

Lytham Town Council

c/o Lytham Institute 27 Clifton Street, Lytham, Lancashire. FY8 5EP

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Chair Cllr Simon Newell Clerk: Mr Luke Russell

Lytham Town Council - Council Meeting

To: All members of Lytham Town Council.

You are hereby summoned to attend the Council Meeting of the Town Council to be held on **Wednesday 26th November 2025** at **6.30pm** at the Lytham Institute, 27 Clifton Street, Lytham, Lancashire, FY8 5EP.

Mr Luke Russell MA

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Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Thursday 20th November 2025

Agenda

 Welcome, introduction, Audio Recording notice and Health & Safety. The Clerk will then confirm Member attendance and provide apologies for absence where received & accepted 	CRFO & Chair
 2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations Councillors to declare any interests in agenda items. Consideration of requests for dispensations. 	Cllrs
 3. Approval of Minutes To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 29th October 2025. 	Cllrs
 4. Public Participation (Open Forum) (Max 15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker) • Members of the public may raise items with the Council. The Chair may limit a member of the public to 3 minutes of speaking to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. Overall, the section will typically be limited to 15 minutes although the Chair, may at their discretion, extend this. 	
5. Matters Arising / Action Points from Previous Meeting • To consider Findings & Recommendation from Budget & Precept Task & Finish Group	Found at: Agenda 7(1)
To consider planning application. 25/0537 FAIRMONT HOUSE, SOUTH CLIFTON STREET, LYTHAM LANCASHIRE FY8 5HG	Agenda 10(1)
Reports from Outside Bodies Borough Councillor Report County Councillor Report Police/Community Safety Updates	C Cllr Ashton
7. Finance & Governance • CRFO Financial Position - Update Statement (briefing to Councillors) • Bank reconciliation and budget monitoring.	CRFO + Report
 Findings & Recommendation from Budget & Precept Task & Finish Group A supporting Report has been circulated to Councillors, summarising the discussions of the Task & Finish Group and providing a clear recommendation for the 2026/7 Budget and Precept. Decision item (1) Proposal: Council to consider and approve the recommendation for the 	CRFO & Members + Report
2026/7 Budget & Precept. > Decision Item (2) Proposal: Council to consider, approve and adopt the following policy.	CRFO
 Freedom of Information: Publication Policy (and associated Guide) Risk Register 	+ Report CRFO
The Clerk will brief Councillors on the Council's Risk Register	

8. Environment Trees & Lighting - Clifton Street: Update to the council on attendance at the Lytham Project Board on 20/11/2026 regarding the scheme of work to prune the trees on Clifton St and to replace all street lights.	CP / CRFO
Assets: • Mythop Rd Allotments. Lytham Town Council position regarding the provision of allotments	CRFO verbal update
 Heritage Asset: Lytham Green Clerk will introduce research findings in relation to the donation by covenant of Lytham Green in 1923, to allow Councillors to discuss a Lytham Town Council position regarding this Civic asset, in light of the Local Government Review and potential transfer of this asset to a future Unitary Authority 	CRFO verbal update
 Decision Item (1) Proposal: Council to consider and approve the actions which will inform the definitive Council position statement regarding Lytham Green 	
 a) That Lytham Town Council will formally write to Fylde Council and request that they complete and send to LTC a comprehensive schedule of assets, including Heritage Assets, which are located in, or relevant to, Lytham and which are under their ownership or their control when held in trust for the residents of Lytham. b) That Lytham Town Council will formally write to Fylde Council to seek their definitive position statement about the ownership of Lytham Green, whether outright or as part of a Charitable Trust or other arrangement, and Fylde Council's position regarding what will happen to this significant asset on the establishment of a future Unitary Authority or Shadow Authority. 	
Liggard Brook: Update on meeting with the Environment Agency Decision Item	SB
(2) Proposal: Council to invite Mr Paul Rigby, Environment Agency, to provide a 15-20 minute briefing to the Council and members of the public present at a future council meeting (Date TBC)	
 9. Community Engagement Update regarding Noticeboards, including one sought for Lytham East Ward Update on policing operation - Friday 7th November 2025 Town Council Christmas Event - Wednesday 17th December 2025 Hannukah candle lighting being held by Fylde Council Remembrance & Armistice 2026 - Request from Royal British Legion 	BB / CRFO Chair All Cllrs CRFO CRFO
10. Planning & Licensing • Cumulative Impact Assessment - Lytham Town Council contribution to the Review	Chair
Planning Principle: Planning activity in Lytham	Cllrs

> Decision Item	
Proposal: Council to consider and approve the following position and	
actions:	
That Lytham Town Council will formally write to Fylde Council, as the	
Planning Authority to request & require that when making planning	Cllrs
decisions for locations in Lytham that they should have all due	
consideration to:	
(a) Relevant legislation, considered legal opinion and precedent pertaining to the legal definition of the Highway.	
(b) The conservation areas in Lytham &	Chair & Cllrs
(c) The spatial portrait of Lytham made by Fylde Council itself within their	Chan a Cars
Local Plan.	
(d) The guidance document regarding Canopies, prepared by Fylde Council	
and authored by FBC Senior Planning Officer Paul Drinnan.	
(e) And to undertake effective enforcement activity in cases of non-	
compliance or adherence to planning permissions.	
Diameter Applications	
Planning Applications	
 To consider planning application. 25/0537 FAIRMONT HOUSE, SOUTH CLIFTON STREET, LYTHAM 	
25/053/ FAIRMONT HOUSE, SOUTH CLIFTON STREET, LYTHAM LANCASHIRE FY8 5HG	
Brought to Full Council for consideration under Scheme of Delegation	
Protocol 9 f ii & iii	
To consider new planning application.	
o 25/0670 3 BANNISTER STREET, LYTHAM, FY8 5HQ	
Brought to Full Council for consideration under Scheme of Delegation	
Protocol 9 f ii	
Proposal: Council to consider and make decision to Support, Object or Make	
Comment in response to these applications	
11. Neighbourhood Development Plan - Town Plan	
Carried forward to January 2026	
12. Correspondence	
Summary of relevant correspondence received.	CRFO
Clerk to raise any urgent items.	CRFO
13. Items for Next Agenda Councillors to request topics for inclusion in the payt meeting	
Councillors to request topics for inclusion in the next meeting. 14. Date and Time of Next Meeting	
Wednesday 14 th January 2026	
CeAmell C-150	
Charle!	
C-NGO	

Clerk's Signature:

Date: Thursday 20th November 2025



Lytham Town Council Minutes - Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 29th October 2024

Minutes of the Council Meeting held:

Wednesday 29th October 2025, at 6.30pm at Lytham Institute, 27 Clifton St, Lytham, FY8 5EP

Present: Councillors Simon Newell (Chair), Amy Barnes, Edward Cook, Anne Aitken, Suzanne Bramall, Cath Powell & Kelly Farrington

Apologies received: Councillors Hilary Warburton, Brenda Blackshaw & Mark Bamforth

Officers: Clerk / RFO

Members of the Public: 35 members of the public were present.

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed Council Members and Members of the Public to the meeting.

The Clerk also welcomed Members of the Public. He pointed out that the meeting was being Audio recorded for the purpose of enabling the effective and accurate completion of the Minutes of the meeting. He pointed out the signs displayed for that effect, and the use of a projector to allow the Agenda to be read at distance. He explained about the signing in log and how this was for the purpose of ensuring an accurate count of attendees in the event of an evacuation due to a fire alarm. Finally, he explained that the Public Forum would allow for participation of attendees and the time limits set for each speaker and the session as a whole.

The Chair spoke and explained the current position of the changing nature of local politics with the Local Government Review that is currently taking place. He also explained that the agenda was heavy on issues of governance and how this was a necessary series of agenda items and proposals to underpin Lytham Town Council in terms of procedural governance and compliance.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received by the Clerk from:

Councillor Bamforth due to ill health (in person, earlier in the day) and Councillors Blackshaw and Warburton due to other commitments (by email)

Councillor Tim Ashton (LCC) had intended to attend but became unable to attend due to other commitments.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillors were asked whether they had any Declarations of Interest to make. No declarations were made. No requests for dispensations were made.

3. Approval of Minutes

The council voted to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved by: Cllr Powell - Seconded by: Cllr Aitken

Decision: Agreed Unanimously

4. Public Participation (Open Forum)

(Max 15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker)

Members of the public were invited to raise items with the Council. Start time 6:40pm.

- A. Person A -Spoke about the planning application which was on the Agenda and expressed her concerns about the proposal to alter a building into a Funeral Director's business. She stated that she had submitted representations to Fylde Council Planning Department already. The Speaker said that she believed the application, if approved, would have negative impacts on nearby residents. She highlighted that the plan showed for waste bins outside the front of the historical building and asked whether this was suitable and whether there should be a requirement for screening. The speaker stated that in her belief there was a risk to the historic fabric of the building. Having conducted research into the impact of embalming fluids, she stated that these can cause damage to more elderly buildings. Finally, she stated that the application had a requirement for additional street lighting, however the location is already well lit, and she did not believe that more would be needed and might cause light pollution.
- B. Person B Chair of Lytham Business Partnership The Lytham Christmas lights switch on event is planning for Saturday 15th November 2025. Councillors are invited to take part in the lantern parade preceding the switch on. There is a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) in place to close Clifton St from 2pm. The Clerk offered to publish details of this event on the Council Website.
- C. Person C Stated that they had attended the Car Parking & Speeding public meeting on Wednesday 1st October and asked if there was any feedback from that event yet. Councillor Powell replied that there was a specific agenda item about that later in the meeting and it would be spoken about.

5. Matters Arising / Action Points from Previous Meeting

The Clerk pointed out that there were only two Action Points from the previous meeting, and these were both included as Agenda items in Section 7.

6. Reports from Outside Bodies

• Borough Councillor Report - No items were raised.

In addition to Cllrs Bamforth and Farrington, the meeting was also attended by Cllr Peter Anthony and Cllr Andrew Redfearn both representing Lytham West Ward for Fylde Council and both councillors were invited by the Chair to contribute at any point they felt it relevant.

- County Councillor Report No items were submitted to be raised. The Clerk explained that he had been in communication with C Cllr Ashton and it had been his intention to attend this meeting, but this had become impossible due to other commitments, but he is intent on attending the November meeting.
- Police/Community Safety Updates -

The Clerk stated that there was now a 6-weekly MS Teams meeting hosted by the Neighbourhood Policing Team and inviting parish and town councils to join and share experiences and information. There is also a Community Road Watch operation planning for Monday 10th November which Cllrs Cook and Powell would be supporting as observers.

7. Finance & Governance

The Clerk introduced the item, stating that it followed on from the previous meeting held in September.

There had been numerous on-line and in-person workshops committed to by the Councillors to review and contribute to a range of essential Governance documents and Policies which the Clerk recommended the Council approves and adopts.

In the previous week, in addition to document review conducted at home, Councillors had each committed over 20 hours of time to working through these drafts and ensured that in addition to complying with legislation, guidance and / or best practice that they reflected the needs of Lytham Town Council.

As such, the proposals at sub items (1) and (2) were for consideration of voting upon, as the documents are now recommended to the Council for adoption.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Councillors involved in this work and the Clerk for all their time spent on this critically important area of work.

- **Decision One** Governance Documents
- (1) Proposal: Council to consider, approve and adopt the following Governance documents.
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations

• Scheme of Delegation

Moved by: Cllr Powell Seconded by: Cllr Bramall

Decision: Unanimously agreed & adopted.

- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s106, s151.
- Decision Two Policies
- (2) Proposal: Council to consider, approve and adopt the following policies.
- Delegation of Representatives Policy
- Data Protection and IT Policy
- Risk Management and Assessment Policy
- Complaints Handling and Management Policy
- Expenses and Allowances Policy
- Audio Recording Policy

Moved by: Cllr Aitken Seconded by: Cllr Cook Decision: Unanimously agreed & adopted.

❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101.

The Clerk expressed his thanks and stated that the Documents and Policies would be published on the Council's website on the following day.

- Decision Three Forming Honours & Awards Committee
- (3) Proposal: Honours and Awards Committee Council to consider and appoint 4 x Members to form this committee

The Clerk explained that at the September meeting of the Council, a motion was passed to form an Honours & Awards Committee. It would now be appropriate to nominate Councillors to this committee. The Chair asked if there had been interest expressed and the Clerk stated that the following Councillors had expressed an interest:

Cllrs Edward Cook, Mark Bamforth, Hilary Warburton & Suzanne Bramall.

It was felt that these councillors represented a good balance across the council and the council area.

The motion was amended to appoint these four, named, Councillors to this Committee.

Moved by: Cllr Newell (Chair) - Seconded by: Cllr Powell

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s102.
- Decision Four Forming a Budget & Precept Task & Finish Group
- (4) Proposal: Council to consider and appoint 5 members to form the Budget & Precept Task & Finish Group

The Clerk referred to his Report, explaining the necessity for the Council to meet the timelines for Budget & Precept setting for the Financial Year (FY) 2026/27. To achieve this timeline, it is necessary for the council to establish a Task & Finish Group who can work up options and provide a recommendation to Full Council for a decision on the proposed budget and precept.

The Finance and Governance Group, although not a formed Committee with delegated responsibilities, are already identified and in discussion it is believed that this Group is ideally placed, subject to Members' availability in November, to undertake this role.

The motion was amended to task the Finance & Governance Group to undertake the role as Budget & Precept Task & Finish Group, researching options and making recommendation to the November meeting.

Members of the Finance & Governance Group are:

Cllrs Bamforth, Barnes, Bramall, Cook & Newell.

Cllr Farrington will also provide support as a substitute in case any other councillor is prevented from attending due to commitments.

Moved by: Cllr Bramall - Seconded by: Cllr Farrington

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s149, s151.

• The Clerk, as RFO, provided a verbal update regarding the financial position of the council.

He also shared in paper form an initial spreadsheet concerning the current budget, including Precept (the sole income), Reserves - General & Earmarked together with expenditure & committed funding together with a projection enabling a clear understanding of Funding yet to be committed.

The Clerk stated that on Monday 27th October he gained online access to the Council's bank account and had reconciled the account with all expenditure (in cheque and online form) to date. There was no misalignment between the account and the expenditure.

The level of uncommitted funding, as at 29/10/2025 (prior to this meeting) from the total precept budget of £96,875.00 was £11,127.37.

He also stated that know he had established control over the account he has ordered the Scribe Accounts IT package which was agreed by Council in September and had processed the initial purchase invoice and established the Direct Debit Mandate.

The Clerk had also ordered 4 x initial training packages from the Society of Local Council Clerks and had submitted an online payment for these.

Therefore, there were two online payments in need of online authorisation from Signatories.

The training packages are: (a) Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA), (b) Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration (FILCA) [NB: both of these are precursor courses to undertaking the Entry Level qualification (CILCA) to become an 'Trained Clerk', and also provide a basic introduction to the roles of Clerk & RFO to provide a best alternative until registration for the CILCA in February 2026], (c) Data Protection / GDPR and (d) Safeguarding for all.

- Decision Five Provision of a Payroll Provider
- (5) Proposal: Council to consider and approve the recommendation to establish a Payroll Provider service to manage Salary, HMRC and Pension implications for the Council and the Employee.

The Clerk expanded upon his previously circulated Report. Whilst it was an initial concept to seek to use the HMRC Basic Tools package, which is a free to use option, as mentioned at the August council meeting, research had shown that there were at least 6 payment steps required for each monthly payroll run.

As there is potential risk to both the Council as an employer and also the Clerk as both an Officer and the Employee, the use of the Payroll Provider is a mechanism whereby there is external quality assurance and advice on payments, together with having the payroll provider establish the appropriate systems with HMRC. There was a clear recommendation in the costed paper attached, with the middle annual cost quotation being the recommended choice.

The Clerk stated that he had no conflict of interest in making this recommendation, and as a customer of the recommended supplier previously, he was able to make a personal recommendation as well as the professional one.

Schedule 12A LGA 1972 applied in relation to the identification of the 3 x companies providing Quotations for this service.

The Chair explained that the use of a service was an integral function of providing both effective financial governance to the Council and support to the Clerk.

The motion was put to the Council.

Moved by: Cllr Newell (Chair) - Seconded by: Cllr Powell

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

The Clerk will liaise with the recommended supplier and establish the service, which will include pay in arrears from the Clerk's appointment date of 1st September 2025

❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s111, s151, S12A

8. Environment

- Councillor Powell fed back to the Council about the Public Meeting on the 1^{st of} October 2025 regarding Car Parking & Speeding Public Meeting.
- 60 Members of the Public had been present, as was the local Police Community Support Officer, Gary Hickman. The public provided personal examples of locations in Lytham where excess speed was an issue and a risk to safety. Also discussed was the impact on local residents of the car parking challenges of the location which are exacerbated when major events are held in the town or on the Green.

Cllr Powell stated that she has been in conversation with Fylde Borough and Lancashire County Councils about additional car parking and this was an ongoing conversation with no final decision yet taken.

With regards to the issue of speeding vehicles, Lancashire Police's local neighbourhood team had invited Councillors to take part in their next Community Road Watch operation which will take place on Monday 10th November.

In addition, Cllr Powell stated that she had researched the options for the council purchasing a Speed Identification Device (SPID), which is an automated sign that can be used to display vehicle speed and / or road safety messages. The device must be attached to a mounting pole which meets certain specifications. The device can be moved between different poles and is therefore portable between locations. A report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting setting out the following proposal.

- Decision Six Purchase of Speed Indication Equipment
- (1) Proposal: Council to consider and approve the request to allocate £5,000 of budget to enable the purchase of 1 x SPID device and 4×1000 No. 100 No. 1

The subject was discussed by councillors. In discussion it was felt that, arising from the 1^{st of} October 2025 meeting, there were more than 4 high priority locations for where the installation poles might be fitted. Would it be possible to have more than the 4 poles originally sought?

It was mentioned that if there were too many poles, then this might dilute the presence of the device at any one location.

A member of the public asked whether the SPID could be mounted in specific residential streets. It was explained that the device needs to have a clear field of view and must be mounted at a certain height to detect vehicles - and as such, not all streets or locations would be necessarily suitable.

After discussion, the motion was amended to seek an additional £1000 allocation with a view to purchasing additional mounting poles as necessary; so, a total commitment of £6,000 to purchase one device and necessary mounting polices to enable its effective operation. The Clerk confirmed that this was affordable within budget.

The revised motion was put to the Council.

Moved by: Cllr Powell - Seconded by: Cllr Aitken

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s137. Highways Act 1980 s274A
- Cllr Powell fed back to Council on the scheme of work planned for the trees on the Clifton Street. The Environment Group had met with officers from Fylde Council on Monday 13th October and received a comprehensive briefing about the plan to prune and raise the crown of the trees and to conduct maintenance works to the footings to five of the trees. The plan of works also included updates to the lighting on Clifton St.

There had been discussions following that meeting that the tree maintenance work is welcomed and it would be preferable if all tree bases, where they meet the pavement had a consistent level of maintenance undertaken.

Fylde Council had invited the Council to be represented with their Project Board for this work, and the representatives will be Cllr Powell and the Clerk.

• Cllr Aitken fed back to council on developments in relation to Windfarm construction operations and the plans to create a 'Cable Corridor; from the point of arrival for power cables bringing electricity in from the farms to Star Gate in Blackpool and then across country to Penwortham. The width of the corridor of construction would be equal to the width of a motorway, and the development work would take up to 7 years. Whilst the corridor is not planned to enter either of the Wards of Lytham, there would be significant disruption to traffic and wildlife which would directly and indirectly impact the residents & businesses of Lytham.

Parishes & Towns directly impacted by the proposals had formed a legal group called the Transmission Assets Steering Committee (TASC) and had contributed into a collaborative fund to resource legal representation at planning meetings and hearings.

It is an option for Lytham Town Council to join the TASC to represent Lytham. There would be a requirement to contribute into the legal fund and the proposal put before Council is for the contribution to be £1,500.

The Clerk confirmed that this was acceptable within budget.

- Decision Seven Joining the TASC
- (2) Proposal: Council to consider and approve having representational membership of the Transmission Assets Steering Committee (TASC) group, approving a funding contribution of £1,500

The motion was put to the Council.

Moved by: Cllr Aitken - Seconded by: Cllr Newell (Chair)

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s136, s137.
- The Clerk read from an emailed submitted by Cllr Bamforth on his behalf sharing the findings and actions of the Environmental Group's 'Walkabouts' within the town since last meeting. Cllr Powell added to this feedback.
- Cllr Aitken stated that there were additional developments relating to the Liggard Brook. There was a meeting with the Environment Agency planned for 18th November 2025 to discuss this further.
- The Chair stated that he would meet informally with the management committee for the Mythop Rd allotments and ask them to draw up a list of rectifications needed to be undertaken. Whilst it was the desire and intention for the Council to take ownership and responsibility for the allotments from Fylde Council, Fylde remained as the Principal Authority and no transfer of assets had yet taken place. There were ongoing conversations with Fylde about when and how this will happen.

9. Community Engagement

Councillors have attended the following meetings as representatives of the Council.

• 13th October 2025 - Lytham Festival, Residents' Focus Group - The Council had been invited to attend by the management company for the Festival. Cllr Aitken attended. No additional update was provided at this time

- 14th October 2025 Lytham Business Partnership The Council had been invited to attend the Partnership meeting and Cllr Bramall represented Members there. A key input at the meeting was regarding the Tree maintenance plan for work.
- Cllr Powell stated that Lytham Town Council would produce and distribute a printed Newsletter to all homes in Lytham. The Council was mindful that not all residents are confident internet users and to be more accessible to residents a Newsletter was considered an important channel for communication. Production costs would be in the order of £1,000 and the Clerk had confirmed that this was acceptable within the Budget. The Newsletter would also contain information about Fylde Council's online survey regarding the Cumulative Impact Assessment with hopefully a link and / or QR code for people to use to gain access.
- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s137.
- Cllr Aitken explained that in addition to the main Christmas Tree being raised and lit in Clifton Square, there was a plan for an additional tree to be raised and placed in the external grounds of the Lytham Institute by the Heritage Society which would also provide decoration at the eastern end of Clifton Street. There had been contributions made, including for the cost of the tree and it is hoped that the Council would provide a contribution of £100 towards this. The Clerk confirmed that this was acceptable with budget and he could authorise the expenditure in accordance with the Financial Regulations without requiring a motion to Council.
- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s137.
- The Clerk explained that work was ongoing regarding the provision of Council Notice boards in Lytham both to enable publication of Council documentation such as the agendas and to display a newly designed Town Centre illustrated map. He stated that he had started conversations with the Store Manager for Lidl on Preston Road regarding the possibility of gaining permission to use part of their land to sight a Board so that residents, business users and visitors in Lytham East would have a highly visible board to access information. Cllr Bramall explained that work to renovate the Board in Clifton Square was underway and was being part funded by Fylde Council. Cllr Powell added that a request for renovation of the Board in the Memorial Garden had been submitted by Cllr Bamforth to Fylde Council, and it was hoped that this work would be completed by Remembrance Sunday.
- The Chair stated that he and the Clerk had met with the Chair of the Royal British Legion in Lytham and that the Council had been invited to be a part of the representation at the Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day events. The Chair had been invited to make a reading and would be part of the order of service. A remembrance wreath was being made to be laid on the Cenotaph.

10. Planning & Licensing

• Cumulative Impact Assessment - Cllr Powell explained that she had represented the Council at the Fylde Council Public Protection & Licensing Committee on 9th October 2025 regarding the request that Fylde Council reconsiders and reviews the Cumulative Impact Assessment for Lytham. A motion to review and conduct an additional assessment was proposed and it was accepted unanimously. There is a requirement for the Licensing Department to feedback to the Committee within 6 months. Plans were being developed to commence a new survey. Cllr Bramall stated that commencing this over the Christmas & New Year period might create a seasonal

variation, but it was accepted that the last survey in 2023 was completed at a similar time of year. The Clerk stated that he had that morning received NW Ambulance Service data following a Freedom of Information Act request and that this needed some analysis, however an early summary does show marked impact in NWAS calls for service around evening licenced hours.

The Council is keen to support the submission of data and representations to Fylde Council which are both positive and negative regarding the concentration of licensed premises. The Chair stated that it is important to prove or disprove whether there is an issue. Fylde Council licensing had already contacted the Clerk about securing room availability at the Institute to enable staff to provide a drop-in 'internet café' style workshop to enable residents how might not be regularly active online to be able to log in and take part. The Survey questionnaire cannot be usefully created and used as a printed, paper form as there are multiple questions and then run through a number of 'decision points' where an answer of (for example) a Yes or a No takes the person completing it to different sections of the form.

- The Clerk stated that Cllr Warburton and himself attended the Fylde on Licensing Panel on 21st October 2025 having made representations regarding a Licence Application for 3 Henry St, Lytham. During the Panel, Lancashire Police submitted data and had requested eight (8) conditions to be placed on the licence, if awarded. The applicants amended their initial application. The Licence had since been awarded by the Panel, with conditions. The amended operating hours included a cease time of midnight and that the premises would be emptied of customers by 12:30am.
- The Council considered a planning application for:
 - (a) 25/0537 FAIRMONT HOUSE, SOUTH CLIFTON STREET, LYTHAM LANCASHIRE FY8 5HG

As stated above, a member of the public had raised their concerns and had already submitted their objections / representations. Cllr Farrington explained the Planning process from his experience as an FBC Councillor. It was discussed whether there could be an additional public meeting to allow Councillors to gain a better understanding of public views and concerns but was mindful that the applicant was waiting on a timeline for a decision.

The Clerk advised that it was not within the responsibility of the Council to create or allow a quasi- Planning Hearing. It was felt that Councillors were not appraised sufficiently to reach a decision for a response at this time.

The Clerk was requested to seek an extension for the submission to representations from Fylde Council planning to allow a decision at either the next (November) Council meeting, or by way of notifying and holding an Extraordinary meeting to discuss this single matter.

11. Neighbourhood Development Plan - Town Plan

The Chair introduced the subject and the importance for Lytham Town Council to commence work on establishing a Town Plan, sitting as a Neighbourhood Development Plan. He also explained that there could be a significant cost over the programme and therefore there was a necessity for effective financial planning.

The Clerk expanded upon his submitted report about the importance of establishing a Task & Finish Group to commence initial scoping and research to lead into a scheme of work to consult on and define a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NHDP). It is envisaged that initial

steps could start from January. There is clear guidance established regarding the process for undertaking an NHDP and there is a statutory framework which must be complied with to ensure its legitimacy.

The full timeline is in the region of two to three years, so completion of this programme would not arrive until after the next town council elections in 2027.

Cllr Bramall stated that in her understanding, the best plans were created where there was strong community representation and the Clerk agreed. In his research having an effective and represented body of members within the NHDP Steering Group was essential. By first establishing a Task & Finish Group, Councillors could draw up initial recommendations for how they wanted membership of this Steering Group to look.

For example, it could be recommended that representation was wanted from the following demographic sectors:

- A resident living in social housing
- o A member of the health care communities / providers
- A parent of primary school aged children
- An owner of a hospitality business
- o An owner of a manufacturing business.

These examples were in no way exhaustive and are only illustrative of how a Steering Group could be widely representative. Consequently, the following motions were put before council.

- Decision Eight Establishing an NHDP Task & Finish Group
- (1) Proposal: Council to consider and appoint 5 members to form the Neighbourhood Development Plan Task & Finish Group Moved by: Cllr Bramall Seconded by: Cllr Aitken

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

- ❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s102. Localism Act 2011 C3.
- Decision Nine Allocation of funding to Earmarked Reserves.
- (2) Proposal: To allocate £5,000 funding into Reserves in anticipation of costs being necessary in FY Q4 2025/26

Moved by: Cllr Bramall - Seconded by: Cllr Cook

Decision: Unanimously agreed.

❖ Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972 s101, s137. Localism Act 2011 s117.

Whilst the decision to form a Task & Finish Group has been made, appointment of Councillors to it will be decided later in line with individuals' availability, skill set and expressions of interest.

12. Correspondence

• The Clerk provided a summary of correspondence received. The two principal channels for communication from eth public were via the online, website hosted Contact Form and then by email.

A data dashboard will be developed to provide information to Council at future meetings.

There were no urgent items to raise.

13. Items for Next Agenda

There were no new items raised for inclusion at the next meeting.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting
Wednesday 26th November 2025. 6:30pm

The Chair thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.

The chair of this meeting believes that the minutes of the meeting of Lytham Town Council held on 29th October 2025 are a correct record and are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Chair



Lytham Town Council

Report to: Full Council

Date: Wednesday 26th November 2025 From: Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Agenda Item: 7 (1)

Subject: Clerk / RFO's Report — Budget monitoring to 19th November 2025

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a clear monitoring position to Full Council as to the nature of our finances. The data is accurate to Wednesday 19th November 2025.

2. Executive summary

- 1) At 19th November 2025 the council is operating within the approved budget.
- 2) No material variances are forecast to year-end and no immediate action is required.
- 3) I request the council note this report and approve the payments list at Annex A.

3. Key figures (at a glance):

- Bank balances (all accounts): £87,467.93 (reconciled to 18/11/2025).
- Receipts year-to-date: £95,875.
- Payments year-to-date: £8,067.33
- Forecast outturn: On budget.
- Total reserves: £43,968.75
 - o of which earmarked reserves £20,000 and
 - o general reserve £23,968.75 (25% of precept).

4. Budget monitoring and commentary:

Overall expenditure is in line with budget. No action needed or recommended at this time.

5. Reserves:

See Annex B for the reserves schedule. There are no proposed movements to earmarked reserves this month.

6. Bank reconciliation

The bank accounts were reconciled to 18th November 2025. Copies are available for inspection and / or online viewing by Councillors.

7. Payments / Payments of note

Payments totalling £8,067.33 have been made since the start of the Financial Year. There have been no new payments of note since the 1st August 2025 payment by cheque to Fylde Council for Election Costs recharge.

A list of all payments, to date, made is shown at Appendix A

8. Risk & internal controls

No control issues to report.

Recommendations / motions:

- 1. That Council notes the Clerk / RFO's report and the budget position to 19th November 2025.
- 2. That Council approves the payments list in Annex A.

Signed:

Luke Russell

Colorello C-160

Clerk / RFO

Wednesday 19th August 2025

Appendix A - Payments List to 19/11/2025

Voucher No	▼ Date ▼	Net ▼	VAT 🔽	Total	Cashed Date	Description	Supplier	Bank	Payment Ref
20	14.11.2025	£52.00	£10.40	£62.40	18.11.2025	Scribe Accounts	Scribe Accounts	Unity Bank	
19	10.11.2025	£44.08	£8.82	£52.90	10.11.2025	Reference Materials	Society of Local Council Clerks	Unity Bank	
18	05.11.2025	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00	10.11.2025	Online Training Package	Society of Local Council Clerks	Unity Bank	
17	05.11.2025	£598.00	£119.60	£717.60	10.11.2025	Scribe Accounts	Scribe Accounts	Unity Bank	
16	03.11.2025	£52.80	£10.56	£63.36	10.11.2025	Website & Email provision	Easy Websites	Unity Bank	
15	31.10.2025	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	10.11.2025	Bank Account Service Charge	Unity Trust Bank	Unity Bank	
14	01.10.2025	£50.60	£10.12	£60.72	10.11.2025	Website & Email provision	Easy Websites	Unity Bank	
13	30.09.2025	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	10.11.2025	Bank Account Service Charge	Unity Trust Bank	Unity Bank	
12	10.11.2025	£406.50	£0.00	£406.50	10.11.2025	Insurance Policy	Zurich Municipal	Unity Bank	
11	02.09.2025	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00	10.11.2025	Room hire	Fylde Council	Unity Bank	300007
10	02.09.2025	£408.00	£0.00	£408.00	10.11.2025	Laptop & McAffee	Curry's Group Ltd	Unity Bank	300006
9	01.09.2025	£50.60	£10.12	£60.72	10.11.2025	Website & Email provision	Easy Websites	Unity Bank	
8	31.08.2025	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	10.11.2025	Bank Account Service Charge	Unity Trust Bank	Unity Bank	
7	13.08.2025	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00	10.11.2025	Room hire	Fylde Council	Unity Bank	300004
6	13.08.2025	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00	10.11.2025	Logo design	Media Print	Unity Bank	300003
5	15.08.2025	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00	10.11.2025	Website & Email provision	Easy Websites	Unity Bank	
4	01.08.2025	£3,750.00	£0.00	£3,750.00	10.11.2025	Election Costs Recharge	Fylde Council	Unity Bank	30002
3	01.08.2025	£50.60	£10.12	£60.72	10.11.2025	Website & Email provision	Easy Websites	Unity Bank	
2	31.07.2025	£5.40	£0.00	£5.40	10.11.2025	Bank Account Service Charge	Unity Trust Bank	Unity Bank	
1	14.06.2025	£1,580.75	£0.00	£1,580.75	10.11.2025	Salary	Gill Flynn	Unity Bank	300001

Appendix B - Reserves Schedule at 19th November 2025

Reserve	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Spend	Receipts	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Capital					
General Reserves		23,968.75			23,968.75
Total Capital	0.00	23,968.75			23,968.75
Earmarked					
Election Reserve		15,000.00			15,000.00
NH Development Plan		5,000.00			5,000.00
Total Earmarked	0.00	20,000.00			20,000.00
TOTAL RESERVE		43,968.75			43,968.75
GENERAL FUND					43,499.18
TOTAL FUNDS					87,467.93



Lytham Town Council

Report to: Full Council

Date: Wednesday 26th November 2025 From: Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Agenda Item: 7 (2)

Subject: Options Appraisal for 2026 Budget & Precept - Recommendation of Task & Finish Group

1. Purpose of Report

To produce a clear options appraisal to inform Council's decision on the 2026 precept (council tax element) and underlying budget. The appraisal benchmarks neighbouring councils, summarises constraints and guidance, models likely Band D impacts, and provides recommended options, risks and an implementation & consultation plan.

This Report provides a summary of the meeting and discussion undertaken by the Task & Finish Group (T&FG) established at the October meeting of the Council to review and recommend proposals for the 2026/27 Budget and Precept request. The Council has a precept in 2025/6 of £95,875.

2. Executive Summary

This appraisal presents 4 realistic options for the 2026 precept, each of which was considered and discussed after a review of the current financial year (2025/6) budget:

- a) Status quo / Freeze precept This option would maintain next year's precept at current cash level, using reserves to cover inflationary pressures where necessary.
- b) **Modest increase** increase precept by 3-5% to cover inflation, foreseeable economic uncertainies and modest service improvements.
- c) No increase + efficiency savings / Reduction in Precept freeze or reduce precept, but reduce or re-profile services to live within current budget without drawing reserves.
- d) **Targeted increase with ringfenced projects** a larger increase (6-10%) dedicated to capital/community projects (e.g. Neighbourhood Development plan, events, community safety measures).

Each option includes: forecasted Band D annual/weekly impact, pressure on reserves, operational impacts and stakeholder consequences.

- Recommendation: The recommended option arising from the Task & Finish Group was option B. This recognised that 2026/7 is only the second year of the Council's operation, that there would be less requirement to set aside such a large percentage of the next year's budget into reserves (as this has already been done), but acknowledges the financial uncertainties caused by the Local Government Review programme for Lancashire, the realistic transfer of assets into Town Council control such as Allotments and also the economic instabilities nationally.
 - 3. Benchmarking (Neighbouring Town & Parish Councils)

Here are some comparative examples of nearby parishes within Fylde, to contextualise Lytham's precept-setting. The towns of St Annes on the Sea and Kirkham have significant greater scale and budgets and are not as effective comparators:

Parish / Town	Band D Precept (Fylde)	Notes / Context
Bryning-with-Warton (includes Warton)	£86.66 (2024/25)	A relatively high parish precept; reflects a parish with substantial responsibilities and community size.
Ribby-with-Wrea (Wrea Green)	£67.64 (2024/25)	Mid-range in the Fylde parish precept spectrum; Wrea Green is a more rural / village-based parish.
Ansdell & Fairhaven (new parish)	£25.00 (2025/26)	Newly established parish alongside Lytham (from May 2025), with an initial Band D precept set deliberately low by Fylde BC.

Interpretation for Lytham:

- Warton (Bryning-with-Warton): Their Band D precept is *much higher* than Lytham's current £25 per-property difference is significant. This suggests that some Fylde parishes carry a heavier precept burden, possibly because they have more or more costly parish-level services or responsibilities.
- Wrea Green (Ribby-with-Wrea): Their Band D precept is also well above Lytham's, though more moderate than Warton's. This reflects a well-established parish council with a mature budget.
- Ansdell & Fairhaven: This is a newly formed parish with a very low starting precept, likely set low to minimise shock on local taxpayers. It provides a lower-bound comparison for what a modest precept might look like in Fylde.
- Lytham: Lytham residents also pay a significant 'Special Expenses' element within their council tax bills to cover Fylde Council's maintenance of the assets of Lytham Green and Lowther Gardens.

Benchmarking take-aways for Lytham:

- i. Lytham's current Band D of £25 is **very modest** compared to some other Fylde parishes (e.g. Warton and Wrea Green).
- ii. There is **headroom** for a modest increase (Options 2 or 4) without placing Lytham at the top of the parish-precept scale.
- iii. If Lytham were to aim for growth (Option 4), even a +20% precept would leave the Band D potentially below or comparable to some more heavily precepting parishes though this depends on Lytham's tax-base and service ambitions.

4. Assumptions & Modelling

Key inputs used in the modelling:

- Current 2025/6 Lytham precept: £95,875
- Fylde Borough tax base (Band D equivalent for Lytham): 3,835 (£25 per Band D)
- Inflation assumptions: baseline CPI at 3.8%
- Reserves at start of 2026/27: £43,968.75
 - General Reserves: £23,968.75Earmarked Reserves: £20,000.00
- There are no committed capital projects already approved by Council.

5. Option Modelling (Task & Finish Group considered options)

Option 1 — Standstill Budget (0% change)

Use the 2025/26 budget value as the 2026/27 budget with no increase.

- **Precept impact:** Cash figure remains identical to 2025/26.
- Band D impact: £0 increase (subject to minor tax-base movement).
- Implication: Inflationary pressures must be absorbed through efficiencies or reserves.
- Risk: Real-terms reduction in spending power.

Option 2 — Inflationary Increase (approx. 5% total)

Take the 2025/26 budget and apply current UK inflation as used by the T&F Group, rounded to achieve a **5% increase in total precept levy**.

- **Precept impact:** +5% on total precept.
- Band D impact: Approx. +5% (final figure dependent on tax-base).
- Implication: Covers core inflation pressures; no new growth.
- Risk: Still below the level required for major project ambitions.

Option 3 — Budget Reduction (-£20,000)

Reduce the 2025/26 budget by £20,000 for 2026/27.

- Precept impact: Decrease equal to the proportional change.
- Band D impact: Reduced charge.
- Implication: Requires confirmed reductions in service levels or project delays to realise savings.
- Risk: Cuts may affect visibility of council activity or statutory expectations.

Option 4 — Growth Budget (+20%)

Apply a 20% increase to the 2025/26 baseline.

- Precept impact: +20% total increase.
- Band D impact: Approx. +20% (subject to tax-base).
- Implication: Provides capacity for new projects, enhanced service delivery and strategic growth.
- Risk: A significant increase requiring clear justification and resident communication.

5.1 Numeric modelling

Inputs used

- 2025/26 budget / precept total (baseline): £95,875
- Current Band D charge (2025/26): £25.00
- Confirmed tax-base (Band D equivalents): 3,835 households (Fylde Borough Council 2025/26)

Task & Finish Group options — numeric outcomes

Option	Precept (£)	Band D charge (£)	Annual change vs £25 (in £)	Weekly change
Option 1 — Standstill (0%)	95,875	25.00	+0.00	+0.000
Option 2a — T&F Group approach (+5%)	100,668.75	26.25	+1.25	+0.024
Option 2b (ONS inflation 3.8%)	99,518.25	25.95	+0.95	+0.018
Option 2c (recommended 4%)	99,710.00	26.00	+1.00	+0.019
Option 3 — Reduce by £20,000	75,875	19.78	-5.22	-0.100
Option 4 – Growth (+20%)	115,050.00	30.00	+5.00	+0.096

Notes:

Weekly changes are annual change divided by 52 and rounded to three decimal places.

The Group's stated Option 2 (rounded to a 5% precept uplift) was modelled exactly at +5% above for direct comparison; alternatively using the ONS CPI (3.8% to September 2025) or a prudential rounded planning assumption of 4% gives the lower Band D impacts shown.

6. Legal / Governance Implications

- Local Government Act 1972 Section 151 local authorities (including parish/town councils) must make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.
- Financial Regulations Section 4 The budgeting process is a statutory task: a council must prepare an annual budget and set the level of precept to meet that budget.
- Standing Orders Sections 15 17

7. Financial Implications

The nature of this item is that there are significant implications on council finances - however, agreeing a budget & precept mitigate the risks of failing to deliver this key function. Failure to agree the Budget / Precept is recorded in Risk Register as Risk F1.

8. Equality Risk Considerations

There are no negative equality considerations regarding this article in considering the Equalities Act 2010.

9. Clerk / RFO Comment

As both Clerk and RFO, I can confirm that the Task & Finish Group met in person. The Group considered the existing budget and then discussed and considered the options listed.

Foreseeable differences in the budget for 2026/7 compared to the current year are:

- a) No requirement to place £15,000 into Earmarked Reserves for Election contingency costs
- b) No necessity to place 25% of the budget into General Reserves a prudent additional commitment of 10% would be suitable.
- c) There will be a requirement to increase the commitment of Earmarked Reserves for the Neighbourhood Development Plan programme.
- d) There will be inflationary change in the economy
- e) The Clerk / RFO salary & on cost commitments will be for a full 12 months rather than the 6 months in this year.
- f) Allotment / transfer of assets is foreseeable from Fylde Council to Lytham Town Council and the financial implications of this are currently unknown as there has yet to be a briefing provided regarding this.
- g) There are no significant capital projects currently under consideration requiring multi-year investment.

There was a consensus view within the T&F Group that there was no requirement for major budgetary increase. This is the second year of operation for the Town Council and there was still a necessity to build an effective baseline of operation.

Whilst the option of reducing the budget was considered, there is insufficient funding to allow for effective operation without a significant reduction in service. Fylde Council when setting the first year Precept had considered what was a realistic level and to significantly depart from this level was felt to be irresponsible.

Freezing the budget was discussed, however with the foreseeable changes, the impact of inflation could have a negative impact upon service provision.

The recommendation was for a modest, inflation based increase, so that the Council Tax in real terms would not change for residents.

I have worked up Options 2a, 2b and 2c to allow for considerations and as RFO I believe that 2c is the preferred solution.

It takes the CPI inflation rate for September 2025 at 3.8% and rounds it to 4%.

This increases the Band D bill by 5p for a full year when compared to option 2b, yet remains 25p per year lower than option 2a

10. Conclusion

It is recommended that Full Council considers these options and the Recommended option with a view to approval.

Signed: Luke Russell Clerk / RFO



Lytham Town Council

Report to: Full Council

Date: Wednesday 26th November 2025

From: Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Agenda Item: 7 (3)

Subject: Review of FOIA Publication Scheme Policy and Guide to Information

1. Purpose of Report

This report supports the draft Policy and linked Guide for consideration by Council for adoption.

It is a legal duty of a public authority to adopt and maintain a scheme, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s19 (1)

2. Recommendation(s)

Councillors are asked to consider and agree the following two recommended motions:

- (1) Proposal: Council to consider, approve and adopt the following policy & Guide.
 - Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme
 - Linked Guide to Information

3. Background / Context

Being a newly established Town / Parish Council, this Policy has not previously been established, and it is now brought to council as soon as practicable.

4. Options Considered

There is no alternative option relevant to consider.

5. Legal / Governance Implications

Sec 101. Local Government Act 1972 - Arrangements for discharge of functions by local authorities.

Sec 19(1) Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

6. Financial Implications

There is no impact on existing or future budgets through the adoption of this Policy and Guide.

7. Risk & Equality Considerations

No issues identified

8. Clerk / RFO Comment

Having identified the legal duty to have such a scheme during this last period, it is brought for the attention of Council at the earliest opportunity.

9. Conclusion

It is good practice and good governance to have effective and current documentation reviewed, authorised and established.

Appendices (if required)

Agreed final versions of the policy & guide ready for approval have been separately circulated to Councillors.

Once authorised and adopted, these will be published on the Council website.

Signed:

Luke Russell

CeAmell C-150

Clerk / RFO