

Report of
West End Activities Review
Task Group

- a report of Overview and Scrutiny

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Foreword

“The Task Group has generated a mine of data about the West End. As with any mine of data, a statistician would be able to select from it to prove almost any hypothesis. The Task Group has wisely taken the view that matters of principle are more important than issues of detail.

The Task Group recognised that the West End Partnership is the delivery mechanism for implementing policies affecting the West End, and that responsibility for the determination of policies and the provision of finance lies elsewhere. It recommends the strengthening of this rôle to coordinate the delivery of services so as to avoid possible duplication of service provision and wasteful competition between agencies providing services.

I particularly welcome recommendation 8 which I believe will help focus the attention of agencies on the effectiveness of their social and welfare intervention activities, and I support the proposal in recommendation 9 for an investigation into forming a Parish Council to increase local democracy, and further develop the inherent sense of community that already exists in the area.”

Cllr J. R. Mace
Chairman
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

(1) Introduction

“For over a decade the West End of Morecambe has been the recipient of various grant funding to cope with the social, environmental and economic stress.

However, to date, the many projects established have been on an ad hoc basis and without any strategic direction. As a consequence, no long term sustainable solution has been approved or implemented.

I welcome, therefore, the recommendation of the Task Group to establish a body to promote better co-ordination when working in partnership in order to avoid any duplication and ensure a more strategic focus.

I also welcome the recommendation that future projects in the West End of Morecambe work toward common goals that are pragmatic, practicable and deliverable, as in the past, many schemes have been funded which failed to deliver long term sustainable benefits.

I commend the recommendations of the WEATG to Cabinet for approval.”

Councillor Peter Robinson
Chairman
West End Activities Review Task Group

(2) Summary and Recommendations

This report focuses on the work undertaken by the West End Activities Review Task Group which was tasked to investigate the organisations that existed in the West End of Morecambe and to ascertain if their work was being duplicated within the area.

The main issues the report covers are that of duplication, sustainability, co-ordination of agencies within the West End and the possible future function of the West End Partnership.

The report concludes that, although there may be duplication of the work being undertaken in the West End, the Task Group has found no clear evidence of it. It is felt that the biggest improvement within the control of the City Council will be to assist with the creation of one co-ordinating body providing communication and networking for all the agencies, with consolidated support from the Council and helping to ensure that any future duplication of activity and effort can be minimised.

Recommendation 1

That the Council ensures that any requests for funding (SLA and grant funding), support or patronage of voluntary organisations and agencies is taken forward in discussion with the West End Partnership and that they are consulted to ensure that through providing this assistance the activity will take the West End closer to the overall vision for the West End and closer to being a sustainable community.

Recommendation 2

That the Council enters in to discussion with other agencies (through the local strategic partnership) to persuade them to adopt the same approach of taking forward any requests for funding (SLA and grant funding) of voluntary organisations and agencies through the West End Partnership

Recommendation 3

That the Council should encourage the West End Partnership to seek as broad an involvement in community ventures as possible and include Schools.

Recommendation 4

That the City Council continues to support the West End Partnership as the primary co-ordinating body in the West End of Morecambe working on its behalf to promote interagency communication and partnership.

Recommendation 5

That the City Council should consolidate Officer and Member involvement in the West End and should focus its involvement through the West End Partnership.

Recommendation 6

That the Council working through the West End Partnership should take the lead in producing a strategy for networking agencies and organisations operating in the West End

Recommendation 7

That the Council working through the West End Partnership encourage the production of a newsletter for the West End, to provide a source for residents and community groups of facilities and services which are available to help minimise the chances of duplication and maximise communication.

Recommendation 8

That in light of the significant regeneration activities taking place in the West End the Council encourage organisations providing social and welfare intervention activities to consider their success criteria, to consider at what point and under what conditions they feel their service provision would no longer be required and produce an exit strategy.

Recommendation 9

That the City Council should give future consideration to whether there is a need for an additional democratically based co-ordinating body in the West End, as the redevelopment of the West End takes place, and consider whether a Parish Council or, in the event of this being unachievable, an Area Forum, might provide a suitable solution to this issue.

(3) The role of the West End Activities Review Task Group

3.1 Terms of Reference

The Task Group worked to the following terms of reference:

- 3.1.1 To assess the operations of activities in the West End that affect the social infrastructure of the area, and current Council policies relating to those activities, by using selected sustainability criteria based on the district's strategy for sustainable development and by other means.
- 3.1.2 To receive evidence from inside and outside the Council for the purpose of:
 - (a) considering whether there is any duplication of activity and effort by the various agencies in the West End, and;
 - (b) determining whether there is scope for focusing and co-ordinating of activity to save multiple agencies chasing the same funding, reduce overheads, focus efforts and maximise benefits to everyone in the West End.
- 3.1.3 To make evidence-based recommendations as may be appropriate.

3.2 Membership of the Group

The Group comprised of Councillors Peter Robinson, Mike Greenall, Susan Bray, Ken Brown, David Whitaker, Tina Clifford, Evelyn Archer, Anne Chapman and John Day, with administrative support from the Principal Democratic Support Officer, James Doble, and Democratic Support Officers, Laura Ellis and Jenny Kay.

The Group gratefully acknowledges the contributions and evidence given by:

- Major Rob Smart, Salvation Army
- Pam Beswick and Mike Boardley, Signposts
- Robin Cope, Lancaster Council for Voluntary Services
- Leisure Services, LCC
- Alan Winters, Street Wardens Manager and the Street Wardens
- Jean Carr and Graham Doel, Baptist Church
- John Gordon, Youth & Community Service
- Kathryn MacDonald, More Music in Morecambe
- Joanne Fawcett and Doreen Turner, West End Impact
- Deborah Cannon, Lancaster & Morecambe College
- Pete Armstrong, Morecambe Healthy Living Centre
- Morecambe Homeless Action
- John Donnellon, Corporate Director (Regeneration), LCC
- Steve Mann, Public Health & Safety Manager, LCC
- Ron Hayhurst, West End Forum
- Rhona Forsyth, Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust.

3.3 Timetable of Meetings

Date of Meeting	Who gave evidence?	Issues Scrutinised
13/10/04	John Donnellon	Definition of Terms and identification of sources of evidence.
28/10/04	Street Wardens	Work of Street Wardens and agencies encountered in West End.
09/11/04	Salvation Army, Signposts, Lancaster CVS, Leisure Services, Street Wardens, Baptist Church, Youth & Community Service, More Music in Morecambe, West End Impact, Lancaster & Morecambe College, Morecambe Healthy Living Centre and Morecambe Homeless Action.	Agencies role and purpose in the West End and how long active in the area.
23/11/04	Panel only	Determination of way forward.
06/12/04	John Donnellon	West End Master Plan
17/01/05	Ron Hayhurst	West End Forum
18/04/05	Panel only	Consideration of draft report

3.4 Documentary Evidence Considered

- “Agenda for Action – a strategy for sustainable development in the Lancaster District”, Sustainability (LA21) Partnership, 2003
- Service Level Agreements
- Census information for Heysham North and Harbour Wards

(4) Status of this Report

This report is the work of the West End Activities Review Task Group, on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where opinions are expressed they are not necessarily those of the Lancaster City Council.

Whilst we have sought to draw on this review to make recommendations and suggestions that are helpful to the Council, our work has been designed solely for the purpose of discharging our work in accordance with the terms of reference agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Accordingly, our work cannot be relied upon to identify every area of strength, weakness or opportunity for improvement.

This report is addressed to the Cabinet of Lancaster City Council. It has been prepared for the sole use of the Council and the Task Group takes no responsibility for any Member or Officer acting in their individual capacities or to other third parties acting on it.

(5) Background and Context

- 5.1 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, following a suggestion from a Member, agreed to undertake a piece of work on partnership working and the effectiveness of regeneration activities in the West End of Morecambe (West End). It was agreed by Members of the Committee that a Task Group should be established to undertake this piece of work and to look at whether there was any duplication by different agencies in the West End and whether this could be focused to save the same agencies chasing the same funding, reduce overheads, focus efforts and maximise outcomes.
- 5.2 Subsequently the Overview & Scrutiny Committee set up the West End Activities Review Task Group in July 2004 and the Group held their first meeting, following the Summer recess, in October 2004.
- 5.3 The Group set up an initial programme of six meetings including an evidence gathering session with identified stakeholders in the West End. (A complete list of identified stakeholders is attached at Appendix A.)
- 5.4 At the first meeting, the Group defined the geographical boundaries of their investigation. For the purposes of this review, it was agreed that the 'West End' consists of Heysham North and Harbour Wards. (A map is attached at Appendix B.)
- 5.5 The Group identified 'social infrastructure' as consisting of four sections :
- Education and training
 - Health care
 - Cultural and recreational facilities
 - Voluntary sector
- 5.6 The Group analysed census data of the West End area to ascertain information on the people living and working within the area, their health and employment status, and the types of housing and levels of crime. The 2001 Census identified that there were 2,443 households in Heysham North Ward and 3,023 households in Harbour Ward, cumulating in a total of 5466 households in the West End. In the 2001 Census, there were 55,839 households in the Lancaster District.
- 5.7 Questionnaires were sent to organisations within the West End to identify the organisations and Services working in the West End. The questionnaire requested information relating to funding streams, Service Level Agreements, co-ordination of activities and the targeted sector.
- 5.8 Service Heads were requested to provide information of the work their Services undertook in the West End and the activities provided by the Council. Many Services advised that they had little or no more involvement in the West End than other areas of the District. Some Services on the other hand, such as Leisure and Health and Strategic Housing reported a high level of involvement as was expected.
- 5.9 Members met individually with selected organisations in the West End to try to identify a broad picture of the range of activities being provided over the four identified themes. The organisations are listed below :
- i) Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust
 - ii) Heysham High School
 - iii) Signposts
 - iv) Social Services
 - v) Furniture Matters

- vi) Economic Development
- vii) More Music in Morecambe
- viii) United Reformed Church
- ix) Salvation Army
- x) St Barnabas Church

Members gained a detailed insight of the work carried out by these organisations and the sector of the community these agencies aimed at. A sample of the reports undertaken by Members of the Task Group is attached at Appendix C.

- 5.10 The Street Wardens who patrolled the West End were invited to the second informal meeting of the Task Group. Members were given a useful overview of the work carried out by the Wardens and an insight to the agencies they encountered on a daily basis. Members were advised of the anti-social behaviour that occurred on a regular basis in the area and also of the problems that arose with the transient population in the West End.
- 5.11 The Task Group's third meeting took Members into the West End itself to meet stakeholders from the area. Each representative gave a summary of their input into the West End and identified areas of improvement the Council could consider. One of the main themes that emerged at this meeting and subsequent later meetings was that of the lack of co-ordination, communication and co-operation between the agencies. The suggestion of a regular news letter was also brought up.
- 5.12 John Donnellon, Corporate Director (Regeneration), gave evidence at the fifth meeting of the Task Group. He advised Members of the sustainability issues arising from the West End that would be addressed in the implementation of the West End Masterplan. The emergence of the new West End Partnership was discussed by Members at this meeting and it was thought that the Partnership could be a useful vehicle in the future for co-ordination and communication between the agencies in the area.
- 5.13 At a further meeting, the Chairman of the West End Community Association attended to give evidence. It emerged that the Association and the West End Partnership had similar Terms of Reference and that it was possible that there could be a duplication of activity.

(6) Findings

6.1 Activities in the West End

The Task Group undertook a consultation exercise with an extensive list of agencies and organisations active in the West End. The cumulated results of this consultation are attached at Appendix D.

6.1.1 Duplication of Activities and Effort in the West End

The Task Group has sought to scrutinise the activities of each organisation active in the West End to ascertain whether there is duplication of activity and effort. This task has not proved easy. The Task Group has discovered that there are many different funding streams in the West End and most of these are out side the control of the City Council. The Task Group has found that there are sometimes more than one organisation providing a service, but this is by no means an indication of duplication. For instance there are several drop-in centres run by churches. These tend to operate on different days and have been set up in order to assist with a perceived need. Therefore it is perhaps more appropriate that this type of provision is viewed as one service but provided by different service providers, in view of the need to have services throughout the week and in order to provide the capacity required by the West End.

However, the Task Group does not wish to see future duplication of activity or effort in the West End. The Task Group feels that whilst it would not wish to stop any positive activity in the West End, it would recommend that any requests for funding would be considered by the West End Partnership, to prevent duplication of funding of similar projects taking place.

Recommendation 1

That the Council ensures that any requests for funding (SLA and grant funding), support or patronage of voluntary organisations and agencies is taken forward in discussion with the West End Partnership and that they are consulted to ensure that through providing this assistance the activity will take the West End closer to the overall vision for the West End and closer to being a sustainable community.

If the Council is going to achieve its first recommendation, it would be wise to encourage the Council's partners and other stakeholders to follow its example to try to establish a streamlining of funding applications from voluntary organisations and agencies through the West End Partnership.

Recommendation 2

That the Council enters into discussion with other agencies (through the local strategic partnership) to persuade them to adopt the same approach of taking forward any requests for funding (SLA and grant funding) of voluntary organisations and agencies through the West End Partnership

Currently, there seems to be limited involvement of the area's schools, both primary and secondary, in community ventures, with the exception of sports related activities at Heysham High School. The Task Group recognised the involvement of the Council's Sports Development Officers with Heysham High School and the installation of an all

weather pitch later this year, which will be open for residents' use. Schools have also taken part in the Healthy Living project and the Regent Park Steering Group.

Recommendation 3

That the Council should encourage the West End Partnership to seek as broad an involvement in community ventures as possible and include Schools.

6.2 The Council's role in the West End

6.21 West End Partnership

The West End Partnership was established in 2001 with particular emphasis on the development and implementation of strategies for European Objective 2 funding and housing renewal. The Partnership, which is supported by Lancaster City Council, has recently agreed new Terms of Reference and opened up its Membership to residents of the West End, defined as Heysham North and Harbour Wards. The Task Group recognises the West End Partnership as a delivery mechanism in the West End and that responsibility for the determination of policies and the provision of finance lies elsewhere.

The West End Partnership will play an important role in the implementation of the Masterplan as a consultative body on the finer details of the 17 interventions included in the Masterplan. The Task Group recognises the West End Partnership as a delivery mechanism in the West End and that responsibility for the determination of policies and the provision of finance lies elsewhere.

6.22 West End Masterplan

The City Council's Cabinet approved the West End Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance in February of this year. This marks the beginning of a complete renewal of the West End, starting with the regeneration of some of the most deprived parts of the area. Although this vision of the regeneration of the West End will not take place overnight, the Masterplan is to be implanted in three phases taking 15 years or more, the vision aims to "create an exceptionally good place to live, work and play", completely changing the area.

6.23 Street Wardens

The Council was successful in gaining funding for Street Wardens in the West End through ERDF and the ODPM. Future funding has been obtained through ERDF, Poulton Neighbourhood Management Board and Community Safety Partnership for two Street Wardens in the West End, two in Poulton and two mobile wardens.

6.3 Co-ordination, Leadership and Strategy

It has become clear in the course of the Task Group's investigations that the large number of organisations in the West End are proving confusing and counterproductive and that the process lacks co-ordination. It was felt that a co-ordinating body could assist the agencies/organisations working in the West End by encouraging communication and partnership. The Task Group felt that it was of primary importance that the Council was seen as supporting one co-ordinating body only in the West End. Advice received from Officers identified that the City Council has consistently supported the West End Partnership (WEP) as the co-ordinating body in the West End and Members discussed the potential for the WEP to take on a co-ordinating role in the West End of Morecambe. It

was recognised that the WEP was still a relatively young partnership but that it did have the potential to be a co-ordinating body in the future.

Recommendation 4

That the City Council continues to support the West End Partnership as the primary co-ordinating body in the West End of Morecambe working on its behalf to promote interagency communication and partnership.

There currently appears to be duplication in the co-ordination of activities within the West End e.g. West End Forum, West End Partnership and Morecambe Interagency. This has the result that different groups may be linked to different co-ordinating groups and therefore not assisting in producing a consolidated structure and assisting with the current fragmentation that is present.

One theme that emerged whilst the Task Group was carrying out investigations, was that duplication was taking place with Council Officers attending meetings other than the West End Partnership such as the Community Association for the West End.

Recommendation 5

That the City Council should consolidate Officer and Member involvement in the West End and should focus its involvement through the West End Partnership.

It became apparent from almost the beginning of the Task Group's work that there was a lack of co-ordination, communication and co-operation between the agencies. A suggestion was made that the West End Partnership would be an ideal vehicle to remedy this situation through the creation of a strategy to co-ordinate the activities of the organisations and agencies operating in the West End.

Recommendation 6

That the Council working through the West End Partnership should take the lead in producing a strategy for networking agencies and organisations operating in the West End.

There currently appears to be duplication of effort by the West End Partnership and the West End Forum in producing newsletters for the West End. Whilst it is acknowledged that both these are funded differently, they are both using money that otherwise could be used to help improve the West End. Therefore it is suggested that the Council should use all means at its disposal to encourage a publication/newsletter to disseminate information.

Recommendation 7

That the Council working through the West End Partnership encourage the production of a newsletter for the West End, to provide a source for residents and community groups of facilities and services which are available to help minimise the chances of duplication and maximise communication.

6.4 Sustainability

There are significant changes taking place in the West End and the West End Masterplan offers a vehicle to bring significant investment in to the West End. Whilst there are still issues surrounding the plan and the detail of the work to be carried out, there appears to be broad agreement amongst the public and agencies that improvement in the condition and environment of the West End is welcomed, as it is aimed at improving the West End as a place to live and work. As these improvements take place, unsuitable housing stock is removed and the West End improves, it is likely that there will be less need for social and welfare intervention activities. The Task Group is of the view that in light of this, it would be helpful if organisations providing these activities considered what their success criteria is and consider at what point and under what conditions they feel their service provision would no longer be required and consider an exit strategy.

Recommendation 8

That in light of the significant regeneration activities taking place in the West End the Council encourage organisations providing social and welfare intervention activities to consider their success criteria, to consider at what point and under what conditions they feel their service provision would no longer be required and produce an exit strategy.

6.5 The West End Master Plan and Future Direction

It is envisaged that the West End Partnership will be the consultative body for the implementation of the West End Masterplan. It has been suggested, however, that an Area Forum or Parish Council may be a more appropriate body in the future for co-ordinating activity in the West End. Attached at Appendix E refers to the process of creating a Parish Council.

Recommendation 9

That the City Council should give future consideration to whether there is a need for an additional democratically based co-ordinating body in the West End, as the redevelopment of the West End takes place and consider whether a Parish Council or, in the event of this being unachievable, an Area Forum, might provide a suitable solution to this issue.

(7) Conclusion

At first glance, it could be suggested that the work undertaken by the Task Group was complicated and difficult to complete within the allocated 6 meetings, particularly in respect of the complexity of assessing duplication of funding and activity weighed against need and sustainability. Whilst the Task Group has attempted to make a judgement on these issues the judgement is nevertheless a subjective one. Therefore the Task Group conclude that there appears from their limited investigation little duplication in the West End. However, the Task Group believes that future duplication of either funding or activity is at best undesirable and at worst a waste of much needed resources for the improvement of the West End. It is the Task Group's view that, to prevent this occurring, increased co-ordination of agencies and organisations operating in the West End provides the most effective and efficient way of ensuring that the West End becomes a better place to live and work in the shortest possible time.

The recommendations, if agreed by Cabinet, will produce for the future, a more streamlined and effective strategy for co-ordination, communication and co-operation of organisations and agencies that provide services within the West End.

WEST END ACTIVITIES REVIEW TASK GROUP

<u>Organisation</u>	Returned Form	Attended S/h meeting
Lancaster Youth Offending Team		
Heysham High School		
Sandylands Primary School	✓	
Lancaster & Morecambe College		✓
St. Martin's College	✓	
Lancashire County Council 'Building Schools'		
West End Medical Practice	✓	
Leisure Services (City Council)	✓	✓
Community Police		
Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust		
West End Primary School	✓	
BEST Centre		
Adult College	✓	
Lancaster University		
Morecambe Health Living Centre	✓	✓
Arts & Events (City Council)		
Folly Gallery		
St Barnabas Church		
Salvation Army		✓
Signposts		✓
Lonsdale Carers	✓	
Furniture Matters		
International Aid Trust	✓	
More Music In Morecambe		✓
Youth & Community Service	✓	✓
United Reformed Church		
Baptist Church	✓	✓
West End & Heysham North Allotment Association		
Age Concern (Morecambe & Heysham)		
Lancaster & District YMCA		
Morecambe & Heysham CAB		
Morecambe Community Association		
Morecambe Homeless Action	✓	✓
Royal Naval Association (Morecambe Branch)		
Mcbe & Lcr Federation of Townswomen's Guild		
Home Start Morecambe and Lancaster		
Lonsdale District Scout Council		
Christian Help in Partnership		
Lcr & Mcbe Lions Club Charity Trust		
Lcr, Mcbe & District Scope Fellowship		
West End Impact	✓	✓
Rotary Club of Mcbe & Heysham Trust Fund		
Council for Voluntary Services		✓
West End Committee		
Victim Support	✓	
Probation Service		
Harvesters Day Centre	✓	
Inward House Projects		

Morecambe Bay Credit Union	✓	
Residents Association of Harbour & Heysham North		
West End Partnership		✓
Winning Back the West End	✓	
Street Wardens	✓	✓
West End Forum		

MEETING WITH FURNITURE MATTERS

**Tuesday, 21st December 2004
Thornton Road, 2 pm**

1 Structure & Membership

- 1.1 Run by a Board of Trustees of between 6 and 12 persons, elected an AGM, with the potential for four co-optees.
- 1.2 Membership is open to anyone who agrees to abide by the aims and objectives of the Company (a Charity limited by guarantee) and pays a £1 membership fee. At the moment there are around thirty members (paid staff are not allowed to become members to avoid any conflict of interest).
- 1.3 It is a district wide project and, thereby, operates in the West End of Morecambe at various times and with varying levels of intensity.
- 1.4 There are two main sites:

Thornton Road, which is the centre for Furniture, White Goods and Paint; AND
Caton Road, which is the site of 'Pedal Power', the recycling and reuse of bicycles

 - Training takes place at both sites, which focuses on the practical skills necessary for the successful outcomes of the project. However, less generic training, such as First Aid, Health & Safety and DIY can be delivered at any suitable site in the district if determined by the demand.
 - At the moment there are around 60 volunteers across the two sites, plus a number of referrals from the reparation teams (category 'a' offenders are not considered due to working with vulnerable people [ie those with learning difficulties and/or mental health problems]).

2 Current Projects in the West End of Morecambe

- 2.1 There is no project in the West End which is specific to Furniture Matters. However, the West End continues to be both a source and supply of furniture and white goods.
- 2.2 Recent statistics reveal that the West End is now the major supplier of furniture, which suggests that improvements to the referral and monitoring role within FM, has led to an increase in the amount of furniture being returned by clients when they either move on or choose to purchase new furniture.
- 2.3 Paint is supplied to customers in the West End through the DIY Shop on Yorkshire Street, the income from which is collected by the staff of the DIY Shop. Customers fill in a 'sales sheet' which not only provides a transparent audit trail, but also enables the geographic location of customers to be analysed.
- 2.4 On a more district wide basis, paint is also sold to 'community groups', such as scouts and guides. Paint costs 50p a litre.

3 Partnership Working

- 3.1 The nature of the project means that FM works closely with other agencies, local authority and community groups as and when required. As previously mentioned, some of the training is applicable to several agencies and can be delivered at the main sites or at a venue convenient for the client group.
- 3.2 FM is currently looking at the feasibility of sub-contracting with City Contact Services to collect bulky waste across the district. This is particularly poignant given the imminence of the WEEE directive, and a DEFRA funded consultant is working with FM on this issue.
- 3.3 Several agencies across a number of sectors refer clients on to FM for training without, however, providing any management or training fee or, indeed, any contribution to the cost of protective clothing. This may have serious implications when it comes to the long term financial viability of the overall project (See sustainability).

4 Sustainability

4.1 The Furniture Project

- This has not been self-financing and initially (first 3 years), was funded from several sources, including LEF (Lancashire Environmental Fund), the Tudor Trust, and the Morecambe SRB.
- The pricing policy, which originally was set at £2 per item, was restructured a few years ago, and furniture is now issued at a more realistic price, although still below the market rate. This has brought about a more responsible attitude from client groups, although agencies can still refer client applicants for furniture at a nominal rate where there is proof of need.
- It would be a matter for the Board of Trustees if, in order to be completely self sufficient, the pricing policy was readjusted to reflect market rates. This, however, would be likely to shift current demand from one wherein there was a strong element of fulfilling a social need, to a pure market driven demand, which would then be in direct competition with the commercial sector. This would be contrary to the aims and objectives as set out in the current constitution.
- A far better solution would be to charge reasonable costs for training clients when referred by other agencies (See 'Partnership Working' 3.3).

4.2 White Goods

- This project is more or less self-financing, as a charge is made to other charitable organisations for testing electrical goods. The proposal to collect bulky waste is another potential source of sustainable finance, as is the projected 'instillation service' due to be launched early in the new year.

4.3 Paint

- The 50p a litre charge is that set by the National Community Repaint Scheme, and the overall costs of the project have yet to be evaluated. However, the environmental benefits of preventing paint from ending up on landfill need to be balanced against any short-term financial shortfall.

4.4 Pedal Power

- This has funding from LEF, Lancaster SRB, the Community Fund and the Department of Transport. The volunteer client group includes people with mental and physical

disabilities, with all the social and medical benefits which this entails. It is difficult, therefore, to quantify in cost-benefit terms, the actual saving this accrues to the National Health Service.

4.5 Training

- The cost of training is inclusive within each of the projects, although there is a potential to charge other agencies for non-generic training delivered to agencies across the district, such as first aid and health & safety.

West End Activities Review Task Group
Questionnaire Results

We sent out 63 questionnaires on 29th October and, to date, we have received back 27 responses via post and telephone. This equates to a **return rate of 43%**. An additional 5 organisations, who have not returned forms, attended the Stakeholder Meeting, which brings the **cumulative return rate to 51%**.

Set out below are the questions asked and the cumulated responses of the organisations that have responded.

- (1) Please could you indicate how much of your time is spent working in the West End or working with the people in this area?

<u>We only work in the West End</u>	<u>We work mainly in the West End</u>	<u>We work part of the time in the West End</u>	<u>We rarely work in the West End</u>	<u>We do not work in the West End</u>
West End Street Wardens	West End Medical Practice	Stanley Road Baptist Church	The Adult College	The Guide Association
Sandylands CP School		Lonsdale District Carers	Royal Air Force (Morecambe Branch)	The Penhale Society (just outside boundary)
West End Primary School		Harvesters Day Centre	Galloways Society for the Blind	Morecambe Mens Committee (only work with Queen Victoria Health Centre, Poulton)
Winning Back the West End		West End Impact	St. Martin's College	Platten & Benson Almshouse Charity
International Aid Trust		Morecambe Healthy Living Centre		Ichthus Christian Resources Centre
		Morecambe Homeless Action		Morecambe & Heysham Sea Cadet Corps
		Youth & Community Service		William Gardner Bequest (only £16 per annum)
		City Council's Leisure Services		
		Morecambe Bay Credit Union Ltd		
		Victim Support		

(2) Who is your work targeted at within the West End?

Group	Residents	Businesses	Specific sectors of Community	Other organisations
Stanley Road Baptist Church	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and Carers of Pre-schoolers • Boys of school age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless • Addicts • Unemployed
West End Street Wardens	✓	✓		
Sandylands CP School			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School children 	
The Adult College	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All/any adults and families 	
Lonsdale District Carers			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers 	
West End Primary School			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children 	
Harvesters Day Centre	✓			
West End Impact	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless • Addicts • Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church
Winning Back the West End	✓	✓		
Morecambe Healthy Living Centre	✓		Whole Community but especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Single men • Isolated people 	
West End Medical Practice			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents who are registered with the practice 	
Morecambe Homeless Action			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless • People living in poor housing 	
International Aid Trust	✓	✓		
Galloways Society for Blind			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually impaired 	
Royal Air Force (Mcbe Branch)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ex-RAF 	
Youth & Community Service	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Community groups 	
Leisure Services	✓			

St Martin's College	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masterplan • Consultancy groups • Lanc & Mcbe College
Morecambe Bay Credit Union	✓		•	
Victim Support	✓		•	

(3) How many people, approximately, do you work with?

Group	Number
Stanley Road Baptist Church	80 - 100
West End Street Wardens	9 employees
Sandylands CP School	65
The Adult College, Lancaster	Less than 100
Lonsdale District Carers	40 per week
West End Primary School	200 children; 31 adults
Harvesters Day Centre	Variable
West End Impact	80
Winning Back the West End	All residents
Morecambe Healthy Living Centre	500 over last year
West End Medical Practice	-
Morecambe Homeless Action	16+ per week
International Aid Trust	-
Galloways Society for Blind	Very few in West End
Royal Air Force (Morecambe Branch)	-
Youth & Community Service	-
Leisure Services	60
St Martin's College	Variable
Morecambe Bay Credit Union	-
Victim Support	-

(4) Which of the four sectors of activities do you contribute to?

Group	Education & Training	Health Care	Cultural & Recreational Facilities	Voluntary Sector
Stanley Road Baptist Church			✓	✓
West End Street Wardens	✓			✓
Sandylands CP School	✓			
The Adult College	✓	✓		✓
Lonsdale District Carers	✓	✓	✓	✓
West End Primary School	✓			
Harvesters Day Centre		✓		
West End Impact	✓		✓	✓
Winning Back the West End				
Mcbe Healthy Living Centre	✓	✓		
West End Medical Practice	✓	✓		
Morecambe Homeless Action				✓
International Aid Trust	✓			✓
Galloways Society for Blind				
Royal Air Force (Mcbe Branch)				
Youth & Community Service	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leisure Services (LCC)			✓	
St. Martin's College	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morecambe Bay Credit Union				✓
Victim Support				✓

(5) Do you receive funding from any of the following sources?

Group	Lcr City Council	Lancs County Council	Central Govt	European Funding	Donations from Individuals	Donations from Charitable Trusts	Lottery Grants	Other Grants	NHS	Regen. Funding	Other
Stanley Road Baptist Church			✓		✓	✓					
West End Street Wardens			✓	✓							
Sandylands CP School		✓									Self fundraising
The Adult College		✓	✓								Learning & Skills Council
Lonsdale District Carers		✓			✓	✓					
West End Primary School	✓	✓	✓								
Harvesters Day Centre		✓							✓		
West End Impact					✓			✓			The Galbraith Trust
Winning Back the West End										✓	
Mcbe Healthy Living Centre				✓			✓		✓(in kind)		
West End Medical Practice									✓		
Mcbe Homeless Action											
International Aid Trust					✓	✓		✓			
Youth & Community Service		✓									LSC ESF
Leisure Services	✓		✓				✓				
St Martin's College											HEFCE and NWDA
Morecambe Bay Credit Union								✓			
Victim Support											

(6) Do you have to bid for funding?

Group	Yes	No
Stanley Road Baptist Church	✓	
West End Street Wardens	✓	
Sandylands CP School		✓
The Adult College		✓
Lonsdale District Carers		
West End Primary School		✓
Harvesters Day Centre	✓	
West End Impact	✓	
Winning Back the West End	✓	
Morecambe Healthy Living Centre		✓
West End Medical Practice		✓ (except for new services)
Morecambe Homeless Action	✓	
International Aid Trust		
Youth & Community Service		✓
Leisure Services	✓	
St. Martin's College	✓	
Morecambe Bay Credit Union	✓	
Victim Support		

(7) Do you encounter difficulties in securing funding from Lancaster City Council or other sources, and if yes, who do you experience problems with and why do you think this is the case?

Group	Yes	Details
Stanley Road Baptist Church	✓	We have experienced problems obtaining funding from central government because of the narrow profile of our youth work.
West End Street Wardens		
Sandylands CP School		
The Adult College		
Lonsdale District Carers		
West End Primary School	✓	The 'competition element' of the bidding process for additional funding e.g. our breakfast club.
Harvesters Day Centre		
West End Impact	✓	Because it is hard to know what is available and whether we are eligible.
Winning Back the West End		
Morecambe Healthy Living Centre		
West End Medical Practice	✓	We are perceived as being funded fully by NHS.
Morecambe Homeless Action		
International Aid Trust		
Galloways Society for Blind		
Royal Air Force (Mcbe Branch)		
Youth & Community Service		
Leisure Services	✓	Leisure is a 'discretionary service'
St. Martin's College		St. Martin's has achieved feasibility study funding and will bid for major funding should the study indicate the viability of developing our presence in the West End.
Morecambe Bay Credit Union		
Victim Support		

(8) Do you have Service Level Agreements with any of your funding sources?

Group	Yes	No
Stanley Road Baptist Church		✓
West End Street Wardens	✓	
Sandylands CP School	✓	
The Adult College	✓	
Lonsdale District Carers		
West End Primary School	✓	
Harvesters Day Centre	✓	
West End Impact		✓
Winning Back the West End	(Legal Agreements)	
Morecambe Healthy Living Centre	✓	
West End Medical Practice	✓	
Morecambe Homeless Action	✓	
International Aid Trust		
Youth & Community Service	✓	
Leisure Services		✓
St Martin's College		✓
Morecambe Bay Credit Union		
Victim Support		

(9) The Task Group is assessing whether there is any duplication of activity and effort by various agencies in the West End. They would welcome your views on this.

"In the areas we work in I am not aware of any areas of duplication." **[Stanley Road Baptist Church]**

"There is not duplication but, by assisting each other, goals and outcomes can be achieved." **[West End Street Wardens]**

"The Adult College and Lancaster & Morecambe College both deliver skills for life in the community. We try to work collaboratively and do not see this as a problem." **[The Adult College]**

"No. The only thing we do that is duplicated is a Parent Toddler Group. There are things we want to do that no one is doing but we don't have the funding yet." **[West End Impact]**

"No duplication - no one else is responsible for master planning for the area." **[Winning Back the West End]**

"Duplication does not seem to be an issue. There is also a reasonable level of informal communication plus MIG (Morecambe Interagency Group) meets bi-monthly and shares information about work issues." **[Morecambe Healthy Living Centre]**

"We are not aware of any voluntary organisation providing the support we offer." **[Morecambe Homeless Action]**

"I'm not aware of duplication of effort, I believe 'more' is needed." **[Youth & Community Service]**

(10) The Task Group are considering whether there is scope for focusing and co-ordinating activities in the West End and what this would achieve. They would welcome your views on this.

"I suspect that a central organisation attempting to co-ordinate activities within the West End would produce difficulties involving power and control." **[Stanley Road Baptist Church]**

"This would be a positive step forward." **[West End Street Wardens]**

"Would benefit greatly." **[Sandylands CP School]**

"I would agree 100% with this. Identify priorities and plan individual contributions, to a common objective. Would help to avoid duplication as above." **[The Adult College]**

"This would be hard to assess unless we had a list of everything that goes on. I don't mean to be critical but I feel very little does go on." **[West End Impact]**

"Yes there is scope - if there is agreement on the way forward, and the process is supportive of this. Otherwise, there is a danger of it being controlling or restrictive on the one hand, or irrelevant on the other." **[Morecambe Healthy Living Centre]**

"Extend West End Festival. Community Newsletters - involve the community to produce these and strengthen community spirit. More street wardens - helps community feel safer. Activities for older members of the community. Make school yards available after school for group activities involving all ages but especially for teenagers who seem to have no where to go in the evenings." **[West End Medical Practice]**

"We would be willing to offer our views regarding any plans the Task Group may have." **[Morecambe Homeless Action]**

"Our Trust has five shops (Charity) on Albert Road, plus a workshop and a sorting and delivery department. There are many charity groups also trading. I would like to see these shops working together and also building up some sort of link up with professional business to bring more folks into the West End." **[International Aid Trust]**

"There is always scope to improve co-ordination and collaborative working. This can help to maximise provision and outcomes." **[Youth & Community Services]**

(11) Do you have any further comments?

"Why not use the Scope building and network with other agencies?" **[Sandylands CP School]**

"I feel that building executive apartments and stopping things like the Light and Water Festival don't really get to the root of Morecambe's problems. We want to see it restored - do a survey and see what the people want and need." **[West End Impact]**

"Clarity and agreement, if they can be achieved via this Task Group, would be very beneficial for the West End." **[Morecambe Healthy Living Centre]**

"I have often thought of creating a Street/Farmers Market (if possible) to create a kind of 'Petticoat Lane Market' together with a catalogue of the many specialist shops in the area." **[International Aid Trust]**

"We are seeking to replace some of the Youth and Community activities run at/from the West End Community Centre - run by the voluntary group but funded by Lancashire County Council." **[Youth & Community Services]**

"Note that the above is written from a perspective of potential rather than actual engagement in activities in the West End." **[St Martin's College]**

THE PROCESS FOR PARISHING

Parishes may be established in one of 3 ways:

a) by the principal authority conducting a review of all or part of its area and making a recommendation to the Secretary of State to establish, abolish or alter a parish area - if a recommendation is made to create a parish, the Council must also make a recommendation on whether to create a Parish Council for the parish and about the electoral arrangements for the Council;

b) by the principal authority receiving a petition signed by not less than 250 local government electors for the relevant area or 10% of the local government electors for that area (whichever is the greater number) - the Council must send the petition to the Secretary of State within 3 months of its receipt, together with the Council's views on the petition and on any points raised by local electors;

c) by the Secretary of State directing the Local Government Commission to conduct a review (*Informal advice from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) is that this is most unlikely while the Commission is fully committed to a national programme of periodic electoral reviews.*)

The Secretary of State has the discretion to refer any proposal or petition for parishing to the Local Government Commission so that they may consider the merits of the case and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State following a simplified form of review. The Secretary of State has the final decision making power.

Informal discussions with the DETR also indicate that Government policy is currently not to award parish status to any area which has more than 50% of the total population of a Council area. It is emphasised that this is current policy; it is not a legislative restriction. The DETR also strongly emphasises that it will expect community identity criteria to be fully satisfied in any applications for parish status and it is not acceptable to draw arbitrary boundaries that do not demonstrate such identity.

The Ministerial approval process itself is relatively quick and can be a matter of weeks.

