renewal of the existing play area
 - b. The refurbishment and improvement of the ball court area
 - c. The improvement of skate/wheeled facilities
 - d. An improvement of the appearance and design of the play area
15. The final project will be tendered as a design and build contract to include the elements above against the budget available for the project on a fixed price basis. This is the usual approach that is taken with regards to improving play areas across the Borough.

Consultation

16. As part of forming a brief for bidders, a consultation exercise will take place with the local community ensuring local views and aspirations help shape the planned project.

Climate change and air quality

16. The work noted in this report impact on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's Green Agenda:
 - Reducing waste production.
17. The following remediations have been undertaken to limit the environmental effect:
 - Waste materials arising from the works including timber, metal and stone, will be reused on site where possible and recycled off site where needed minimising the amount of material disposed of at landfill.

Equality and diversity

18. One of the key ambitions of the project above is to increase Equality of accessibility to the Children's community facilities available on Tardy Gate. A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure the team consider equality prior to the design stage of the works.

Risk

19. A Risk Register is in place for capital improvement works to play areas.
20. There is always a risk of misuse and vandalism of play areas and therefore design specifications seek to ensure equipment and other facilities are as robust as possible whilst remaining attractive and providing high levels of play value.

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Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

21. An unallocated budget of £360k is in place within the capital programme for Neighbourhood Improvement schemes. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available within this budget to complete the virement of £275k required to set up the new capital scheme for Tardy Gate Play Area and Skate Park.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

22. The proposal to establish a budget to fund improvement works to the Tardy Gate play area is reasonable and justified within the body of the report.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – An existing plan of the site

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Anderson, Greg Clark Head of Parks and Open Spaces, Programme Manager Parks and Open Space Projects	neil.anderson@southribble.gov.uk, greg.clark@southribble.gov.uk	5540	July 23

Agenda Item 12

Appendix 1



Date Created: 26/06/2023

Tardy Gate Play Area, Lostock Hall

Author:



Map Scale: 1:5,000
Map Centre: 354,367 425,877



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Agenda Item 13



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing))	Council	Wednesday, 19 th July 2023

Enhancement of the Community Hub Structures

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. This report brings forward a proposed enhancement to the boundaries of the Community Hubs and recommends the appointment of the new Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's Community Hubs.

Recommendations to Council

2. That Council approves the proposed amendments to the Community Hub boundaries as outlined in the report;
3. That Council approves the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the period of twelve months until the First Business Meeting of the Council in May 2024.

Reasons for recommendations

4. To ensure we continue to enhance the Community Hubs by amending the boundaries of the Hubs and appointments are made to the Chairs and Vice-Chair positions.

Other options considered and rejected

5. Not applicable.

Corporate priorities

6. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

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Background to the report

7. After consulting with Councillors, Council partners and members of the public, it has been proposed to reverse the decision taken on the 15th May 2019 to change the boundaries of the Community Hubs. The proposal to re-establish the previous Community Hub boundaries is made in order to strengthen communications with members of the local community and to increase their involvement in Council decisions about services which affect them.
8. During the election period members of our communities in the Central villages spoke very strongly about the re-establishment of the Central Villages Hub. The changes to the Hubs are detailed in paragraph 11 in the report.
9. It is also necessary to recommend the appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Community Hubs until the First Business Meeting of the Council in May 2024 Municipal year set out in paragraph 12 of the report.

Proposal

10. It is proposed to reverse the 15th May 2019 changes to the Hub boundaries and also change the name of the some of the Community Hubs. The proposed arrangements are:

- 1) **Western Parishes**

Hoole, Longton and Hutton West, New Longton and Hutton East

- 2) **Penwortham**

Broad Oak, Charnock, Howick and Priory, Middleforth

- 3) **Central Villages**

Farington East, Farington West and Lostock Hall

- 4) **Leyland**

Broadfield, Buckshaw and Worden, Earnshaw Bridge, Leyland Central, Moss Side, Seven Stars, St Ambrose.

- 5) **Bamber Bridge, Walton-Le-Dale and Eastern**

Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge West, Coupe Green and Gregson Lane, Samlesbury and Walton, Walton-le-Dale East, Walton-le-Dale West

11. The following Chairs and Vice-Chairs are recommended for appointment:

Community Hub Area	Chair	Vice Chair
Leyland	Councillor Colin Sharples	Councillor Jane Bell
Penwortham	Councillor Will Adams	Councillor David Howarth
Western	Councillor Margaret Smith	Councillor Will King
Bamber Bridge, Walton-Le-Dale and Eastern	Councillor James Gleeson	Councillor Emma Stevens
Central Villages	Councillor Paul Wharton - Hardman	Councillor Leslie Pritchard

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Climate change and air quality

12. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

13. There are no Equality and Diversity implications from this report.

Risk

14. The proposals set out in this report will ensure that the changes to the boundaries and appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs in accordance with the Council's Constitution. Failure to meet these requirements would leave the Council's decisions open to challenge.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

15. There are no additional costs arising from this report; the overall core revenue budget for the Community Hubs of £25,000 will remain the same, albeit that the allocations to the individual hubs may be adjusted as a result of the boundary changes.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

16. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities)	jmullin@southribble.gov.uk	01254 625625	03/07/23

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Agenda Item 14



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Change and Delivery (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Wealth Building, Social Justice, Equality and Diversity)	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

South Ribble Equality Objectives 2023/2027

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. To set out the Council's Equality Objectives for 2023-27 and seek approval from Council.

Recommendations to Council

2. To approve the Equality Objectives for 2023-2027

Reasons for recommendations

5. The Equality Act (2010) establishes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which provides the statutory framework for public bodies to address inequality and discrimination.
6. Under the specific requirements of the act, local authorities are required to put in place and publish Equality Objectives every four years.

Other options considered and rejected

5. No other options have been considered as the Council has a legal duty to undertake the publishing of its objectives.

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

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Background to the report

6. The Equality Act (2010) establishes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which provides the statutory framework for public bodies to address inequality and discrimination.
7. Under the specific requirements of the act, local authorities are required to put in place and publish Equality Objectives every four years. The objectives are required to set out how as a council we will meet our obligations under the Public Sector Duty to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
 - Advance equality of opportunity,
 - Foster good relations between those who share relevant characteristics and those who do not.
8. The Council last set objectives in 2018 and our current objectives are out of date and require refreshing.

Equality Objectives 2023/27

9. The Council is already undertaking a significant amount of positive action around the themes of equality and diversity. The objectives which have been defined and the associated actions for delivering outcomes against those objectives are based on the existing work and programmes of activity that the Council is committed too.
10. Whilst councils are required to state at least one objective, the Government Equalities Office recommends that the number of equality objectives must be proportionate to the size of an authority and achievable within the resources available to the organisation.
11. Five equality objectives have been identified for South Ribble to reflect ongoing commitments and programmes already being delivered.
12. The proposed objectives for the 2023/27 period are outlined below:

Duty	Objective
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	<p>Fostering and developing positive cultures and understanding: Inclusive cultures do not just happen, our leaders, managers and all our employees must understand and model inclusive behaviours.</p> <p>We will ensure our staff have the skills, knowledge and awareness to be able to deliver services fairly and challenge unfair treatment or inappropriate behaviours.</p>
Advance equality of opportunity	<p>Building an inclusive workforce: To help attract, recruit and retain the best people for the job, we will develop an open, collaborative and inclusive working environment where the principles of fairness and wellbeing is promoted, and everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential.</p>
	<p>Ensure adequate access to services for all All customers of the Council have a right to access services fairly and equally. To make sure we support each and every resident in</p>

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Duty	Objective
	the right way we will regularly review and makes changes where needed to our services.
Foster good relations between those who share relevant characteristics and those who do not	Support people in the community who are most in need We will focus on ensuring that the health and wellbeing needs of the whole community are being addressed now and, in the future.
	Involve our communities: We will work widely to involve local people through the Community Hubs and engage openly with our residents and service users, seeking to capture all points of view to make better informed decisions. Working with communities, involving them in decision making and listening to the lived experiences of all our residents is a key goal for the Council. We cannot tackle inequalities and exclusion without fostering good relations between people and understanding our diverse communities.

13. The Equality Objectives as set out are able to be integrated and embedded within the Council's existing strategies and programme of activities. The objectives and action plan seek to provide structure that clearly articulates how the council is meeting its public sector duty.
14. The full list of objectives and their associated actions is tabled at Appendix A.

Implementation and Delivery

15. Many of the programmes and activities are already part of core business or agreed programmes. However, it will be important to ensure that we make progress against the objectives and that we have appropriate monitoring over time. To achieve this, the role of the Equality Champions and heads of service/responsible officers is to work collaboratively through a quarterly meeting coordinated by the Transformation and Partnerships service, who will monitor and maintain an action plan together with updating the Cabinet Member for Wealth Building, Social Justice, Equality and Diversity.

Climate change and air quality

16. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

17. An assessment of equality and diversity has been undertaken which has helped to identify those areas we should focus on, and in line with our existing commitments and work programmes, reflect those priority areas the council has already identified.
18. At the organisational level, the assessment identifies the role of training and opportunities for us to promote ways for us to better understand the needs of employees within the council.

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19. For our communities, the assessment highlights the widening gap in inequalities and issues such as the cost of living, impacting the wider determinants of health and wellbeing which the objectives and actions seek to mitigate.
20. The nature of the activities and programme outlined are at the heart of the Council's commitment to supporting equality and diversity. The activities will have a positive impact in supporting the organisation to improving the quality of information we collect around equalities so that we can better assess and understand local and employee needs.
21. It also provides an opportunity through our equality Champions to provide a forum and space to openly challenge and support the way in which we advance equality and diversity across services and take forward within our culture the approach to seek continual improvement to ensuring our services are accessible.

Risk

22. The risk to delivery is capacity across the organisation to complete the activities outlined in the action plan. However, as the majority of activities fall within existing programmes and service delivery, this mitigates risk against failure to deliver.
23. The action plan can be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the activities to achieve the objectives are relevant and effective.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

24. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

25. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective. Our Equality Objectives are designed to ensure that we fulfil our statutory duties.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix A Equality Objectives 2023/27 Action Plan

Appendix B Impact Assessment

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Howard Anthony (Interim Shared Services Lead - Transformation and Partnerships)	howard.anthony@southribble.gov.uk	01257 515670	14/06/2023

Appendix A Equality Objectives 2023/27 Action Plan

Duty	Objective	Actions	Measures
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	<p>Fostering and developing positive cultures and understanding: Ensure our staff have the skills, knowledge and awareness to be able to deliver services fairly and challenge unfair treatment or inappropriate behaviours</p> <p>Inclusive cultures do not just happen, our leaders, managers and all our employees must understand and model inclusive behaviours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Staff undertake equalities training and have awareness of equality issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 90% completion rate of Equality training module on the Learning Hub
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver an Equality Champion Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 volunteer employees as Community Champions
Advance equality of opportunity	<p>Building an inclusive workforce: To help attract, recruit and retain the best people for the job, we will develop an open, collaborative and inclusive working environment where the principles of fairness and wellbeing is promoted, and everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve data capture and analysis in relation to equalities monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved rate of completion on work force profile
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage applications from more diverse groups of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of apprenticeships and work placements offered by South Ribble Council.
	<p>Ensure adequate access to services for all All customers of the Council have a right to access services fairly and equally. To make sure we support each and every resident in the right way we will regularly review and makes changes where needed to our services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Impact assessments on key services to ensure access to fair and equitable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % impact assessments reviewed and updated
Foster good relations between those who share relevant characteristics and those who do not	<p>Support people in the community who are most in need</p> <p>We will focus on ensuring that the health and wellbeing needs of the whole</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain an equality profile of the borough to identify needs amongst our communities 	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the social prescribing service to address health inequalities and target 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people accessing social prescribing service

Duty	Objective	Actions	Measures
	community are being addressed now and, in the future.	<p>based on discovered needs from the Equality profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the cost of Living Action Plan and target based on discovered needs from the Equality profile 	-
	<p>Involve our communities: We will work widely to involve local people through the Community Hubs and engage openly with our residents and service users, seeking to capture all points of view to make better informed decisions.</p> <p>Working with communities, involving them in decision making and listening to the lived experiences of all our residents is a key goal for the Council. We cannot tackle inequalities and exclusion without fostering good relations between people and understanding our diverse communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake the Residents Survey every two years to ensure we get representative views on delivery of council services • Continue to engage with the Youth Council to represent views of young people in the Borough who are often least heard • Deliver the Social Justice Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of residents felt that they belong to their local area • % satisfied with their local area as a place to live <p>-</p>

Impact Assessment (IA)

Name of the project, policy, service, or strategy:	Equality Objectives 2023 - 2027		
Responsible officer:	Howard Anthony, Interim Head of Performance and Partnerships		
Service Lead:	Victoria Willet, Director of Change and Delivery		
Date of assessment:	15/06/2023	Date of review:	

Introduction

Overview

What is an Impact Assessment?

The Impact Assessment is a tool to ensure that any policy, project, strategy, or service is assessed to consider any positive or negative impacts for all our residents with regards to equalities, health and sustainability. It is important that this is done in a timely manner and ideally it should precede the start of the project, policy or strategy concerned at Chorley Council or South Ribble Borough Council.

Who is the Impact Assessment for?

The responsibility of conducting the Impact Assessment is with the leading officer of the policy that is being assessed, with service leads responsible for the final sign off of the assessment. Once complete and signed off, the Impact Assessments are submitted to Performance and Partnerships, who are responsible for storing, monitoring, and ensuring the quality of the assessments. The assessment tool covers both Chorley and South Ribble Borough Council.

Why do we need to do Impact Assessments?

As Councils, we are committed as community leaders, service providers, and employers. Therefore, we will work to ensure that everybody is afforded equality of opportunity and good life chances. The Impact Assessment is a tool we use to ensure that we fulfil these commitments and thus meet our legal duties.

Instructions

Quick steps for completion

Follow the quick steps below when completing the Impact Assessment:

1. Sections: There are three sections to the Impact Assessment. These include:

- Equality impact: the impact on the nine equality strands, which include age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership. See the **Equality Framework**.
- Health and environmental impact: the impact on health and wellbeing as well as the environment.
- Reputational impact: the impact on the Councils' reputation and our ability to deliver our key priorities. Reference should be made to the Corporate Strategies.

2. Rating and evidence: Each section has a number of questions that should be given a rating and evidence given for why the rating has been selected. This allows us to quantify the impact. The rating key is outlined below:

Code	Description
P	Positive impact
N	Negative impact
NI	Neutral impact

3. Actions: Once a rating is given, actions should be identified to mitigate any negative impacts or maximise any positive impacts of the policy, project, or strategy that is being assessed.

4. Sign off: Once the assessment is completed, sign off is required by a Service Lead.

5. Submit: Once signed off, the Impact Assessment should be sent to the Performance and Partnerships Team, who will store the assessment securely and check for quality.

6. Follow up: Actions should be implemented and changes should be made to the policy, project, or strategy that has been assessed, with follow ups conducted annually to monitor progress.

Information and Support

Contact details

To submit your completed Impact Assessment or for guidance and support, please contact Performance and Partnerships at performance@chorley.gov.uk or performance@southribble.gov.uk

Equality Impact

Area for consideration	P	N	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity have upon:					
Those of different ages?	X			<p>The Equality and Diversity Objectives have a positive impact on all the protected characteristics and our additional area of socio economic cohesion.</p> <p>The objectives provide a comprehensive and holistic approach to both communities and our workforce through a programme of activity that will identify where we need to take action as well as improving awareness and understanding.</p> <p>We know that the number of South Ribble Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in the bottom 20% of most deprived areas in England has worsened since 2015 in terms of health, with 8 out of 70 LSOA in South Ribble now the bottom 20% for health deprivation compared to 6 in 2015. This can have a disproportionate impact on those who already face barriers within our communities. The objectives set out in the plan to support people in the community who are most in need and ensure adequate access to services for all should have a positive impact on those who face barriers.</p>	
Those with physical or mental disability?	X				
Those who have undergone or are undergoing gender reassignment?	X				
Those who are pregnant or are parents?	X				
Those of different races?	X				
Those of different religions or beliefs?	X				
Those of different sexes?	X				
Those of different sexual orientations?	X				
Those who are married or in a civil partnership?	X				
Socio-economic equality or social cohesion?	X				

Health, Social and Environmental Impact

Area for consideration	P	N	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity have upon:					
Enabling residents to start well (pre-birth to 19)? <i>(Please consider childhood obesity, vulnerable families, and pregnancy care)</i>	X			The five objectives identified as part of the Equality and Diversity programme are wide ranging and include a number of activities that will support residents to start, live and age well. This is predominantly delivered through the objective to involve our communities and undertake work through our Youth Council as well as continuing to implement and deliver the social prescribing service and cost of living action plan. These activities are targeted towards those who are more likely to be impacted as a result of social determinants around employment, education, income, housing.	
Enabling residents to live well (16 to 75 years)? <i>(Please consider mental and physical wellbeing, living environment, healthy lifestyles, and improving outcomes)</i>	X				
Enabling residents to age well (over 65 years)? <i>(Please consider social isolation, living independently, dementia, and supporting carers and families)</i>	X				
Rurality? <i>(Please consider the impact of those who live in rural communities, their access to services/activities)</i>	X				
Natural environment? <i>(Please consider impact on habitation, ecosystems, and biodiversity)</i>			X	There are no direct impacts identified as part of this activity	
Air quality and pollution? <i>(Please consider impact on climate change, waste generation, and health)</i>			X	There are no direct impacts identified as part of this activity	
Natural resources? <i>(Please consider the use of materials and as well as transport methods and their sustainability)</i>			X	There are no direct impacts identified as part of this activity	

Strategic Impact

Area for consideration	P	N	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:					
The Councils' reputation? <i>(Please consider impact on trust, confidence, our role as community leaders, and providing value for money)</i>	X			<p>The Equality Act (2010) establishes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which provides the statutory framework for public bodies to address inequality and discrimination.</p> <p>Under the specific requirements of the act, local authorities are required to put in place and publish Equality Objectives every four years.</p> <p>If the council did not set its objectives it would negatively impact its reputation.</p>	
Our ability to deliver the Corporate Strategy? <i>(Please refer to the Strategic Objectives)</i>	X			<p>An exemplary council – the programme of activity will contribute towards this priority through understanding our community (this is through undertaking our residents survey and establishing an equality profile for the borough), ensuring we have adequate access to services for our residents.</p> <p>As part of the priorities Thriving Communities and a Fair local economy the activities will support those in our community most in need with interventions and programme of support such as the cost of living action plan and the social justice programme.</p>	

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Change and Delivery (Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications))	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

South Ribble UKSPF Programme

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Not applicable

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with an overview of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) framework for South Ribble Borough Council.

Recommendations to Council

2. To approve the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Delivery Framework for South Ribble in order to progress delivery of the fund and to begin commissioning of the programmes within it.
3. To accept £3,367,878 of the UKSPF from the UK Government.
4. To delegate authority to the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council to take the necessary decisions and actions required to accept the allocation of funds, as well as to implement and administer the scheme and with relevant Cabinet Members on all related plans in accordance with the requirements and priorities of the UKSPF prospectus and fund.

Reasons for recommendations

5. It is important to have a clear framework and principles for delivery of UKSPF aligned to the requirements of the fund and endorsed by Members. However, it may be necessary to adjust delivery to ensure that funds are allocated where they can have most impact and remain responsive to opportunities as they arise throughout the timescales of the programme.
6. To ensure momentum within the delivery timescales and reduce the chance of delay, which would raise the risk of not spending the full allocation or achieving the necessary outcomes and outputs. It is therefore appropriate for the authority to

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approve final delivery plans to be delegated to the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Other options considered and rejected

7. No other options have been considered, as it is essential to have clear governance and decision-making routes in place that comply with the requirements of the UKSPF programme.

Executive summary

8. Following the launch of UKSPF in April 2022, the Council was invited to submit an Investment Plan by August 2022, setting out the local priorities and outcomes it wished to achieve, aligned to the interventions of the Fund which has an overarching aim to build pride in place and increase life chances.
9. The Council received notification from the government in December of its allocation for 2022/2023 and the indicative allocation for 2023/2024 – 2024/2025. UKSPF provides funding for a three-year period, April 2022 – March 2025. South Ribble Borough Council was allocated £3,367,878 of UKSPF for this period. The Council also received £20k capacity funding to support the development of the Investment Plan.
10. Due to the value, complexity and time limited nature of the UKSPF, the general approach adopted for year one of the programme was to align the fund with existing Council activity that supported UKSPF priorities, particularly where it would bring 'added value'. Further work has been undertaken to develop the actions for 2023-25 which will be designed and scoped to ensure delivery within the timescales of the programme. This report sets out a framework for delivery of the UKSPF programme, including the interventions, outputs, outcomes and spend profile.

Corporate priorities

11. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

12. UKSPF is one of a number of funds aligned to the Levelling Up agenda and forms the Government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which the UK ceases to participate in beyond 2023. These programmes have been essential for local regeneration, business support, employment and skills.
13. The UKSPF programme has an overarching aim of building pride in place, reducing inequalities and increasing life chances across the UK with 3 key investment priorities identified:

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- i. **Communities and Place** – fostering a sense of pride and belonging through improvements to enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities including community infrastructure, green space and community-led projects. The emphasis is on resilient and safe neighbourhoods.
 - ii. **Supporting Local Businesses** – Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by promoting networking, collaboration and interventions that bring stakeholders together and stimulate innovation and growth. The emphasis is on small and medium sized businesses to work together, using low carbon technology to grow exports.
 - iii. **People and Skills** – boosting core skills and access to work across the working age population to promote economic inclusion and reduce economic inactivity. This is supplemented by the national ‘multiply’ funding which focuses on improving numeracy.
14. UKSPF is designed to complement not duplicate other provision and it is recommended that the wider funding landscape for People and Skills is considered to ensure that funding is effectively targeted and delivered efficiently. This includes at a local and national programme level such as DWP/Job Centre Plus activity and Adult Education budget. It should be noted that activity around People and Skills could not take place until year 3 of the programme. It has since been confirmed that underspend from year 1 can be used to deliver skills activities in year 2, however year 3 funding cannot be brought forward. Due to the late nature of the announcement, the majority of Lancashire councils are not intending on undertaking skills programmes until year 3. This provides additional time to develop the proposals for year 3 that focus on meeting the local employment and skills needs and deliver the key objective within the Economic Strategy.

Fund Priorities and Investment Plan

15. The UKSPF prospectus specifies 41 interventions across the three investment priorities that lead authorities had to choose from to reflect local priorities. For each intervention there were also a set of outcomes and outputs that had to be selected to demonstrate delivery. Lead authorities were required to submit a proposed Investment Plan in August 2022, identifying the interventions to be prioritised for their area and the outcomes they wish to achieve.
16. Within the Council’s Investment Plan a number of key themes and priorities were identified that formed the context and basis for selecting the interventions, outcomes and outputs. The interventions that form the basis for the South Ribble Borough Council programme are set out in the table below. The approach to delivering the plan includes a balance of reinforcing local delivery, addressing gaps in provision based upon current and forecasted needs / demands and identifying those activities that will benefit from delivery at scale and with a partner.

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Priorities

Communities & Place

Community Resilience

- Tackling pockets of deprivation and inequality, particularly affecting children, and young people with rising levels of food poverty.
- Improving access to services and balancing more equal engagement across diverse urban and rural cultures in the borough
- Building on the South Ribble Together work, increasing our understanding of local communities and designing services based on local need.
- Supporting an aging population to live well thereby reducing pressure on public services particularly health.
- Building on pilots of social prescribing during the pandemic, increasing early intervention to address wider determinants of health.

Community Spaces

- Reviving the high streets to retain identity and draw people back into the urban areas building on Town Deal plans.
- Developing the offer at Worden Hall to encourage visitors and share the area's heritage building to foster greater pride in place.
- Developing schemes that are complementary to the Town Deal aspirations, extending benefits to wider areas across the borough.

Local Businesses

Town Centre

- Maximising the opportunity to accelerate and extend Town Deal plans through support for the market and independent traders.
- Promoting shop local behaviours and providing an attractive retail proposition for shoppers and visitors.

Visitor Economy

- Delivering the refreshed tourism strategy to encourage visitors post pandemic by promoting key attractions and undertaking regional place marketing to encourage wider profile and investment.

Productivity and Sustainability

- Although productivity has been improving it is still lower than regional levels with lower growth in higher productivity sectors. A key challenge is to drive future growth in highly productive sectors through targeted support.
- Retain and expand inhouse business support to facilitate and drive future growth in key sectors.
- Deliver additional grants and advice for key sectors including start-ups.
- Establishing greater dialogue with businesses and promoting collaboration across sectors.

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- Developing a tailored approach to developing commercial space for businesses.
- Extending the Community Wealth Building agenda to increase local ownership of business and encourage a greater share in wealth and decision making locally.

Climate Change

- supporting businesses to reduce emissions and transition to net zero by facilitating knowledge sharing and increasing capability for decarbonisation.

Innovation and exportation

- investment and support for innovation, continuing to lead and drive new market development.

Recruitment and skills

- Addressing skill shortages to help ensure the future skills pipeline meets business needs.
- Linking industry with education and training provision to align and incentivise future career pathways.
-

People and Skills

Employability

- Targeting economically inactive cohorts in specific neighbourhoods aligned to areas of deprivation. Particularly there has been increases in unemployment among younger residents.
- Extend employability service and support for businesses to carry out workforce skills analysis.
- Developing digital and high-level skills to meet higher growth sector skill shortages.

Aging workforce

- Increase digital accessibility among aging population with digital outreach programmes.

17. The Framework for delivering the UKSPF programme is contained in Appendix A. This sets out the interventions, types of projects and allocation of funding for the 3-year programme.
18. A number of the projects highlighted against the interventions in Appendix A will be delivered directly by the Council or the Council will procure or commission organisations that are already established and specialists in providing specific activities that meet the Council's priorities. This includes commissioning of community service providers and specialist business support and advice.

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19. In addition, a number of projects will be open for applications from potential delivery partners and businesses. This includes an allocation of £300k (supported by both Chorley and South Ribble Councils) to develop a variety of community initiatives that encourage partners to work together to build community capacity and tackle the wider determinants of health and inequalities in a connected and cohesive local system. This will be administered through the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership. Further details on how this will be accessed will be publicised in due course.

UKSPF Budget Allocations

20. In December 2022, the Council received approval of its investment plan and confirmation of the funding allocation awarded from UKSPF; the table below shows the allocation over a three-year period:

UKSPF Grant Allocation	Capital Funding £'000	Revenue Funding £'000	Capacity Funding £'000	Total
2022-23	83	326	20	429
2023-24	165	652	-	817
2024-25	434	1,707	-	2,141
Total	682	2,685	20	3,387

21. The UKSPF guidance allows for 4% of the total programme to be used for administration of the funding. This is being used to support the development and delivery of the programme in South Ribble and forming a contribution to posts that are directly involved in the management of the programme.
22. Year one of the UKSPF could support schemes delivered from 1 April 2022. Members will note from the Revenue Budget 2023, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme Report 2023-2026 that was presented to Council on the 1st March 2023, that due to the value of the UKSPF, complexity and its time limited nature, the general approach adopted when selecting the interventions and to ensure best value for money within year one has been to align existing activity to the fund, particularly where it would bring 'added value'. Additional capital funding has been added to year 1 spend. This is allowed within the rules of UKSPF. Appendix A sets out the framework for delivery including the interventions which have 2022/23 spend allocated to them.
23. Activity for 2023-25 has required detailed design and scoping which continues to be undertaken and a full delivery plan will be set out in due course. Where the Council may wish to procure or commission external services and support to deliver UKSPF priorities, legal advice and assistance will be provided to ensure that all requirements of the fund are met and that the best approach is taken in ensuring value for money in line with the council's financial and procurement processes. This could include Service Level Agreements, grants, competitive grants or full procurement or commissioning processes.
24. Appendix B sets out the allocation of funding against each of the UKSPF investment priorities. Since the submission of the investment plan, project scoping has resulted in some movement of budget across investment priorities to ensure that the funding is being used to have maximum impact whilst meeting UKSPF programme criteria.

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The table in Appendix B shows the original allocation, the current allocation and the spend that has occurred in year 1.

The Role of Local Partnerships in UKSPF

25. Lead authorities are tasked with working with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders to achieve the UKSPF outcomes in their areas. In line with UKSPF requirements, a comprehensive and balanced local partnership group will be a core component of how the fund is administered locally
26. The Chorley and South Ribble Partnership is strongly positioned to undertake a leading role and exists to promote collaborative working across the area and comprises a mix of public, private and third sector organisations representing communities, housing, health, education and business sectors at a strategic level.
27. The Partnership is focused on building strong communities and outcomes for residents by reducing inequalities, making it easier to access local services and strengthening growth in the area's economy. Partners share intelligence, accelerate integration and influence other major players to get the best outcomes for the people of South Ribble. The partnership is also part of a wider integrated governance structure for Central Lancashire and the wider region ensuring links to key policy agendas and decision makers.
28. The primary role of the partnership in UKSPF will be to act in an advisory capacity, receiving regular updates on delivery and providing guidance on strategic fit with local priorities and deliverability. It is proposed that this ongoing involvement will be facilitated through the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership.

Climate change and air quality

29. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils' Green Agenda:
 - a. net carbon zero by 2030,
 - b. working with sustainable and green accredited companies,
 - c. improving green areas and biodiversity.

Equality and diversity

30. UKSPF seeks to reduce inequalities in communities, build pride in place and improve life chances. The programme provides the opportunity to consider the latest demographic information, policy context and implications for services in setting out support for those in communities who may have unfair disadvantages in accessing support, services and opportunities.
31. UKSPF is delivered through to 31 March 2025 and as each project is implemented, an equality impact assessment will be undertaken to consider the equality and diversity implications.

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Risk

32. Government had initially indicated that any underspend in each year would be lost, however, due to the delay in funding allocations being confirmed, underspend from 2022/23 can be carried forward into this financial year (2023/24) providing that a credible plan is submitted setting out how it will be utilised in the next year. To help mitigate against this, programme design and delivery for year one has largely been based around existing delivery mechanisms and added value to existing activity.
33. Year two and three activity will need to be carefully monitored and planned to ensure effective use of the fund and that delivery can be completed by the end of the programme, March 2025. There is a risk that if there is underspend at the end of the programme or that projects have failed to deliver within the timescales of the programme, the funding would need to be returned to government.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

34. Budgets were established within budget setting 2023/24 for UKSPF. Because spend can be of a capital or revenue nature budgets were established within revenue but will require adding to the capital programme where necessary according to the nature of the spend. This will be reported through the quarterly financial monitoring reports.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

35. There are no Monitoring Officer concerns with the report. Because of the speed with which we need to move delegated authority is sought for the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Leader to take all necessary steps to make the necessary decisions to accept the allocation of funds as well as to implement the scheme. This must be in accordance with the UKSPF Programme. The overall focus of the programme dovetails with some key priorities and concerns of the council.

Background documents

Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme Report 2023-2026

Appendices

Appendix A: UKSPF Framework

Appendix B: Funding allocations by investment priority

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Michelle Horrocks (Head of Economic Growth)	michelle.horrocks@southribble.gov.uk	01257 515425	22/06/2023

Appendix A: South Ribble BC UKSPF Framework

UKSPF Priority	UKSPF Intervention	Project	Lead	Allocation	Capital/ Revenue
C&P	E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs	Commercial space refurbishment grants and improvements to local highways and Worden Park /Hall.	Council	350,000	Cap
C&P	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces	Environmental and place improvements, including apprenticeship post to support delivery	Council	240,000	200,000 Cap 40,000 Rev
C&P	E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer	Support local cultural venues	Council	50,000	Cap
C&P	E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area	Place marketing and tourism development	Council	45,000	Rev
C&P	E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places	Community engagement and volunteering	Council	100,000	Rev
C&P	E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	Support delivery of Chorley and South Ribble partnership strategy and commissioning	Commissioned services	110,000	Rev
C&P	E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration	Programme of targeted activity including social prescribing, youth engagement, community grants, equalities.	Council – grants and capacity	353,163	Rev
C&P	E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies	Feasibility studies to support future investment, potentially linked to collective energy storage.	Council	200,000	Rev
LB	E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses	Support for town centre and local service centres, including markets and independent traders	Council	230,000	Rev
LB	E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.	Town centre events and activities	Council	40,000	Rev
LB	E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level	Business support for start-ups and innovation	Council	160,000	Rev
LB	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks	Delivery of economic strategy and business support including community wealth building	Council / Commissioned services	370,000	Rev

UKSPF Priority	UKSPF Intervention	Project	Lead	Allocation	Capital/ Revenue
LB	E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment	Targeted support including business grants, business candidate matching scheme, AMRC low carbon support and international trade support.	Council / Commissioned services	825,000	200,000 Cap 625,000 Rev
P&S	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps	Support to access Work	Council	35,000	Rev
P&S	E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision	BASE skills support	Council	100,000	Rev
P&S	E41: Funding to support local digital skills	Digital Skills	Council	25,000	Rev

Appendix B: Funding allocations by investment priority

South Ribble Council		
	Original Allocation	Current Allocation
Communities & Place	1,217,878	1,448,163
Local Business	1,990,000	1,625,000
People & Skills	160,000	160,000
Programme management and delivery		134,715
Total	3,367,878	3,367,878

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Agenda Item 16

Councillor Foster,

I along with many of my Labour colleagues on the council note with concern reports that 131 staffed ticket offices in the north of England are currently being proposed to be closed.

I, and I am sure the view is shared by many of my labour colleagues, believe that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents in South Ribble. Having a clearly sign-posted place in the station for people with ticket enquiries provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff. Not all residents are able to use station ticket machines, or have the means to book a ticket in advance. Complicated journeys involving connections are likely to require human assistance to ensure customers purchase the most appropriate and cheapest tickets, and do not incur penalties from mis-booked tickets.

I am very concerned that the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect elderly and disabled residents in both Leyland and Buckshaw Village– as well as those with poor literacy and IT skills. I also am concerned about the possible implications for current station staff and the concerns that have been raised to me over possible staff redundancies by staff at the Leyland office. I therefore ask if you would support by asking the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Government Railways Minister, expressing Council's opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices – and in particular the offices at Buckshaw Village and Leyland, and request the Chief Executive to write to northern rail expressing the Council's opposition to any plans to close the staffed ticket office at Buckshaw Village and Leyland.

Paul Wharton-Hardman

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Agenda Item 19

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agenda Item 20

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