

## Lancashire County Council

### Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Tuesday, 15th March, 2011 at 2.30 pm in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall,  
Preston

#### Agenda

##### Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item	
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- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1.  | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>  |                 |
| 2.  | <b>Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests</b><br>Members are asked to consider any<br>Personal/Prejudicial<br>Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in<br>relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.   |                 |
| 3.  | <b>Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th December<br/>2010</b>   | (Pages 1 - 8)   |
| 4.  | <b>Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) -<br/>Consultation and Compliance Update</b>   | (Pages 9 - 16)  |
| 5.  | <b>Energy Strategy for Schools</b>  | (Pages 17 - 20) |
| 6.  | <b>Lancashire Insulation Fund</b>   | (Pages 21 - 26) |
| 7.  | <b>Adrenaline Gateway / Lee Quarry in Rossendale</b>  | (Pages 27 - 64) |
| 8.  | <b>The County Council's Duties as a Lead Local Flood<br/>Authority - Update</b>   | (Pages 65 - 74) |
| 9.  | <b>Urgent Business</b><br>An item of urgent business may only be considered<br>under this heading where, by reason of special<br>circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the<br>Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item<br>should be considered at the meeting as a matter of<br>urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive<br>should be given advance warning of any Member's<br>intention to raise a matter under this heading. |                 |
| 10. | <b>Date of Next Meeting / Schedule of Future Meetings</b>   |                 |

The next meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment will be held on Tuesday 12 July 2011 at 2.00pm, Cabinet Room 'B', County Hall Complex, Preston.

I M Fisher  
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall  
Preston

# Agenda Item 3

## Lancashire County Council

### Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th December, 2010 at 2.00 pm  
at the Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston**

#### Present:

County Councillor Michael Green (Chair)

#### County Councillors

M Calvert  
Mrs S Charles

Mrs J Hanson  
M Perks

#### Co-opted members

A Selby  
H Dicks

Lancashire Wildlife Trust  
Environment Agency

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Tim Ashton and Liz O'Neill (Environment Agency), Helen Dicks attended in her place.

#### 2. Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th October 2010

An update was provided on a matter arising from the previous minutes regarding queries to be raised with United Utilities. The Chairman, County Councillor Michael Green, reported that United Utilities have been invited to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 11 February 2011 and that he, as chair of this Committee, would be attending to raise any questions or queries the Cabinet Committee has.

The Chairman asked for Cabinet Committee members to email any questions or queries to be raised with United Utilities to the clerk, Andy Milroy, by 14 December 2010 via email: [andy.milroy@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.milroy@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### 4. Support for Schools to Manage Impact of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

Matthew Tidmarsh presented the report. Matthew updated the Committee and explained that The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 requiring the County Council to register as a participant by the end of September 2010. The County is obligated to include the carbon emissions from and consequently purchase carbon allowances for, schools as well as retained buildings. The scheme does not allow the Council to pass these costs back to schools.

Matthew also informed the Committee that decisions have been taken by the Lancashire Schools' Forum with regard to supporting schools' participation in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme; namely:

- The decision to use the Directorate for Children and Young People (CYP) centrally held reserve to hedge against penalty payments arising from carbon trading and recycling of revenue, and;
- The provision of a loan fund, also supported from the CYP centrally held reserve of £600,000 in 2011/12 to help schools achieve carbon and energy savings.

Matthew explained that this centrally held loan fund of £600,000 allows schools to borrow money to invest in energy and carbon reduction measures. Any loans will be interest free but must be paid back within 5 years. Matthew summarised his report and advised the Committee that they will be kept updated on developments with the scheme.

**Resolved:** The Committee agreed to note the report and noted that the Committee will receive further reports in the future, as appropriate, updating on developments with the scheme.

## **5. Carbon Reduction Commitment - Update on Implications of Comprehensive Spending Review**

Matthew Tidmarsh presented the report which followed on from the report presented to the Committee in July 2010 on the implications for Lancashire County Council of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) energy Efficiency Scheme. Matthew explained that this further report informs the Committee of the likely implications of the changes to the CRC scheme brought about as a result of the Government's recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

Matthew reported that the County Council will face a cost of approximately £1.8 million in 2012/13 for the purchase of carbon allowances although, as this relates to emissions in 2011/12 it will have to be accounted for in 2011/12. £900,000 of this will be for schools with currently no way of recharge. There is therefore, currently no incentive for schools to reduce their carbon emissions (although energy efficiency is still an effective means of reducing revenue running costs). The report proposed that this matter be raised with Government and they be urged to consider allowing participant Councils to pass the cost of purchasing carbon allowances to schools to restore the incentive element of the CRC scheme.

Matthew also explained that a league table of participants will still be published to act as a reputational driver for change, the league table may split into sections e.g. schools and private business but for now all participants are listed in one league table.

**Resolved:** The Committee then resolved to:

- a. Note the content of this report and the likely impact the changes to the CRC scheme will have on the County's participation.
- b. The Committee approved the proposal to respond to the current consultation by Government on the operation of the amended scheme and to directly address passing the cost of purchasing carbon allowances to schools.
- c. Noted that the Committee will receive further reports as details on the changes to the CRC scheme are made available.

## **6. Verbal Update on Awards**

Andy Mullaney updated the Committee on three recent projects:

1. A project to loan electricity monitors.
2. A project regarding a climate change awareness raising drama project run through schools.
3. A project regarding Carbon Capture on Moorlands.

Andy reported that all three projects received excellent feedback and had all finished in second place in each of their award categories. Although it was noted that the projects had not finished first, it was also noted that the finish second from a large number of projects was a significant achievement and the Committee formally thanked all involved in the projects for their success.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the update for all three projects and formally thanks all involved in the projects for their success.

## **7. Local Market development from the waste streams resulting from The Lancashire Waste Partnership PFI Project**

Sarah Holliday gave a presentation and outlined the work taking place to recycle materials. Sarah described recycling projects such as Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and In-vessel composting and Material Reclamation Facility (MRF) which are taking place through the Waste PFI Project.

Sarah also described Local Market Development and how they are looking at ways to establish a "closed loop" recycling process, e.g. Lancashire waste being used to make Lancashire products. Sarah's presentation included information about the LMD Programme, and explained all the partners involved in the Programme in addition to Lancashire County Council, and the mutual benefits for all.

Sarah also described projects that are in development including manufacture of Low Grade Mixed Plastic (MWP) Pellet to make plastic products such as kerbs and posts and other projects to manufacture / recycle bus shelters, paper products, mattresses and paving.

The Committee thanked Sarah for her presentation and for the work being undertaken to recycle Lancashire's waste. A question was raised by the Committee regarding manufacture of waste bins for households and if these could be made from recycled materials. Sarah confirmed that this was possible but one of the additional costs involved in the manufacture is that each District has different coloured waste / recycling bins and boxes and this increases the manufacturing cost.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the presentation and the Chairman agreed to make representations to the District Councils about having a uniform colour system for all waste / recycling bins.

## **8. Carbon capture and Peat bogs**

David Crawshaw gave a presentation on carbon capture and peat bogs. In his presentation David explained the process of how peat bogs are formed and how they capture carbon. David also explained how 98% of lowland mosslands in Lancashire have been lost or damaged in the last 100 years. The UK has 8% of the world's peat. David also explained how maintaining peat bogs makes a small positive contribution to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, where as peat extraction makes a large negative contribution to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

David described some of the projects that Lancashire Wildlife Trust and other partners are doing, including the Part of Living Landscapes concept project which the objectives are to acquire, restore and maintain mosslands.

The Committee discussed the need to lobby central Government to change the policy to prevent peat extraction. The chairman confirmed that he would do this.

**Resolved:** The Committee agreed to note the presentation and agreed that the Chairman should lobby central Government regarding the peat extraction policy.

## **9. 'Our Moors our Planet Project' Update and the Peat Partnership**

Elliott Lorimer presented the report which highlighted the 'Our Moors, Our Planet' project was established by the County Council (as part of its climate change agenda) to support the restoration and re-wetting of blanket bog and lowland raised bog habitats in Lancashire. These habitats are recognised internationally as vitally important carbon stores (or sinks).

At the completion of the initiative in March 2010, the County Council has supported five peatland projects across the county delivered by public, private and voluntary sector organisations. These projects have helped to:

- Restore and re-wet 94.5ha. of blanket bog and lowland raised bog habitats
- Re-profile and re-vegetate 5.2km of gully edges
- Block 3.1km of moorland grips (or ditches)

These habitat improvements will help to reduce carbon loss (in the short term) and promote carbon capture (in the longer term). In addition, these priority habitats and associated species will now be more likely to be able to adapt to future climate change. The projects will also help to reduce downstream flood risk and moorland wild fires.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the report.

#### **10. Urgent Business**

None.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting / Schedule of Future Meetings**

It was reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 15 March 2011 at 2.30pm, Cabinet Room 'B', County Hall Complex, Preston.

Ged Fitzgerald  
Chief Executive

County Hall  
Preston





## **Scrutiny Committee**

### **Summary of meeting 11 February 2011 with United Utilities and Electricity North West.**

The Committee received presentations from representatives of Electricity North West (ENW) and United Utilities (UU)

The presentations covered Street Lighting faults and connections; Water management (principally on the hosepipe ban 2010); water quality; flood risk assessment; and streetworks

The discussion was wide ranging. Area of particular interest to the Cabinet Committee were:

#### **Water management**

UU explained the events leading up to the hosepipe ban imposed on 9 July 2010 (lifted on 19 August 2010). It was explained that actions taken were in line with UU's published drought plan, following the driest 7 month period in 74 years.

In response to questions, UU advised the reservoir levels were currently at 96% of average levels for the time of year, compared to 91% last year, and stressed that hosepipe bans were uncommon in the North West, the last one before 2010 being in 1996.

Committee questions focussed on the question of tackling areas with longstanding problems of flooding. Whilst UU advised that such areas tended to be caused by a complex set of factors, there was some feeling that UU ought to be doing more to address those areas suffering from repeat flooding.

Some concern was also expressed at the current level of water supply loss caused by leaks. The figure was at 22%, and this was not forecast to fall significantly in the future. Whilst this figure had virtually halved since 1995, the committee expressed some concern at what was perceived to be a high level, and the lack of intended action. UU said their customer research indicated a willingness to accept occasional hosepipe bans in preference to higher bills to pay for leaks. This area was one of concern for members.

#### **Water Quality**

The Committee were updated with the position on deemed discharge consents, recognising that UU's objections were essentially based on practical issues, and that they were working with the Environment Agency on these.

The committee also heard evidence that the decline in bathing water quality was largely due to urban diffuse pollution and adverse weather conditions in Summer 2010. Work had taken place to tackle specific "point source discharges" more directly under UU's control.

### **Flood Risk Assessment**

The Committee heard from UU that they had recently changed their data sharing policy to improve joint working with local authorities, and were also working much more closely with the Environment Agency. UU recognised Lancashire as a leading authority on this in the North West, and had been working hard over the last year to develop good relationships and demonstrate UU's commitment to co-operation on flood risk assessments.

### **Next Steps**

The Chair and Deputy of the Committee are to meet to decide which issues to take forward for further consideration. As well as the issues covered above, highways reinstatements and street lighting fault repairing were clearly concerns.

The Committee workplan currently includes scrutiny of the Flood Risk Assessment currently being produced at the June meeting.

The full minutes and webcast can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=334&Ver=4>

# Agenda Item 4

## Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Part I - Item No. 4**

Electoral Division affected:  
All

### **Carbon Reduction Commitment – Update Consultation and Compliance** (Appendices 1 and 2 refer)

Contact for further information:

Matthew Tidmarsh, 01772 533243, Resources Directorate,

[matthew.tidmarsh@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.tidmarsh@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### **Executive Summary**

The Committee will recall the report of December 2010 on the implications for Lancashire County Council of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme and the proposed changes brought about as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). This report provides an update on consultation and compliance.

#### **Recommendation**

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is asked to:

- a. Note the content of this report and the likely impact the changes to the CRC scheme will have on the County's participation.
- b. Approve the continued participation in the consultation process with Central Government on the future of the CRC scheme.
- c. Support the seeking of redress from schools for the purchase of carbon allowances to help encourage effective carbon and energy management.
- d. Recognise and support the need for regular internal audit of the processes and procedures managed by the Property Group in compliance with the requirements of the CRC scheme.
- e. Note that the Committee will receive further reports as details on the changes to the CRC scheme are made available.

#### **Background and Advice**

The County is registered as a participant of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme. A 'Footprint' report and first year 'monitoring report' are now required to be submitted to the Environment Agency by the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The County's Property Group Energy Team are working on these items and also preparing an 'Evidence Pack' necessary for external audit. Participants will be audited on a 5 yearly basis but the order will be determined on a 'risk' basis. It is

therefore quite possible that, as a major emitter of carbon, Lancashire County Council may be amongst the first audits carried out.

After the launch of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), the Government issued a consultation document regarding the impact this would have on the CRC scheme. The Council responded to this consultation and the response is attached at Appendix 1.

The key concern to the Council is the cancelling of recycling payments which now turns the CRC scheme effectively into a tax on carbon and means the Council will face an additional revenue charge of £1.8 million per annum. The omission of a mechanism to change the original rules of the scheme for the purchase of carbon allowances means also that the £900,000 or so of this that relates to schools will have to be borne directly by the Council. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has recently advised that purchase of carbon allowances for schools will be an allowable item against the central part of the schools' budget. Nevertheless this still has the effect of removing any direct incentive for individual schools to reduce their emissions.

The first purchase of allowances will take place from April 2012 and as this is for carbon emitted in 2011/12 it will require appropriate accruals to be made within the 2011/12 accounts. The additional revenue cost of £1.8m per annum has been recognised as a pressure within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and is reflected within the authority's Revenue Budget 2011/12 to 2013/14.

## **Consultations**

A further consultation on the CRC scheme has been launched by The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) as a result of responses received to the first. The response date of 11<sup>th</sup> March has passed so a response was prepared for approval by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning and has been returned already. The latest consultation response is attached at Appendix 2.

The consultation asked for comments in several key areas, these were:-

1. CRC organisational rules for private sector participants.
2. Review of CRC supply rules.
3. The CRC qualification criteria.
4. The overlap between existing carbon related schemes (such as Climate Change Agreements and EU Emissions Trading System) and the CRC.
5. The timing and frequency of the sale of carbon allowances from 2012 onwards.

Crucially this consultation does **not** concern the removal of recycling payments or the ability (or otherwise) for the Council to **directly** pass the cost of purchasing carbon allowances to schools.

## Reputation

The league table of CRC participants will still be published although there are no longer any financial incentives to be gained from league table position following the removal of recycling payments. The impact will be reputational only.

An organisation's position in the initial CRC league table (to be published in October 2011) will be based on two so called 'early action metrics'. These are; the amount of energy consumption recorded by automatic meters (AMR) and whether the organisation has achieved accreditation from an approved body such as the Carbon Trust.

The Property Group is currently rolling out a programme of AMR in 2011 with the aim of obtaining accurate utility accounts to aid cash-flow and crucially, to assist in the drive to reduce energy consumption. The majority of these devices will not be operational in time for the start of the CRC scheme and will therefore have limited effect on league table position. Approximately a quarter of the County's emissions are covered by Carbon Trust Accreditation. There is a not insignificant cost associated with obtaining accreditation for the remainder of the County's emissions and at this time it is not proposed to pursue accreditation as there is no financial benefit to be gained. An additional pressure remains that if there is no incentive for schools to reduce their emissions through direct charging for allowances this may further jeopardise league table position.

## Summary

Although Government has committed to simplify the CRC scheme it currently still remains as a significant piece of legislation for the County to comply with. Information reports will be brought to the Committee as the results of the latest consultation are announced and the scheme is further developed.

## Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Carbon Reduction Commitment	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	Matthew Tidmarsh/ Resources Directorate/ 01772 533243
Carbon Reduction Commitment Update of Implications of CSR	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2010	Matthew Tidmarsh/ Resources Directorate/ 01772 533243

## **Appendix 1- CRC Consultation Response 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

### **Lancashire County Council**

#### **Proposed Response to the Consultation on Amendments to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme**

**December 2010**

Respondent's Details:-

Name: Stephen Costello, Director of Property  
Organisation: Lancashire County Council  
Email: [stephen.costello@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.costello@lancashire.gov.uk)  
Address: Lancashire County Council  
Property Group  
County Hall  
Preston  
PR1 8RE  
Type of organisation: Local Authority (County Council)

#### **Preamble and General Comments**

This response will deal with the questions raised by the Government using the numbering in the original consultation document

However, it is this respondent's opinion that the Amendment Order and consultation ignore key concerns for participants of the CRC Scheme. These are briefly identified below and it is requested that specific note is made of these and consideration to a reply to the issues raised is given.

1. The failure of the Amendment Order to address the requirement for local authority participants with responsibility for schools to purchase allowances on their schools' behalf with no means of passing on this cost. With the recycling payments abolished there is no commensurate incentive for schools to take any action to reduce their emissions as they do not have to pay for the allowances. Schools generally account for approximately 50% of a local education authority's emissions so by not addressing this the Government will effectively remove these emissions from the scheme.
2. The Government has said that recycling of costs to participants is to be stopped and the revenue redistributed to support public finances, including spending on the environment. The CRC scheme now acts as an additional levy on emissions. It would seem that local authorities and other public bodies will pay this levy only for it to be redistributed back to the public sector. This seems to be an unnecessary administrative burden on public authorities and could be avoided by ring fencing the charge within relevant public bodies' accounts and utilising it for locally beneficial carbon, energy and environmental works.

## **Specific Consultation Response**

The remainder of the document deals with the specific questions posed in the consultation:-

### **Question 1:**

Do you agree with the Government's proposal to extend the introductory phase and the associated amendments? Yes/No.

### **Answer 1:**

Yes.

### **Comment 1:**

Extending the introductory phase seems to serve only to allow Government time to consult and it is suggested in the consultation document that this is more straightforward than amending the CRC scheme mid-phase. This would seem to imply that the result of any subsequent consultation would not be implemented mid-phase. This is welcomed.

### **Question2:**

Do you agree with the Government's proposal to remove the information disclosure requirement? Yes/No.

### **Answer 2:**

No.

### **Comment 2:**

The removal of this requirement will not materially affect the participation of Lancashire County Council. However if, in subsequent phases, this requirement is removed it is likely that the scheme administrators will lose track of qualifying meters and it will no longer be clear whether all relevant emissions are being captured. This would also introduce a further complication if, in future, the threshold for participation were lowered.

### **Question 3:**

Do you agree with the Government's proposal to amend the landlord/tenant rule in respect of Northern Ireland departments? Yes/No.

### **Answer 3:**

Yes.

### **Comment 3:**

This has no material impact upon the participation of Lancashire County Council in the CRC scheme.

### **Question 4:**

Do you agree with the Government's proposals to redistribute the administrators' responsibilities? Yes/No.

### **Answer 4:**

Yes.

**Comment 4:**

Again this has no material impact upon the participation of Lancashire County Council in the CRC scheme.

**Question 5:**

Do you agree with the Government's proposal to update reference errors in the original order? Yes/No.

**Answer 5:**

Yes.

**Comment 5:**

The correction of referencing errors should be referred to in the Amendment Order as a matter of course. Consultation on this seems unnecessary.

**Question 6:**

Do you agree with the Government's proposal to update the interpretation definitions? Yes/No.

**Answer 6:**

Yes.

**Comment 6:**

This has no material impact upon the participation of Lancashire County Council in the CRC scheme.



**Appendix 2- CRC Consultation Response 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

***To follow...***



# Agenda Item 5

## Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Part I - Item No. 5**

Electoral Division affected:  
All

### Energy Strategy for Schools

Contact for further information:

Claire Hamilton, (01772) 536746, Directorate for Children and Young People,  
[Claire.hamilton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.hamilton@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposed strategy for reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption in schools.

#### Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is asked to note the report and comment on the proposals.

#### Background and Advice

A report to the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010 set out details of the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme and provided information about schools participation in the scheme.

As a further commitment to reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions in schools, the Directorate for Children and Young People is developing an energy strategy aligned to its Capital Strategy for schools which will seek to support schools to reduce their CO2 emissions.

As part of this commitment the Capital Strategy for Schools 2011/14 is intended to target the following;

- Replacement of time limited/ poorly insulated buildings
- Replace inefficient boilers and heating systems
- Provision of energy efficient heating controls
- Zoning of heating systems
- Roof and wall insulation programme
- Window replacement and double glazing
- Replacement with Energy efficient lighting and fittings.

In addition to the above the County Council currently;

- Works with schools by providing advice on ways to reduce carbon emissions as previously reported to the Cabinet Committee in July 2010.
- Has agreed a loan fund with Schools' Forum of currently £1.1 million in 2011/12.

In support of this latter initiative Schools' Forum has commissioned the County's Energy Team to carry out surveys on 25 schools with the poorest energy performance. However, in order to make faster progress in the collection of information needed for decision making and the targeting of further investment on energy efficiency in schools, there needs to be an increase in the number of surveys carried out.

Therefore the Directorate for Children and Young People in conjunction with relevant colleagues from across the Authority wishes to explore the opportunities for working in partnership with organisations who may be able to assist with survey work and potentially gain access to additional funds for targeted capital investment on energy efficiency in schools. This could be considered as part of the feasibility study currently being conducted by Property Group considering a similar arrangement for corporate retained property or alternatively form part of a separate arrangement.

Such a partnership could also be asked to look at the opportunities for exploiting the use of feed in tariffs or FITs from the installation of renewable electricity generation technology such as solar photovoltaic (pv) panels or wind power.

FITs are a Government initiative provided through registered energy supply companies to support the installation of certain renewable energy technologies. A premium is paid for each unit of electricity generated and also any that is exported back to the grid. In addition sites benefit from a reduction in costs from the offset of electricity they would previously have bought from the grid. In the best performing cases a simple return on investment can be achieved of between 8 and 12 years.

There are currently a variety of schemes available where a school could 'lease' part of its roof to a third party. The third party will then pay for and install solar pv panels and use the FIT and export income to repay the investment. They would then sell the electricity to the school at a reduced rate. This is by no means the only way of making use of FITs and other models include direct investment in the appropriate technology allowing full access to the FIT, export and offset benefits allowing the site to benefit, after payback of investment, from the full 25 year life of the FIT.

The window to exploit the highest rate of FITs is short and the Government has also recently announced a review of the scheme due to the high number of commercial organisations making applications. As a consequence the County is currently separately looking at the feasibility of utilising FITs with some urgency and it is proposed that schools be a major part of this exercise.

If schemes such as this progress the electricity generated would be monitored and this would be of interest to the educational curriculum for primary school children.

This report outlines a proactive approach that will allow a full programme to be set for the next four years to address energy and carbon reduction targets through a combination of:

- Help and advice on energy and carbon management for schools
- Investment in energy efficiency measures
- Exploring the potential for renewable energy generation and/or FITs.

**Next Steps:**

- Achieve an increase in the capacity to assess schools' buildings energy efficiency and carbon emissions so that the County Council has sound information to aid its decision making and on which to base future programmes.
- Explore options for external support to provide additional assistance in achieving energy and carbon savings
- Explore environmentally sustainable initiatives that will engage schools in a positive way and have educational benefits.

**Consultations**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Schools and the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Planning.  
Lancashire County Council's Property Group and Environment Planning Department.

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Risk management**

N/A

**Any representations made to the Cabinet Member prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans**

Name:	Organisation:	Comments:
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Nil

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



# Agenda Item 6

## Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Part I - Item No. 6**

Electoral Division affected:  
All

### Lancashire Insulation Fund

Contact for further information:

Debbie King, 01772 534195, Environment Directorate,

[Debbie.king@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.king@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### Executive Summary

Around half of heat loss in a typical home is through the walls and loft. Insulating a loft could save around £150 per year on energy bills if there is no insulation already present. Statistics from the Energy Saving Trust suggest that there are 150,000 unfilled cavity walls and 200,000 lofts without adequate insulation in Lancashire.

All 15 local authorities in Lancashire (including the two unitaries) have been working successfully in partnership over the last 3 years to develop and deliver energy efficiency programmes. Together they have recognised an opportunity for Lancashire to maximise its share of Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) funding for the residents of the county in the remaining two years of the programme.

CERT funding is provided by the energy supply companies and offers subsidised loft insulation for the 'able to pay' sector.

Securing a partnership with one of the energy supply companies, or a scheme provider, to invest their CERT funding in Lancashire would secure a consistent level of investment enabling a single price for the installation of standard measures to be negotiated. This would provide a consistent baseline 'offer' for residents across Lancashire.

A single recognised scheme supported by all the local authorities and the Energy Saving Trust could then be marketed more effectively to increase take up.

#### Recommendation

The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the report, and
- ii. support the County Council's role in the Lancashire Insulation Fund.

## **Background and Advice**

Around half of heat loss in a typical home is through the walls and loft. Insulating a loft could save around £150 per year on energy bills if there is no insulation already present. Statistics from the Energy Saving Trust suggest that there are 150,000 unfilled cavity walls and 200,000 lofts without adequate insulation in Lancashire. Additionally, just under one third of carbon emissions in Lancashire come from homes.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) requires all domestic energy suppliers with a customer base in excess of 50,000 to make savings in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by householders. Suppliers meet this target by promoting the uptake of low carbon energy solutions to household energy consumers, mainly in the form of subsidised loft and cavity wall insulation for the 'able to pay sector' (insulation is often free for disadvantaged households). Despite this take up of subsidised insulation can be low as schemes are often viewed with a degree of scepticism by residents. Where a Council provides its backing to a scheme take up can often double or treble.

The CERT scheme is to be abolished in December 2012 to be replaced by the Government's 'pay as you save' Green Deal scheme. It is therefore important that as much CERT funding as possible is secured for Lancashire during the remaining two years of the scheme. CERT funding is not ring-fenced by geographical area and is, therefore, spent in those areas where the energy suppliers can most easily achieve their targets.

### **The Lancashire Insulation Fund**

All 15 local authorities in Lancashire (including the two unitaries) have been working successfully in partnership over the last 3 years to develop & deliver energy efficiency programmes. The County Council acts as secretary to the regular meeting of officers (usually housing officers) with work so far centring on the LAA targets to reduce domestic energy use and fuel poverty. The officer group has recognised a large opportunity to maximise Lancashire's share of CERT funding from energy companies in the remaining two years of the programme.

Securing an agreement with one of the national energy supply companies or a scheme provider (who secures the CERT funding from the energy supplier) to invest their funding in Lancashire (the source for the Lancashire Insulation Fund) would secure a consistent level of CERT investment for the county for the remainder of the scheme. In return, the company will get the benefit of widespread promotion of their scheme by the local authorities in Lancashire, this in turn increase the likelihood that the energy company will achieve its tough CERT targets. Failure to reach their targets results in large fines from OFGEM.

Such partnerships have been successful elsewhere in the country (and in Lancashire in some districts) but a Lancashire wide insulation initiative could potentially be the largest of its kind in the UK.

A partnership on this scale would enable a single low price for the installation of standard loft and cavity wall insulation measures to be negotiated, providing a



consistent baseline 'offer' for residents across Lancashire. This is especially important in those districts where there is currently no scheme in place. There would also be flexibility for existing, and new, district specific schemes under a county-wide framework.

A single recognised scheme supported by all the local authorities could then be marketed more effectively to increase take up. This will be done by a co-ordinated campaign in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust to increase awareness & confidence in current available schemes and by working with districts to co-ordinate their current CERT arrangements with installers under a single branded scheme for Lancashire. The Greater Manchester ['Toasty'](#) Campaign, for example, takes a similar approach promoting loft and cavity wall insulation across the 10 Greater Manchester authorities under one campaign banner.

A scheme such as this for Lancashire could potentially mean millions of pounds of investment into the county, helping with local employment (in supply and installation) and helping households to save money on fuel bills, which are set to increase substantially over the next 12 months. A three year borough wide insulation programme run by Kirklees Council has recently been described by the economic portfolio holder as the biggest regeneration programme in the borough, despite economic development not being the main objective.

### **Progress to Date**

Energy supply companies and installers are being invited to submit information on the best price and best quality/customer care they can deliver for Lancashire residents for the provision of standard loft and cavity wall insulation.

As no public funds are to be put into the scheme, procurement colleagues (in LCC and Blackburn with Darwen Council) have advised that procurement rules would not apply (since no funds are transferred) but that in the interests of fairness we should look at a process with objective criteria relating to best price, for example, customer care. This approach has also been confirmed by LCC Legal Services.

Expressions of interest were invited during February, and will be followed by an invitation to submit a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ). On receipt of PQQs, a group of officers from the Home Energy Group will score and assess submissions based on a pre-agreed scoring matrix and select a preferred installer(s). The scheme is likely to start during March 2011.

Whilst any procurement exercise cannot select a contractor on the grounds of being locally based, the PQQ requests details on environmental impact and specifically on activity being taken to reduce carbon emissions through local delivery and the steps being taken to encourage local employment.

### **Managing Customer Complaints**

Clearly it will be important to ensure any agreement is with a company that is reputable and has a good track record of customer care so that any problem is resolved promptly and to everyone's satisfaction. The PQQ scoring and assessment

puts a significant weighting behind the installers capacity to manage customer complaints satisfactorily.

Moreover, many District Council housing officers have in-depth experience of dealing with insulation and energy companies; they understand and know the reputable firms. They also have experience of dealing with problems when they occasionally arise and, while the contract for insulation is between the householder and the installer, each district council involved has given an undertaking to seek to resolve any difficulties in their role as Housing Authority.

The agreement between the local authorities/Energy Saving Trust and the insulation installer will be monitored by district councils and the Home Energy Group and ultimately, the local authorities/EST can withdraw from the agreement at any time if problems become persistent.

### **A Role for the County Council**

The County Council's name, and that of other local authorities in Lancashire, is trusted. Endorsement of a particular insulation scheme by all 15 councils in Lancashire, and by the Energy Saving Trust, will ensure take up of subsidised products such as loft and cavity wall insulation is boosted.

The Energy Saving Trust has agreed to lead on marketing the initiative but the County Council's support for a particular scheme(s) is requested (support from other councils in Lancashire is similarly requested). At its most basic level this will mean use of the County Council's logo.

There may also be some support the County Council can offer, for example in offering assistance in selecting a preferred installer (Blackburn with Darwen Council has offered to receive PQQs from the invited companies). There may be other marketing methods the County Council can use (e.g. web site, Vision, press releases, promotion via our services) to help promote the scheme as appropriate.

### **Governance arrangements for the Lancashire Insulation Fund**

- The 15 Lancashire authorities will not be contributing funding to this scheme.
- Agreements will be made between each district council and the chosen company. This will be the substantive basis of the governance arrangements.
- Reports on measures installed will be made by the installation company back to District Councils on a 'live' basis (possibly done via web site)
- Every six weeks, the Lancashire Home Energy Group will receive reports on progress from each district, together with reports from the Energy Saving Trust on the marketing campaign.
- Progress reports can be presented to the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change & Environment

### **Consultations**

N/A

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Financial**

There are no financial implications.

**Risk management**

CERT funding is not ring-fenced by geographical area and many local authorities nationwide already have partnership arrangements in place. By not developing a similar scheme Lancashire risks losing out on available CERT funding which will simply be spent elsewhere in the country.

The main risks associated with the project come in the selection of a preferred installer(s) to work with that is reputable and has a good track record of customer care.

Although no local authority funds are involved, this risk has been mitigated by following a transparent selection process recommended by LCC's Procurement Officers with clear selection criteria outlined and PQQs required.

The PQQ scoring and assessment puts a significant weighting behind the installer's capacity to manage customer complaints satisfactorily so that any problem is resolved promptly and to everyone's satisfaction. Additionally, the agreement between the local authorities/EST and the insulation installer will be closely monitored and, ultimately, the local authorities/EST can withdraw from the agreement at any time if problems become persistent.

**Any representations made to the Cabinet Committee prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans**

Name:	Organisation:	Comments:
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N/A

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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Nil

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



# Agenda Item 7

## Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Part I - Item No. 7**

Electoral Division affected:  
Rossendale

### **Adrenaline Gateway / Lee Quarry Mountain bike trails, Rossendale**

Contact for further information:

Andrew Barrow, 01772 536633, Lancashire County Developments Limited,  
[andrew.barrow@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.barrow@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### **Executive Summary**

The Adrenaline Gateway is a visitor/sporting destination programme initially conceived for Pennine Lancashire but capable of expansion across the County, aimed at growing visitor numbers exponentially by increasing the scope of, and participation in the outdoor lifestyle sports sector. The Programme currently comprises two main areas of activity.

The first takes the form of co-ordinating private and public sector activities to transform the size, value and economic impact of both the outdoor lifestyle sports sector and the visitor economy via planned investment in new infrastructure and compelling events.

The second is largely built upon the new infrastructure delivered by the first and is likely to comprise a destination management service, based on a strong brand and events strategy, that brings together, promotes and provides easy access to the outdoor lifestyle sports sector.

This report outlines for the Committee the progress made in these two areas of work and the County Council's input.

#### **Recommendation**

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is asked to note the principal aims and objectives of the Programme along with the significant progress that has been made to implement it.

#### **Background and Advice**

The original Concept and Feasibility Study for the Adrenaline Gateway Programme was undertaken during 2005/06 by Tribal Consulting, and included a delivery plan based upon a range of funding scenarios. The Study was funded as follows Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) £50,000, Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) £37,500, and the Environment Directorate £10,000. The concept was based on the physical development of a range of facilities in Pennine Lancashire

including Lee Quarry near Bacup to tap in to the growing "adrenaline sports" market and encourage a diversification in the local economy of the area.

The original delivery model was based upon a "big bang" investment whereby the Programme would have been delivered by way of a significant capital investment through the bidding process for the Peoples Millions. The Programme proceeded through the long listing and assessment stages but did not make the final short list. The assessor's feedback was not critical of the Programme; the reason for it not proceeding was that in comparison with funded schemes, the Adrenaline Gateway was 'younger' and therefore less well advanced through the project management lifecycle. By way of example, successful applications included the Eden Project and the Natural History Museum. Although the Programme Team was disappointed at not proceeding, the feedback provided by the Assessors encouraged the Team to reconfigure and deliver the programme on an incremental basis. Due to funding constraints the delivery model has been based upon a combination of the funding available and the optimum delivery mix of projects.

Delivery so far has concentrated on the development of the mountain biking facility at Lee Quarry near Bacup, in a number of phases as an initial anchor for the overall programme, This work has been linked to the Valley of Stone Project and the ongoing development of public art in the area linked to the Irwell Sculpture Trail, all of which have received support from the County and Borough Councils in securing external funding.

This incremental approach to delivery has enabled comprehensive and ongoing integrity tests of the design and quality of construction which has been a key factor in de-risking the works and ensuring the final product is attractive to users. Should the existing pace of delivery be maintained, by the end of this year (2011), the trade press and National Cross Country Coaches are of the view that the quality and quantity of the new infrastructure provided will be capable of rivalling anything in the Country.

The mountain biking aspect of the Programme also owes some of its origins to the County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan which identified a lack of suitable provision for mountain bikers (now a very large and growing user group) across Lancashire. As a consequence, the Programme is making a significant contribution to the place making/shaping agenda and the destination/leisure agenda in the East of the County.

In order to test the quality of the designs and structural integrity of the construction, the Programme Team arranged a competitive 'Test Event' on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2008. A key element of the weekend was obtaining written feedback from competitors. Although the event was not publicised it (the event) attracted competitors from across the length and breadth of the Country, with visitor numbers in excess of 700. The event along with the trails and trials areas it was based upon received critical acclaim in the 'trade press'.

A group of local mountain bike enthusiasts have established the Brownbacks Club which is running a series of Cross Country races in Lee Quarry. These short circuit races follow the same format as the Olympic cross country races and have proved to

be very popular with beginners through to serious athletes. So far there have been over 15 races each one attracting over 100 riders.

Rossendale Road Club has recently formed a youth mountain bike section which is offering coaching to young people from the area every Saturday morning. Even throughout the winter this has had an average of 12 riders each morning.

The site has also developed excellent links with British Cycling and their Olympic Academy which has been using the site twice a week during the winter for training. This gives the County Council access to some world class athletes and in turn allows them to have access to an excellent training facility. Some of the construction work currently being delivered is based on requests from British Cycling. The link with British Cycling will also result in the County Council having the opportunity to host a number of National Race School events on the site where young people from all over Great Britain are selected by British Cycling coaches to attend for specialist training. In return for the County Council providing the venue there will be the opportunity for a limited number of the young people from the Rossendale club to take part in these events.

The site is also increasingly being used by colleges and youth groups and it is increasingly common to see minibuses from, for example Salford or Burnley on site with instructors to spend a day in the quarry cycling.

In addition to Olympic athletes developing their skills in the area, a number of businesses/organisations have started to use the site to train adults to develop their mountain bike skills. This is helpful for the County Council as it is assisting in building the reputation for quality and innovation along with the opportunity to pass on information to riders about access and countryside issues.

The mountain bike trails have also created links in to the local bridleway network including the construction of over 2km of new bridleway and the upgrade from footpath to bridleway of a further 4km. When viewed in isolation these are relatively short sections however they form valuable "missing links" allowing horse riders and cyclists to link in to the Pennine Bridleway. Along with the bridleway construction, habitat restoration has also been undertaken including works on Brandwood Lower End Moor, which has halted and repaired damage to the peat bog, restoring a valuable "carbon sink".

This year will see the third annual Singletrack Weekender event to be held in Lee Quarry. This is a small but growing event which in 2009 was voted the 15<sup>th</sup> best mountain bike event in the world by IMTTO (International Mountain-bike Trade Team Organisation) beating many large budget events. This year, 2011, the event has attracted Shimano (the world's biggest cycle parts manufacturer) as the event sponsor.

Local mountain bike manufacturing companies, for example Hope and Orange have been using the site for product testing and development. This enables the County Council to support local business in return for significant and otherwise costly publicity and access to world level riders.

One of the biggest impacts of the project though has been on local young people during the school holidays and summer evenings. The site is now heavily used by local young people increasing their levels of health and fitness and occasionally having the opportunity to ride alongside a world class rider they would a couple of years ago only have seen in a magazine or on video.

The Programme Team is in the process of preparing a framework to help guide and govern the terms upon which sponsorship may be both sought and accepted.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

The scheme was originally managed by a Project Team comprising representatives from LCC/LCDL, Rossendale, Ribble Valley and Pendle Borough Councils, Rossendale Leisure Trust and Lancashire Sport; and chaired by the then Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust. Following the departure of the Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust for a post elsewhere in July 2009 LCDL's Programme Manager (Physical Regeneration) has chaired the Project Team.

In the context of the diversity and complexity of the Programme, the projects brought together within a structured Programme Management framework which coordinates, aligns, manages, and controls the activities involved. The approach has delivered significant focus on delivery, risk and performance management.

### **Financial**

The development of the new facilities has been financed with grants secured from external bodies which have been used to maximise the benefits which can be obtained from existing County Council budgets, for example for the maintenance of rights of way and intellectual capital. Thus achieving significantly greater output than would be achieved through the investment of the County Council's very limited resources alone.

### **Any representations made to the Cabinet Committee prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans**

Name:	Organisation:	Comments:
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N/A



**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



# **Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment**

## **Adrenaline Gateway**

# Introduction

- Description and Objectives
- Progress to date
  - Concept and Feasibility Studies
  - New Infrastructure
  - Events
  - Range of users
  - Environment and Ecology
- Current Position and Next Steps
  - Commercialisation and Sponsorship
  - Signage, Marketing, Media

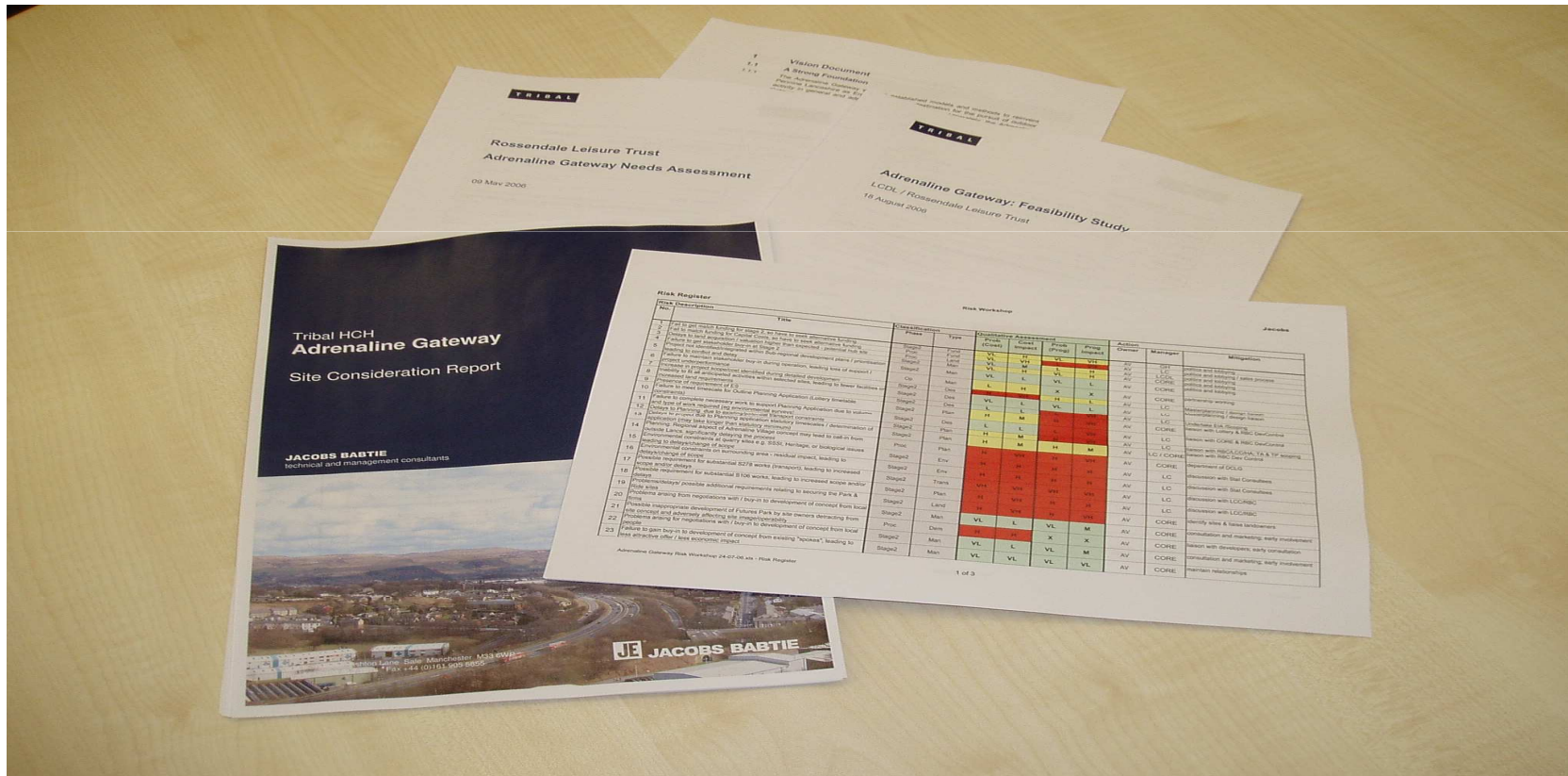
# Project Description and Objectives



The Adrenaline Gateway is a visitor destination Programme initially for Pennine Lancashire.

Designed to grow visitor numbers exponentially by increasing the scope of, and participation in the outdoor lifestyle sports sector

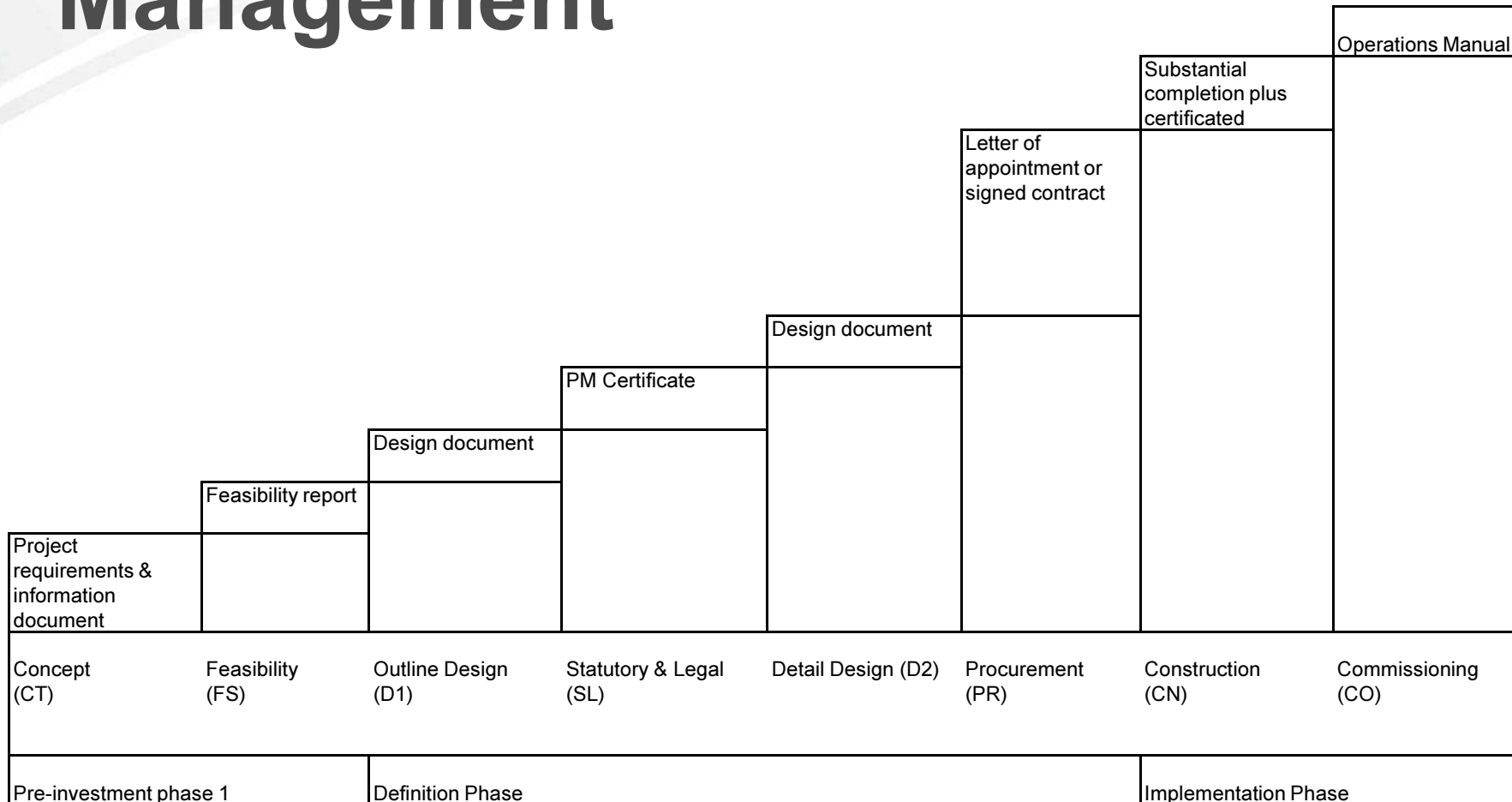
# Concept, Definition and Feasibility Studies



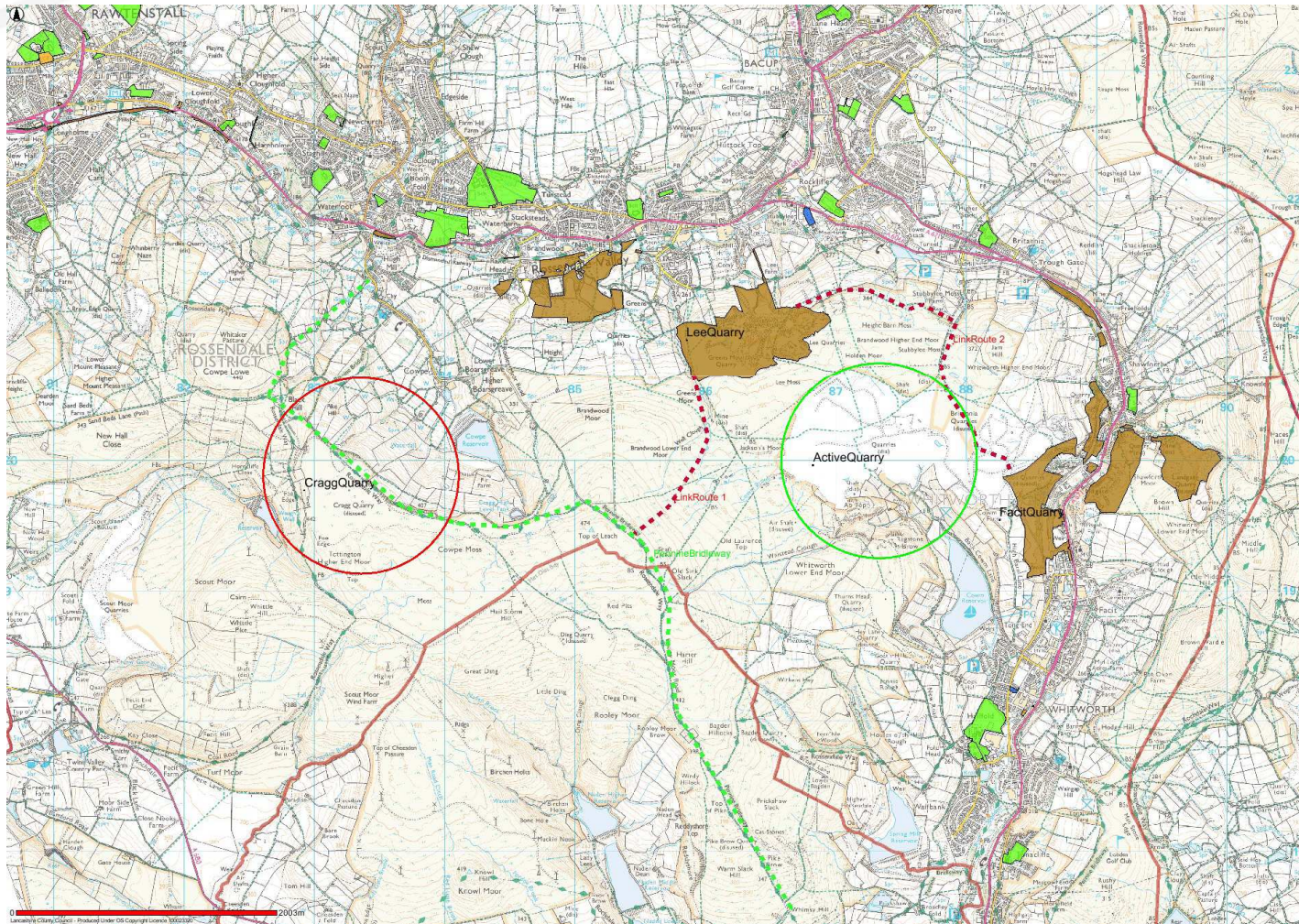
# Project and Stakeholder Management



Page 37



# Adrenaline Gateway





# New Infrastructure Lee Quarry, Bacup



15.01.2008 14:49

# New Infrastructure Lee Quarry, Bacup



# New Infrastructure



# New Infrastructure



# List of Events Held and Proposed

- Adrenaline Gateway Test Event 2008 (5<sup>th</sup>/ 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008)
- Singletrack Classic Weekender 2009 (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July 2009)
- Singletrack Classic Weekender 2010 (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July 2010)
- Brownbacks Regular Race Venue (5 events per year since 2009)
- British Cycling Prospective Olympic Cross Country Team (3 visits per week during Winter 2010/11)

## Upcoming

- British Cycling Talent events
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011
  - 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011
- Shimano Singletrack Weekender 2011 (9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> July 2011)
- National Cross Country Point Scoring Round- 2012
- Open Adventure – Open 5 (11<sup>th</sup> February 2012)

# Events



## Singletrack

mountain bike magazine

# CLASSIC WEEKENDER

JULY 3RD-5TH  
LEE QUARRY  
LANCASHIRE

The idea of the event is a light hearted competition to find the best all round mountain biker and for riders to work out where they stand in a test of skills, speed and endurance. It'll be a whole weekend of fun and frolics with a credit crunch-busting affordable entry fee that covers your race entry, car parking, camping and goodie bag.

**The disciplines:**  
There will be three events in the Classic Weekender that will lead riders to an overall position. It's roughly based on the old 'NEMBA' races, where one entry fee got you entry to three disciplines – the only difference being that in this event, all your performances count towards a final, overall position.

The event arena and campsite will be open from Friday 5pm. The racing will kick off at about 10am on Saturday and that day will be dedicated to the 'Classic Killer Speed Trials' and 'Classic Downhill' disciplines. Sunday will be the 'Classic XC' day.

**Classic Killer Speed Trials:**  
Modern trials riders are fantastically skilled, riding impossible obstacles. However, this event is aimed at mere-mortals. There will be five simple, taped off sections to ride, resembling normal mountain bike obstacles (with a couple of 'modern' additions). Once 'on course' you have 15 seconds to ride each section. A foot down, crash or leaving the course is an instant 'kill'. A clean ride between the tapes is a 'clear'. For every 'kill', you will earn a time penalty for the following day's cross country race, added up after the five sections. Nothing too serious, probably a couple of minutes per 'kill', but enough to give you a hard time to make up.

**Classic Downhill:**  
Downhillers, again, are fierce riders, capable of clearing huge gaps and big drops. The downhill race at the Classic Weekender will be for more mortal riders, and doable on any bike from a hardtail to a monster DH bike – just remember that you'll have to race whichever bike you choose in the following day's XC... Smooth all-round riding will get you a better time than just being fearless.

For this event, there will be a 'benchmark' time set by a local hotshot. If you're within a certain percentage of their time, you miss getting a penalty. The further from their time you are, the bigger your time penalty at the following day's event.

Once again, the penalties won't be too severe – and the penalty for not doing a discipline at all will be far stiffer... Even crashing or puncturing will get you a better score than not turning up.

**Classic XC:**  
The Sunday will host the cross country races for the various age categories. The start of these will be handicapped so that riders with perfect scores from the Saturday will start on time, followed a minute later by riders with a minute's penalty, and so on until the riders with the maximum penalty score bring up the rear. The race then goes on for 90 minutes or so, with the winners of those races being crowned as the overall champion of the event – and the best overall mountain bikers in the land.

The winners will get the glory and some trophies but the majority of prizes will be given out to people having-a-go and having fun.

Entry forms should be out by the time you read this. Visit the event website for more info, pics and videos about this most excellent occasion!

[www.singletrackworld.com/weekender](http://www.singletrackworld.com/weekender)

# Events



# Events





# Range of users



# Range of users



# Range of users



# Range of users



# Range of users



# Environment and Ecology



# Environment and Ecology



# Environment and Ecology





# Summary of Completed Work (1)

1. Pre Feasibility and Full Feasibility Study
2. Site Consideration Report
3. Draft redevelopment scheme for Ski Rossendale
4. 8km LQ/5km CQ/linking routes 2km of trails built
5. Four purpose built and a number of natural trials areas
6. Three mass participation events held in Lee Mill Quarry
7. Schedule of PR coverage

# Summary of Completed Work (2)



8. Indoor Extreme Sports Brief
9. Influence over other Lancashire Cycling initiatives

# Budget to date

LCDL	£214,777
Aggregates Levy	£526,000
Lancashire Environmental Fund	£55,000
Single Regeneration Budget	£37,500
LCC Environment Directorate	£89,462
NWDA	£75,000
Rural Development Fund	£25,000
LBTB	£5,000
Rossendale Borough Council	£100,000
In Kind contributions from private and public sector	£81,355
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST TO DATE</b>	<b>£1,209,094</b>

# Current Position and Next Steps

- Extending mountain bike trails/trials network & supporting infrastructure.
- Undertaking Phase One (Pre-investment activities) to define concept & test feasibility of delivering an indoor extreme sports facility.
- Commercialisation/ Sponsorship
- Signage/ Marketing/ Media

# Extension of trails infrastructure

## Extending mountain bike trails and infrastructure

- To link LMQ with the Pennine Bridleway
- Spec and tender docs complete
- Funding applications submitted
- Decisions imminent
- To link LMQ to Gisburn via the Pennine B/way



# Commercialisation



# Indoor Extreme Sports Facility





# Indoor Extreme Sports Facility

## The Outcomes (KLL)

- First year (2004) 35,000 visitors
- 138,000 visitors in 2007
- 96,000 actively climbed
- £516,000 net profit 2007
- Visitors to Kinlochleven up from 8,500 to 150,000+
- Economic impact – pumping over £5m into the local economy annually
- 38 FT staff and 42 seasonal
- Local properties have trebled in value

Thank you

Questions?

# Agenda Item 8

## Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Part I - Item No. 8**

Electoral Division affected:  
All

### **The County Council's Duties as a Lead Local Flood Authority – Update** (Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

Rick Hayton, 01772 536033, Environment Directorate,

[rick.hayton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:rick.hayton@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on the implications for the County Council of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, both of which impose new duties for the County Council as a "lead local flood authority".

#### **Recommendation**

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment are asked to note the report and comment as appropriate on the issues raised, and on the approaches being taken to prepare for the new duties arising from the legislation.

#### **Background and Advice**

In the summer of 2007 severe flooding occurred across many areas of England. As a consequence the Government commissioned an independent review by Sir Michael Pitt, who duly reported with 92 recommendations for improvements in the assessment and management of flood risk. In December 2008 the Government made a response to the review, resulting in the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. This legislation has major implications for upper tier local authorities which are becoming clearer, and hence this report seeks to provide an update.

#### **New Roles and Responsibilities**

The Environment Agency (EA) have a "Strategic Overview" role under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. One of their key responsibilities is to support upper tier and unitary authorities in taking on new duties.

The upper tier and unitary authorities are designated as "Lead Local Flood Authorities" under the Act, and take on a number of new duties which will be expanded on later in this report. There is now in place a duty on the County Council as a lead local flood authority to start preparing a flood risk management strategy for its area.

District councils are one of a number of "Risk Management Authorities" under the Act. They will be expected to continue delivering responsibilities relevant to flood risk management, including managing coastal erosion (where appropriate), land drainage matters, planning decisions and emergency planning. There will be a need for district councils to continue to exercise these responsibilities in a way that aligns with the flood risk management strategy to be developed for Lancashire.

### **Lead Local Flood Authorities**

Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council are all designated as lead local flood authorities. The delivery of the new duties will be based on effective partnership between lead local flood authorities and other risk management authorities. At present officers from the district, county and unitary councils across Lancashire are working together in a single partnership with the EA and United Utilities (UU) to develop responses to the new duties, an approach agreed by the Lancashire Chief Executives in March 2009.

The key duties which the Flood and Water Management Act will require of lead local flood authorities are set out below:

- The lead local flood authority has a duty to develop, maintain, apply, monitor and consult on a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for its area. Local flood risk includes surface runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses (including lakes and ponds). This strategy is being developed by the partnership outlined above.
- The lead local flood authority will have a duty to ensure that the strategy is consistent with a national strategy developed by the EA.
- The lead local flood authority and the EA will have a power to request information from third parties in connection with flood risk management duties. Risk management authorities such as the district councils will have a duty to co-operate with the EA and the lead local flood authorities in the provision of such information.
- The lead local flood authority will have a duty to ensure that flooding incidents in its area are investigated by the appropriate organisations, which is likely to include district councils, UU and the EA, and that intended actions are identified and published.
- The lead local flood authority will have a duty to maintain a register of structures or features which might impact on flood risk, including ownership details and condition. The register must be available for inspection.
- The lead local flood authority Overview & Scrutiny Committees will be empowered to scrutinise all risk management organisations in their exercising of flood risk management functions.
- The lead local flood authority will have powers to undertake works for managing flood risk from surface runoff or groundwater.
- The lead local flood authority will have powers to designate structures or features as affecting flooding, including those on private land. Designation would mean the owner would need consent before making any changes, and the lead local flood authority would have powers of enforcement action.
- The lead local flood authority will take on the current EA role for consenting works that are likely to affect the flow capacity of ordinary watercourses.

- The lead local flood authority will act as a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) Approval Body, to work in tandem with the planning system. In this capacity, the lead local flood authority will have to approve or otherwise sustainable drainage proposals associated with any construction work for buildings, or any structure that covers land and will affect water absorption (including patios). The lead local flood authority will also have a duty to adopt and maintain those SuDS serving more than one property. This process will clearly need close working with districts in the planning context.
- The lead local flood authority will have a duty to contribute to sustainable development principles generally in carrying out its flood risk management functions.
- The lead local flood authority will be responsible for developing a generic off-site emergency plan for large reservoirs, of which there are several across Lancashire, and location specific plans for those reservoirs deemed the highest risk.

### **Commencement Timescale**

The duty on the County Council to prepare a flood risk management strategy for Lancashire was commenced in October 2010. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have yet to confirm the further commencement timetable, but it is expected that the majority of further duties will be commenced from 1<sup>st</sup> April this year, with the more complex Designation, Consenting, and Sustainable Urban Drainage roles, being deferred until October 2011 or April 2012.

### **Requirement for Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.**

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 are a separate piece of legislation arising from a European Floods Directive, requiring the assessment of "significant" flood risk across Europe. These regulations impose a duty on lead local authorities to prepare preliminary flood risk assessment reports by June 2011. "Significant" in this context is measured by specific criteria developed by Defra for this purpose, and deliberately set so as to identify only the greatest national flood risk threats. To assist in this process, the Environment Agency have produced national mapping of areas meeting the criteria, and there are none within the Lancashire area, the only areas in the north-west being parts of Manchester and Liverpool. Lead local flood authorities will develop strategies for managing lesser levels of flood risk in partnership with the district councils under the Flood and Water Management Act, as explained above.

Appendices 'A' and 'B' to this report contain recent mapping of flood risk information across Lancashire that has been used to confirm the absence of nationally significant flood risk in Lancashire for the purpose the Flood Risk Regulations, but which will nevertheless serve as a platform for recognising and addressing lesser levels of flood risk under the Lancashire flood risk management strategy to be developed. The map in Appendix A shows the population likely to be at some risk in parts of the county vulnerable to a 1 in 100 year flood event resulting from heavy rainfall. The criteria for "significant" in terms of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment would be at least 30,000 people in a single area. The map in Appendix 'B' is based on historical flood information gathered from partner organisations including the district councils, and at this stage may be incomplete. It should be

noted also that a number of the locations shown where flooding has occurred in the past have since benefited from remedial action. This historical information data will help to shape the Lancashire flood risk management strategy.

The lack of nationally "significant" flood risk areas in Lancashire means that whilst an assessment report still has to be prepared and agreed through the county council executive process, the further duty to prepare flood hazard and risk maps, and flood management plans for these areas, will not apply. This cycle of activity will be repeated every six years.

### **Issues arising from the Flood & Water Management Act 2010**

The main issues for the lead local flood authorities (Lancashire County Council and the two Unitary Authorities – Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council) are those of resources, skills, and knowledge. The EA are currently running workshops for lead local flood authorities across the country on a range of themes, to develop the necessary skills. However, it will be critical going forward that all councils across Lancashire are sufficiently skilled and resourced to exercise their current and new flood risk management duties properly. The Act provides some scope for certain functions to be delegated between authorities by agreement, which offers an opportunity to make best use of expertise. Hence whilst LCC, Blackpool and Blackburn will take on the lead local flood authority role, the districts will need to play a full role in flood risk management partnership working, and in delivering their own flood risk related functions.

Funding remains a major issue. Whilst the lead local flood authorities are receiving monies from Defra to "fully fund" the additional burdens imposed by this legislation, the Local Government Association remains sceptical that it will be sufficient to actually achieve this. Defra have also been consulting on a new system for funding capital flood risk management schemes, based on "payment for outcomes". Under current arrangements schemes generally receive full government funding or are deferred. The payment for outcomes approach would see any potential scheme receive a notional proportion of government funding depending on how many properties would have reduced flood risk as a consequence, but with the onus on lead local flood authorities and their partners to raise the balance from other sources, such as local beneficiaries of the scheme within the community. This approach brings further challenges of engaging communities and other stakeholders to contribute to such schemes, in difficult economic times.

The Regional Programme of flood risk management schemes will be prioritised by the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) which will continue to raise local levy to help achieve schemes within it. The RFCC is looking to align its council member representation in line with the new lead local flood authority areas, and any county council members selected to represent the Lancashire area will have a significant influence in helping to promote the county's interests in getting schemes selected and delivered.

## **The Way Forward**

In order to ensure a strong and unified partnership approach to engaging with these emerging new duties, a Lancashire Flood Risk Management Officers Group has been meeting in recent months, under the chairmanship of the county council. The group is attended by officers from the county council, all the district and unitary councils in Lancashire, United Utilities and the Environment Agency. This group is developing the strategic approaches to the issues raised in this report. In support of this, fledgling "Making Space for Water" Groups are being established in each district, whereby the same core agencies will ensure operational delivery of flood risk management work going forward. The Lancashire Flood Risk Management Officer Group has been making good early progress on gathering local flood data, with all Lancashire's councils contributing, as can be seen from the attached Appendix 'B'. It will be necessary going forward to achieve a closer working relationship between County Council Members with flood risk management responsibilities, and the officer structures outlined above. The EA and the Chair of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee are particularly pleased with the approach Lancashire's officers are developing and see it as an emerging model of good practice for delivering the new duties.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

#### **Risk management**

The report sets out a number of new duties and powers coming to the county council as a result of recent legislation on flood risk management. The council will potentially be exposed to reputational, legal and financial risk if it is deemed as failing to fulfil those duties once they are in place.

#### **Financial Implications**

The government is providing, through Area Based grant funding, £200,100 to the county council in 2011/12, and £516,200 in each of the subsequent two years of the Government Spending Review, in recognition of the new burdens imposed by this legislation. Other funding may be provided by way of specific grants.

#### **Legal Implications**

The county council will have statutory duties to deliver as set out in the report.

#### **Property Asset Management**

The flood risk management duties place an onus on the county council to register, and where appropriate designate, assets that contribute to managing flood risk, and these may include county council assets. Investment in flood risk management

measures is prioritised on its benefits for different types of property and infrastructure, and this may include county council property assets.

## **Procurement**

The new duties may have implications for procuring systems or services, for instance IT systems or licences, and delegation of functions through negotiation.

### **Any representations made to the Cabinet Committee prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans**

Name: Organisation: Comments:

N/A

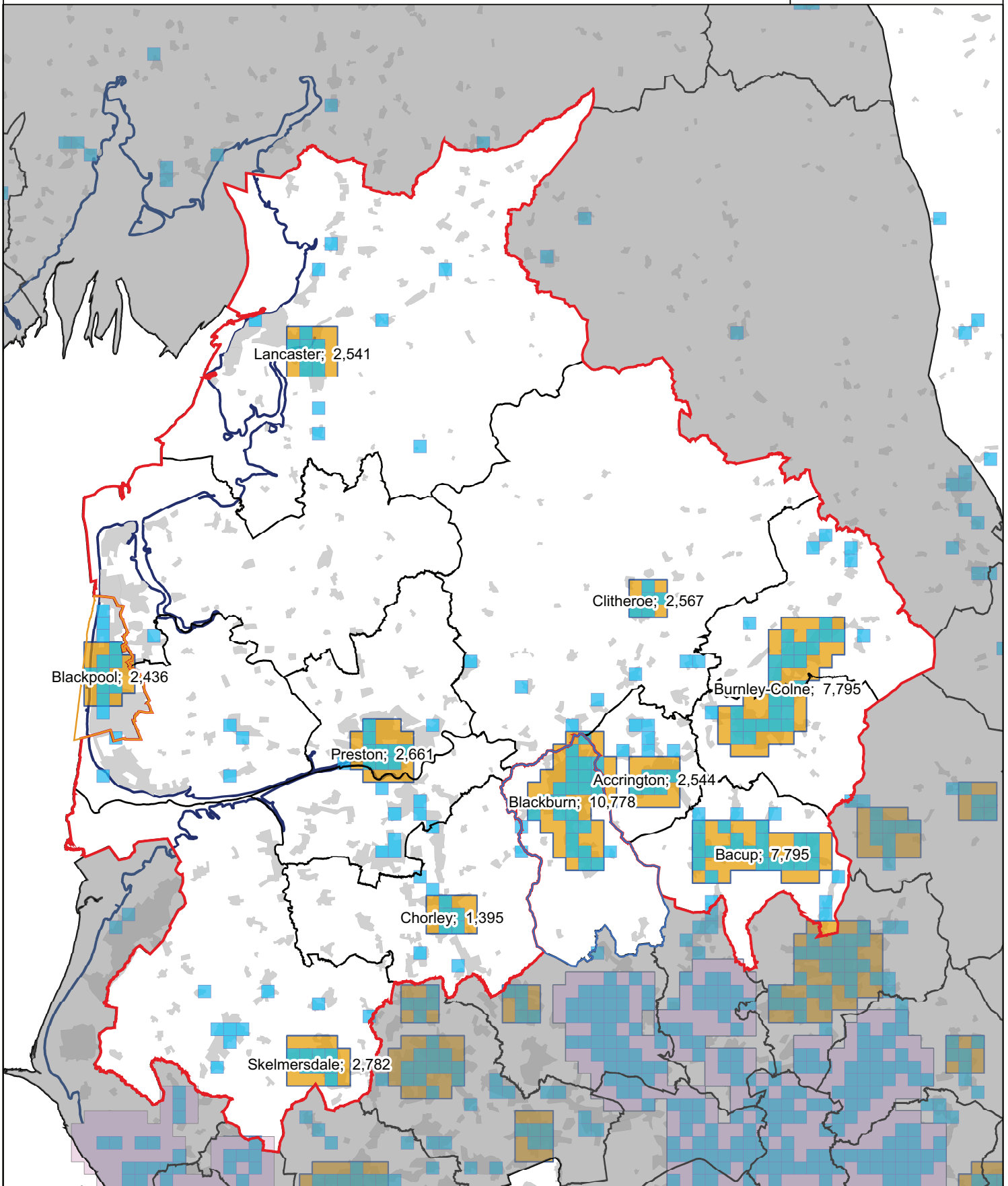
### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Flood and Water Management Act	2010	Rick Hayton / Environment / 01772 536033
Flood Risk Regulations	2009	Rick Hayton / Environment / 01772 536033
Selecting and Reviewing Flood Risk Areas for Local Sources of Flooding (DEFRA)	2010	Rick Hayton / Environment / 01772 536033

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A





**Legend**

- Blackburn with Darwen
- Blackpool
- Lancashire County Council
- Districts
- Urban Areas
- Flood Risk Above Threshold
- Flood Risk Clusters
- Indicative Flood Risk Areas

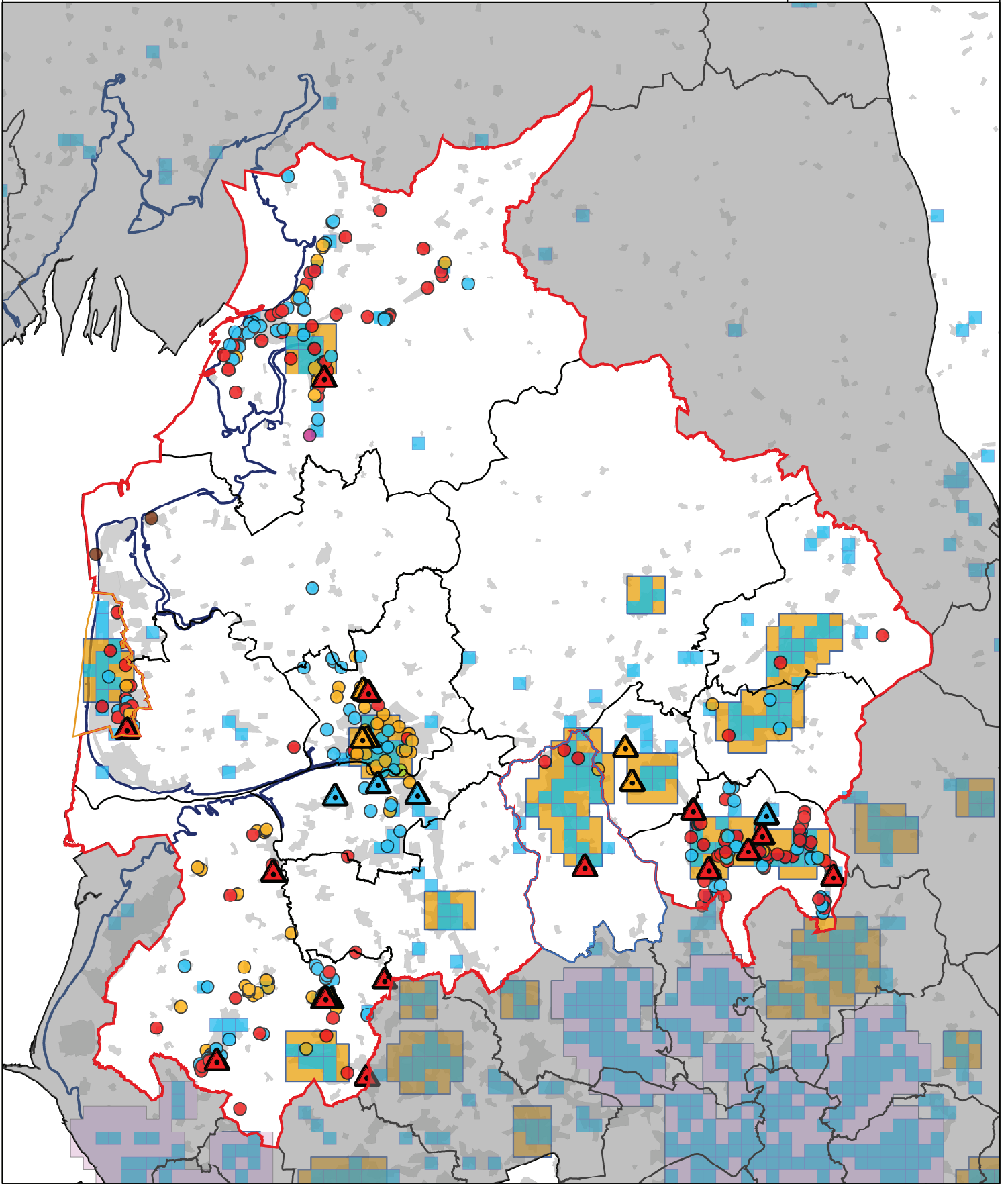
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Kilometers







**Legend**

- |                           |                             |                               |                              |               |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Blackburn with Darwen     | Flood Risk Above Threshold  | <b>Collated Flood Records</b> | <b>Other Flood Incidents</b> | Surface Water |
| Blackpool                 | Flood Risk Clusters         | <b>Locally Significant</b>    | Canal                        | Tidal         |
| Lancashire County Council | Indicative Flood Risk Areas | Sewer/Drain                   | Groundwater                  | Watercourse   |
| Districts                 |                             | Surface Water                 | Sewer/Drain                  | Other         |
| Urban Areas               |                             | Watercourse                   |                              |               |

0 3 6 9 12



Kilometers



